



A WORD ON PRAYER

The act of praying is the very highest energy of which the human mind is capable; praying, that is, with the total concentration of the faculties. The great mass of worldly men and of learned men are absolutely incapable of prayer.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

“A QUOTE ON PRAYER

No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it, but he suffers from it.”
Guy H. King

A PRACTICAL PRAYER TIP

Choose a specific place to pray away from distractions so you can concentrate. Ringing phones and crying children will sabotage your "quiet time" before it gets started.



PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS AVAILS MUCH

PRAYER PROVOKERS

✍ Almost 2/3rd of the world's population live in the 10/40 Window which lies across Africa and Asia from 10 degrees to 40 degrees latitude north of the equator. 95% of these people are un-evangelized and over 66000 die every day!

✍ Of the 95 percent youth aged 20-29 years that had attended a church regularly during their elementary and middle school years, only 55 percent went to church during high school. And by college, only 11 percent were still attending church. Laxity of parents and also of the church in strengthening their faith is the principal reason for the church having lost them!

✍ Increasing female feticide in India could spark a demographic crisis whereby there will be fewer women in society resulting in a rise in sexual violence and child abuse as well as wife-sharing, the United Nations has warned.

IN A LIGHTER VEIN (: -D)

There were these two boys who lived with their Grandma. They were about to go to bed but before they slept they prayed. The older son started to pray. He prayed about the day he had and about everything he had done. The younger son then started to pray, he prayed much louder than his elder brother, he prayed for bikes and toys, and when he finished the older brother asked him "Why are you praying so loud? God is not deaf" and the younger son responded and said "Yea but Grandma is!!"

Kindly send in your suggestions, queries & contributions:
vinay4u13@gmail.com (9925768022)
richard.parmar72@gmail.com (9879444957)
yosimetisam@gmail.com (9227226768)
geo.verghese@gmail.com (9825034237)

for private circulation only



All the kids have been divided into 4 groups with two teachers each assigned for each group so that each student gets proper attention.

The content has been greatly improved incorporating lot of activities and props and methods appropriate for each age group.

One Sunday in a month will be an 'Open Sunday' whereon the classes will not follow the routine but have special programs like dance, puppet shows, movies etc.

The Sunday School Venue has been shifted to the Cellar to allow for more room for the kids. The entire venue has been decked up to provide an exciting environment for the kids. Eventually, the venue will undergo a proper renovation.

All parents are requested to make extra efforts to ensure that their kids take full advantage of kidzGRACE. The timing will coincide with the English Service.

Watch out for this space in next issue.



NEWS BRIEFS A CHANCE TO BECOME A PEOPLE HELPER

One in six will suffer from chronic hunger in 2009

The number of people suffering from hunger is projected to reach a historic high this year, according to new estimates published on Friday by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

UPA government to repeal Anti-Conversion Laws

Home Minister P Chidambaram will be reviewing and making recommendations on the controversial anti-conversion bill also known as "Freedom of Religion Acts". Presently, anti-conversion laws are in force in five states - Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.

Legalizing Homosexuality

The Indian Government last Sunday announced plans to repeal IPC Section 377 that criminalizes homosexuality. Hundreds of gays, lesbians, transgenders and bisexuals walked through Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi to celebrate gay pride and called for the decriminalization of homosexuality. Holding placards they demanded "equal rights" and "gay-friendly laws".

Plan in Advance: 2009

Counseling - July 5 onwards
Inductive Bible Study - August 15
AG Youth Conference - Nov3rd wk
Glenn Badonsky - Dec1st wk

www.gracejunction.com

Facts you should know

Unique IP Hits till date:
17650

Blog of the previous week:

With great power comes great responsibility - Archana

Blog of the previous month:

The Dragon's Mask - Geo

Grace Fellowship Assembly of God joins hands with Urban India Ministries to launch a 5 month certificate Course in Counseling. The course is aimed at helping the attendees in self awareness, identifying personal skills and grooming basic skills in counseling. In times when suicides, murder, rape, depression, divorce and addiction are commonplace and people are grappling to come to terms with the fast changing world and its wares, this course will be a great opportunity for Christians of Ahmedabad to equip themselves a bit more to reach out with a helping hand to bind the wounds of broken hearted men, to give them beauty for ashes and oil of joy for their tears.

