

G O D ' S M I S S I O N A R Y

STANDARD

HOLY BIBLE

*Teen
Topics*

When my iPhone threatens to become my iDol

It must have been two years ago that I watched my iPhone fall out of my hand, land on the sidewalk, shattering the screen. I had just pulled it from my pocket and someone came up, shook my hand, and bumped my phone.

Idolatry has been much on my mind lately, idolatry ancient and modern. In the Old Testament there are dozens of stories of the Israelites raising idols and then cutting them down again. They abandoned God in favor of idols of wood and stone.

Have you ever considered what it would have been like to actually cut down an idol? To take an axe to a wooden god must have been a very tangible expression of repentance. Beverly Chao Berrus writes about this very thing:

“There’s a memory seared into my mind from when I was twelve years old. I was watching from the backdoor of our home as my father brought out an axe. Lying prostrate on the ground was a 3-foot-tall statue of Buddha carved from wood. The axe went flying through the air from over my father’s shoulder landing with a loud thwack! The first stroke severed the statue’s head. Another thwack! Then another. Pieces of red wood went flying all over the yard. Finally, all that was left were indiscernible remnants of what was once our family idol. This scene also gave me a lasting impression that life for my dad and our family would never be the same.”

I doubt that many of us bow down before idols carved out of wood and stone. Most of our idols are not so easily destroyed; we cannot take an axe to an idol of reputation or significance or sex. But these are idols, too, that draw the attention of our hearts and minds and demand our allegiance.

My iPhone threatens to be an iDol in my life. It represents so many of the things I value. It represents significance (every email, every retweet, every text message somehow tells me that I am valuable); it represents productivity (I can use it to get more done in less time, at least in theory); it represents reputation (I’m an Apple guy, not an Android or Blackberry guy). Watching it land on the sidewalk gave me a glimpse of the folly of idolatry. After all, if my idol can be destroyed by falling down a flight of stairs, I probably ought to aim a little bit higher.

We laugh at the idolaters of old. There is something funny about reading the story of Dagon falling on his face—his carved face—before the Ark of the Covenant (1 Samuel 5). The first day he simply fell on his face; the second day he smashed his face. It’s a little less funny when it’s our idol lying on its face on the sidewalk.

An iPhone promises joy and sometimes it even manages to deliver some of it. But in the end, it is not worthy of our devotion. Nothing is worthy of our devotion, only God is. 



ROBERT BOOTH

GOD'S MISSIONARY
 STANDARD

JUNE 2013
 Volume 64—Number 2

© 2013 God's Missionary Standard
 (ISSN 1065-4879)
 P.O. Box 69, Penns Creek, PA 17862

God's Missionary Standard is published five times per year by God's Missionary Church and mailed from Shoals, Indiana. Subscriptions are FREE. Contributions to this non-profit ministry are always welcome and encouraged.

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Perverting the Precious

MATT ELLISON

A recent tweet said, “Pornography is not a sin in the church, it is the sin in the church.” Although that is straight forward and strongly worded, it rings with truth. Unfortunately, the church today doesn’t want to admit such truth, but that doesn’t change the facts. It affects every church no matter what its label.

I am ashamed and embarrassed to openly admit, but I was personally impacted by pornography. God has led me to speak on it occasionally, and every time I get the same result. Whether it be at my home church, another church where I am holding a meeting, a youth rally, or at a Bible school, someone always responds. They speak to me privately, by phone, or contact me via email and confess, “I am battling with this very issue in my life and I feel all alone. I am so ashamed. Thanks for sharing your testimony. It gives me hope.” This entire periodical could be filled with such responses. The truth is, no church, no school, and probably no family is untouched by this terrible trap of pornography. If you are reading this saying, “I have no problem in this area,” praise the Lord. But don’t just sit back and rejoice because you are not affected by this problem. Stay on your knees for the many who are battling this onslaught of Satan and beware. “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” (I Cor. 10:12)

Consider two aspects of pornography—the root of it and the victory you can have over it. First, look at the root. Joshua Harris hit the nail on the head when he wrote his book, “Sex is not the problem, LUST IS.” Pornography is a pipeline for lust. Lust is craving what God has forbidden. It is to want what you don’t have and weren’t meant to have. Lust wants to go outside of God’s guidelines to find satisfaction. Lust very well could be the defining struggle of this generation. Of course, God’s Word has a clear declaration concerning lust in Matthew 5:28, “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

You need to understand that a sex-drive and lust are two different things. God, the Master Biologist, knew what He was doing when He created you. He gave you this drive for pro-creation and pleasure in the confines of marriage. Lust is Satan’s attempt to pervert that God-given drive. Pornography is a perversion that leads to struggle and defeat. However, God is able to deliver you from any of Satan’s schemes and bring beauty out of ashes.

