

X'ENT NEWS

PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP
THROUGH QUALITY CHRISTIAN TRAINING

Volume 9 Issue 2

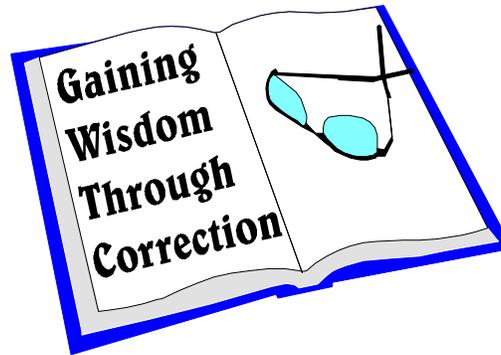
2 Timothy 2:2

And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

July 2001

Imagine this scene with me for a moment: It's 11:00 p.m. and you're exhausted. Why are you exhausted? Because you just walked in the door from your 247th youth event of the summer. You're feeling pretty good, though. The organization of the event was flawless, the staff performed valiantly, again, and the students had both a fun and spiritually uplifting evening. Mission accomplished, right? You plop down on the couch reveling in your youth ministry prowess, when the phone rings and wakes you from your exalted state. As you walk to the phone, you're imagining it must be a thankful student who just wanted to tell you one more time how grateful they are that God has sent you into their life. Boy, are you about to be surprised. Instead of a student full of praise, on the other end of the wire (allright, fiber optic cable now) is a parent who can best be described as having nearly the same attitude as a scared possum. Because this is a Christian publication, I can't go into the details of what was said, but let's just say that they were not calling to exalt your godly character qualities.

Has this ever happened to you? Oh, probably not this exact situation. Although I would not be surprised if



Chris is saying, "No, in fact that exact thing did happen to me." Everything seems to happen to Chris. Anyhow, something similar has undoubtedly happened if you have been in ministry for any time at all. If it hasn't happened yet...just wait. That's our job at XL, to encourage and uplift you in the faith.

In all seriousness, what do you do? How do you respond? The typical response comes in one of three ways, I believe. First, some people defend themselves vigorously, lashing back with their own set of accusations and defenses. Second, others quietly deny the accusations and pay no heed to them at all. Third, and I believe most wise, is the person who listens and learns.

There is a fascinating relevant verse found in the book of Ecclesiastes. It reads: Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to take warning. (Ecclesiastes 4:13) Do you get it? Solomon is saying that a poor peasant boy has a better chance of really living in this world than the richest

and most powerful man in the land, because there is at least one difference between them. The poor boy will listen to advice and the king will not, and the results are huge in their magnitude. You know what? They are in our lives as well. Check out a few other verses that I'm sure you're already familiar with. Be careful to not read over them too quickly.

Proverbs 12:1

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates **correction** is stupid.

Proverbs 10:17

He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores **correction** leads others astray.

Proverbs 13:18

He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds **correction** is honored.

Proverbs 15:12

A mocker resents **correction**; he will not consult the wise.

Proverbs 15:32

He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds **correction** gains understanding.

I think you get the point. Let's be wise servants, who learn from the good times and the difficult ones. Let me leave you with the words from another wise man whom I'm sure learned this lesson from the cauldron of experience as well. Listen closely:

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**I believe most wise,
is the person who
listens and learns.**

This Issue...
**Gaining Wisdom Through Correction
Conference 2001**
News From the World of XL
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XL MINISTRIES, INC.
Conference 2001

**Walking
 in a
 MANNER
 Worthy
 of the
 LORD**

October 31 - November 4

The primary text for the 2001 conference will be Colossians 1:9-12. Each day we will focus on a particular topic for the theme, *Walking in a Manner Worthy of the Lord: Faith* (Thursday), *Hope* (Friday), and *Love* (Saturday). These topics certainly reflect the basics of the Christian life. At the same time, it is impossible for any one of us to plumb the depths of these topics. There will also be sessions especially designed for ladies. *New this year:* we will offer optional mini-sessions for those who are interested. Some of the mini-session topics will be:

- ✧ *The Use of Technology in Ministry*
- ✧ *Bible Quizzing – Getting Started*
- ✧ *Organizational Tools in Ministry*

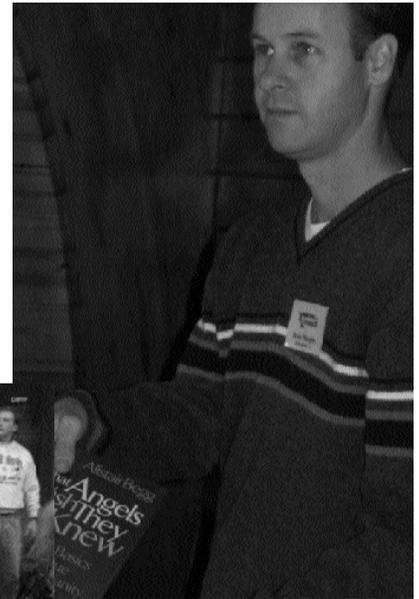
The schedule will be designed to provide personal time with the Lord. There is also a variety of activities available at the conference site.

Date:
 Wednesday evening, October 31 –
 Sunday morning, November 4, 2001

Location:
 Golden Bell Conference Center in
 Divide, Colorado (~30 miles west of
 Colorado Springs).

