

Stewardship of Grace *"Honoring our Savior"*

Lord, what would you have me do to be a faithful steward of your grace?

Did you know that Paul spoke directly of the Stewardship of God's grace?

The last issue of SSN focused on the Law, and how that law is demonstrated in our lives as we participate in the sanctification wrought in us by the Holy Spirit.

The other half of that equation is grace. Law and Grace! as the theologians say.

Paul was in the middle of his letter to the Ephesians when he told them the importance of being a steward of God's grace. It is God's grace that brings us into the peace (reconciliation) of the gospel.

Salvation is due to no merit of our own, but only by the grace of God. Nothing we have done or could do will ever save one person, but only the grace of God, who saves us by His will and His mercy (Rom. 9:16).

Paul was writing to the Ephesians about their salvation just before this passage. He starts his letter with the familiar, "Grace to you, and peace..." The first chapter speaks of God's grace to us despite our lack of merit. Dead in trespasses and sin we were, he reminds us. But God chose us anyway.

Chapter two twice tells us that God quickened the spirits of believers while we were dead. His power made us His forever – all by his grace – and grace alone. Let no one ever place the credit for your salvation on any other foundation than the grace of God and His grace alone. You were dead, but He made you alive.

Paul tells of the great mystery of the gospel – that not only the Jews but

also the gentiles are along his chosen people. The Scriptures say:

If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. (Eph 3:2ff)

The word "dispensation" is the Greek word *oikonomia*, and can be translated as either dispensation, or stewardship. *Oikonomia* means the management of a household or of household affairs, specifically the management, oversight, or administration of other's property. Interestingly enough, Paul had just finished describing believers as God's household - as a building: God's temple.

Paul clearly saw the **preaching of the gospel** and the **unity of the church** as stewardship tasks of God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The gospel message as preached throughout Acts follows a basic pattern

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Needs

Konos Curriculum I and or II. Elisa: 785-1955 or dshane@execpc.com. (3)

Food dehydrator trays for an American Harvest brand machine. Sherry:662-0247 (2)

Vacuum cleaner or rug shampooer. Becky: 548-0978 (3)

Small, battery powered sound system with amp and microphone to do open air ministries. Marshan: 342-5232 (3)

URGENT NEED: Tires to fit a Toyota Corolla or a VW Dasher. Also need advice regarding repair of a VW with a diesel engine. I am capable of doing the work. Jim or Becky: 548-0978 (2)

Sofa bed that folds down like a futon. Are willing to pay a reasonable price. Teri:671-5636 (2)

Vehicle that seats seven or more. Pat or Varina: 571-6214 (2)

Preschool or Kindergarten curriculum. Doug or Liane: 456-9511 (2)

Extension ladder for 2 story house. Dan or Sherry: 662-0247 (2)

Utility trailer. Approx. size needed: 4'x8'. Paul or Teri: 671-5636 (2)

Freezer. Doug or Liane: 456-9511 (1)

Alpha-Phonics By S. Blummingfeld Pam: 483-9174 (1)

Women's size 22-24 or 3X clothing, flannel shirts, sweatshirts and jacket. Also needed are sheets and blankets for a twin bed. Venita: 223-4218 (1)

Steeping basket for a Mr. Coffee Ice Tea Pot. Becky: 548-0978 (1)

3-4x woman in need of winter clothes/jacket and shoes size 9. Dawn: 571-6667 (1)

Amplified Bible and a small purse size Bible any version Dawn:571-6667 (1)

Vehicle needed for ministry work. Walter: 372-9434 (1)

Technical advice and insulating a roof. Brenda: 447-0361 (1)

Gas stove in working order. Dawn: 372-1070 (1)

Maternity clothing in petite size small and a winter coat or car coat, size 6-8 misses. Erin: (920) 924-4034 (1)

Nicaragua and Hurricane Mitch

Dear Fellow Stewards,

Many of you are aware of the terrible devastation that has occurred in the Central American countries of Honduras and Nicaraguan people have been killed, are missing or displaced from their homes due to mud slides from the torrential rains of hurricane Mitch.

Compounding this problem are earthquakes and even erupting volcanoes. Rescue efforts have been hampered by the scarcity of resources and by the widespread nature of the devastation. Families have been separated and children orphaned. All of this means an added burden to the already overloaded child welfare system and orphanages.

Our family is in the process of adopting a little girl from Managua, Nicaragua, so this catastrophe has taken on a more personal meaning. Larger organizations from the U.S. And around the world are sending supplies and personnel for the immediate relief effort. My burden is for the long term recovery from this devastation.

Therefore our family, along with other families with adopted Nicaraguan children, are beginning a collection of

items to be sent to the Managua orphanages.

