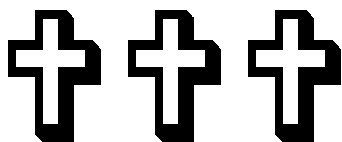


The Lamplighter

March 2001
Volume 17, Issue 3

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There Is Power In The Blood Of The Lamb

An Assignment

- Share stories with the Lamplighter readers about "angel" experiences.
- Share your views about angels.
- Do you have a name for your guardian angel, what is it and why?

Submit your response to Christie Hodson personally, or e-mail at chodson@bigfoot.com or by letter at PO Box 469, Oxford, ME 04270

Heart to Heart

by Pastor Richard Wright

Exodus 34:6,7 says, "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and upon the children's children, unto the third and the fourth generation.."

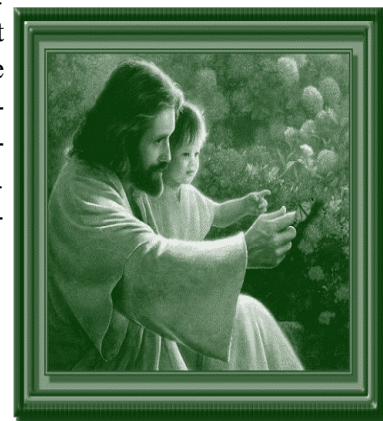
I must say that I am overjoyed for the loving mercy of the God we serve. When I think of how patient He is with me, I realize that I must be patient and merciful to others. Sometimes we forget, "That except for the grace of God, there go I." Sometimes we get frustrated with our brother, or sister in the church because we don't always see eye to eye, or we find some fault with them.

We even can become vindictive if we feel fault that someone has wronged us. It's times like these when we need to take a long hard look at the mercy God has extended to us. If God were to withdraw His tender mercies from us, just think of the misery we would suffer. He doesn't do that, because he loves us with unconditional love.

When we get upset with our spouse or our children, we must follow Christ's example and show them mercy. Who knows what God will make out of that child who today may be in trouble and difficult to handle.

Tomorrow, we or she may be one of Gods greatest servants.

Let us by God's grace be tender loving, kind and merciful to each other. (Prov. 21:21) says, "He that followeth after righteous ness and mercy findeth life, righteousness and honor."



"He loves us with an unconditional love"

TAMI DUGUAY'S FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 54:10 (KJV) "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee."

During difficult times in my life I realize after reading Isaiah 54:10 that my problems are pretty small. It also reminds me that when the "mountains do depart or the hills disappear, that God's **mercy, peace and kindness** will never abandon me. That brings me such assurance in those times of discouragement that his **mercy, peace and kindness** will sustain me through the tough times and I praise the Lord for that!



Religious Liberty Update

Death Penalty for Christians: It was recently announced in Afghanistan by the Taliban Supreme Leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar that any person who converts from Islam to Christianity or those who induce such conversions will be killed. The same is true for other conversions from Islam.

New Milford zones against Prayer: Robert and Mary Murphy have sued the town of New Milford, Conn. according to Associated Press, for ruling that prayer meeting in their home is a violation of the town's zoning laws. The couple had been conducting Bible study and prayer meeting in their home for several years with not more than 25 persons attending. The neighbors allegedly complained that there were too many cars parked in the family's backyard during such meetings.

China is Demolishing Hundreds of Churches: China is demolishing hundreds of underground Christian churches and temples. Chinese newspapers have reported a crackdown on unauthorized worship in the southern coastal city of Wenzhou. More than 1,000 temples, churches, and ancestral halls in the area have been shut down since November, and many have been demolished, according to articles in state-run newspapers. One newspaper reported that officials used explosives to destroy a large church on Dec. 1 and another newspaper published a photograph of workers smashing "illegal religious centers" with sledgehammers, according to news reports. China says it allows religious freedom, but it restricts religious practice. Congregations are required to be sanctioned by the government, and those that are not sanctioned by the government, often are accused of defrauding or abusing their followers. A number of unapproved sect, cults, and underground religious groups have prospered as Communist ideology loses its appeal, according to the Washing Post. The heavy-handed actions come less than a month after China agreed to resume human rights talks with the United States.