Some present the solution to the sin problem as a simple trip or two to the altar and have the attitude, “By the way, if you get thoroughly saved, lust will no longer be an issue.” Oh, if it were only that easy! The key and power to overcome lust and pornography are found only in Christ Jesus; however, Romans 13:14 indicates that you have the responsibility to do some things for yourself. “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

So, what are some of “your” responsibilities? Let’s look at a few.

Identify the time of day you struggle most. Is it morning, evening, the end of the day after a long day’s work? When you’re tired and exhausted? When you’re feeling lazy and just puttering around with no real purpose? If you have ever struggled continued on **page 7**

You may feel as if you are forever doomed to this up and down type of living.



The wonderful news is—**there is deliverance at the Cross.**

But
Daniel
purposed
in his heart
that he
would not defile
himself...



Stand For God, No Matter What The Cost

MATT MALOYED

One of the most fascinating accounts in history comes from the book of Daniel. The year is 605 B.C. The scene begins with King Nebuchadnezzar the mighty king of Babylon going into the land of Jerusalem and capturing Jehoiakim the king of Judah. The dominion of the earth was committed to the king of Babylon (Daniel 2:37-38), and it is in the midst of this new world that God preserved a true remnant and seed, and this is where Daniel and his companions are found in the first chapter of the book of Daniel.

Daniel and his friends were young men whom scholars believe were between the ages of 13-16. Rather than killing everyone, Nebuchadnezzar had his general search out young men like Daniel who had their act together. The king ordered him to look for the men who stood head and shoulders above their peers, young men with potential that he could put through a crash course in the Chaldean culture and raise them to be loyal subjects so that they could be used in positions of leadership in his kingdom or be sent back to their home country and serve as agents of the Babylonian Empire. These men were no doubt orphans, now exiled in a foreign land. They had been taken out of their culture and brought to a strange land where the unfamiliar was always present. They were brought in to be brainwashed in the godless culture of Babylon. Everything they believed would be challenged, and they would face intense peer pressure.

DANIEL FACED OPPOSITION

Nebuchadnezzar didn't waste anytime trying to convert the captured teenagers to the customs of the land but immediately set out to shape them into his worldly mold. He did this in four areas:

1) Nebuchadnezzar sought to change what they said—their language (Daniel 1:4).

He knew that long before he could make them behave like Babylonians, he must make them think like Babylonians. The first step in making them think like Babylonians was to make them learn the Chaldean language, customs, and ways of thinking. He had to change their heart language.

It would be easy even for us in the holiness church to fall into Satan's desire to change our language to "fit in."

You can tell a lot about a person by what they enjoy talking about. With that in mind, I wonder, when people talk with you do they sense an excitement when you talk about God? You are talking about God aren't you? Do you find yourself talking more about the things of God than pleasure and entertainment? If He truly is the only reason we live, shouldn't God be at the forefront of our minds and find His way into our conversations. May our prayer be as was the Psalmist's, "Let the words of my mouth, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD." (Psalm 19:14)

2) Nebuchadnezzar sought to change what they read—their literature (Daniel 1:4).

Nebuchadnezzar sought to fill their minds with Babylonian philosophy, Babylonian science, Babylonian astrology, and Babylonian religion. He endeavored to reeducate them and

replace the things of God with the value system of Babylon.

How familiar is this to the tactics of Satan? Today we see the exact same reeducating taking place through situational ethics, values clarification, evolutionary hypotheses, and the rewriting of history textbooks.

Not only is Satan attacking what we say, but he is trying his best to take over our minds through the means of what our minds consume. The strategy of Satan against our soul is often subtle and he seeks to slowly get at our minds through movies and the godless entertainment industry. Are we reading, viewing and listening to material that strengthens our relationship with God, or have we become lackadaisical in what we read, watch and listen to? We should be like Job and make a covenant with our eyes not to look on the things that would draw us away from God (Job 31:1).