I am asking that you prayerfully consider if you would be able to help us in this area of great need. If you desire to help, items needed are:

- Disposable diapers
- Liquid baby soap
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Washcloths
- Antifungals
- Antibacterials
- Band aids
- Children's Tylenol, Motrin, etc.
- Plastic dishes (cups, plates)
- Light blankets (it is very warm

in Nicaragua)

- Children's summer clothing (new or in good condition)

- Children's Bibles in Spanish

If you have questions or would like to contribute please call me at **(414) 662-3287**.

Thank you.

In Hi m,
Karin Burrow

Another Successful Clothing Share Glory to God!

Over 1,000 people shared clothing at the fall clothing share this year. The many blessing of God were obvious. Some glowed with the pleasure of giving. Others displayed thankful tears of joy as their material needs were met in miraculous ways.

It is always a joy to see how God provides for the temporal needs of His people. The 300 families that participated were part of something much bigger than a clothing share. They behaved as believers did in the early church. Clothing that normally rots in attics was shared, and the wealth of the church became obvious.

The clothing share has never run out of clothing for people who come to fill their needs. This year, the balance

between clothing brought and taken was almost perfect. The clothing left over went to an orphanage in Romania.

In Acts 2:44 we read that "all that believed were together, and had all things common." Later, in Acts 4:32, we find the early believers acting exactly the same way: "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any [of them] that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

When we share the things that God has entrusted to our personal stewardship, the power of the Spirit becomes evident. The the world look upon our behavior and marvel at how we love one another. The Clothing share was a success. Glory to God!

For Sale

Homeschool language program called "Learning Language Arts Through Literature," \$45. Elisa: 785-1955 or dshane@execpc.com.(3)

Australian Tree Frog. Comes with cage, bedding, pond etc. \$15. Sherry or Shaun: 662-0247 (2)

Nordic Track abdominal exerciser. \$25 Karen: 549-1585 (3)

Mini Blinds. 3 blinds each 70" wide and 36" long. Tan. \$10 each or trade. Patrice: 321-9494 (3)

Alpha-Omega 3rd grade Math, 6th grade Bible and Science. Entire PAC included, not used. \$20 ea. Sue: 453-7559 (3)

For Rent: 1846 rustic log cabin near Lansing Iowa. Set on a bluff along the Mississippi River. Two of the 4 bedrooms are available for your use. Also offers living room, dining room, bath, laundry facilities in kitchen, refrigerator, carpeting, wood heat with electric heat as back up. \$200. per month. Lee: 345-6124 (3)

For the following set of items, Contact Ingrid:

ABeka Book Sale: Health-3, Teacher's edition and Teacher's Answer Key; Health Safety and Manners-2; Enjoying Good Health-5 with Teacher's edition.

Math: Arithmetic 3 Curriculum with teacher's edition and tests. Arithmetic 2 Curriculum with tests.

Language: God's Gift of Language 4 and 5, Teacher's edition, test key and student tests included. Language 3, Teacher's edition and student tests.

Science: Exploring God's World 3, Student text & tests, Teachers test key included. Investigating God's World 5, Student text, Teacher's edition and test booklet included.

Art: Art Projects A & B

History: Our American Heritage 3 map /review key. Old World History and Geography-5, Teacher and student texts and student test key. Nation notebook 2 also available.

Por Todo El Mundo 1B 2nd 1/2 of high school Spanish course.

Reading: Pilgrim's Progress 3-4, Phonics/ Reading curriculum 2, Paths to Follow 3, Secret in the Maple Tree 3.

Ingrid: 527-3046 (3)

White Whirlpool large capacity washer \$125 obo. Varina: 571-6214 (2)

Green velvet arm chair in very good condition. \$15. Sandy: 464:6762 (2)

Chihuahua/Pomeranian mix puppy named White Socks needs a good home. Born 2/15, \$60 will cover shots. Sandy: 464-6762 (2)

Alpha-Omega 9th gr. Math. 901 and 902 Life Pacs missing. \$50. Virginia: 521-9622 (2)

Alpha Omega Lifepacs. Social Studies gr. 4. \$15. Sherry: 662-0247 (2)

"Joy of Signing Puzzle Book". Two copies are available and are perfect for Patty Dankert's classes. New, \$3 each. Sherry: 662-0247 (2)

Furnished rooms for rent. Two locations, both in Waukesha, utilities included, shared bath and kitchen. Rent ranges from \$80 - \$120 per week. Call for details. Lori: 547-9019 (1)

Small animal cage, \$10; Old Kenmore cabinet sewing machine, \$10. Debbie: 782-0168 (1)