Women's Ministry Update

The Women's Ministries January meeting was held at Christie Hodson's house. We opened with worship given by Edwina Johnson, Tricia Johnson, & Sara Huston. Kindness was the topic of worship. The Bible in Proverbs 31:26 says, "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." Ellen White states, "The common, severe, harsh words that come from your lips so readily must be withheld, and the Spirit of God speak through the human agent. By beholding the character of Christ you will become changed into His likeness." "We are to learn what it means to have good-will

towards all men, a sincere desire to be as sunshine and not as shadows in the lives of others." Faye Taylor and Kay Stahl talked about the "Eight Weeks to Wellness Program" they are presenting at the Telstar High School. We each took a Lifestyle Assessment to determine our lifestyle score. We realized we all need to improve on physical activity, food intake (of the right food), sleep/rest, etc. We began another Secret Pal Program, which will end March 1. At that time we will be revealing ourselves to our secret pal. That meeting will be at Winnie Hodson's house in Woodstock/Bryant Pond.



www.screenit.com
Do you know what your kids are watching and listening to????

Woodstock Whitetail Happenings



**THE OFFICIAL
PATHFINDER
FLAG**

The Pathfinder season has rounded the half-way point and is headed into the final stretch for the year 2000-2001. Cabin fever is starting to set in and the kids are anxiously awaiting the more physical activities that the good weather brings. Being confined indoors does have its advantages though. The Pathfinders have nearly completed all of their *classwork* requirements for the "Friend" Class. An investiture service will take place in the spring to reward them for all of their hard efforts. This past month, February, was another active month. Their field-trip was to the Glover's house for an *all-night-movie-marathon*. "All night" actually lasted until 1:30 AM (I believe that was the time when the last one fell asleep). Out of the 7 videos that were picked for viewing, the Pathfinders managed to watch 5. Bellies were filled with English muffin pizzas, popcorn, and then in the morning cold cereal (the good 'ole standby) and cinnamon rolls with orange juice. topped them off as they prepared to head home. All in all things went well and, to my pleasant surprise, my house was still in one piece and in fair order! The Pathfinders also received several honors in February. Everyone completed and received the *Seed* and *Red Alert* honors and Cody Ballweber and Frank Glover received the

Origami honor. They were able to go to Pine Tree Academy for Art Clinic and there they took a class in Origami which was taught by a Japanese native. Pathfinders continue to be fun, exciting, busy, and full of activities. March is yet another busy time and I look forward to letting you know all about it in the next Church Newsletter.



A Defining Moment

Atonement:

It means removing any barrier that has caused the separation of two people, thus bringing them together once again. When this happens, they have been *reconciled*. When used theologically, the word atonement refers to the expiating or removing of our sins which has separated us sinners from a holy God [read **Isa. 59:2, 3**].

Biblical Riddle

Please try to solve this simple little puzzle. This answer is one word, found only 4 times in the Bible. Search hard and you are surely to find much more than the word.....
 And when you find it you will say, "It's so simple....."

Adam, GOD made out of dust,
 But thought it best to make me first.
 So I was made before man,
 To answer God's most holy plan.

A living being I became,
 And Adam gave to me my name.
 I from his presence then withdrew,
 And more of Adam never knew.

I did my maker's law obey,
 Now never went from it astray.
 Thousands of miles I go in fear,
 But seldom on earth appear.

For a purpose that GOD did see,
 He put a living soul in me.
 A soul from me GOD did claim,
 And took the soul from me again.

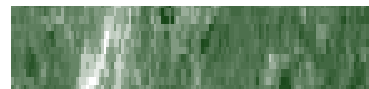
So when from me the soul that fled,
 I was the same as when first made.
 And without hands or feet or soul,
 I travel on from pole to pole.