Cost:

\$173	Adults (12 years +)
\$113	Children (7-11)
\$ 70	Children (2-6)
NC	Children under 2



XL Conference 2000
Above: Group Singing
Above Right: Brian Murphy
Right: Penny Amack, Carla Ryan, Mary Ann Ryan
Left: Rachel Ryan



God has opened a door for XL Ministries to provide resources in Spanish. There are currently almost no Spanish Bible study materials available for teens. God has graciously provided some funds designated for translating resources into Spanish and publishing them. We are very excited about this tremendous opportunity. In addition to several youth groups which have ministries each year in Spanish-speaking countries or communities, Rocky also participates in a Pastor's Conference that is held twice each year in Reynosa, Mexico. Over 40 pastors from all over Mexico were able to attend the last conference. These, and hopefully many other, ministries will be able to use the Spanish resources to God's glory, as they become available. We look forward eagerly to what God has in store!



Book Nook

The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness

By John F. MacArthur

Forgiveness is a virtue that is not often well practiced among believers. Part of the lack of forgiveness can be attributed to a

lack of understanding what the Bible says about forgiveness. In his book, *The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness*,

MacArthur seeks to examine the Scriptural evidence that describes the purpose and requirements behind biblical forgiveness.

The basis for all forgiveness is the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. The Bible is very clear that God will punish sins. However, the Bible is also clear that God has poured out the punishment for the sins of all the elect on His beloved Son. Because God's justice has been satisfied, forgiveness is available. For the Christian, he is eternally forgiven—he is justified.

However, the question then arises, "If the Christian is completely forgiven why does he need to confess his sin to God?" The answer to this question lies in a proper understanding of justification. God's justice requires a "legal" action against sin. Sin must be punished. Since God punished Christ for our sin, His justice has been fulfilled. We no longer have to suffer the "legal" punishment for our sins (MacArthur calls this judicial forgiveness). However, God is not just our Judge,

He is also our Father. As our Father, our sin grieves and displeases God. Like any good father, God wants to see us do what is right and so He disciplines us for our sin. When we sin we never cease to become God's child, but our relationship with God is hampered. The basis for confession then is not to stay saved, or become re-saved, but rather to restore a joyful fellowship with our Father (MacArthur terms this parental forgiveness).

What a wonderful thing to be able to experience forgiveness from God. But forgiveness is not just between God and people. Forgiveness should also be present among individuals. Because Christians have been

Christians are supposed to forgive as God forgives — and remember it no more...

forgiven, they now each have the capacity to truly forgive others. Forgiving others can be a hard process. However,

God has provided detailed guidance for us on this difficult issue in His Word. The basis and motivation for forgiving, the conditions for forgiving, the extent of our forgiveness, and confronting with a view to forgiveness are all covered by the rest of this book.

The basis and motivation for forgiving other people rests clearly on the fact that Christians have already received the greatest forgiveness of all. As God has forgiven us a huge debt, so we can forgive the small debts of others. Shouldering the temporary burden of

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On Receiving Admonition — by A. W. Tozer

1. Don't defend your church or your organization against criticism. If the criticism is false it can do no harm. If it is true you need to hear it and do something about it.
2. Be concerned not with what you have accomplished but over what you might have accomplished if you had followed the Lord completely. It is better to say (and feel), "We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."
3. When reproved, pay no attention to the source. Do not ask whether it is a friend or an enemy that reproves you. An enemy is often of greater value to you than a friend because he is not influenced by sympathy.
4. Keep your heart open to the correction of the Lord and be ready to receive His chastisement regardless of who holds the whip. The great saints all learned to take a licking gracefully — and that may be one reason why they were great saints.

—Brian Murphy

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Keeping Track

Please note these new addresses for board members who have recently moved:

Chris and Alisa Riser
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cariser@earthlink.net

Andrew and Melanie Riser
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Temecula, CA 92591-4515
(909) 304-0711

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someone's offense is nothing when compared to Christ's shouldering the eternal offense of our sin against God. Not only should we forgive because we have been forgiven, but we have been commanded to forgive. Forgiveness then becomes a matter of obedience to God and can become a "horrible sin" for the person unwilling to forgive.

Forgiveness should be completely extended. There is no such thing as partial forgiveness. Christians cannot "forgive and forget" because it is not humanly possible to forget all sins. However, Christians are supposed to forgive as God forgives—and remember it no more. To remember the sin no more means to refuse to bring the sin up. It is a deliberate refusal to hold that person guilty for their sin. When a Christian forgives, the matter is laid to rest entirely and never needs to be revived.

Who gets my forgiveness? What do they have to do to merit it? The Christian should be willing to forgive everyone—believers and unbelievers. In many cases there is no repentance that must occur in order for the Christian to forgive. "To cover someone else's sin is the very essence of forgiveness." It is the Christian's duty to let love cover the sins of others in cases of petty sin against ourselves (whether or not repentance is present). However, there are times when unconditional forgiveness is not an option. Such times occur when the sin is serious and can do significant harm to the sinning individual and to the body of Christ as a whole. When such sin occurs it is necessary to confront the sin in the biblical manner.

Confronting another Christian in sin can be very difficult. However, the importance of confrontation (and if necessary church discipline) cannot be ignored. When we refuse to

ignore significant sin we dishonor Christ by allowing His church to enter into reproach. However, we must always remember that confrontation and discipline are always to be done with an attitude of restoration. Love desires to forgive and therefore, love confronts when necessary. The Christian's desire should be to see the sinner brought to a position where forgiveness can be given, because that demonstrates God's loving desire as well.

Everybody struggles to forgive at one time or another. I am no exception. However, this book reminded me that my lack of forgiveness is not Christlike and probably indicates a certain amount of pride on my part. It should be my constant desire to be humble before my God by being forgiving and loving towards others.

Mark Scarborough

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