The course will be extremely interactive with mock sessions coupled with theory. Urban India Ministries will be sending a few of their experts for day long workshops to add-on to the regular classes. Philips Dayanidhi and Reupah Philips will be helping us with the regular classes. The course will last for a 84 hours or more and will be conducted at GFAG on every Sunday evenings from 6 to 8pm. The course will cover personal issues like guilt and anger, developmental issues like teenage and mid-life crisis, inter-personal issues conflicts and infidelity, identity issues like inferiority and singleness, family issues like marriage, pregnancy and divorce, control issues like mental disorders, finance and addiction and various other issues like trauma etc.

GFAG and UIM have jointly decided to charge a course fee of Rs.4000/- for this course, which is actually very low in comparison to equivalent courses offered elsewhere in the country.

HAVE GOD ODHAV!

That was the highlight of the outreach organized by GFAG youths while they visited the densely populated suburb of Ahmedabad, Odhav.

GFAG has been supporting the ministry of Ps.Dinesh Parmar since over two years now.

While they enthralled the audience with their songs and skits, the testimony by Rahul got them thinking. Richard anchored the event and ensured that the audience took home a memorable message..

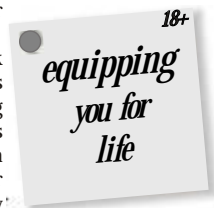
Overall, a great spring board experience for our leaders in making! More to come soon!

HEAR, COMES FAITH!

Now if you have missed the messages at Grace or if you want to hear them again, here is an opportunity opened just for you.

Today we are releasing a CD on the topics of 'Preparation in and through Worship' preached at GFAG during the Sunday Services in the month of May 2009. You can avail a copy of these CD at a Rs.20/- a piece. New titles will be added regularly.

These message CDs have been christened "Hear, Comes Faith". Buy copies to distribute and spread faith! God Bless.



BE A TRENDSETTER

Billions are born and billions are dead and gone, but only some leave legacy enough to be remembered even today. Many have gone through the motion of life, many have gone along the stream, but only a few stand out as pillars in history. Why are these few remembered? And the rest take a place in a space of amnesia. They too lived in the similar circumstances, similar cultures, similar opportunities were available to all, however some stood out while others buckled down. Have you ever thought WHY? Or have had a passion to be a history maker.

Abraham Lincoln, contested elections several times at different levels. He kept losing. Finally he contested for President and he won. He became influential in changing the entire nation's moral climate. He was a Trendsetter.

In every crowd, there are 3 kinds of people.

People who watch things happen,

People who make things happen and,

People who don't know what's happening!!

What do you want to be? Choice is yours to be an on-looker or be lost in the maze of life or be a trendsetter!!

Trendsetter is the one who acts as a catalyst to change the things around him or her.

All of us have the potential to be trendsetters but very few choose to. There's a story told about an eagle which laid its egg in the hen's pen. The hen sat on it and hatched it. The eaglet lived with the chicks, doing all what the chicks did. It pecked the worms from ground and played around with the chicks. While playing one day, it looked up and saw an eagle flying very gracefully. This eaglet looked and told the chicks around,

"I wish we could fly like that bird." The hen turned to the eaglet and said "You have been created to fly high. Put out your wings, start flying".

God has created each of us with the potential to fly high. You have the potential within you. Imagine a 1000cc racer bike being used only for domestic travel and not more than 40km/hr. The rider is sitting on a vehicle with potential to go 200km/hr, but is not using it. YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL, potential enough to be a trendsetter.

How does one become a trendsetter? What can one do to be a trendsetter?

