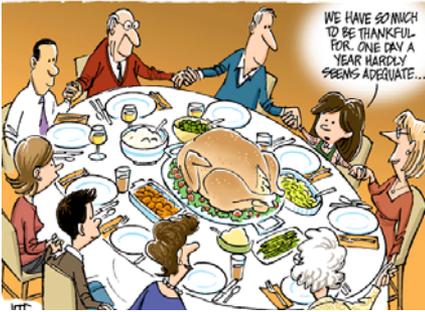


Jewels For His Crown

A periodical for
Christian Young
Ladies.



November/December 2011



Happy Thanksgiving!

“Be ye thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

What a wonderful time of the year! Fall is my all-time favorite. With the cooler weather, the beautiful leaves, the fragrant smells in the air, I could enjoy having fall all year long! But there is a sadness around my heart, too, when I see how everyone just seems to pass up the one day we have set aside to be thankful. As the little girl suggests above, one day is hardly adequate, and then most everyone will call it “Turkey Day” or “Football Day”. Every day should be a day of thanksgiving for the children of God! Enjoy this wonderful time of the year and *be ye thankful!* ~T. Miller

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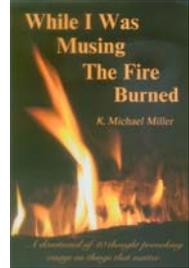
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The art of thanksgiving is thanksgiving.
Author Unknown

A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.

Henry Ward Beecher

Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.

A.W. Tozer

Let the peace of God

rule in your hearts,
to the which also ye are called

in one body;

and be ye thankful.

Colossians 3:15



Thankfulness comes from realizing that someone has done something good for you. In the Bible, there are many examples of people who were thankful and grateful to God for blessings, answered prayers, healings and forgiven sins. We should always cultivate a thankful heart to the Lord for all that He has done and is doing for us today. Do you realize how much he does for you? Take a piece of paper and write down all the blessings that he gives you every day. It will amaze you what you will find and will show you just how thankful you should be.

Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world? It is not he who prays the most or fasts the most, it is not he who lives the most, but it is he who is always thankful to God, who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it.

William Law

As the Lord loveth a
cheerful giver,

so likewise a
cheerful thanksgiver.

John Boys



FOOTBALL FEVER

(A Thanksgiving Memory)

Back in the 80's when we were on deputation, we spent Thanksgiving Day at Shady Acres Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. We had a wonderful meal and a great time of fellowship with the folks there and then decided to take the children for a trip to Galveston to see the ocean. Some of the men of the church asked Bro. Mike if he would like to stay and play a game of football with the other men, but with his eye problem, he feared for his glasses and opted out. We had a great time walking the kids on the beach and listening to David (then four) exclaim over the "big creek". When we arrived back at the church, imagine the surprise to find a few of the men coming in with casts and crutches! I guess after watching their favorite teams play they had gotten a bit over-exuberant with their own game, forgetting that to play that hard you need extra equipment. Bro. Mike was glad to have gone to the beach that day!

The world asks, "What does a man own?" Christ asks, "How does he use it?"

~Andrew Murray



Fun Time-Passer

To keep everyone busy and happy, have a "Harvest Hunt". Put candy pumpkins and candy corn in little plastic bags and hide them, either outside (weather permitting) or inside in a large area. Have a certain amount of time (like ten to fifteen minutes) for the "hunters" to search and see how many bags they can find. Another idea is to put cut-outs or other craft items in the bags, then have small poster boards for each child to glue their "finds" on. This makes a good memory keepsake of the day!



Amy Beatrice (a.k.a. Wilson) Carmichael (December 16, 1867–January 18, 1951) was a Protestant Christian missionary in India, who opened an orphanage and founded a mission in Dohnavur. She served in India for fifty-six years without furlough and authored many books about the missionary work.

She was born in the small village of Millisle in Northern Ireland to devout Presbyterians, David and Catherine Carmichael and was the oldest of seven children. As a child Carmichael wished and prayed for God to change her eyes from brown to blue so that she could be more like her mother, but little did she know what plans God had in store for her. After her father's death, she was adopted and tutored by Robert Wilson, cofounder of the Keswick Convention. In many ways she was an unlikely candidate for missionary work. She suffered neuralgia, a disease of the nerves that made her whole body weak and achy and often put her in bed for weeks on end. It was at the Keswick Convention of 1887 that she heard Hudson Taylor speak about missionary life. Soon afterward, she became convinced of her calling to the same labor.

