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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER-1977

The Overflow

Is it really true that as you get older, the time seems to go by more quickly? Or, is it just that things are happening so fast, there never seems to be enough time to go around. I'd prefer to believe the latter statement but regardless of the reason, we are fast approaching winter and I don't know what happened to fall yet! In fact, I don't even know what happened to last month. It did seem to slip by so fast and we do apologize for being so late with this newsletter. We seem to be getting worse instead of better. But, it is encouraging to know that you look forward to receiving it, judging from the number of calls we've received from those who are wondering why they didn't get one. Our only excuse is a long story, so let it suffice for us to tell you that first, we had trouble finding time to write it. Then, we had trouble getting it typed and printed and then, after all that, we didn't have enough money in our postal account to send it out. But, praise the Lord! We finally made it! Thanks for your patience.

In previous newsletters we have tried to keep you in touch with what's going on at The Cup. This has been difficult at times because we weren't always certain ourselves. But, along with the changing of the seasons, things are changing at The Cup, too. (Nothing stays the same, does it?) Each week-end we are noticing many new faces and we see the Lord working in so many lives and places at the same time. It's really a privilege and quite exciting to be a part of it. We shared with you that one of our biggest prayer requests during the past few months has been for more help. Well, nothing is too hard for God! However, a lot of things are hard for us. One of the hardest is waiting on God. Maybe the reason for this is that we are impatient and don't devote enough time to waiting on Him. Is He not willing to put things together in His own divine way? Has the life of God's people reached the ultimate limit of what God is willing to do for them? Certainly not! If we are willing to wait-if we are willing to put away past experiences, however blessed they have been-if we are willing to set aside our plans, however needful and suitable they appear and give God time and place to show what He can and will do, He has new developments and new resources. He can do new things, unheard of things, hidden things. Let's enlarge our hearts and not limit God by not waiting on Him. Psalm 25:3 tells us: "Let none that wait on thee be ashamed." Why should we be ashamed to wait on God? "They that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the land!" (Psalm 37:9)

We confess that at times we are impatient with circumstances that hinder us and slow down our progress, but the Bible tells us we have need of patience. "Let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire." (James 1:4) So, even though we may not be moving as fast as you think we should or if you don't see things happening at The Cup the way you would like them to, have patience! We are learning whatever state we are in to be content. Besides, waiting on God can often be full of suspense because one hardly knows what to expect! Be of good courage when you don't understand the circumstances. This ignorance is sometimes one of the best signs. God is teaching us to leave everything in His hands and wait on Him alone. Waiting on God is never done in vain. Blessing always follows obedience!

PROGRESS REPORT ::::::::::

The prayer room is finished!! Finally! It will also double as a place for those who minister at The Cup to sack out when they need over-night lodging. So, if you peek in there and see it looking like a bedroom, it's not because we think the only time you should pray is jst before you go to sleep. We thank the Lord for the many people He has sent our way who had a hand in finishing the paneling and putting up the ceiling. We were even able to use some of the wallpaper that was donated to pretty up one wall. Incidentally, we can always use bedding - sheets, blankets and/or quilts and pillows since ours will be wearing out fast doing double duty at home and at The Cup. We also want to express our appreciation to those of you who have already helped with food and lodging. There is a real ministry in hospitality and it can really be a blessing according to the feedback we have been getting.

Under old business, the need for building materials is ever-present; especially suspended ceiling, insulation, wallboard and paneling. Along with that, we never seem to run out of uses for money. If you are looking for something to do for the Lord but have a time shortage, the foregoing suggestions are ways in which you can help without ever having to leave your home and family. Of course, if you have more time than money, we have a few ideas as to what you can do with that too. Remember----you can't outgive the Lord. So, whatever you give to Him in time, talents, money etc., He will give back to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. Of course, we should give from hearts of love but if your returns haven't been too great lately, maybe it is time to take inventory of your measuring system.

We hope you don't mind us mentioning our needs to you. When facing the constant needs of a growing (P.T.L.!) ministry, we ponder if we should just keep quiet about our needs and trust the Lord to supply them. We do believe we will never have to send out pleading letters begging for money. There is enough of that going on now. God certainly must have a classier way of financing His Kingdom. However, we also believe that you can pray more positively and more effectively if you have some specific needs in mind. Since people usually like to put their money where the need is greatest, we wouldn't want you to assume that we have all we need just because we aren't making a big deal about it.

Because this newsletter is so late, we will include the December calendar and won't be sending another one until January, 1978. So, we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your love, your prayer support and financial backing during 1977. We hope you will continue to have a part in this ministry in whatever way you can in the coming year. We would like to leave you with this thought from II Corinthians 3: 4,5: (Living Bible) "We dare to say these good things about ourselves only because of our great trust in God through Christ, that He will help us to be true to what we say, and not because we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success comes from God." Then in Chapter 4, verses 1 & 2: "It is God Himself in His mercy who has given us this wonderful work of telling His Good News to others and so we never give up. We do not try to trick people into believing; we are not interested in fooling anyone. We never try to get anyone to believe that the Bible teaches what it doesn't. All such shameful methods we forego. We stand in the presence of God as we speak and so we tell the truth, as all who know us will agree." And, finally, verse 16: "That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our inner strength in the Lord is growing every day."

