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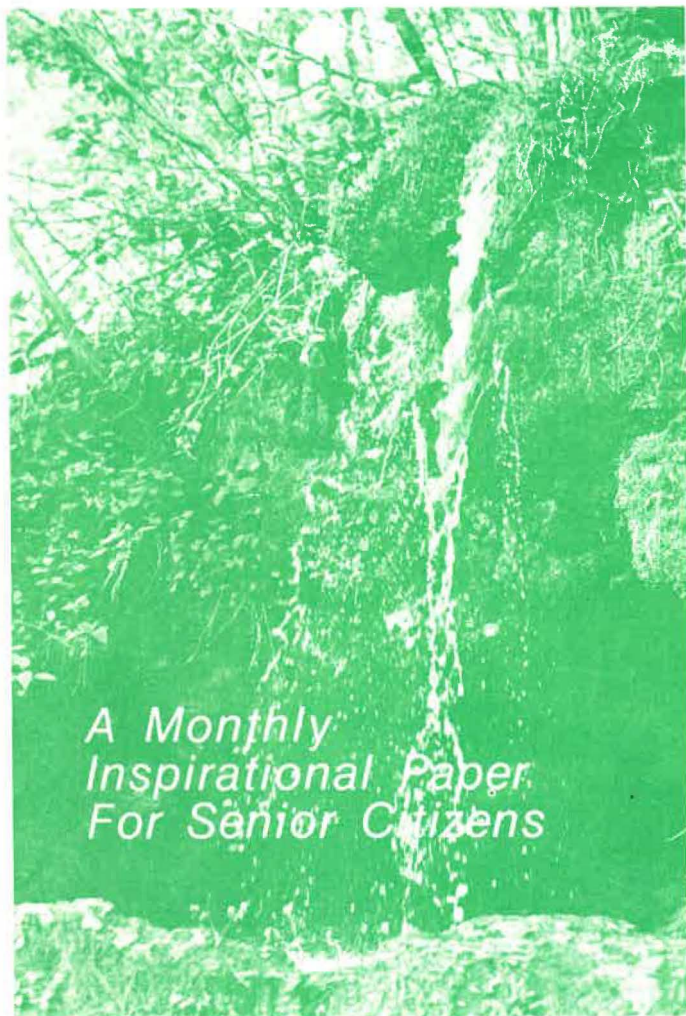
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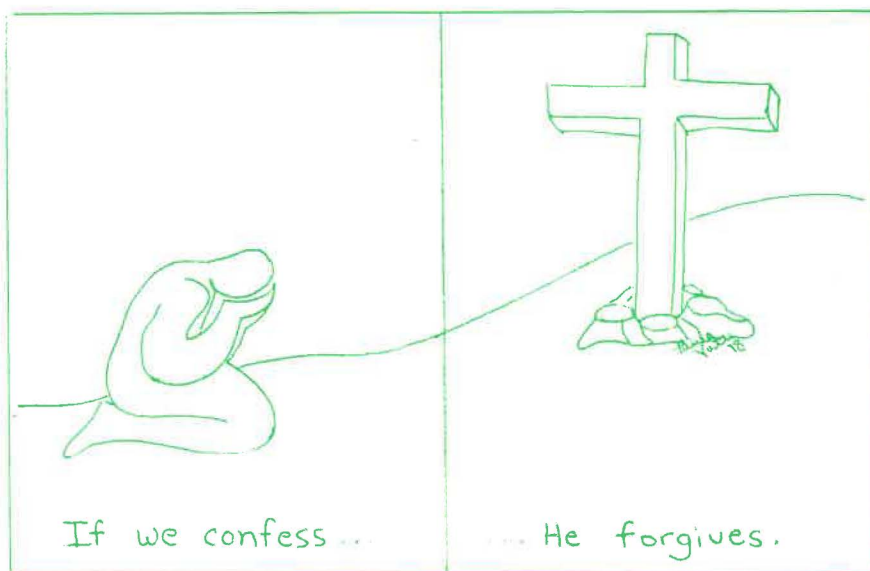
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*A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens*

AUGUST 1978



Forgiveness

by
Mark J. Highman

Forgiveness seems to be a key problem in Christianity today, and the least of the problems being solved. I'm not sure why this problem exists today in its extreme, but it might be partly because no one knows how to solve it. Let's discover the Biblical solution.

Mark 11:25-26 tells us that if we have something against any, forgive them so that the Father in Heaven can forgive you. If you do not forgive, neither will the Father. "Man, I didn't know that!" you might exclaim. Don't feel bad, I didn't either until recently. Is it possible that lack of forgiveness could be the most common cause of unanswered prayer?