A. Determine to be a Trendsetter: It is a choice you have to make whether you want to be just one more in a million or one among the million that will be different. Determine to think differently, do things differently. If you continue to do what you always did you'll get only what you always got. If you flow along the stream you will only be flowing along with muck and dirt.

B. Determine to stretch beyond limits: The difference between those who win and those who lose is simple, one who wins stretched beyond the point where the loser gave up. If you have been performing only 5 in a scale of 10. Then its time to stretch to 6 today and tomorrow you'll be able to stretch to 7 or 8. Rise above your excuses and chip in all effort possible to reach a higher goal.

C. Determine to look at opportunities and not at constraints: What is the difference between an optimist and pessimist? Between the two bald men - Optimist says, "I have less hair to comb" and the pessimist says, "Oh God! I have more face to wash".

Joni Erickson, was paralyzed from neck below at a very young age. She became like a vegetable. She could not use her hands or her legs. She needed to depend on someone else for everything. She determined to look for opportunity in the midst of obstacles, she began using her mouth to write and paint. She unraveled the creativity within her; she became famous, now she runs a foundation that helps millions of handicap people around the world. She didn't look at constraints; though she had every reason to look at them, instead she looked for opportunities.

D. Have a purpose for life / Have a vision: If someone had to ask you - "What is the purpose for life?". What would be your answer? You want to be a lawyer or doctor or engineer... What next? Hundreds of doctors, engineers & lawyers have lived and died. But what is it different you are looking to be. Look beyond just existing, look beyond making a career, be a person who leaves a legacy. Martin Luther Junior a black American socialist said "If a man is called to be a street sweeper he should sweep streets like Michael Angelo painted, Beethoven played music, Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say - Here lived a great sweeper who did his job well".

To be a trendsetter is a choice. No one else can decide for you. You are the only one who is got to drive it from within you. Ask yourself what you want to be? What is the purpose you live for? You can be a catalyst. You don't need to go along the stream but you can go against the tide and stand up to make a difference.

Be a TRENDSETTER, Dare to blaze a different trail.

Philips Dayanidhi



NEWS FROM ENDS OF THE WORLD

Thousands Of Christians Share The Gospel In Mexico



Some 6,000 young Christians recently invaded the streets and parks of Oaxaca, Mexico, to pray and share the gospel with its people.

They shared their faith one-on-one and prayed for the sick, and also spent time praying for the city.

"We don't have a choice. This is the time," said Pastor Iglesia Filadelfia. "Either the church awakes and rises up and we bring the kingdom of God to this nation, or the church keeps sleeping and gets further behind and evil grows and multiplies." This change, can feel the purity of God's love inside his/her heart.

It is this way (i.e. through prayers) people start to experience God's love. So, do keep all of them in your prayers and just wait for change in them according to God.

The fire is spreading

The number of people who are being presented the plan of salvation every day is now at least 260,274.

Pray for today's quarter million plus. May they respond to the call of Christ.

Every day now the average number added to the body of Christ worldwide averages 174,000. 3,500 new churches are opening every week worldwide.

Daily, over 400 Christians die for their faith in Christ.

Christianity gaining momentum in Iran

Believing that a more prosperous society could be created by adhering to tenets of the Koran, Ayatollah Khomeini started the Iranian Revolution. But 30 years on, the revolution is faltering and many Iranians are disillusioned.



"The people look around, they see the poverty, they see the discontent, they're not happy so they have questions. Why isn't it working out, we're doing it the Islamic way, why isn't our country great? So, they are ripe to hear a new way," he said.

And the new way that many are embracing is Christianity. But the faith is not new to Iran. The gospel actually

arrived here 500 years before Islam. Persians are believed to have been among those in Jerusalem at Pentecost.

Less than one half of one percent of the Iranian population is Christian.

There were nearly four times as many Christians just before the Islamic Revolution, but many fled the country because of Islamic extremism.

Some of those who remain often share their faith with Muslims. As a result, the evangelical house church movement is now growing rapidly.

"The church is exploding in terms of numbers, but it is coming with a price," Nettleton said.