Initially Amy traveled to Japan for fifteen months, but she later found her lifelong vocation in India. She was commissioned by the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society. Much of her work was with young ladies, some of whom were saved from forced prostitution. The organization she founded was known as the Dohnavur Fellowship. Dohnavur is situated in Tamil Nadu, just thirty miles from the southern tip of India. Under her loving guidance, the fellowship would become a place of sanctuary for more than one thousand children who would otherwise have faced a bleak future. In an effort to respect Indian culture, members of the organization wore Indian dress and the children were given Indian names. She herself dressed in Indian clothes, dyed her skin with coffee, and often traveled long distances on India's hot, dusty roads to save just one child from suffering.

In 1931, Carmichael was badly injured in a fall, which left her bedridden much of the time until her death. Amy Carmichael died in India in 1951 at the age of 83. She asked that no stone be put over her grave; instead, the children she had cared for put a bird bath over it with the single inscription "Amma", which means mother in the Tamil.

Amy Carmichael's work also extended to the printed page. She was a prolific writer, producing thirty-five published books including *His Thoughts Said . . . His Father Said* (1951), *If* (1953), and *Edges of His Ways* (1955). Best known, perhaps, is an early historical account, *Things as They Are: Mission Work in Southern India* (1903). The poems that you find in this issue were taken from a compilation of her poems, *Mountain Breezes*. I highly recommend reading a more extensive biography of this remarkable lady.

(Note: I had featured Amy Carmichael in the July/August issue of 2009, but I felt that it needed to be featured again at this time. Just recently I read an article in the news of how the government in India was holding a ceremony where a multitude of Indian girls were changing their names. Why? Because their families had given them names that meant "Worthless". Sometimes we think that the work of these missionaries is over, there is hardly anything left to do for these people. Amy's heart went out to these girls and we should keep aware of their plight today and pray they find Jesus.)



Building on a Firm Foundation

(Salvation & Sanctification)

You all have probably heard the little song sung in Sunday School about the wise man and the foolish man who both built a house, one on the rock and the other on the sand. While the house that was built upon the rock stood firm in the face of rains and floods, the house on the sand went, “Smash!” Everyone who hears the song or even reads the account of the parable in the gospel of Matthew, chapter seven and verses twenty-four through twenty-seven, would agree that it would be a smarter thing to build on a foundation of rock instead of sand.

A foundation is a very serious thing. When a carpenter is going to start a house, the first thing he does is to think about and plan carefully how to build a firm, level foundation to start with. When the foundation is firm, straight and level, the house is easier to build and will stand for years through some pretty rough weather. When Bro. Mike was building my mother’s house on the hill above us, he called a professional block layer to build the foundation. The man did such a good job that it made it much easier for Bro. Mike to construct the floor, the walls went up without trouble and the roof was no problem at all. But if the blocks had not been laid evenly, if the foundation under them had not been firmly set in concrete, if the corners had not been square, there would have been trouble then and problems with the house forever. It is only when your foundation is right that your house turns out well.

The same is true in any situation in our lives. Life is full of decisions and everyone wants to make wise and successful choices. People never plan to marry someone with whom they can not get along. Couples do not plan to raise children who will not go to church or live for the Lord. Young people do not plan to throw away their purity and end up in shame and disgrace. So how do you avoid making wrong decisions about major issues in your life? Is there a sure remedy for having problems and facing disasters? I wish I could say yes, that if you get saved that all your problems will fade away and you will be happy, healthy, and content forever, no temptations, no heartaches, and no worries. But we must be realistic. If that is what you are looking for, you will never find it. Jesus said that as long as we are in this world we will have tribulations, but he also said, “be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

For a good example of someone in the Bible who was founded on a firm foundation that kept him in times of trouble, go to the book of Job. Satan tried to accuse God of being soft on him and to say that if he would bring some tribulations in his life, Job would curse God to his face. But after taking away all that Job had, including his children, having his wife go against him and suffering through many chapters of council from some miserable friends, he came out of all that horrible experience with a greater understanding of God. Job came through firmly planted on the foundation he started with.