3) Nebuchadnezzar sought to change what they did—their lifestyle (Daniel 1:5).

Nebuchadnezzar appointed them to be given a portion of the royal delicacies of Babylon that he indulged in along with the wine which he drank—wine that had been given as an offering to idols. He sought to pamper them with the royal dainties of a pagan culture to entice and develop their appetite for these things and thus change their entire lifestyle.

We live in a pleasure craved society and its the pursuit of happiness that has drowned out the voice of reason in this age. Too many are seeking after temporary thrills and not giving a thought to consequences and eternity. It's not that we are ruined by loving; rather, it is the case that we have been created to hold God as our first love, so ultimately loving anything else more will ruin us. II Timothy chapter 3 reminds us that in the last days men will be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. It's time we wake up and recognize we must "love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength." (Mark 12:30) We must love God first and foremost.

4) Nebuchadnezzar sought to change what they stood for—their loyalty (Daniel 1:7).

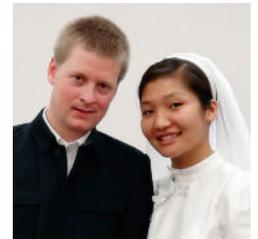
The four young men had names which reflected their Hebrew heritage and ties to God. But Nebuchadnezzar changed their names and their new names were associated with the false gods of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar thought if he changed their names he could change what they stood for. He placed pressure on them to compromise.

Satan is doing his best to get us to compromise. There are many who are leaving the holiness church, taking on lesser standards and claiming they have never been more free in their life. But sadly, the only freedom they have is from Satan's attacks because he has them where he wants them. Rest assured if you are doing your dead level best to live your life for God, Satan is not going to be happy and he will do his best to get you to compromise and take a lesser way. We have received the light of holiness and living careful and conservative lifestyles, and the only way you are going to make it to heaven is by living a life of holiness. But the Bible says those who reject or neglect holiness will not see God. "Without holiness no man shall see God."

We don't have to go the way of this world. We don't have to give in to Satan's attacks to change what we say, what we view, what we do, what we stand for. We can stand like Daniel. In Daniel 1:8 we find these words, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself..."

DANIEL STOOD FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Daniel cared more about pleasing God than pleasing man. If we are going to stand for God and righteousness, we are going to have to do the same. We are going to have to care more about what God thinks of us than what others think. One of the greatest hindrances to the spiritual life, is to give in to the peer pressure of what others think. We must realize that it is to God and Him alone that we will give account of our lives at our journey's end. At the judgment, the thoughts and opinions of others will not matter at all. As Paul writes in Galatians 1:10 "We cannot try to please people and be a servant of God." *continued on page 9*



Congratulations to Justin & Rhoda Knight on their marriage November 2012.



Congratulations to Ryan & Joanna Mills on the birth of Emma Haven. Emma was born on December 27, 2012.

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The Time Is NOW

SOLOMON SHAFFER

The tousle-headed little guy comes busting through the front door as the school bus pulls away in a cloud of diesel fumes. “Mom! Mom!” he exclaims as he chucks his book bag across the floor and screeches into the kitchen.

She smiles as she looks to see his little white-knuckled hands gripping the source of excitement—a pint-sized painted clay flower pot, one he had formed and painted himself. “We planted the seeds today”, he pants as he scrambles over to her and hands the treasure to her with pride. “Now we get to watch it grow and bloom!” Mom reaches down and takes the pot and places it in the window above the sink, “Great job, buddy! Don’t forget to water and take care of it!” He beams confidently, “Oh, don’t worry, I won’t!”

And he doesn’t forget. He tries to water it every hour on the hour. He’s obsessed with making sure it has enough sunlight. He even snuck a little bit of extra fertilizer into the pot (all of this in the first night!).

That night he can hardly sleep because the expectation is too much! Tomorrow, surely, there will be something in that pot! He had worked so hard! But his anticipation turns to frustration as he wakes up the first morning to nothing, just dirt. The second morning is the same. And the third. “Will this plant EVER grow?” he wonders, more than a little disappointed.

But it does grow, at its own time and pace. Slowly but surely that seed sprouts and peeks its way through the soil, and in good time it begins to grow, GROW, GROW! In perfect timing, it reaches maturity and the blooms come out, beautiful as can be. He’s amazed at what he’s accomplished!

But from that little pot comes a lesson far more valuable than how to grow some flower, fruit, or vegetable. That little guy hopefully learned something about the process we call life.