May Jesus have first place in your hearts during the holiday season and always.

Much love and appreciation to you from,

Dave and Pat Fogderud, Directors

*Dave
and
Pat*

STRAIGHT THINKING about crooked ideas

Besides waiting on God, one of the hardest things to ascertain is God's will for our lives. However, I will never cease to be amazed at the number of people who don't seem to know where God is leading them but always know that the route their brother or sister in the Lord is traveling is the wrong one. Why is it when we see things happening in the Christian community that we don't understand or don't agree with, we look on these situations with skeptical eyes, knowing that Susie Spiritual or Victor Maturity isn't doing what God wants them to? Why is it when people don't turn up at the place we think they should be at the time we feel they should be there, that we know they have either back-slidden or couldn't possibly be listening to the Lord?

Who are we to doubt someone's commitment to the Lord just because their plans don't match up with ours? How do we know what they have to cope with behind the scenes or what burdens they have to carry that might keep them from living up to our expectations and specifications for what and where a "proper" Christian should be and when he should be there? Funny, isn't it? We can trust the Lord for a lot of things--healing, salvation, many spiritual gifts; but we can't trust Him for our fellow Christians' welfare when it appears to us that they are "getting way out into left field". One of the "gifts" we seem to have acquired is the gift of suspicion and we try to pass it off as discernment. But, I wonder how pleased God is by the way we always suspect each other of not being in God's will because we don't know or understand how God is leading.

When there are things you don't understand about what's happening in the lives of those around you, don't go to somebody else and ask them--"What's going on with so and so?" It isn't even necessary to go to the person in question and ask them. You can go to the Lord and tell Him you don't understand and ask Him to deal with the situation. One of the reasons you probably don't understand the situation could be that God hasn't designated you to be concerned about that particular problem. So, go to the Lord and tell Him that you are disturbed and ask Him what you should do about it. More often than not, He will probably tell you: "Be still and know that I am God." You can be sure that because God loves all of us so much, He is already mindful of things and has it all worked out ahead of time. Just because it bothers you don't automatically think that you've been appointed to deal with it or make it your concern. Just because you don't approve of something doesn't make it wrong.

Our self-righteous reactions to situations that are not our concern can stunt growth like using the wrong kind of weed killer can kill some good shrubs. If you seem to be upset by what you think is wrong with others more than seeing what is wrong in your own life, maybe it's time for a tune-up in your attitude. It is that time of year when we think of winterizing things--caulking windows to seal out the cold winter air, putting up storm windows and adding extra insulation here and there to save on the utility bills. This can also be applied to our spiritual houses. We need to caulk up the leaks in our attitudes that allow Satan to blow in through the cracks and cool us off. We need to put up some storm windows to protect us from Satan's attacks. If we add some extra insulation to those areas that are giving us problems, we can conserve the energy we use up by being worrisome, judgemental, critical etc..

How about it? Are you winterized? While you're at it, better check out your spiritual car. Is your anti-freeze the year around kind? Is it set for the proper temperature to prevent your radiator from freezing up? A few gallons of Holy Spirit anti-freeze is the best protection you can have.

calendar

- EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT 8:00 P.M. - Fellowship, Prayer and The Word with Gil Semans teaching some basic truths every Christian should learn.
- EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT 8:00 P.M. - Live Music, movies etc.
- NOVEMBER 19th----- "FOOTPRINTS" - A movie about two young people, Betsy and Michael, who--though only seniors in high school--thought they would be spending their lives together. Convinced theirs was a special kind of love, they carelessly played with moral fire. Michael's selfishness came quickly to the surface when Betsy became pregnant. This film is a true story that speaks about issues such as: What does it mean to "get caught" in a moral situation like this? What about abortion? What happens when God's moral laws are broken? What happens when they are kept? You won't want to miss it!
- NOVEMBER 25th & 26th CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING "Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting." I Chronicles 16:34
- DECEMBER 3rd----- HOSHEA from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. A contemporary singing group making their first visit to The Cup.
- DECEMBER 10th----- MIKE KELLY- folk singer/guitarist from Michigan. He will bless your heart with his own style and message of what the Lord has done for him.
- DECEMBER 17th----- "SENIOR YEAR" This movie is a story about new beginnings that take place in the lives of some young people during their final year of high school.
- DECEMBER 23rd
DECEMBER 24th
DECEMBER 31st----- CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS to spend some time with our families!

THE OVERFLOWING CUP
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