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JULY, 1977

THE OVERFLOW

WOW! Did we go through June already? Well, at least we can report more progress in many areas, mostly in our lives. Every so often we hear ourselves saying, "Lord, what are you doing now?" I think we are beginning-just beginning-to find out. (He lets us in on a little at a time.) You see, it's sorta like He's baking a cake. You ladies know that when you want to bake a cake you have to start with a recipe of some kind and then assemble all the required ingredients, measure the proper amounts of each one and then blend and mix them together, beating just enough to achieve the proper texture in the finished product. Can you see the spiritual application there?

Now, when God decides to bake a cake, He starts from scratch using a recipe that's been around for a long time. (You can find it in the Bible.) This recipe has been tried before but it doesn't always seem to turn out. I wonder if that's because we aren't starting with the right ingredients or we are leaving some out or don't follow the directions exactly or perhaps we don't leave it in the oven long enough. Whatever the reason for previous failures, this recipe will produce a New Testament type finished product when assembled and baked according to Bible directions instead of using some of the half-baked jiffy mix methods that man comes up with and tries to pass off as spiritual pastry.

The Scriptures (recipe book) tell us that except God bakes the cake, they labor in vain that bake it. (Overflowing Cup paraphrase of Psalm 127:1) Left to our own devices we would probably not score too well at the Pillsbury Bake-Off (judgement). Incidentally, there are many self-appointed judges in this baking contest we are in. Unfortunately, they are using wrong or false standards by which to judge the results.

Why do people make the mistake of judging ministries by the popularity with which they are received or by the number of people who attend? Jesus wasn't always popular when He told people the cost of being one of His disciples. Many split the scene because they weren't willing to pay the price. But, I'm sure Jesus would rather have a few committed disciples following Him than a whole throng looking to be pacified, humored and entertained. From a human standard, most ministries would be judged a failure. But, thank the Lord, He doesn't deal in quantity but quality. But before you rush out to try to reform your family and friends, remember-God is not in the reforming business, but the redeeming business. If we really concentrate on furthering Christ's redemptive work on the inside of ourselves, we will all come to a point of revival that will revitalize the Body of Christ. If someone asks us when we had our last revival meeting, we should be able to answer, "This morning!" How about your experience with the Lord. Is it up-to-date?

The other day, a lady walking through our parking lot asked Dave, "What is this place anyway?" After he shared with her something about our purposes and plans, she said, "Oh, I thought it was just a bunch of people doing their thing. You should put something in the paper so people would know what you are." We appreciate that suggestion and we certainly don't want to be guilty of just doing our own thing. So, we asked ourselves, "What are we, anyway?"

A couple of years ago, we put out a newsletter about what the Cup is and what it is not. But since that time, we've acquired a whole new list of labels and misconceptions. So, every once in awhile it's necessary to weed the garden and clean out drawers to get rid of some unwanted items that don't belong there.

First, let's get rid of the notion that The Overflowing Cup is a denominational church organization. We are a non-profit religious corporation according to our by-laws. We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Wisconsin with tax-exempt status which means

we have met the necessary requirements to obtain that status with the Internal Revenue Service, making your contributions to this ministry tax deductible. We have many people from a variety of church denominations who are a part of our fellowship and other who have no particular church affiliation. People of all ages and from all walks of life come to the Cup. We are supported by donations and completely trust God for all of our needs, which seems a strange way to operate to those who have never tried it. But, don't knock it until you understand how it works. That applies to our entire ministry. Please don't be influenced by every rumor that blows your way. Check it out for yourself. That's the only fair way to find out the truth about anything. Come on down and see if we really are as strange as you've heard we are before you pass judgement on us. You might also have heard that the Cup is a place where drugs are passed. The only drugs you will see passed here will be from someone who doesn't want to use them anymore giving them to a counselor. Once when we were still at our old location some well-meaning excited individual reported that there was some pill popping going on upstairs. Upon investigation we saw some little football shaped white things doing flip-flops across the rug. We are happy to tell you they turned out to be breath mints.