As a teenager you’re probably not obsessed with growing plants, but you may well be acquainted with how that little boy felt as he waited for his plant to grow. Everyone keeps telling you that God has a plan for your life, but you sure can’t see what it is yet! I want to remind you that that’s okay. Be who God wants you to be right now and let him worry about your growth.

Failure to bloom where (and when) you’re planted is one reason that young people (and people of all ages) are unhappy and dissatisfied with life. If you’re not careful, you can waste this precious gift that we call youth. Not that I like focusing on negatives, but here are three perfect ways to waste your teen years:

1. Be Consumed by the Future

Your teen years can be wasted by the “When I” syndrome. Symptoms are something like this: “When I get...when I grow...when I graduate...when I...” While there is certainly nothing wrong with hoping for the future, we shouldn’t be so consumed by it that we forget to live in and enjoy the present. Your teen years are an absolute gift from God! Transitional? Sure thing! Hard? Yes! But are they some of the greatest years of your life? Absolutely! Don’t wish your life away!

Teens are so often worried about getting a great job, getting married, growing up, that some of their best years are filled with man-made stress. Relax! Follow and enjoy the plan which God has for you at the present. You'll be amazed at all the surprises he has for you right now.

2. Be Controlled by Pleasure

On the other side of the coin, some teens have no desire to mature, improve, and are obsessed only with having fun. You're a teen, you naturally want to have fun, and I just told you that you shouldn't waste your teen years pining away for the future--so why not kick back, relax, and spend 23.5 hours a day gaming? Because our lives are to be balanced!

There's balance between wishing your life away and being so content with the present that you find your mom still tucking you in at night when you're 47. Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for everything, including fun. But there has to be work, tears, grief, anger, and all other types of emotions and experiences in the mix. Don't be so obsessed with having fun that you fail to learn, grow, and develop in your teen years.

Some people waste their teen years by being consumed with the future, others by being controlled by pleasure, while others are caught in the past.

3. Be Caught in the Past

Your life is changing at a rapid pace because you're in the transitional stage from childhood to adulthood. In that process you experience feelings, social situations, responsibilities, and problems you never dreamed you would face. The temptation is to just hold on to the past and refuse to grow up. The truth is we have to grow up because life isn't static. It's constantly changing and we must adapt and change with it.

I loved being a teenager – I thought it was the best time of my life. I loved being in college – I thought it was the best time of life. But guess what? I love the stage of life in which I find myself right now! I have learned that in whatsoever stage of life I am, there I will be content. Don't be caught in the past!

Wrap Up:

Somewhere between being obsessed with tomorrow, being controlled by today's pleasure, and being caught in the past is the proper balance of enjoying some of the best years of your life.

It's a time to form friendships, to be established spiritually, to build character, and to grow. When you look back on this time in your life you'll wish for those days of freedom, fun, and learning—so enjoy them while you have them. The time is now! Be who God wants you to be right now! ■

continued from **page 3** with pornography you know what I am saying. Be proactive. Call a friend. Reach out to someone. Fill that idle time with something other than being alone.

Avoid locations of temptation. My temptations started at a friend's house at the age of 12. He had several years' worth of Playboy magazines. I found that when I quit going to his house, my victory was more easily won. Maybe for you it is the mall, the pool, the beach, the magazine racks "where all the truck magazines are," or in your room with your laptop. I don't know where it may be, but if there are specific places that are difficult for you, stay away.

Guard your entertainment. What are you allowing into your life? Ratings mean nothing these days when it comes to movies, television, and video games. Society has gone downhill so drastically that "PG-13" is what "R" used to be. The blatant sensuality on television shows and movies is a huge trap that will only intensify your battle with pornography. Magazines and the internet are huge traps. Don't idly browse the internet. If you do, you will end up where you shouldn't! The books you read should be void of all sensuality. They are unnecessary and hurtful. Keep away!

Seek accountability. I once heard someone say, "Accountability isn't Biblical and it is stupid." James 5:16, Ecc. 4:9-10, and Prov. 27:17 prove that statement false. You need accountability. Where you are weak, you need the help and strength found in God's family.

Focus on developing your walk with Christ. Nothing is more beneficial in your struggle with pornography than this. Read your Bible regularly. Pray consistently. Get involved in some sort of Christian ministry. Throw yourself into loving God.