"The people are arrested, they're harassed, and they're persecuted, in some cases they are beaten severely. It is not an easy pathway."

Israel undertakes a major 'Image building' exercise on the Internet

Israel's military campaign into the Gaza Strip last January proved that the new battlefield in the Middle East is not on the ground, but on the expanding new media social networks.

"The blogosphere and new media are another war zone. We have to be relevant there," The Jerusalem Post quotes Israel's Foreign Press Branch head Maj. Avital Leibovich on the Israeli Defense Force's use of the YouTube channel.

"In addition to the Twitter press conference and the YouTube channel, Israeli officials have delivered multiple private briefings to bloggers around the world, and several officials have started video blogs to share their point of view," he said.

Israel is investing a lot of effort to improve her image over the web. Log on to the Web site of the Israeli Consulate of New York at www.israelm.org and you will find links to Facebook, YouTube, MySpace and Isrealli prominently displayed on the homepage of the new "blog of Israel."

Internet social networks are now at the forefront of the public information campaign to change Israel's image.



BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE

Dear Sarita,

I am writing this letter which I am sure has come as a surprise to you. But it definitely would have brought back memories of our college days when we would exchange letters, I wish I had some of them with me today to read. But those carefree days when we would hold our hands and walk through the park, those tasty kulfis which we would relish and long nights where I would keep reading those letters and keep dreaming well in to the night.

Another reason I am writing is that I could not bear to listen to your voice on the phone, it is too painful for me, I still remember when you would keep calling just to persuade me to give our marriage another chance, but I believe I was blinded by the beauty of my colleague then to reconsider my decision to go through a divorce. But I guess it is now too late to think on those issues.

Had met Reshma the other day and she was telling me how you are struggling to keep pace with our son's rapidly changing lifestyle, well after all he is my son. But I was sad to listen about his alcohol addiction and fledgling studies, I just wish I had spent some more time with him in his formative years when he would come running to me to show his drawings and scribbles but then I was too busy with my career to notice those things.

Well things are not too great here as well, our daughter has grown big and I had to learn it the hard way. Just a couple of days back, she had called me up to say that she hated me for how I was, as a father. She said that now she has found the love of her life and she was leaving India forever. My persuasions fell on deaf ears but I guess if you were here you could have had a profound effect on her and her decisions. She kept struggling to cope up with my new marriage, tears wet her pillow on those lonely nights when I went to check on her, I guess being torn apart from you and her tiny brother had taken a toll on her. She had become a rebel.

Well my second marriage and the emotionally and financially. She could not help comparing her career and work kept me going until company was hit badly by the global office they had already issued the including me.

Can you believe it, I loved my company, I success and gave them the best years of Ironically, I still remember how I had busy crunching numbers and data with my together, you and the children would keep joy rides, well these days I have all the time were not there.

How time has come a full circle, I don't neither do I have the courage to face it. This and by the time it reaches you, I would

I am sorry, but nothing I did all my life in my heart!

Roshan.

Open Letters



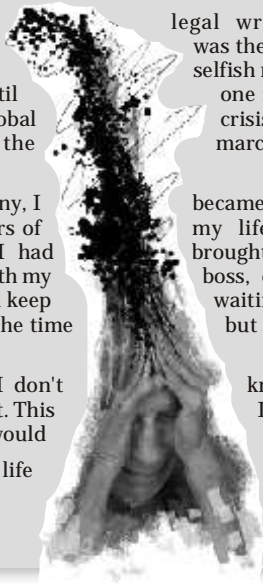
Nain Thomas

legal wrangle have left me poorer both was there just to eat away on my resources. I selfish nature to your love and caring. But my one fine day the newspapers said that my crisis and it was true, when I reached my marching orders to many of the employees,

became an achiever there and I craved for that my life and now they don't want me? brought that Blackberry and would be too boss, even on that only holiday we spent waiting for me to stop it and join you on the but when I look for all three of you, you

know what life is going to do to me and I guess would be my last letter to you have snuffed the breath out of myself.

has filled the ever widening vacuum



EDITORIAL

Its now almost two years since we started the Grace Chronicles. Over this period, this medium has allowed many of us to know other members better. It has allowed many of us to present our thoughts, experiences and learning in form of articles and it has surely blessed the church. Kudos to Vinay, Ratan, Pooja and all contributors and readers who made Grace Chronicles such a blessing.