I don't know why, but people seem to think they have to put things in neat little boxes and slap a label on them. Won't it be nice when we get to heaven and there won't be any labels? Anyway, although we don't have people stationed at strategic places speaking in tongues or preaching about being baptized in the Holy Spirit, we have acquired the labels of Charismatic and Pentecostal. We do have a mailing service (as a means of income for the ministry) that mails out brochures for Full Gospel and Charismatic organizations as well as secular ones. If doing business with the Full Gospel Business Men and Charismatic organizations makes us Charismatic, I don't know where that puts the grocery stores and gas stations. I'm afraid it takes more than that because everything that glitters is not gold and everything that is labeled Pentecostal or Charismatic is usually not done in the right perspective. Lumping everything together into one ball-the good with the bad-and throwing it all out is not exactly the right method for finding out what it's all about.

Just because your Aunt Matilda said she was a Pentecostal and was a little weird or just because you went to a "Holy Roller" church and they got a little carried away by your standards, don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Don't put it all away in a closet and lock the door. Ask God to show you the real truth. Go to God's Word for your answers. Don't rely on someone else's experience. Don't judge the whole charismatic movement by a few misguided individuals who lack wisdom, teaching and discretion in the use and purpose of the gifts God gave to His people for their benefit. You can know the truth for yourself if you surrender your hang-ups to Jesus and let Him become real to you.

Sometimes you'll hear someone say, "Speaking in tongues is of the devil." I never will figure out why the devil would want me to have anything that would make me a more useful member of the body of Christ and give me a hot-line to communicate with my Heavenly Father along with strength to live a more consistent Christian life. In that case, ignorance is not really bliss as the saying goes, is it? But just because you can't understand something or won't accept it, doesn't change its validity. You might have to alter your thinking.

I've also heard people say that "The Holy Spirit Thing" is not for today. But my Bible doesn't say that it stopped when the last Apostle died and I'd really like for someone to tell me what those who have already begun experiencing their full inheritance are supposed to do with it now. As for me I need all the help I can get to be a more effective witness and if the Holy Spirit can give me more love for those he has told me to love, if He can help me grow into maturity and give me a better understanding of Jesus then I want to get as close to the fire as I can. The problems come when we become more interested in the charismata than in the Cross. Don't seek the gift, but the giver, Jesus. We know that without speaking in tongues a man can see the Lord, but the Scriptures are very clear that without holiness no man shall see the Lord and that kind of holiness only comes from being completely yielded to the Lord and the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. If we put the emphasis in the right place and strive for proper balance in all areas of our lives, God will weed out those who are concerned with "spiritual kicks" but who shun repentance

and right living. They want the power to witness and lay hands on the sick for healing, but do they want to be and to do what Christ wants of them which is less appealing to the flesh?

I guess you could call the Overflowing Cup a learning center, too. We ourselves are learning so much everyday and the beautiful thing is that we learn from each other as we work together toward the same goals and we can all learn something from that. One thing we have learned is that we make mistakes and will probably make some more if the Lord tarries more than two or three days. But this we know for sure: God wants worshippers not workers. To worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth is one of our priorities. But we believe you can love one another and enjoy it in the process of learning how to do it.

To have a missionary interest is a vital necessity for any New Testament Body, and another priority. To shed the love of God abroad in our hearts is still another purpose for our existence. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is life, love, new depth of meaning to an old word-"fellowship". We believe that if we can stay in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and in love with Jesus and one another, then there is hope that some of these things that so often are allowed to cause division can be settled. Such questions as baptism, interpretation of Scripture or methods of church government will be settled by the Spirit and in the Spirit and the New Testament Church experience will be established right in the midst of our many denominations and groups and will draw us together in the only fellowship that matters - the fellowship with Christ.