Speaking from experience, pornography has a way of wrapping its steely fingers tightly around your God-given desires. It is a habit that can make you feel as though there is absolutely no breaking free. It is a sinful habit like no other. It affects so many areas—your mind, your thought processes, and your purity. You may feel as if you are forever doomed to this up and down type of living. The wonderful news is—there is deliverance at the Cross. Confess your sin. Daily develop your spiritual life. Take steps to rid your life of everything that may cause you to stumble. Find an accountability partner or two. Remember, you are not alone in this battle. God is on your side. By God's grace and strength you can live a victorious life. Praise God, there is HOPE! ■



What To Do When A Friend Is Discouraged

JEREMY MORFORD

Everyone gets discouraged or down from time to time. Life is really, really hard. Being a Christian doesn't make life easy; being a Christian is about trusting in the One who knows how to make all of the terrible things we endure into something beautiful and blessed. It is about never having to walk alone no matter how dark or frightening the situation is.

One of the hardest things in life is watching those we love hurt. Whether it is physical or emotional pain we want to help, but we don't always know exactly what we should do or if there is anything that we can do. Here are some ways that you can help a friend that is discouraged.

First, know the difference between discouragement and depression. Discouragement is sadness or worry that lasts only a couple of weeks. While your friend may not want to do the same fun things that they used to do, there are no other major symptoms. Depression is a word that people often use incorrectly for discouragement, but it means something totally different. Depression is sadness that lasts for more than two weeks and has other symptoms. A person with depression may feel overwhelmed and helpless. These feelings will spill over to where it starts to effect his sleeping habits (sleeping all of the time or not at all), eating habits (eating more or less than he used to), and his ability to enjoy activities he used to enjoy. The scariest part of depression is that sometimes the person begins talking about hurting himself and maybe even suicide. If you or your friend ever truly becomes depressed, you need to tell an adult right away even if your friend doesn't want you to.

If your friend is discouraged, and not depressed, the most important thing you should do is to listen without judging. Some people think that Christians should never get discouraged, but there are many Bible heroes who if fact were discouraged and even depressed. Elijah was so discouraged after Jezebel threatened to kill him that he asked God to take his life. If you read many of David's Psalms, you'll soon find that David often battled discouragement and he was a man after God's own heart!

Sometimes our friends get discouraged because of the consequences of their choices. They are grounded for breaking rules, their grades are not good enough to get into the college they wanted to, or many other things. Unless your friend is denying responsibility for his choices, he does not need to be reminded that it is his own fault for his discouragement. Every one of us have made choices that we have latter regretted. Give him the same grace that you would want him to show you.

Even if your friend does not act like he wants to, invite him to do a fun activity with you. One of the best treatments for discouragement is exercise. Now I doubt either of you want to hop on a treadmill for twenty minutes, but perhaps you might want to go for a walk, a bike ride, or a swim. If your friend usually enjoys shopping, a trip to the mall to go shopping involves a lot of walking.

When feeling discouraged, be a blessing to someone else. Do a good deed for someone or visit with someone who cannot get out very much. Mowing an elderly neighbor's yard or shoveling out his drive without expecting anything in return will brighten both his day and yours. Ask your pastor or pastor's wife if there is something you can do. There seems never to be enough people to do all the things that need done around a church. I am sure that they would be glad to have your help.

Proverbs 17:22 tells us that "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Laughing may be the best medicine you can give your friend. If you have a great sense of humor, use it! This past February my grandfather died. During the viewing, the family would be crying one moment and laughing the next at some funny memory.

Another thing that you can do when your friend is discouraged is to share with him what you do when you are down. Perhaps you have a list of Scripture verses that you meditate on. Is there a Christian song that encourages when you are feeling blue like King Saul? Do you write in a jour-

nal? Perhaps you write poetry or songs like King David. Many play a musical instrument or sing. Making "a joyful noise unto the Lord", even when we don't feel very joyful, can be a real blessing.

Sometimes the best thing that we can do for a discouraged friend is to just give him his space. Many people want to be alone with God and their thoughts. This is ok so long as his discouragement doesn't turn into depression. Let him know you are praying for him and that you are there for him if he needs you. Just knowing that you care can be enough.