I was involved in an incident not too long ago where the Lord had to hit me hard with this truth. I had offended a brother in Christ. I knew he had been offended, even though I did not go to him to straighten the situation out. Had I gone to him right at the first I could have saved heartache and a lot of problems. My major problem was that I was out of fellowship with God, but didn't know why. Communication between God and me broke down, and it wasn't long until my spiritual life began tetering. Once I went to this brother and asked forgiveness, things started looking up, and I could see the value in true forgiveness!

The spirit of forgiveness should characterize every Christian. In Ephesians 4:32 we read, "And be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." God's full and free forgiveness toward us should control our behaviour in our relations with others. No one has ever wronged us as we have

wronged God. Yet God forgave us, and he loves us in spite of all our sins (though we need to confess them).

In praying, we have no right to expect forgiveness from God if we ourselves do not forgive. God tells us to "love (our) enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you," (Matthew 5:44). We must rid ourselves of all bitterness, strife, and hatred if we expect to be forgiven ourselves. And this holds true even when we are hurt deeply, and this is hard. In fact forgiving anyone or even asking their forgiveness is hard, but God can and does give us the strength to do so.

How can we go about forgiveness? Read the passage in Matthew 5:23-24. The formula is this: 1) Go to God first. God does not tell us to stay away from the altar, but to come and leave our gift there. In other words tell God the situation and ask for strength to approach the offender/offended. 2) Go directly to the person *now*, not tonight, not tomorrow, not next week, but the first chance you can get. Don't talk to anyone else about the problem, or try to ask forgiveness through other people; you go personally. 3) When you have gained your brother/sister back through the forgiving spirit (which may not always be mutual) then go back to the altar. Thank Him for the strength and courage, ask for His forgiveness and then go on with your regular prayer-communication.

It is not always easy, but it's what God commands, and it's what is necessary in staying "in tune" with our God and Saviour! Remember it always.

REFLECTIONS of FAITH

edited by
Patty Farmwald

Forgiving Power

Of all the Christmas gifts of worth
That loved ones on us shower,
There's none compares to God's own gift
Of His forgiving power.

The Savior's blood was shed for all,
Peace with God to make,
So God the Father can say to us,
"Forgiven, for Jesus' sake."

Christ knows our desperate human need;
He understands our weakest hour.
His loving heart, while breaking, pleads
The Father for forgiving power.

Sometimes when we've been deeply wronged,
Our hearts with resentment sour.
We need to look to Christ and say,
"Lord, give your forgiving power."

We've been forgiving so many times.
Oh, how God's heart must ache.
Till in gratitude, our attitude
Is forgiving, for Jesus' sake.

Christ came to earth by humble birth
To die, that we could live
Guilt-free, all cleansed, when we accept
His mighty power to forgive.

by
Linda Mohler*

Forgiveness

Weary from the bonds of sin?
Be loosed and start to live
You ask how this can be done?
Let God your sins forgive.

For God sent His only Son
That nailed to Calvary's tree
If you now believe on Him
From all your sins you're free.

"Born again" you now can be
No more a worldly one.
Bought with His redeeming blood
You may become God's Son!

Sharing this wonderful news
Of your God given joy
Will now be made evident
As His Word you do employ.

by
Cindy Denny

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Bread Upon the Waters

by
Bernard N. Bancroft



Edited for Living Springs by Janet Ebel

Conclusion of gun story Part III:

Last month: We left Mike not knowing whether Joe was dead or alive:

Joe stirred and Mike breathed a sigh of relief. Peals of laughter sounded from Joe as he rose from the stretcher, the blood still streaming from his clothes.

Mike followed Joe upstairs and watched him as he began to wash the blood away. He wasn't even wounded.

"Come on, what's your story?" Mike asked. "Let's have it."

"Well," said Joe, "you knew the lieutenant and I had gone to see the mayor about returning our guns? Well, that's why the whole thing happened. The mayor said 'No' to everything the lieutenant brought up. They were both getting hot under the collar.

I was standing behind the lieutenant, not really caring what happened one way or the other. Then I heard the shot.

The next thing I knew we were surrounded by men who fired several shots. They all hit the lieutenant, and he fell back on me. As we fell to the floor, I smeared some of his oozing blood over my shirt, so they would think I too had been shot. Apparently they thought we were both dead, because they left us. So here I am!

You know, Mike, I was mighty scared there on the floor. It was then I remembered a song the

Pastor had sung to us one time:

"When I see the blood I will pass over you."