I labor on by day and night,
 To fallen man, I am a great sight.
 Thousands of people young and old,
 Will by my death great light behold.

No right or wrong can I conceive,
 The Scripture I cannot believe.
 Although my name therein is found,
 They are to me an empty sound.

No fear of death doth trouble me,
 Real happiness I'll never see.
 To heaven I shall never go,
 Nor, to hell below.

Now when these lines you slowly read,
 Go search your Bible with all speed.
 For my name is written there,
 I do honestly declare.



Answers to last months' puzzles are here.

Mystery Math answer was: 3
 (969/3=323; 323+7=330; 330-30=300; 300/50=6; 6x2=12; 12+1=13; 13-10=3)

Trivia Answers:

- 1) Who ate a book that tasted like honey? Ezekial (2:9-3:3)
- 2) Who cursed a fig tree for not bearing fruit? Jesus (Matt. 21:14)
- 3) How long was Noah in the belly of the whale? Noah wasn't in the belly of a whale, Jonah was.
- 4) Who was the first individual killed by God for being wicked? Er (Genesis 38:7)

Who Am I?

1. I am 157 cm tall.
2. I play the world's heaviest stringed instrument.
3. My name means peacemaker

Answer to last months' "Who am I" was: *Frank Glover Jr. (II)*



Thoughts On Heaven

Last month I posed the following questions in an assignment section that you will see frequently in the newsletter. I only got a few responses but those that I did receive were so incredibly fascinating and I thank those individuals for sharing their thoughts! Here they are.

1. How do you envision heaven will be like?

2. What question will you ask God first?

McKayla--My home will be shiny and sparkly. It will have lots of animals. I will ask God, "Will you come over to my house and visit me?"

Tyler--My home will have a pond full of frogs.

Angie--I want heaven to be filled with lots and lots of soft blankets.

Kay—Everything and everyone in Heaven will be crisp and untarnished by sin. Discernment will no longer be a priority—all is good and truthful! And yes, I will finally have my country farm with all the landscaping and animals I have ever dreamed of. YEAH!

Frank—Heaven will be carefree and exciting. New adventure and awe will be overwhelming. I want to visit God's creation in other worlds. I want to learn how God and His angels have helped each of us through our life experience. I think I will have lots of questions, but mainly praise and thanks for the first several thousand years!

Heaven is a Beautiful Place

Heaven is a beautiful place;
 Full of beauty, wonders, and grace.
 It will be full of animals, so gentle and kind;
 We could play with them all day or as long as they mind.
 I cannot imagine how great it will be;
 There will be many new marvelous sights to see.
 There will be streets of gold
 And stories untold.
 There will be great beautiful temples all around.
 And we'll always hear a great new sound.
 The first question I will ask God will be
 "Whose my guardian angel?" and
 "How long will it be until that angel I get to thank and see?"
 It's such a wonderful place to be.
 I'm sure when we get there we'll seem so free!

By Hannah Vail, Grade 5



Join the School Band
(More Musical Instruments Available)

Alto Sax—ask Barb Glover

Trombone—ask Ben Yap

Clarinet—ask Linda Wiggin



Forestdale School News

by Franklin P. Stahl

Dear Church Family,

Excitement has filled the rooms recently--and this is not just from the usual daily announcement of "lunchtime and recess!" On Friday, Feb. 16 we dismissed for a week of vacation. Grades 5-6 presented an excellent D.A.R.E. graduation program. The fresh smell and sight of new carpet in the 4-6 room, library, and stairways was welcomed by all (thanks for your support through the Lamb's Offering).

Reading newly selected trade books as a class and choosing Academic Fair projects has been a mainstay. Teachers are incorporating Terry Johnson's In His Honor in Grades 7-9 curriculum and Grades 4-6 are beginning the Newberry Award book, My Side of the Mountain. You won't want to miss this year's Academic Fair (Sunday, April 29) for you will be able to meet some famous people there including, Ellen G. White, Desmond Doss, Anne Frank, Florence Nightingale, Harriet Tubman, Albert Einstein, and Pocahontas. This year's theme is on people who have made a positive contribution to society. Besides the usual display boards, models, and reports, this year students will be dressing in complete costume. In preparation students have been learning on how to research and prepare footnotes and Works Cited pages.