We do not always know what to do when our friends are discouraged and that is ok. There are many ways that we can show that we care about them and what they are going through. Asking our friend what we can do to help is a good place to start, but the most important thing you can do for a discouraged friend is to pray for and with him. Jesus knows just what our friend needs and is always able to help him. Many times He will use you to be a blessing and encouragement to your friends. You just have to be willing. 📌

continued from **page 5** Let's be like Daniel and take a stand for God amidst the pressure to care about what others think.

Daniel had faith in God. Even while faced with enormous pressure and potentially deadly consequences, he never wavered. Daniel had the confidence that if he would stand up for God, God would stand up for him.

Eating the king's meat and drinking from his wine cellar would have been a violation of Jewish law. Daniel knew to partake would be a compromise of his convictions and a sin. Therefore Daniel purposed and resolved not to partake. He passed up food fit for a king in order to honor the King of Kings.

It's never right to do wrong; it's always right to do right. Just because everyone else is doing it, doesn't mean you should. Most individuals would have caved in and compromised. After all, what would a few ribs hurt? It's not like anyone back home would ever find out? And their parents weren't going to be checking up on them. That line of reasoning has led many down a road of destruction.

But Daniel lived a purposeful life. He didn't make rash decisions. His faith was not hit or miss. Michael Catt says, "Daniel's appetite for the things of God gave him no appetite for worldly things." Perhaps Paul had Daniel in mind when he wrote the verse in Romans that says, "Be not conformed to this world..." Daniel lived that verse and you can too. Daniel remains one of the most powerful examples and leaders in all of human history. While living in a pagan culture, he proved that young people can stand for God.

DANIEL IMPACTED HIS WORLD FOR GOD

He had a tremendous influence on his three friends. Because Daniel had a backbone and was not willing to give in to the worldly culture around him others followed. Daniel's friends became as committed as Daniel, because he was willing to step out from the crowd and say, "I'm not going this way."

By Daniel taking a stand eventually King Nebuchadnezzar recognized that the God of Daniel was the One and Only True God. He even declared to all of Babylon, "I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase. (Daniel 4:37)"

When you take a stand for God it will impact your world. It will have a tremendous influence on those around you, and it could be that God would even use you to win the heart of a political leader. But you have to be willing to stand.

In this day we need people of all ages who are willing to stand like Daniel. People who are willing to say, "I'm willing to serve God and follow Him, no matter what the cost." Daniel faced serious opposition living in a godless culture and you will too. We don't know what all we might face in this life, but like Daniel you can stand up and define the culture, not let the culture define you. Daniel stared death in the face more than once, but his commitment was no matter what the cost. May that be our determination that we are going to stand for God, no matter what the cost. 📌



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Marc Sankey
CAMP SPEAKER

WHAT TO BRING
Bible, Bedding, Personal Items, Softball Glove and Bat, Money for Snack Shop, Lots of Friends!

WHAT TO WEAR

- Campers must dress in modest attire.
- Boys are to wear pants and shirts with sleeves.
- Girls are to wear skirts and shirts with sleeves.

WHAT TO REMEMBER

- No CD players, MP3 players, iPods, etc.
- No leaving the campground without staff permission
- "Hands-off" the opposite sex
- Jewelry is not permitted

WHAT TO STUDY
Study St. Matthew 25-28 for Bible baseball.

How Do I Remain A Christian In School?

We've all likely asked ourselves the question at one point or another. We're all familiar with it. Sometimes school can simply be tough, much less living the Christian life all the while. Especially as we come into high school, progress on, and begin looking at college, the work and responsibilities tend to pile up. Many of us try to hold down jobs, keep active in extra-curricular activities, get all our school work done, keep the grades up, keep up with responsibilities at home, and life tends to get quite crazy. Thus, causing us at times to wonder just how we really are going to make it. In addition to this there are the pressures on a young Christian in school and at work, along with numerous other places.

In the midst of all this, you very well may have asked or may even be asking the very same question as presented above. One of the essentials, and perhaps the key, is keeping up with devotions. Believe me, I know how hard it can be sometimes to truly get quality time alone with God. Our world is noisy and again our lives are busy, but having time with God in one way or another is vital. It may be in the morning, in the evening, or sometime in between but it is imperative. Without it, we tend to get all caught up in our world and before we know it, God feels distant. Who moved? Another thing that is extremely important is staying active in your youth group and remaining a part of a community of Christians there. I know, you may be thinking one more thing upon my already full plate, but, this should be PRIORITY in the life of the

KRISTEN ARTZ



Christian. God didn't make us to live the Christian life on our own and it is important that we keep going to youth group and keep going to church, so that we may keep encouraged, keep growing in Christ, and finally, keep becoming more like Him.

