

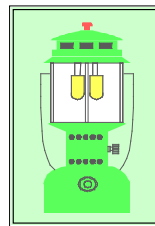
CAMP SHAMROCK

Newsletter

Issue 13

Feb/Mar 2003

“A LITTLE LIGHT



FROM THE PIT.”

GLORIOUS SENTENCE

Isaiah says in ch32: 2 “Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land”

This has been cited by one of English literature's famous as “A glorious sentence”. Isaiah was setting forth the great value of the individual. And, at that time, it was unpopular doctrine, for Israel then was all for “big battalions”. Our strength, their leaders said, lies in big numbers. Not so, said Isaiah - the strength of a nation lies in the character of its people. For a man, one good man can be a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm. To us, today, the reminder is a needful one, for the power of the masses tends to obscure the fact that personal influence is still one of the mightiest forces in the world.

HISTORY- NO OTHER WITNESS

History has no other witness to bear than that. It is individuals who have counted in every type of effort, in every nation, and in every age. Their example or their character has influenced others. In their shadow and shelter, other, weaker ones have grown bold. It does not require a committee or a “platform” to make reform possible - one person can do it and the rest will follow.

JESUS - GREATEST INDIVIDUAL VALUE

The greatest example of individual value that the world has ever seen or will ever see is Jesus Christ. Whoever Isaiah was referring to, it is Jesus alone who perfectly fulfills these words. God

so loved the world that He gave it - a Man, one Man. All we, like sheep have gone astray, and in the council of Heaven our shepherding was entrusted not to legions or cohorts of heavenly beings - but to one Man - the Saviour Who is Christ the Lord. Could God have done more to glorify the individual in human history than that?

CHRIST'S MISSION - CHRISTIANS MISSION

Since history has its witness to the truth of these words, and since they describe Christ's mission on earth, then, for you and me, they mean something more - they set forth an ideal for you and me - never more needed in this land of ours than it is needed today. In our eyes, Isaiah stands aside, and it is Jesus who says to His disciples - you and me - "A man/woman shall be as a shelter from the wind". It is just what He said in other words when He declared "**As my Father sent me, even so I send you**". This is the contribution that the Church - people like you and me - can make to the unsettlement and menace of present conditions - she can furnish the men, women, boys and girls who count. How, it is asked, can this world with its appalling godlessness ever get back to God? By one person, here and there, getting back to God himself/herself - honestly and humbly. For one person counts!!! Such a person has magnetic virtue. That one gathers others to his/her side.

LIFE - A DESERT JOURNEY

It was not for nothing that Isaiah compared life to a desert journey. There are plenty for whom it is as hard and as bitter a thing as that - the poor - the ailing - the sorrowful - the suffering. And if God has made life, for you and for me, eager and joyous, full of thrill and charm, we may know for sure that thereby He has called us to be a hiding place and shelter for some of these other unfortunates!!! We are not using our great blessing as we might - unless we are doing something to break the blast for them. The prophet's words, read as we just read them earlier, set before you and me a high chivalrous ideal of our belonging to God - that we be alert to serve the needy - pitiful towards the sad - kind to the hurt and timid - their helper for Christ's sake - their shelter from the storms of life.

DEMAND - STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

And if that seem to demand great strength of character, and a self assurance that one only meets in story books - let me remind you of the truth of the saying that "**it is a poor door that cannot keep off some of the wind**". One is strong with the very strength of Heaven who is seeking to do the will of God. And this, in Isaiah's imagery, is His will - that one shall be a shelter from the wind. One person. Everyone of Christ's should be. For even in these difficult days of ours - one person counts!!!! – **IS THAT YOU?**

Written by Alex McGuigan

The Way God *Really* Feels.....

If God had a refrigerator,
Your picture would be on it.
If He had a wallet,
Your photo would be in it.
He sends you flowers every spring.
He sends you a sunrise every morning.
Whenever you want to talk, He listens.
He can live anywhere in the universe,
But He chose your heart!
Face it, He's crazy about you!



God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way!



GOOD LUCK PAULINE!

Pauline Connell - one of our very own campers is going to take place in this year's Special Olympics!

Pauline, who has been at camp a few times – and was last years Miss Camp Shamrock - will be representing Ireland in the Gymnastics event. The Special Olympics will be taking place from 14th June for a fortnight just outside Dublin.



And not only that!!!! Pauline can be seen on The Kelly Show at the end of March so keep an eye out for her there too!

We hope you have a great time Pauline and all the best!

The Birdcage

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old birdcage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak...

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked,

"What you got there, son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you gonna do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment.

"How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh? Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "£10"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten-pound note. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot.

Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the

birds out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty birdcage on the pulpit. Then the pastor began to tell this story...

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all! "What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you get done with them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They aren't any good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!"

"How much? He asked again.

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage he opened the door and he walked from the pulpit.

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This story represents just how much Jesus sacrificed in order that we might have eternal life with him. The little boy is like Satan and we are like the birds. Satan has fun when he ruins people's lives but God rejoices when one of his flock return to him. Easter is the perfect time to reflect on what He has done for us and just what he has saved us from. It's also not the only time of year we should remember Him. Since Jesus gave his life for us, the least we can do is to live our lives in service to Him.

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Do not follow where the path may lead.
Go instead where there
is no path and leave a trail.

A poem written by Amy McPeak, Natalie McPeak and Amy Ritchie from Coleraine....

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AMPING IN THE FOREST



DVENTURES AND ACTIVITIES FILLED WITH



MAKING EVERYONE LAUGH



PANCAKES FOR BREAKFAST ~ ROOSTER

POOK NIGHT ~ IF YOU DARE



POPPING ABOUT IN OUR SLEEPING BAGS!



AFTER DINNER WE'LL WAIT FOR TUCK

MORNING MADNESS



ROCKIN ROLL AT 70'S NIGHT

OH NO!! TENT INSPECTION!

COUNCILLORS GIVING US IDEAS

NIGHT'S IN SHINING ARMOUR ~
BERT AND ALEX!!!!



Camp Shamrock is the best. It's a good way for people to enjoy learning about (a lot of activities to do. We love hot chocolate and we have it every night! we think Camp Shamrock is great for children and adults. We really enjoy camp and can't wait for it to come!

DATES FOR CAMP SHAMROCK 2003

Boy's camp will take place on **Monday 14th July**
and will run through to **Tuesday 22nd July**

Girl's camp will take place on **Thursday 24th July**
and will run through to **Friday 1st August**



We will be doing all the usual activities such as river walking, competitions, swimming, hiking etc. Clark McIlroy will be taking the Bible Classes for the Boy's camp and the teacher for Girl's camp has not yet been decided. More details in the next issue.

Don't forget that the newsletter and further information about Camp Shamrock can now be viewed on Brad's website at www.gboutreach.org

As always, if there are any changes you think we could make to improve the camp for you, please let us know. We can certainly look at any ideas you may have.



A copy of this Newsletter will automatically be sent to all children who have been to Camp in 2001 and 2002 each time it is printed. (Approximately every three months). However if you do not wish to keep receiving this, please let me know by completing the details below and returning to me.

I do/do not wish to receive any further copies of this Newsletter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

For further information regarding this Newsletter or if there is something you would like to put into it, please contact;

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