



# Newsletter

St Paul's Bible Church

Volume 9, Issue 7

July 2005

## Kreider's Korner

Promoting everything from vacation destinations to soap, advertisers entice you to buy their product by creating discontentment; if you just buy the fancy car, the elaborate entertainment center, and the designer outfit, you'll be satisfied. Say goodbye to boredom and farewell to loneliness. Say hello to happiness. Advertisers don't want you to be content with what you have and the reality is that most people aren't.

America's incredible affluence highlights a major problem with the fallen nature of man.

We can't handle what we produce because we are ultimately and totally selfish. When our sinful hearts are enticed into a selfish attachment to stuff, greed takes over and self-destruction is the ultimate end. We think that we need more "stuff", but we are unsatisfied once we get it. It's that little thing called materialism.

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St. Paul's Bible Church  
1960 W. 94th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60620  
[www.stpaulsbiblechurch.org](http://www.stpaulsbiblechurch.org)  
773/238-4368  
Fax 773/238-3660

Steven A. Wenner, Pastor  
All newsletter contributions may be  
submitted to Susan Jillson at  
[sejillson@aol.com](mailto:sejillson@aol.com)

With that in mind, you can easily see why managing your money and possessions is a struggle, even for Christians. What do you do with it? How should you invest it? How should you spend it? Your answers to those questions will reveal much about your spiritual maturity. Sadly, however, many Christians have bought into the world's philosophy, forgetting what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 12:15: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

The apostle Paul addressed that issue in 1 Timothy 6 where he directs his attention to "those who are rich in this present world" (6:17). Perhaps you don't consider yourself rich because you don't have an expensive car, a fancy house, or a large bank account. But "rich" in this context refers to someone who has more than he needs to provide food, clothing, and shelter for himself and his family (v. 8). If you have money left over after providing for your essential needs than you are in fact rich, and Paul speaks to you.

It isn't wrong to have money and possessions, but it is wrong to build your

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# Missionary Update

July, 2005 Prayer Update

Dear Praying Friends,

Wes's younger brother, Verle, fell off the roof of his house and broke his neck. Lois, his wife, made sure he did not move and was not moved until done so properly. We praise God that his spinal cord was not severed. He's to use a cervical collar for at least 3 months. He also fractured his left arm in 5 places but doesn't need surgery! He's using a splint. He also sprained his left ankle. Lois, his wife, says, "His mind is working just fine." We praise the Lord as we know you are as you read this letter. A work team from the Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church arrived Sunday to help on the construction of one of the FM churches. Knowing two in the group, we ate lunch with them and visited at the church where they are working. The biggest surprise was meeting a childhood friend from camp meeting days almost 50 years ago.

We are in the middle of "dry season." HA! The biggest rain we've had on months came today soon after Wes and a worker removed 1/4 of our tiled roof. Now several hours later—it's raining again! Three of us squeegeed for a loooooog time! We thank the Lord for protection for Wes and the worker as they have been roofing, moving water tanks, and a few other jobs that have needed to be done around our house.

Answers to prayer this month:

1. One of our supporting churches, Trenton Hills United Brethren Church, offered to pay for Rachel Tannehil's plane ticket to come to Brazil. Remember she's our teacher you and we are praying to arrive before school. Right now she's in Orlando going through orientation. Continue to pray for the rest of her needed support which is still a great a bit and for her visa. Thank you, Trenton Hills Church for your concern for Bible translation and missionary kids! How your gift surprised and encouraged us! Remember Dean's paperwork too in securing a visa.

2. Nathan Buzdor, our 28-year-old friend, who had the bone-marrow transplant is progressing. He is able to keep more breakfasts down than come back up. His pain is a little less severe as well. May the Lord grant Nathan a return to complete health for His glory.

3. For several months now each time Roy, Nathan's father, finishes a programming job at work, it means he's terminated. But each month as Roy turns in his computer to finish termination procedures, his company tells him there's another job for another month. I can't imagine going through what this family is experiencing. May the Lord heap grace upon grace on

them and continue to take care of their needs. Lois, Nate's mother, has ministered to many families at the hospital over the past three months.

Prayer Requests for this month

1. The health of our missionary colleague Nancy Butler with cancer continues to deteriorate. Nancy desires to see her brother come into the Kingdom. May the Lord grant that wish which is also His will.

2. Translators continue working faithfully on Scriptures, trying to solve problems and preparing texts to check with native speakers. Betty, working with the Bakairi works daily with a woman who's here in the city with her five children for the month.

Keith and Heidi Barkman with their two children are working out in a Bororo village during school break.