Romans 12:5 in the recipe book says: "So we being many, are one body in Christ and every one members one of another." Our prayer is, that as people are united by the Holy Spirit, we may cooperate in teaching and spreading the Word of God that the Spirit of Christ may flow abundantly through His Body here and throughout the whole world, without regard to boundaries - religious and/or social.

The inward thrust of this body of believers is fellowship-not ice cream socials and tea parties-but the communication type. We are concerned with getting inside each other's lives and truly being members of one another. This involves the pain of real honesty with ourselves and each other and a willingness to submit ourselves to words of correction. But what a deep love Jesus brings for one another when we are willing to take these risks. So be patient and accept the fact that the true church of Jesus Christ is at least partly institutional and made up wholly of sinners, forgiven but not perfect. We are inviting people to become a part of the Kingdom of God not some man-made institution. But, have you noticed? God fits situations to people just as surely as He fits people to situations. We believe that the conditions at the Cup are suited to bring out God's best in us and that's why we are here. We are getting what we need to make us grow up and change-to get on with becoming what we were meant to be. So, it isn't any accident that we are here. We aren't just doing our thing. We are not building a monument or a kingdom around ourselves but rather around Jesus. God put us here for a whole bunch of reasons, mostly because people need to know about Jesus. People need Jesus not people. That's why there is such a strong emphasis on Jesus. He's the only one that can meet needs and change lives, anyway. But, you don't have a problem or a character flaw that God can't fix. Nothing is too big for Him. It's just our faith and understanding that's limited. There are no exceptions to the promises of God, but God is never in a hurry and He is never late. So we are learning to wait on Him, not so He can change the situation, but so He can change us. There are no exceptions to God's conditions either. His promises are conditional and we must meet the conditions to receive the promised blessings. So, if we are willing to stay in the situation God has placed us in or permitted us to enter into instead of getting out, switching churches, getting divorced, resigning, running away or whatever-if we will deal with the "log in our own eye" (Matt. 7:3)-our pride, haughtiness, desires to be thought well of, always having to be right, having to be adored and admired, our lack of understanding and compassion, our critical spirits (Wow! That's a whole forest not just a log!)-Then and only then will God move with great power.

When the going gets rough we can't just "shake the dust" from our feet and go where we will

be accepted and appreciated. (Where's that anyway?) God has put us here and carefully constructed the very circumstances that will force us to grow. Frustration brings growth and we are learning that God is more concerned with individuals than He is with our "ministries". Real ministry flows from what Christ is doing in us and not what we are trying to do for Him. Maturity is not a gift. It's growth, which takes time. So pray, "Lord, keep me out of the way so you can shine through."

We thank the Lord for His patience with us and His unending goodness. We are grateful that progress on the facilities doesn't stand still while we are getting it together internally and spiritually. Otherwise we might never see anything accomplished. In fact, it's working here together, day in and day out, that polishes off some of our rough edges. It's really giving us a prayer life just keeping everyone loving each other. But praise His Name. I don't know why, but He puts up with us and I'm sure glad He does.

We are so pleased with the new carpeting for the book store and we know that God will richly bless the couple who donated it. Stop down and take a look. It really looks nice. Our fire extinguishers are all in place and they even fit in with our color scheme. Now, if we can just fit them into our budget. Our expenses are extremely heavy right now. In addition to the extra costs to meet the fire code, we have a huge light bill and are in need of more building materials to keep moving. We share this with you so that you can unite your heart with us in prayer for these needs and ask the Lord what you can invest for eternity. Our expenses will continue to mount as the ministry grows, so it follows that progress is slower when we are short of funds. Work is never ending on clean-up operations. You could almost play a game of basketball in the gym. (Would you believe ping-pong?) At the minute there is activity going on in just about every corner. Pounding, sawing, materials being hauled upstairs, plaster and lathe being hauled downstairs, plaster dust fills the air, the phone is ringing, Chris is hooking up the hot water heater; Time out for lunch and a little kidding around, a little grumbling because the girls necessary room isn't working right, a promise of free pizza for all the workers tonight (thanks to Good Times Pizza Parlor). Too bad you didn't come down to work that night.