The soldiers saw the blood and thought I was dead, so they passed by me. Right there on the floor, I asked Christ into my life and now his blood covers all my sin! While I was laying there, I felt as if the blood of Jesus washed my dirty heart clean, and I was a new Joe starting life all over again!"

Mike grinned from ear to ear. "Joe, it was the lieutenant from Palunka who showed me! He was glad to die for the crime we committed. I accepted Christ this morning!"

Just then Juanito walked quickly out of the room. Mike and Joe talked excitedly about winning Juanito to the Lord, though right now he seemed pretty upset.

Later that day, as Mike awoke from his siesta, he looked over to find Joe gone again.

"This is getting to be a regular habit," he thought. At the supper table, he was discussing Joe's absence when Joe appeared. He was all excited and spoke directly to the pastor.

"Pastor Evangelista, do you have the right to marry people?"

Mike smiled, but Joe glared at him.

The pastor nodded his agreement and Joe went on to tell them that he and Estrella wanted to get married soon.

"Estrella said she would never let me go away from her again; that she'd marry me right now and keep me out of trouble!"

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The Bible Is God's Word

by
Teresa Galbreath

The Bible is the Word of God. So often we hear this statement, but do we realize its full meaning?

The book that you hold in your hands and that you call your Bible is God's personal message to you. II Timothy 3:16 says, "*all scripture is given by inspiration of God.*" The word inspiration literally means "God-breathed"; therefore all scripture originated with God.

Since the Bible is inspired of God, we know that it is true. Christ, in John 17:17, said, "*thy Word is truth.*" We also know that the Bible is authoritative and eternal, as Isaiah 40:8 states, "*the Word of our God shall stand forever.*"

What man says is not always truthful, is not eternal or authoritative. However, what God says is an absolute standard for all men.

Although we know that the Bible is God's Word, we do not treat it as such. Often we read over it lightly or do not listen when it is preached. If we have a problem we seek men's advice rather than searching the scriptures.

The scripture admonishes us to meditate on God's Word and to "*study to show theyself approved unto God,*" (II Timothy 2:15). We must obey the commandments of the Bible because they are the actual commandments of God. The Bible provides the entire basis for the Christian's life.

Evils of the Tongue

by
Jody Bridges

Every type of animal in this world can be tamed by man, but the only thing man cannot tame is his tongue. James 3 describes the tongue as a fire, an unruly evil, a container of deadly poison, and a world of iniquity.

Sins committed by the tongue are many and diverse. Lying can be a big temptation; gossip and false flattery can tear down friendships. The Bible warns against talking too much or too soon. With the tongue one quarrels and speaks bitterly.

What are constructive uses of the tongue? Often one can minister peace by keeping silent, by not repeating unkind words, or by refusing to enter an argument. Sharing good news is preferable to spreading pessimism. Whereas flattery hurts, genuine compliments encourage. Christians should speak comfort to those in need, gentle words of friendliness to the lonely. The tongue ought to be employed in communications of the gospel and reproofing wickedness. A final correct use of the tongue is in prayer and praise to God.

The Bible claims maturity as an attribute of the person who is capable of controlling his tongue. Everyone should evaluate the uses of his tongue and seek to engage it in profitable conversation.

August 1	Tuesday	Joshua 1:1-9
August 2	Wednesday	Psalms 119:105-112
August 3	Thursday	Psalms 119:113-128
August 4	Friday	John 17:6-19
August 5	Saturday	Ephesians 6:10-20
August 6	Sunday	II Timothy 3:10-17
August 7	Monday	Hebrews 4:1-13
August 8	Tuesday	James 3:1-13

August 9	Wednesday	Proverbs 16:18-28
August 10	Thursday	John 1:1-14
August 11	Friday	II Peter 1:1-11
August 12	Saturday	Proverbs 27:1-10
August 13	Sunday	I Thessalonians 4:13-18
August 14	Monday	I John 5:10-15
August 15	Tuesday	John 3:1-21
August 16	Wednesday	Matthew 24:36-51

"Born Again"

by
Mark Highman

In this day and age we hear a lot about "born again" or getting saved. Everybody is getting "born-again" or "experiencing religion" and thus assuming they are heaven-bound.

Don't let it fool you. This "born-again" thing is more than meets the eye of the world. While the world uses many methods to achieve this "born-again," God tells us that "except a man be born-again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." God also tells us that "He that believeth on the son (Jesus Christ) hath everlasting life, but the wrath of God abideth on him," (John 4:36). That wrath is "everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels," (Matt. 26:41), "where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched," (mark 9:44, 46, 48).