Too many people think that if they are religious, go to church and live a pretty good life that they are all right with God. They think their little prayer of “acceptance of Christ in their heart” was enough to get them a ticket out of hell, so they do not worry about the way they live; they are on their way to Heaven whether they want to go or not. I have even heard preachers say from the pulpit that if you have “accepted Christ as your Savoir”, you will go to Heaven no matter how you live or what you do, even if you have to go kicking and screaming. But that is not what my Bible says. In Matthew 7:23-24, Jesus said, “*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*” These people lived for the Lord, worked for him, cast out devils in his name. You would think that they were on very close terms with him, would you not? So how could Jesus say, “*I never knew you*”? Because to surrender your heart, soul, and life to Christ is more than just praying a prayer, making a decision, turning over a new leaf, or whatever else you may think it is. You have to give up every right to your desires, your goals, your ambitions, your possessions and associations, to ever find the salvation that so few have the ambition to seek for. Paul put it this way, “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*” (Galatians 2:20) When Jesus was crucified, he *died!* He did not just go through some beatings and win a battle for the world; he *DIED*. His death was his victory! We must also go through a death to find the life that Jesus came to give us; the death of our own selfish will.

God made our bodies to live forever. In the beginning, there was no death. Have you ever noticed how your body will heal itself many times if given the chance? There are herbs even today that can help you stay healthier, at least for a while. But death came into this world when sin did. Our bodies do not die easily, either. When my Dad died, he had had heart surgery that was unsuccessful because his heart was damaged so badly. On his request, the life supports were slowly backed off from his body. But as they were losing their influence on his poorly damaged heart, the monitors showed his heart begin to pick up and beat stronger. When I looked questioningly at the nurse, she shook her head slowly and said as gently as she could, “Our bodies will do all they can to survive. It is natural for his heart to try to maintain his life.” Our bodies fight to survive.

The same is true with our spiritual life. To be born again is as hard a task as when you were born the first time. It is not done in a moment, without travail, and it does not happen to everyone the same way. Some “births” (both physical and spiritual) are easy without much fight, but some are long and painful, taking much more time and effort. Have you ever read the scripture, “*the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*” (Matthew 11:12) Jesus tried to warn everyone that it would not be easy. “*Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*” (Luke 13:24) If you look up the definition of the word “strive”, it gives you a better insight to the point Jesus

was trying to make. Strive means “to make efforts; to use exertions; to labor hard; to contend; to struggle in opposition to another.” So whom are you struggling against? Yourself! You do not want to give up your position as the ruler of your life. You may have a desire to be a Christian and even want to surrender, but until you do surrender completely, until you die to yourself, you will never make it. Good intentions will never get you there. To be *close* is to be lost!

To the young, unmarried girls who are reading this devotion, I would encourage you to use this time in your life to seek God and get to know Him to the best of your ability. This is the “cream” time in your life, the time when you are old enough to understand many things you could not as a child, and before you enter the responsibilities of wife and mother. Now is the time to create life-time habits that will give you the strength and wisdom to live each day; habits of reading your Bible and daily prayer, habits of meditating on the things you read and applying those truths from God’s Word in your everyday life, and habits of listening to wholesome preaching that will encourage you in your walk with the Lord. You must seek God on purpose, for this is what he commands us to do. “*Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*” (Jeremiah 29:13). Only beware to not let this be a substitute for salvation in your life.

So, why is it so important to have a good foundation to build on? Why is it necessary to the spiritual well-being of your family? Because all through your life-time, there will be someone who is looking to you for guidance in how to live their life. Even if you never marry, you will still have family and friends that will be influenced by your walk and your talk. No matter how much you want to do right and live godly, if there is no salvation foundation in your soul, your daily walk will show it to everyone. (Luke 8:16-18) As a mother, aunt, or even best friend, it is your responsibility to emulate Christ and to walk circumspectly. Paul gave the saints in Ephesus a whole chapter (Ephesians 5) of encouraging instructions on how we are to live as Christians. And as the darkness keeps closing in on us in our world today, it is much more important than ever that we live what we say we believe.

This is a very critical subject and my prayer for you is that you will think on the things that you have read in this devotion. You know in your inner-most heart if you are a child of God or not. Rely on the Word of God for your assurance in this matter and not on the word of man. It is vitally important to the spiritual well-being of your family, also. How important is it? Your example could determine the way your children accept the things of God and will decide whether they accept or reject the way of the Lord. Children will emulate what you really are, not what you want others to think of you. If you do not have your foundation right to begin with, you have nothing on which to build your house. And if you try to build on the sands of worldly wisdom, your house will some day crash around your ears, and great will be the fall of it!