Joan Richards, translator, working the "R" people, prepares more text to take to a Brazilian city where many of the "R" people come to shop. The Smiths with their five children continue language learning in the village where they work. The Harrisons— Alec, now our director for two years, and Tammy filling in as personnel director—are planning a New Testament dedication and distribution for September. Alec has been training the Xavante to translate Old Testament text. Rose and Donna are analyzing what's needed in a literacy project for another people group. Everyone's busy doing their work—No! It's God's work, and we all feel very privileged to be part of it! Your praying and giving make you an integral part of the team—thanks.

Yours,

Jean (and Wes) Bell

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear praying partners.

Thank you so much for your precious prayers. Since our last report the campus here at IBTS is pretty empty. Most of the students have left and the last few will be leaving soon. The campus will be pretty much like a ghost city after that....until September when new students arrive and the Master's students come back.

We just enjoyed the ministry of a team from Texas who helped with completing projects on campus. There was alot of manual labor during the completion of a gazebo and some painting around campus. We are thankful for teams that come here to do this much needed work.

## ***Kreider's Korner (cont. from page 1)***

life around them. Paul doesn't command the rich to give all their money away and take a vow of poverty, but he does give specific guidelines to follow when dealing with material things.

### **Dangers of Wealth**

The first thing Paul says to the rich in 1 Timothy 6 is "not to be arrogant" (v. 17). Rich people are constantly faced with the temptation to consider themselves superior or better than those who have less. Wealth and pride tend to go hand in hand; the more you have, the more you will tend to battle pride and self exaltation. It's easy to believe we gained our wealth solely because of our own abilities. However, Philippians 2:3-4 says we're to be humble, not just looking to our own affairs, but also to the affairs of others. Greek and Roman culture mocked humility and exalted pride in the same way our society does today. It is humility that distinctly marks those who are living for Christ.

1 Timothy 6:17 goes on to say we must not fix our hope on the uncertainty of earthly wealth. Rather, we must continually fight that temptation and confidently fix our hope on the reality of future inheritance. That inheritance is much better than anything we could obtain on this earth. Still, our natural tendency is to rely on our riches when we have a lot and turn to God only when we have little.

I believe one reason so many Christians in America are apathetic is they don't really believe they need God. They have replaced Him with their estate planner and retirement funds. I'm not implying we should ignore planning for the future. However, when you cling to your possessions and live in fear of not having them, you ignore the Holy Spirit's leading and put your confidence in your wealth instead of God.

### **God's Blessings**

In contrast Paul says we're to "put our hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Tim. 6:17); after all, He owns everything. If you really want to be happy, view everything you have as a gift from God. You don't own your money or your possessions. You manage them for God. He uses them as a test to see where the focus of your heart is. God wants us to enjoy what He has given us. When He blesses us with more than we need, it is an opportunity to invest the surplus in whatever will most honor

His name.

In Philippians 4:11-12 Paul says, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." That contentment, totally unrelated to earthly possessions, is always the best attitude that we can have and it is that attitude that sets us apart as followers of an all-sufficient Father in heaven.

### **Taking Action**

Our trust in God is revealed by how we act and react. So Paul tells us "to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous and willing to share" (1 Tim. 6:18). We are to do noble, excellent, praiseworthy things with our money, not things that are superficial and shallow. Here are some basic responsibilities from 1 Timothy 5 that bring honor to God.

- Provide for your family (5:8)
- Provide for widows (5:3, 16)
- Provide for church leaders (5:17)

Beyond those responsibilities, we are to be "rich in good deeds." Riches do not belong in a bank, endlessly compounding interest to provide for your security. That money won't follow you to heaven, your deeds will. Money stays here, but the good you've done for Christ's sake is an investment in eternity.

The word "generous" identifies the kind of good deeds we should do. We are to be willing to meet any need and to act toward others in the same generous way God has acted toward us. Share what you have with others, and you will reap the benefit of your unselfishness.

The phrase "willing to share" here in verse 18 seems to speak of participating in fellowship with someone else. The implication for us here is that we are not to just write someone a check and than be otherwise uninvolved in their lives. We are to be in communication with those who we are helping financially. This works best when we are sharing with those in our church, our Bible studies, or missionaries of our church who have needs. The key is that we keep in prospective that we are sharing in the advancement of the kingdom of God.

### **A Long-Term Investment**

Obtaining large amounts money and possessions can not provide contentment. If you want to be happy, put your treasure into a heavenly account, where it will pay eternal dividends. Paul said, store up for yourself the treasure of a firm

## *Missionary Update (cont. from page 2)*

This month also had a History conference that was attended by various key historians from Eastern Europe. It is a time of connecting the various countries with their history and theology.

Nic and Selina are still in school. They will end on the 30th of June. They have enjoyed this year tremendously. We are so thankful for the support that has allowed them to attend Riverside School.