What I am saying is that the methods of the world are not good enough for God. Only God's methods are; who would know better than God? This week think on these things, evaluate your reasons for why God should allow you into heaven. Are you basing your hopes for eternity on something other than God's Way? Think on these things.

Glory To The Lord

by
C. Dean Harkness

II Samuel 23:8-39 records David's mighty men of valor. Each man's service shows his dedication to his ruler. Adino slew 800 at once with his spear. Eleazar was with David against the Philistines when they were gathered together to battle, and he arose and fought the Philistines until his hand became weary, and his hand stiffened in position upon the handle of his sword. Three men were with David and heard him wish for water from the well surrounded by the Philistines. Braving the deadly dangers they went among the Philistines, obtained water, and returned it to David.

Service of highest performance was shown by these men of valor. This performance is one that should be equaled by each Christian as we do the service of our King-Lord Jehovah. They fought though weary; pursued though faint, the hand weary yet not forsaking the sword.

Note that after Eleazar's battle it says, "*The Lord wrought a great victory that Day,*" [vs. 10]. However great the bravery of those God uses, they are His instruments; the praise and honor must be given to God. They fight the battles, but God grants the victory. Let not man glory in his own strength but bring all glory unto the Lord.

August 17	Thursday	Matthew 25:31-46
August 18	Friday	John 14:1-12
August 19	Saturday	John 10:27-29, 11:25-27
August 20	Sunday	Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2
August 21	Monday	Revelation 22:6-21
August 22	Tuesday	II Samuel 23:8-17
August 23	Wednesday	II Samuel 23:18-39
August 24	Thursday	Revelation 2:1-11

August 25	Friday	Isaiah 40:26-31
August 26	Saturday	Psalm 144:1-2, 147:1;9
August 27	Sunday	Psalm 147: 10-20
August 28	Monday	Judges 8:1-9
August 29	Tuesday	I John 1:1-10
August 30	Wednesday	I John 3:10-24
August 31	Thursday	III John 1-14

continued from page 3

They set the date for a week later. The entire clustering population had been aware of the gruff soldier's fondness for the dainty Estrella, so it was no wonder that the church was crowded that day.

Joe paced up and down the floor until it was finally time for the ceremony. He stared in awe at the beautiful Estrella walking down the aisle. The eternally binding words of the ceremony were said, and Joe and Estrella were pronounced man and wife.

After the vows were pronounced, news came that a Japanese transport was coming. Soon they saw an American plane on the horizon. It circled overhead and they cheered it on as it bombed the Japanese ship. Nothing was left of it except a sturdy life boat, which Juanito later found washed up on shore.

Here was the perfect opportunity for them to escape, but it was a dangerous opportunity, too. They decided to risk it.

Their departure was an ordeal for the town's people who had grown to love them. Before they left, Juanito told them all of his new found faith in Christ:

"I cannot leave Capayas, and Pastor Evangelista, without telling you all of the change that has come into my heart.

"At Palunka Island my hatred was fierce against those who had destroyed my entire family, and I killed the two prisoners and threw them overboard. I made my heart hard against God when my friends repented of their sins and accepted Christ, and I would not heed their words. But I could not rest as long as I was trying to excuse my hatred and revengefulness. It seemed to me that God had spoken, and I was humbled to confess my ugly hatred, and to have it washed from my heart. As Jesus has forgiven me, so I have forgiven the Japanese. Now I want to live for the Lord Jesus, and I believe that He will bring me peace."

Everyone rejoiced in Juanito's words, and before the group departed, they all sang "God will Take Care of You." They started on their journey with that song still ringing in their ears.

Sailing was pretty smooth until they got further out to sea, where they hit a big storm. The waves came pounding in, so that it was all the men could do to keep the water bailed out of the boat. Finally, a huge wave hit them, knocking them sideways and capsizing the boat. Juanito had seen it coming and had yelled:

"Grab the life rope!" This was the only thing that saved their lives, but Juanito was lost at sea.

Mike, Joe and Estrella clung to the rope until an approaching navy hospital ship picked them up. They were safe at last, and bound for

America.

Estrella leaned over to whisper in Joe's ear: "Remember that verse the pastor read to us? 'What time I am afraid, I will trust the Lord!'"

Let's Chatter

About a Matter

editorial by Mark Highman

The LIVING SPRINGS staff wants to extend a warm thank-you to those of our readers and subscribers that have been writing us these past few months. Your letters are much needed for they tell us that you are profiting from the inspirational paper. This is very encouraging to all those who are in any way involved with the paper. I would like to challenge more of our readers and subscribers to write us, for though we have received many letters, we have heard from only a very small percent of all that receive LIVING SPRINGS.