Other than the 50 copies in print that are circulated every forth night, e-copies are being sent to our well-wishers across the world. Every issue is also uploaded in a PDF format on our website and an archive of all the previous issues is also available there.

With a wealth of material already on the website and swelling every week, it was thought wise to bring some of the matter there on print - for keeps. So you will henceforth see sections like Open Letters by Navin, Musings of the Soul and Soul Café by me as regular features every month.

For a few issues, I have taken over from Vinay as a Guest Editor, to help the transition of this newsletter in becoming a tool of blessing in your hands. Thanks to Pooja who stands by me in this transition.

We have reduced the size to make it more handy and also so that you can even give away to someone you care as if it were a tract. Please do ask for extra copies and circulate it among friends and well-wishers so that it reaches to a wider audience.

By the way we won't mind your special contributions towards the newsletter to meet the expenses but we would be more than glad to see some literary contribution from your side to incorporate in the future issues.

So here we are with a new and revamped Grace Chronicles with many more pages and content and a new layout, just to push it to a new level. We wish that you treat it like a collectible and whenever you do give it out, do with prayer so that these words would not go empty but accomplish the purpose for which it has been published!

With diverse issues facing our world and our lives with each passing day, its only natural that we try to address these issues and developments in as many ways as possible so that we are not found lacking and lazy. We have a big mission to hit and time is running out. Let's arise and build, build with words, albeit on paper. I hope you have noticed that we have changed the paper quality too.

God bless all of you.

Geo Verghese (Guest Editor)

Luke 5:1, "people pressed upon him to hear the word..."

When I, a "Disciple of Christ" go to a crowded place there is no crowd of people pressing upon me for "Anything"!!

India has no dearth of crowds anywhere, and every time I go to a crowded place and remain there for a significantly long time and still fail to impact even the smallest section of that crowd in anyway, I feel strongly that I failed the Lord.

As I pondered upon this seriously the Lord revealed to me four major areas where I needed to work on to start creating a ripple in the ocean!

1. An Unstoppable urge to share the Gospel

The word has to be so bubbling within me that I cannot help but share the gospel. Paul said (1Cor 9:16), "Woe to me if I share not the gospel". Jeremiah said (Jer 20:9), "his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am weary of holding it in!" *The more I am close to God, the more I shall know His heart, the more closer I will be to this stage and greater will be my conviction to speak out the good news.*

2. A Spirit Sensitive to the Voice of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit knows the right time to talk to the right person. In a large crowd, the advantage is that, someone is surely there who needs the touch of God, then and there. The Holy Spirit knows that person and with our availability, he can usher in God's light into the darkness of that soul. *The more I pray in the spirit and the more I talk to God, the more he will talk to me and the more I will recognize His voice above the din.*

3. An Undoubting Faith on the Power of God at work through me

I need to have faith that the power of God will work through me. I mean, if required, the Word will be confirmed through signs and wonders. I need to always remind myself about Who and what it is that I am talking about and Who it is that is backing me. If only I had half the conviction of the door-to-door salesman, who stakes everything for the below average product in his hands. *The more closer is my walk with God, the more confident will I be of his presence with me and in me, and his wonder working power through me.*