We are looking forward to the next few months with much anticipation because when the Lord is so busy changing things around, you can be sure He has a pretty good reason for it. So keep the prayer support going, O.K.? We really appreciate it.

Occupying until He comes,

Dave & Pat Fogderud, Directors

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>DAYTIME HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - noon 'til three p.m.</p> <p>EVENING HOURS: Monday, Tuesday-Work nights begin at 7:00 p.m. Thursday: Bible Study begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday: Open at 7:00 p.m.-Activities begin at 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>CLOSED WEDNESDAY EVENING AND ALL DAY SUNDAY</p>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>Those who put themselves in God's care experience God's peace. Read: Phil. 4:7</p>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>NO WORK TONIGHT</p>	<p>CLOSED</p> <p>The acid of anger hurts the one in who it is stored rather than the one on whom it is poured.</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY 7 with Dale Martin 7:30 p.m. Maturity is not a gift. It's growth. This is a good place to start growing.</p>	<p>"SECRET OF LOVING" - a 51 min. color film with Josh McDowell sharing some important secrets about sex love, dating & marriage.</p>	<p>BREAD OF LIFE 9 from Rockford, Ill Terry Hatch and his friends make up this group. If you haven't heard them, try it!</p>
<p>CLOSED For 10 where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matt. 18:20.</p>	<p>WORK NIGHT 11 For we are laborers together with God. I Cor. 3:9. Come on down, get acquainted; get a blessing!</p>	<p>WORK NIGHT 12 Staff meets at 6:30 p.m. for prayer and share.</p>	<p>CLOSED When 13 God forgives, He also forgets! Read Psalm 103:12 if you don't think so.</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY 14 w/Dale Martin If you want to know what we are teaching, bring your Bible, come on down and find out.</p>	<p>"SO LONG JOE" 15 63 min. color film documenting the true life story of Dave Boyer from drugs & alcohol to salvation and gospel singing.</p>	<p>"CROSS ROAD" 16 from Grayslake, Ill.-Rock/folk contemporary style group plus Living Water Players. This group is always a favorite.</p>
<p>CLOSED When 17 believers bow in adoration, Jesus joins the congregation! Attend the church of your choice and find Jesus.</p>	<p>WORK NIGHT 18 Only Eternity will really tell if we have made the best use of our TIME! Read Eph. 5:15,16</p>	<p>WORK NIGHT 19 Worldly investments never pay eternal dividends. Have you put away anything towards eternal life?</p>	<p>CLOSED 20 When Satan tells a half truth, He wants you to believe the wrong half.</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY 21 w/Dale Martin Careful meditation on the Word makes for a closer walk with the Saviour.</p>	<p>"EASTERN GATE" 22 from Mt. Prospect Illinois. WOW! You asked to have this group again. They really have it together. Bring a friend.</p>	<p>DAVE REINDERS 23 and DAN PRIDE this is a new duo coming to share with us for the first time.</p>
<p>CLOSED 24 Where would we be if God took a vacation from us? Include Him in yours. You'll be glad you did.</p>	<p>WORK NIGHT 25 Broken things can become blessed things if you let Jesus do the mending.</p>	<p>WORK NIGHT 26 God creates out of nothing. Until a man becomes nothing, God can make nothing out of him.</p>	<p>CLOSED 27 Let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Heb. 12:1 It's always too soon to quit!</p>	<p>BIBLE STUDY 28 w/Dale Martin Why eat the husks of sin when you can feast on the Bread of Life? Read: John 6:30 -35</p>	<p>"STEVE POWELL" 29 from Texas - needs no introduction but he might have a few surprises for you.</p>	<p>"DENNIS RYDER" 30 all the way from Ventura, Calif. Folk/rock with guitar & piano with us for the first time. Give a Wisc. welcome</p>

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