This month we would like to publish a few selected sections from a letter from one of our subscribers. In his letter he included some helpful suggestions, which we are always open to, and that we shall carefully consider. Thank-you for writing Pastor Maricle!

Dear LIVING SPRINGS:

We have now received three issues of Living Springs which we are distributing to our Senior Citizens. The format is excellent. We like the larger print. The continued story of Little Pilgrims Progress is great (this was printed in the winter issues).

May your reward be great, both in personal satisfaction, as you continue this needed ministry, and in eternal blessing for your faithfulness to God's will for you in performing this service for Senior Citizens.

Very Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Winston B. Maricle

Quizzle by Bob King

To work: Fill in the missing words in the sentences, then transfer the letters in the numbered blanks (in the sentences) to the matching numbered blanks in the quote.

1. "For all have _____, and come short of the glory of God."
11 9 3 7
2. "For by _____ are ye saved."
31 6
3. When Christ died on the cross, the _____ of the Temple was torn in two.
4. "For godly _____ worketh repentance to salvation."
5. "If we confess our sins, he is _____ and just to forgive us our sins."
6. As far as the _____ is from the West, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."
7. "If any man be in Christ, he is a _____ creature."
8. Christ, "ever liveth to make _____ for (us)."
9. Christ said, "Love your _____, bless them that curse you."
10. "As it is written, There is none _____, no, not one."
11. "Teaching them to _____ all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

28 18

QUOTE: " _____ "

Clues for puzzle:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Romans 3:23 | 6. Psalm 103:12 |
| 2. Ephesians 2:8 | 7. II Corinthians 5:17 |
| 3. Matthew 27:51 | 8. Hebrews 7:25 |
| 4. II Corinthians 7:10 | 9. Matthew 5:44 |
| 5. I John 1:9 | 10. Romans 3:10 |
| | 11. Matthew 28:20 |

ANSWERS:
1. sinned; 2. grace; 3. veil; 4. sorrow; 5. faithful; 6. East; 7. new; 8. intercession; 9. enemies; 10. righteous; 11. observe. QUOTE: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven." QUOTE: Psalm 32:1

Looking At God's Creation

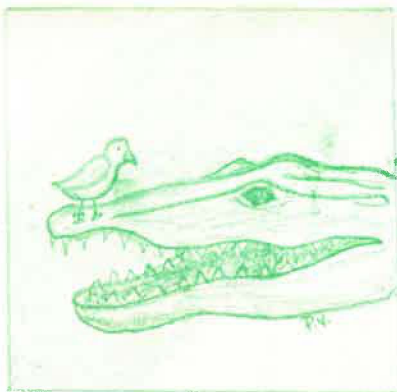
by Karen Payne

Living organisms affect each other in various ways. While many organisms need to prey upon each other for food, others help each other. This is called mutualism.

Mutualism occurs when two different organisms, which are living together, form a relationship which is advantageous for both.

We find this true in the fungus and the algae. The algae provides food for the fungus while the fungus serves to hold water and to protect the alga. This particular association, which is called a lichen, is thus enabled to grow in hostile places such as rocks and very cold regions.

We also find mutualism in the crocodile who opens his mouth and allows the Egyptian Plover, a small bird, to pick food particles from its gums and teeth. There are advantages for both: the crocodile gets its teeth cleaned and the Egyptian Plover gets its dinner while being protected from its adversaries in the crocodile's wide gaping jaws!



As fellow believers in Christ we have a responsibility to be a help, not a hindrance, to our brothers and sisters in Christ: "Judge this rather: that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way . . . Let us, therefore, follow after things which make for peace, and things with which one may edify another," (Romans 14:13b, 19).

We should be willing to give of ourselves. The Bible says that we are to uphold the weaker brother:

"We, then, that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let everyone of us please his neighbor for his good to edification," (Romans 15:1,2).

Jesus said, "These things I command you, that ye love one another," (John 15:17). We are commanded to love and honor our brethren:

When was the last time you went out of your way to help a fellow brother in Christ? Are you a stumbling block? Does all you say and do edify your brother? Strive to obey God in this way as you work to build Biblical relationships between you and your brother! It is pleasing to God, and it is healthy for both of you, just as it is for both the bird and crocodile!

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*But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall
give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall
give him shall be in him a well of water springing up
into everlasting life.*

John 4:14

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We invite readers to submit original poetry or articles. Any material submitted to us cannot be returned, so be sure to send a spare copy. Poetry should be less than 20 lines and articles 150 words or less.