It is also pertinent that we choose our friends wisely. You say Jesus was a friend to sinners, and indeed He was and still is. However, according to His example, who should we spend most of our time with? We can see from the life of Christ how devoted He was and is to His own, who, also sought to live their lives in devotion to the Father, and we ought to do the same. Finally, it is important to know what you believe so that when pressures, storms, and temptations arise you are able to stand firm on the solid rock. Yes, you may at times be singled out and/or poked fun at, and have to do the difficult things such as standing up for what you believe in front of teachers, or other staff and students. You may even do something as simple as becoming friends with some who hold at least slightly different beliefs. But, despite it all, if you know what you believe, you can then stand strong and steady without shaking from the prized foundation on which you stand. ■

Kristen just recently graduated from High School. She has been attending the Gospel Center for ten years.



president

January 6: We arrived in plenty of time for Sunday School at the Butler Church where we were given a warm welcome by Pastor John Walter Jr. Thank you, Pastor Walter for the lovely roast beef dinner in the parsonage. In the evening, we were well entertained in the home of Pastor & Mrs. Van Dorman at Blue Knob. We traveled on home after a very encouraging and well attended service.

January 9: It was nice to chat with Jonathan Heath who was waiting for a flight in the Harrisburg Airport. While waiting at the gate to board our plane, we were greeted by Solomon Shaffer and his mother, Denise. We arrived in warm, sunny Florida just before sundown.

January 12: This was clean-up day for the Florida camp meeting at Sun City. It was heartwarming to have such a nice group come to help.

January 13: We attended service at the Sun City Church. Pastor John Gandee preached in the morning and I spoke in the evening service. We were favored with special singing by Rhoda Martin.

January 17-27: Florida District Camp Meeting at Sun City. We appreciated the ministry of the evangelists and singers, Brian and Cheri Spangler and the Dan Durkee family. Penny Ford and Mary Braun were the children's workers and they also helped with the music and song leading. Wilmer and Linda Paulus did a great job cooking for the camp. Several exciting things happened during camp. The children had their meetings in a little "tent chapel " provided by the Victory Trio. In the afternoon, the evangelists did an excellent job ministering to the youth. There were several sightings of wild hogs on the camp ground, including a successful hunt late one night! Thanks to all who were patient with our limited room situation and to those who rented motel rooms and camping trailers. We appreciate all who helped in the camp in various ways too numerous to list. Most of all, we were thankful for help from the Lord. Without God's help, we are nothing.

January 30: We enjoyed breakfast with Brian and Cheri Spangler who stayed a few days and helped with after-camp clean-up. In the evening, we attended prayer meeting at the Sun City Church.

February 1: We appreciated the great singing by the Cassadys and the encouraging message by Evangelist Nathan Purdy at Camp Freedom in St. Petersburg, FL. Thank you to Camp President Dennis Ritchey for his dedication.

February 3: This Sunday morning found us at the Seffner Church. Mark Russell taught an excellent Sunday School lesson and we appreciated the morning message by Pastor Michael Smalley. Thank you to the Smalleys for the wonderful meal!

February 4: We enjoyed a relaxing time around a campfire with caretaker John Gandee and all the "snowbirds" that were still on campus at Sun City.

February 6-9: We traveled on to Hobe Sound and attended the first weekend of Sea Breeze Camp Meeting where we were honored to stay in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Wesley Knapp who treated us royally. We will forever remember breakfast at The Breakers! It is always an honor to be with God's wonderful people and see those from far and wide who travel south to enjoy camp meeting. Evangelists were Dan Stetler and Mark Sankey. Clair Sams was the Bible teacher and Paul and Nancy Gray, the singers.

February 10: We traveled to Miami to be with Pastor & Mrs. Cancio at the Spanish church. God's presence was felt. The church ladies provided a special dinner to honor the birthday of their pastor's wife, Pricilla.

February 14: Rachel and I enjoyed lunch at the "famous" Welsboro Diner to celebrate Valentines Day and then drove on up to the farm for a short visit to my mother.

February 16: Thank you to Richard and Lois Yoder for the wonderful evening meal in their home at Allensville, Pennsylvania.