4. A Compassionate Heart that is moved by the plight of the lost

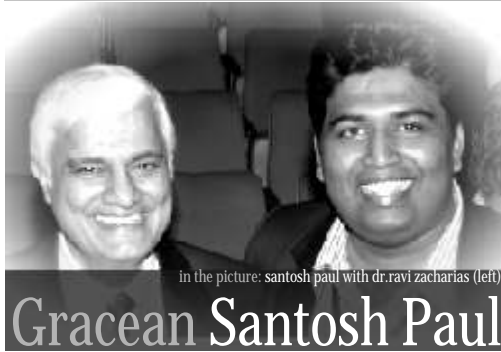
This, the Lord has impressed on me, as the most essential requirement. If I am not moved by the "lost-ness" and the hopelessness of the people around me, things are surely bad for them, but they are bad for me too, as I will then be reacting quite unlike Christ, who was always moved with compassion by the crowd that was without a shepherd, or in pain. *This will dawn only after I finally realize and concede that my very existence is not about me and for me but for God, and I wake up out of my selfish existence to start looking around me, and into the needs of others.*



Bottomline: Dear reader, I have not been comprehensive in all that I have to and want to say. I trust you to meditate and work on these aspects and develop a deeper insight on it and into it.

Somehow, we have got to gear ourselves up to make an impact around us, because the crowds around us, in India, are too many, and the need for the gospel, the power of God unto salvation, is dire.





I was born in a staunch Roman Catholic family and that too from a rite which was highly focused on cultural values and rituals called the Syro Malankara rite. I'll admit that my basic values came from my mother, who believed strongly in family prayer and encouraged me and my younger brother to pray. She always made us pray before and after any crucial times of our life.

But I'll also admit that I was a Sunday Christian and an outstanding one (Well, the one who stands outside the church). I think it is my mother's prayer life that took care of my father as he went through many serious accidents, majorly due to his drinking habits. My dad as usual was not into prayer and he went to the church only as a social custom. Nevertheless, on Sundays we would

be in church at any cost (which was more because of my mother). Meanwhile time passed and I finished schooling, then college and then post graduation. All this time I was a Sunday Christian; I rarely read the Bible and my longest prayer would be "Our Father...".

As I entered my job, money started coming in and one can understand what happens when a good amount of money starts flowing in the hands of a early 20-something guy who wants to live by the standards of the world. I was doing very well in my job and with its success I picked up many wrong habits also.

As time passed by my earning capacity increased but with the same speed my spending on my habits increased too. At one point of time I used to pay minimum Rs 5,000 to the paan shop towards my enjoyment and I used to rotate a credit card bill of approximately Rs 2 lakhs every month.

I was anyways not answerable at home about money; neither did my parents ask for it. I guess within five years of my job I was much ahead of my other colleagues in my career and that's what I was living for. Once I had a dream of becoming a CEO at the age of 40. My colleagues started discussing me and the money that I was making. At the age of 25 I bought my first car and that too a mid-segment one (people usually start at the entry level car). But I had a philosophy that if you spend well then only you will earn well. Time passed by. But during all these times since my school days I always had a question which went unanswered. Why are we here?? Many times the question popped up but it used to get subdued amidst the highs of my life.

Then, in the year 2004, something happened which changed the course of my life. I met Bro. Navin. As young boys Navin and me used to stay in the same locality and used to play football together. But after sometime his family vacated the house and moved to Thaltej. And, I thought, that was the end of our contact.

But God had a different plan. After more than 15 years Navin joined the same company that I was working and that too in the same department. I cannot call it a coincidence by any standards. God had placed him there. He invited me to a Christmas gathering at AMA where I met Ps. Geo and then what followed were some regular meetings with Navin and Geo. But more importantly, despite my schedule, God made me available for those meetings.

I started to have a different perspective towards my existence and I started to question myself and the very things that I was doing. I was a guy who believed in everybody's religion and thought truth is what anybody regarded as. But that standard got changed when I started looking the world through God's standards viz., the Bible.

It is the MIND thing that people don't want to use when it comes to God.

Bible says that we should love our God with all our heart, strength and MIND. It is the MIND thing that people don't want to use when it comes to God. A God who created this entire universe and created us definitely wanted us not to blindly follow Him but to understand Him and His actions with our mind also. And that's where the traditional thinking goes awry. My family members think that I have hurt them, but the fact is I can't hurt my Maker.