July 1st we will be flying to the States for needed time away. While in the States we will be visiting with both Debby's and Greg's parents and family. It will also be a time for medical check ups ( things that are not so easily done here). Greg hopes to find out more about his elbow and what will need to be done for it as it is not healed yet. He has occasional pain and cannot move it correctly. Unfortunately we will also be attending Greg's uncles funeral. God's timing is always right ...We will be glad to be there there for this. Greg will also have the privilege of baptising two of his nephews. What a joy that will be. Pray also for us as we spend some of this time reflecting and listening to God as we look at our next year and the many activities that lie ahead. We would also cheerish your prayers for our travling mercies and as we visit with family and friends and attend the various events.

We have a praise as we have found two rather responsible people to watch our house and dog while we are gone. We have also found someone to watch the kids while we are at our Missions conference this August. We feel confident to leave our kids with her. Her name is Lenka and she was Selina's class room helper this year. She is Czech and knows the town well and has all sorts of activities planned for them.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer for the incoming students. Pray for them as they work on getting visas for the year, and that God would prepare them as they get ready to come here, to see what God will be teaching them this coming year.

Blessings on you all as you go into the summer.

In His love and ours.

Debby for the Nichols

## *New Version of Old Children's Song*

I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn "Jesus Loves Me" (for the children of course) during a hymn sing and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best.

Here is a new version just for us who have graying hair, white hair, or no hair at all. For us over 40 (even those almost there) and you others... Check out this newest version of "Jesus Loves Me" It is quite cute, so read, sing and enjoy

JESUS LOVES ME!

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(Chorus)

Yes, Jesus loves me... Yes, Jesus loves me... Yes, Jesus loves me... For the bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh so slow  
With my hand in His I'll go.  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

(Chorus)

When the nights are dark and long  
In my heart He puts a song.  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(Chorus)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above  
Then I'll understand his love

(Chorus)

I love Jesus, does he know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.

(Chorus)

*Kreider's Korner (cont. from page 3)*

future, "so that [you] may take hold of the life that is truly life" (1Tim. 6:19). You must be committed to a heavenly perspective, content with waiting to receive your reward from the Lord. Go against the grain of the world's obsession with instant gratification and seek your eternal reward.

Your spiritual legitimacy is determined by how you handle your money and possessions. Your house, your car, your bank account, they are a test of your spirituality. Don't let the world dictate what you do with your money and possessions. When you pass the test of personal possessions, you can look forward with joyful anticipation to the day when the Lord will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things... come and share your master's happiness" (Matt. 25:21, 23). So I ask you, are you investing in eternity?



## Vacation Bible School

July 25 - 29

The Ramblin' Road Trip is getting ready to be underway. Based on Psalm 25:4 the kids will learn which way to go along the paths of the Lord.

Invite your friends to bring their kids for a week of fun, crafts, and most importantly learning about the Christian life.

Or if you are able to help out that week as a teacher or an assistant to a teacher, please contact Eleanor Hollander.

## Primary Sunday School Class

### Students Excel

Congratulations to Tabita Oakley, the only student in the Primary Class that memorized her Bible verse every week. Grace Wenner and Daniela Oakley came in a close second having only missed one week.

Parents remember - when Sunday School starts up again in September - the children in the Primary Class have a Bible verse to memorize every week. Please encourage them to do so.

#### Daily Motto:

The early bird may get the worm but the second mouse gets the cheese

#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Some people are like Slinkies...

Not really good for anything, but they still bring a smile to your face when you push them down a flight of stairs.

## Sunday School Picnic

It was a hot day on June 25, but the Sunday School Picnic went on without a hitch. As the adults sat and enjoyed good fellowship, the kids enjoyed games of three legged races, tossing the ball, and of course the most important of all the annual water balloon fight. All those that took part in the water balloon fight were soaked by the end of it, but I don't think they really cared

Thanks to all that helped out in preparing for the picnic.

## New Address

Bill Guth will be moving at the end of July to Mokena where he will be living with his son and daughter-in-law Bill and Nancy. You will be able to reach him (after July 28) at

William Guth

19938 Golden Oak Lane

Mokena, Illinois 60448

# July 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship Service 10AM	4 Independence Day	5	6 Bible Studay 7PM Kid's Club 7PM	7	8	9 Men's Prayer 8AM
10 Worship Service 10AM Torrie Magett BDay	11	12	13 Bible Studay 7PM Kid's Club 7PM Don Keyser BDay	14	15	16
17 Worship Service 10AM Marian Anderson BDay	18	19 Sean Blake-Collins BDay	20 Bible Studay 7PM Kid's Club 7PM	21	22	23 Men's Prayer 8AM
24 Worship Service 10AM Final Setup for VBS	25 VBS 9AM	26 VBS 9AM	27 VBS 9AM	28 VBS 9AM	29 VBS 9AM	30
31 Worship Service 10AM						