Mrs. Wiggin's (1-3) room recently made cards and a special surprise that was presented to their pen pals at the PTA girl's dorm. Mr. Stahl's (4-6) room just completed and entered posters in a safety contest. They have studied and prepared reports on Groundhog Day and a selected U.S. president. Several students have been involved with supplemental studies in French, Spanish, (using computer software) and poetry. Mr.

Snow's (7-9) room has just finished and presented reports on alcoholism and are doing research on chosen animals. Ask Matt about his future pet animal. Roni Grover, Sr. will be returning to school shortly to teach them about astronomy. The finality will be a school-wide visit to USM planetarium.

It was pleasing to see how students all took to the wrapping of literature for the mission field. On March 9, Goldie has also organized an assembly on beavers and Native Americans from the "Museum on Wheels" group. In May we are planning a 2-hour train ride starting in Unity, Mrs. Wiggin's hometown.

Join us this month (date and place to be announced) as the Forestdale Family will once again show their great support for our students at the Oxford County Spelling Bee. This is the gifted Krystal Hadley's fourth and last stand (Unless she fails 8th grade). Go Krystal!

This past month Nick, a friend of Frank Glover, donated RAM for our computers. We now have each of our ten networked computers with at least 64 MB of RAM. Thank you, Nick and Frank.

Mystery Topics of the Month

- Ask a band member about their upcoming mini-music clinic at Norridgewock.
- Ask a 4-8 grader about how exciting the Spelling Bee was.
- Ask a 9th grader about some special events that have been planned just for them.
- Ask anyone if they had a rotten day snow tubing the other week.

"Home"

By Anonymous Author From Our Church

They told me you were the one who kept me safe from harm.
 They said you'd make my fears melt away and calm the scary storms.
 I asked them how they knew this was true,
 They tried real hard to explain.
 I didn't understand the answer they gave until this very day.

I was lost, I was scared, and I was very confused.
 I didn't know where to go, or what I should do.
 I'd been lead back and forth between wrong and right,
 Until I didn't know which way to go or which war to fight.
 And then their words sprung into my head,
 Suddenly it all made sense.

They had said you'd be there for me, whether it was night or day.
 They told me you would make it right, all I'd have to do is pray.
 So I stopped and prayed and apologized for the times I'd been so wrong.
 And they were right, you were there to make a smile from my frown.
 So now that I am older (and a bit wiser I hope).
 Remember God is always there, he's ready to bring you home.



IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

(Thoughts by Lamplighter Editor, Christie Hodson)

I recently turned 30 years old. I had anticipated this decade as many had said so many positive things about it. The nearer it came the more petrified I became of being considered “in my thirties”. 29 sounded so youthful, while verborations of 30 had “adult” overtones. I’ve always considered myself a kid at heart. I never much favored “growing up”. It seemed to me that adulthood would rob me of my energy, my enthusiasm and my time, and that it had. This caused me to wrestle with the juxtaposition I found myself in. A crossroads of sorts where my youth & adulthood were in competition with each other. My views of adulthood were that I would “know what I believed”, “I would understand every detail of my denomination”. My voice would be heard and my opinions taken seriously. I would have it “all together” I was anxious to reach this time of conviction & belief. The harder I tried the more wearisome my religion became. Gone, it seemed were the days of my youth where new ideas were fascinating, not a distraction, where Ellen G. White was inspiring not controversial, where religion was exciting, not burdensome. Then I came to discover the true gospel of Christ. A gospel so clear, even a child could grasp it’s concepts. It was then I felt the self-imposed burden of my religion was lifted. It was then I realized that I **needed** to retain the innocence and trustiness of a child because of the forgiving & great God that I served. I was also able to realize “because I had become an adult”, that my responsibility because of my love for God was **true obedience**. Somehow it was then the mixture of youthfulness & adulthood began to become more clear. It was then I realized that age mattered not but that it was my choice of accepting Christ’s robe of righteousness that meant everything. I’m still trying to get used to the idea of being 30 I’ve come to be more at peace with God’s acceptance of me as a child of God and as an adult in training, I’m so grateful to be more at peace knowing that God’s gift of salvation is not something I can earn but what I’ve been given if I so choose to accept it. because of God’s **eternal love** for “his children”.