I want to thank God for bringing a sea change in my life. My perspectives to life are anew in Christ and He has helped me to stay away from all the habits that I used to have once.

I now don't have an ambition to become a CEO at 40. I have surrendered my wills and hopes at the foot of the Cross, where Christ died for our sins. I have complete faith in what God will do for me and I surrender to His will. God bless

2009: YEAR OF PREPARATION

JULY : MARRIAGE



At GFAG, we have finished six months of speaking on the topic of preparation. In the first quarter of the year, we looked at 'Why and How to Prepare?' In the second quarter we worked on 'Preparation as Individuals'. In the third quarter, we will be concentrating on 'Preparation as a Family'.

As an institution, Marriage is under the worst attack ever in history. With divorces, gay marriages, live-in relationships, single parenting, rampant promiscuity becoming the norm, armed by technological advances, marriages world over, even Christian, are undergoing rude shocks. Someone rightly said that - in technology, man has become a god, but in relationships, he has become an ape!

Call it God-incidence that our counseling course, which will deal in detail with the subject of marriage, is beginning this month itself. However, we will also look at God's purpose in marriage during the course of the month and how we can use our marriages to prepare ourselves and our spouses for His coming and for an "eternity". A Christian marriage is a Covenant marriage and it is for life. No option. God guide you.

Do you and your spouse feed each other a steady diet of put-downs? If you do, your marriage could be headed for divorce court.

When psychologists Cliff Nortarius and Howard Markman studied newlyweds over the first decade of marriage, they discovered that couples who stayed together uttered 50r fewer put-downs in every 100 comments to each other. But couples who inflicted twice as many verbal wounds -- 10 or more putdowns out of every 100 comments -- later split up.

Watch what you say! Little, nit-picking comments are like a cancer in marriage, slowly draining the life out of a committed relationship.

Dr. James Dobson's Focus on the Family Bulletin, May, 1994.

MY TRUE FRIEND - JESUS

Joanna James

Today in this materialistic world, where everybody is running after one's own needs, nobody cares for others. In such a world where money and power has occupied a most part of people's mind, everyone uses each other for one's own benefits. People are all self-centred and self-occupied.

In such a world, I was searching for a true friend. One who just didn't rejoice in my happiness but one who would weep when I wept. I have many friends; some of whom I would call fast friends and then there are others whom I could call best friends. But none of them could ever be a true friend to me. I prayed to my God to send me someone with whom I could share all my problems. One who would accept me in the way I am with all my weaknesses and limitations and who would love me as much, notwithstanding my state or fame.

I never knew that whom I had been searching is the one about whom our pastor preached on every Sunday. Later when I was reading the Bible I found a verse which touched my heart. It said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Yes, it is Jesus Christ, the Son of God! I had not only found a true friend in Him but also an intimate one. Today He, who loved me more than I loved Him, who died for my sins and who took away all the pain that I had to bear, is not only my friend but my everything. Yes, Jesus is that true friend whom I was searching.

COLOR BLIND

Alex Earnest

Since a long time I was thinking about writing on this subject. I have been thinking about colors. We all can see colors and recognize but I was thinking about how can anyone describe a color to a blind man? I think it is almost impossible to describe color to one who has never had vision. At the most we can call out names of the color but how can we describe it to them?

While brooding on this topic, I began comparing it with our Christian life. Though we have eyes, still how often we fail to recognize the color of Jesus' blood (rather, I avoid trying to recognize it, if I may add). I know He is the Way, Truth and Life. Yet, many times it is hard for me to follow Him. Numerous times His servants have reminded me of God's love and of how Jesus died for me on the cross. Almost everything which can be said to make somebody understand or believe in Him have been spoken to me, but yet, just as a blind man always fails to understand color, even I fail to see the true color of Jesus' blood.

Nevertheless, it is truly an encouragement when Ps Geo says, "Never, never, never give up....even if you fall down for 5,50,000 times. Stand up and walk." God bless you.