Alpha Omega 9th gr. Math Life-Pac. \$15: A Beka 3rd gr. History, \$5; Victory Drill Phonics, \$10; Wrap-Ups, Division and Fractions, \$3.50 ea.; Awana girl's shirt-adult size small, \$4. Debbie: 782-0168 (1)

Homemade all natural soaps. No chemicals, colors or additives. Uses pure essential oils. Various types and scents. Great gift idea. \$2 per bar. Debbie: 782-0168 (1)

Two blue bucket seats from a Toyota pickup. Carol: 547-6586 (2)

Sewing/craft board. Cardboard construction, marked off in 1" squares. Sherry: 662-0247 (2)

Four wood top student school desks with metal cubby holes under each. Sherry: 662-0247 (1)

Three ladies long sleeve blouses size medium and one short sleeve sweatshirt with hand painted clowns on front size large. Sherry: 662-0247 (1)

Toddler clothes for girls or boys. Sz 2T - 3T. Maria: 769-1184 (1)

Gas 24" wall oven. Needs new timer. Slides into cabinetry. Brenda: 447-0361 (1)

Childrens toys including a dollhouse, workstation, and kitchen set. I also have

Services

"A Living Sacrifice" This is a newsletter that is written by Tess Fries. Her goal is to reach sisters in Christ and encourage them to live their lives according to Roman 12:1, as living sacrifices. Each issue is about 14 pages long, is based on a theme (such as blessing your husband) and includes a Bible study to go along with the theme. Tess also has regular articles that you will see in each issue. These include Family Fun Night, Thoughts to Ponder, The Creative Kitchen and Thoughtful Stewardship. This newsletter is published every 6 weeks and is \$16 per year. You may write to Tess and request your free sample issue. She would love to hear from you. El Shaddai Ministries, N4890 Gusk Rd., Taylor, WI 54659 (3)

Two home educated girls are looking for children to baby-sit. Ages 14 and 12, Red Cross certified, live in West Allis area. Sue: 453-7559 (3)

Duane's Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning - Fair Prices, Quality Work and Free Estimates. Commercial and Residential. 679-0428 (2)

The Free Box

Luke 6:38

By your standard of measure

it will be measured to you in return.

a baby crib and mattress. Mike: 764-9130 (1)

2 Adult cats. They are fixed and declawed. One is a big black and white cat while the other is a smaller calico. They are very friendly and I am seeking a gentle, kind, loving home for them. Tim: 764-8628 (1)

White electric stove. Varina: 571-6214 (2)

Sofabed. Three cushion sofabed in earth-tone plaid. James (414) 306-0256 (1)

Gospel, Unity and Grace

Continued from page 1

that includes 1) God is holy; creator and ruler over all things, 2) man is sinful and deserving of God's wrath, 3) God sent his son Jesus to pay the penalty for sin and rise again from the dead and 4) those who repent and believe are those who have received God's grace and mercy. This is the gospel we preach (though perhaps not eloquently nor completely stated here).

Secondly, the stewardship of grace involves the unity of all believers. It often amazes me how quickly discussion of the unity of all believers degenerates into heresy. Jesus Christ had a specific kind of unity in mind, and he expressed it specifically in John 17:11...

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we [are].

We are to have the same unity as

Jesus and the Father. What is the unity of Jesus and the Father based in? Absolute unwavering truth! In the same way, our unity must be unwaveringly based in the truth of God as revealed in His Word. Anything less is not the kind of unity for which Christ prayed. The fruit of this unity is described in the last 3 chapters of Paul's letter – not only for the church but also for the individual believer.

We have a Stewardship of grace. First, for the faithful preaching of the gospel, and second for the unity of the church. Peace with God. Peace with our fellow believers. In your quiet time today ask the Lord, "What would you have me do to be a faithful steward of your grace?" Keep in mind that nothing done of your own strength is worth anything, but only that which is done in participation with the Holy Spirit – and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Dan & Sherry

Simply Stewardship

Sherry Quakkelaar.....Editor in Chief
Dan Quakkelaar.....Production & Layout

Simply Stewardship is published six times per year. Subscriptions are free. Classified ads are free, and will run in as many as three consecutive issues. Please call us with updates to your ads.

Any donations made to Simply Stewardship are used exclusively for printing and postage costs.

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Ad Rules

Feel free to place as many free ads as you like. We do limit your ads to three issues. You may reinstate the ad in the next issue. Let us know when your ad was answered and should be removed.

Next **DEADLINE** is December 26, 1998. PHONE: 662-0247 FAX: 662-0640. Email djq@execpc.com.

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The date you see in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your renewal date. If your renewal date is this month, then it is time to let us know you wish to renew. If you want your name removed from the list, let us know that too!