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know

thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10

Are you ready? Grab your notebook and see what kind of answers you can write for the following questions. Search your heart, your mind, and your Bible and be painfully honest with yourself so that you can really see what is in your soul. It is a good thing to ask the Lord to search your heart, like King David did in Psalms 139:23-24. May God bless your efforts!

1. Here are some more words that will be good for you to research in your Bible. You can even look them up in a dictionary also, which will give you an even better understanding of them.

A. Circumspectly B. Justify C. Sanctify D. Propitiation

2. Many times we are obedient because we are under the authority of our parents, so I want you to ask yourself these questions and pray that you answer them honestly:

- A. If you could do anything you wanted to do and live any way you wanted to live, what would you do? (You know the answer. Be honest with yourself.)
- B. With the things in mind that you just mentioned above, what do you believe would be the outcome of your life?
- C. Are your desires and longings those of a surrendered Christian heart or do you see that there are shortcomings in your devotion to Christ?

(Note: Any desires that you have that are unholy are not natural or overlooked by God. The devil will try to tell you that you are made that way and cannot help it, but that is only one of his lies. We can have victory over sin through faith in Jesus Christ, and if you have no victory, rethink your commitment.)

3. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Along with the account in chapter 7:21-23, Jesus gave an example of who was going to be accepted into Heaven.

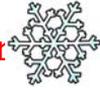
- A. Is Jesus trying to say that good works will assure you a place in Heaven?
- B. What is the significance of all these people and the things they had accomplished for God?
- C. Does the scripture in James 2:14-26 have anything to do with what Jesus was trying to say here?

4. Do you know for sure that you have surrendered your heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ?

(If you ever have any questions that you would like to ask, Bro. Mike and I would be more than happy to listen. Call us at: 573-223-3308.)



Make A Family Tradition



Many families have certain things that they like to do each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas. While there is no set rule or law that says they have to be done, these traditions make sweet memories for the coming years. Those traditions that include doing things for others are the ones that are the biggest blessings. Here are a few ideas for some yearly traditions that you might like to try.

For Thanksgiving:

1. Have a “Thankful” jar or basket sitting in a special place with small pieces of paper and a cup of pencils. Have everyone that comes to dinner write the thing they are most thankful for on the paper and drop them in the jar. In a time when everyone is gathered, have someone read the papers out loud and take time to rejoice in God’s blessings.
2. Think ahead! A week in advance of the day, ask everyone planning to attend to find a scripture or poem for the day. They can either quote it themselves or have someone else read it when everyone is gathered.
3. Find at least one person or family (maybe the family of a soldier who is deported) that has no close family to celebrate with and invite them to dinner and the day.

For Christmas:

1. Reading the Christmas story in Luke 2 is almost a given. Christmas Eve is a good time to do this, since there is less confusion than would be on the following morning. If you have a manger scene, you might try letting the children place the figures in it as you read. Or have them dress-up and act it out in a play.
2. Purchase a “special” gift for each person in your family and open them on Christmas Eve. These kinds of gifts may include a new Bible, devotion books, special ornaments, even things like “Coupon Books”. (See Craft Page.)
3. Purchase a “Christmas Nail” and hang it in your tree. This is a significant ornament that reminds everyone that sees it just what we are celebrating; a Savior who was born to die to free us from sin. It reminds us of the fact that we *can* celebrate Christmas!
4. Purchase or make a special ornament for each member of your family. Put their name and the year on the bottom or back of the ornament. It makes each year a great memory when decorating the tree.
5. Watch a special “Christmas” movie together one evening during the week before Christmas day. “It’s A Wonderful Life” is a good one, or “A Charlie Brown Christmas” is another. The older movies usually have more meaning to them and not the rock music that the newer ones will have.

Crafts

Gift Coupons

Although this gift idea is one that has been used often, it always seems to be a hit. Gift coupons are easy to make and you can make them fancy or plain. Simply cut a normal sheet of copy paper in half from top to bottom. Then cut each side into four $4\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ inch rectangles. Either punch a hole in each to run a ribbon through (see picture), or staple them all together on the end.