Jesus called a little child to him. He stood the child before the followers. Then he said, “I tell you the truth. You must change and become like little children. If you don’t do this, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. The greatest person in the kingdom of heaven is the one who makes himself humble like this child.” Matthew 18:2-4

Always be a child

(Words and Music by Ray Boltz and Steve Millikan)

I was there when you drew the breath of life
 And I could hear your voice
 The first time that you cried
 And though you couldn't see Me
 I was very near
 And there's something now
 That I want you to hear

I was there the first time that you prayed
 And I heard all the promises you made
 And when you fell before Me
 Crying Father I have sinned
 I picked you up
 And held you close again.

Chorus:
 You will always be a child in my eyes
 And when you need some love
 My arms are open wide
 And even when you're growing old
 I hope you realize
 You will always be a child in my eyes

Chorus
 You will always be a child in my eyes
 And when you need some love
 My arms are open wide
 And even when you're growing old
 I hope you realize
 You will always be a child in my eyes

Woodstock SDA Church—March 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 * 5-6:30 pm Pathfinder club meeting at Thurlow Hall * Woman's Ministry @ Winnie Hodson's	2	3 * Men's Ministries @ Brunswick church
4	5 B - Mary Ellen Hadley	6 B - Joan Cannuli A - Roger & Marie Wilday	7	8 B Danielle Wilson	9 B - Mathieu Summer * Teen Prayer Conf. At Pine Tree Academy	10 B - Gerri Austin * Teen Prayer Conf. At Pine Tree Academy
11 B Jean Blanchard B Arnie Penney * Teen Prayer Conf. At Pine Tree Academy	12 * Church Business Meeting, 7 pm @ Thurlow Hall	13 B - Dan Dunham B - Kerri Johnson	14 B - Winthrop Comley Jr.	15 * Pathfinder Field Trip Sledding/Skating or Bowling (TBA)	16 B - Shane Shoemaker	17 B - Natasha Hodson B - Amanda Holmes A - Melvin & Gerri Austin
18	19	20	21 B - Bobby Jo Benson	22	23	24 B - Sierra Turmenne * Newsletter Info Deadline * Chruch Potluck * Pathfinders—Dress uniforms for church
25	26 B - Meagan Hodson	27 B - Randy Hotham	28 * Women's Ministry 6pm at Dale Gaudreau's House	29 B - Eric Stoddard * 5-6:30pm Pathfinder meeting at Thurlow Hall	30	31

A = Anniversary

B = Birthday

* = Event



WOODSTOCK SDA CHURCH
PERKINS VALLEY ROAD
SOUTH WOODSTOCK, ME



“What happened to you?” The visitor replied, “I took your place.”

THE VISITOR

One day, a man went to visit a church. He arrived early, parked his car, and got out.

Another car pulled up near him, and the driver told him, "I always park there. You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sabbath School, found an empty seat, and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sabbath School, the visitor went into the church sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit. You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still said nothing.

Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, "I took your place".

Author Unknown

WANTED

“Artists, Poets, and Authors”

Looking for courageous souls (anonymous if preferred) to share their talents with the Lampighter readers. Now is your chance to share your thoughts through sketch, verse or column. Submit your pieces before the 3rd Sabbath of each month to the Lampighter Editor, Christie Hodson or via e-mail at fchodson@bigfoot.com