HARRY PLANK

February 17: I preached at the Shiloh Church in York for the morning service. Thank you to the Shaffers for the lovely meal on a busy day. Pastor Nathan was to preach a funeral in the afternoon, a very sad situation. In the evening, we were honored to hear Rev. Yuan preach at the Beavertown Church. He serves as president of Pacific Bible College in Papua New Guinea.

February 18-20: It is always a joy to be with our ministers and their wives at the annual God's Missionary Ministerial at Camp Hebron, near Halifax, PA. Rev. and Mrs. Joe Smith of Indiana, PA were the guest speakers. We were blessed with beautiful, spirit-filled music from various ones. We sincerely appreciate each congregation who made it possible for your pastor to attend. Thank you very much!

The ladies chose Carol Hoskins to receive the "Lady of Fine Example Award". Congratulations to World Missions Director, Dwight Rine who received the 2013 "Ministry Appreciation Award".

February 24: I preached at the Milesburg Church in the morning service. We appreciated the good Sunday School lesson by former missionary, Bonnie Williams. Thank you to Pastor and Mrs. Hoskins for the lovely Sunday dinner.

March 2-4: I made a quick trip back to Florida to attend the board meeting for Ft. Myers Rescue Mission. I was honored to enjoy some of the camp meeting services there also. The evangelist was Adam Buckler, Bible teacher Roger Hatfield, and song evangelists Mary Braun and Penny Ford. We miss the mission's founder, Robert Walker, who now lives with his son in Linden, TN, and former director, George Schaeffer who is in heaven. God's work still goes on and the new director, David Light is doing an excellent job.

March 5-7: These were the dates for the Inter-church Outreach and Bus Convention held at Camby, Indiana This is always a great time of instruction for those who are serious about reaching the community.

March 10: It was good to be with the Alexandria congregation. This is an interesting grandfather/grandson team that seem to work together well and are dedicated pastors. We enjoyed a fine noon meal in the home of Pastor and Mrs. Solomon Shaffer and sons, Reagan and Lincoln.

March 11-21: I unexpectedly had the honor of joining the Inter-church Holiness Convention group on a tour of the Holy Land. What a joy to be with a bus full of Christian friends and walk where Jesus walked. We made lots of unforgettable memories. 🙏



Noel Scott
Lowry City, Missouri
Evangelist



Leonard Sankey
Bedford, Indiana
Evangelist



Daniel Stetler
Hobe Sound, Florida
Evangelist



The Quales Family
Salem, Ohio
Special Music

July 27-August 5, 2012

Evangelistic services: 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM, & 7:30 PM
each day in the George I. Straub Memorial Tabernacle

Sunday services: 9:15 AM (Sunday School),
10:00 AM, 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM



Brian Spangler
Sycamore, Ohio
Youth Evangelist



The Masons
Middleburg, PA
Children's Workers



Harry Plank
Conference President
and Platform Director

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78th Annual Conference—God's Missionary Church: Thursday and Friday, July 25–26

Penn View Bible Institute School Service:
Sunday, July 28—2:30 PM

GMC Ordination Service:
Sunday, August 4, 2:30 PM

Missions: 7:00 PM—weeknights

Lebanon Valley Gospel Band:
Sunday, August 4, 6:30 PM

Vacation Bible School: Held each day of the camp with Barry and Gertrude Mason at 10:30 AM. Sunday VBS is at 9:15 AM.

Crusader's Youth Program: A full schedule of youth activities is provided. Youth services are held daily at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM in the Mountain Road church under the direction of Youth President Solomon Shaffer. The youth schedule is subject to change on Sunday. Minors staying without an adult chaperone must register in advance at www.godsmissionarychurch.org/pccyouth

Accommodations: We welcome you and your family to stay with us for all or part of the camp meeting. Meals, rooms, and RV spots are available on a free-will offering basis. A minimal fee is charged for air conditioned rooms when available. For room and RV reservations write: Penns Creek Camp Meeting, P.O. Box 970, Penns Creek, PA 17862 or call 570-837-3083.



God's Missionary Church
www.godsmissionarychurch.org

Penns Creek Camp Meeting—Board of Directors:
Harry Plank (President), Barry Arnold (Vice President), James Plank, (Secretary), Darwin Donahey, (Treasurer), Fred Bennett, Phillip Brenizer, Matt Ellison, John Zechman, Greg Hobelman