This will make eight coupons. Write something special on each one that you would do for your Mom, Dad, brother or sister, Aunt, neighbor, whom ever the gift is for. Use things like “Good for one complete foot massage” for your folks, or “Good for a complete room cleaning” for your siblings. Think of things that would not normally be your regular chores. This makes them more special. Watch for opportunities to remind your family to use them if they forget. Have a willing, sweet spirit when fulfilling their requests.

Photo Books



For the older members on your Christmas list, we suggest photo books. These can either be made by you in the form of scrapbooking pages, or you can have them professionally done by Kodak, Wal-Mart, and many other places (the one on the left is from Shutterfly). Choose pictures of people (grandchildren, children, family members and close friends)

and make sure to write dates and captions around the photos. You can make them as you can afford, but no matter how much you spend, it will be special for years!

Gift-Wrapping 101

One of the fun things about gift-giving is the creative way you wrap your gift. I have seen some beautifully wrapped gifts with paper and ribbons but the ones that I remember most are the ones done up with creative flare! So here are a few ideas we came up with from FamilyFun.com. The first idea is using paper or fabric covered cans with a matching lid, secured with a ribbon. You can use any can, just make sure it has been opened with a seal-breaking can opener so there will be no sharp edges. Chip cans work well, especially for cookies and candy. The next idea is to recycle brown paper grocery bags that you may have received throughout the year with construction paper, stickers, markers, and glitter. They make great gift bags!



The last idea is for home made candy bars, brownies, or bar cookies. Wrap them individually in wax paper and foil, then add a wide ribbon or strip of Christmas wrap around the middle and secure with tape. Great addition to baskets!

Recipes

Lemony Crisp Cookies



- 1 Box Lemon Cake Mix
- 1/3 cup oil
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons lemon juice
- Yellow colored sugar

1. Heat oven to 375°. In large bowl, combine cake mix, oil and eggs; stir with spoon until thoroughly moistened. Shape dough into 1-inch balls; place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Place sugar in shallow dish. Dip bottom of glass in sugar and flatten cookies to ¼-inch thickness.
2. Bake at 375° for 5 –7 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Cool 1 minute before moving from cookie sheets to cooling racks.
3. In small bowl, combine powdered sugar and lemon juice until smooth. Drizzle over cookies and sprinkle with colored sugar before icing sets.

Bubble Tea



Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon white sugar
- 1/3 cup pearl tapioca
- 1 cup brewed black tea
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 4 teaspoons white sugar
- 1 cup ice cubes

Directions

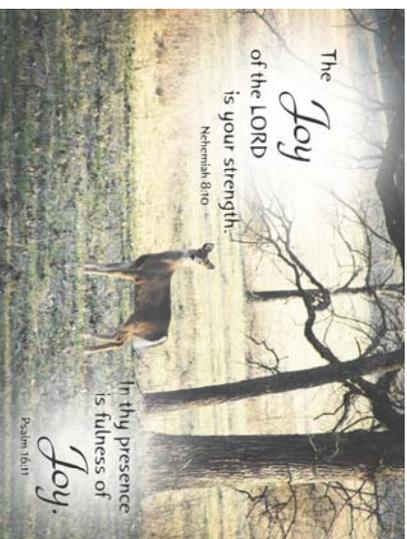
1. In a small saucepan, bring 2 cups water to a boil. Stir in 1 teaspoon sugar until it dissolves. Toss in the pearl tapioca. Cook for about 20 minutes. Rinse, drain, and refrigerate until chilled.
2. Pour tea, milk, and 4 teaspoons sugar into a cocktail shaker. Stir until the sugar has dissolved and the milk is well mixed in. Add the ice cubes, and shake so the whole drink can get cold. Pour into a glass, and add tapioca. Make sure you have a big straw!☺

(Note: This is just one recipe for Bubble Tea. There are many variations that add fruit juices and different teas.)

*I made a cake and it was good,
It came out just as good cake should.
I make some tea, fragrant and strong,
But sadly, no one came along.
I made a cake and it was punk,
It rose up nice then went kerplunk!
I made some tea, 'twas weak and thin,
And all that day my friends dropped in!*

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The
Joy
of the LORD
is your strength.

Nehemiah 8:10

In thy presence
is fulness of

Joy.

Psalms 16:11