

The Prophet's Column

This is a paid advertisement by J. M. Little

I guess your grandkids are enjoying the snow, and they should. The Lord sends the snow as well as all other weather. But I wonder how many think of it in these terms. Isaiah 55:10-11 says: "For the rain cometh down, and the SNOW from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

When I was under conviction for salvation that was a great promise the Lord gave to me to draw me on to Him. I sit here and weep for lost souls. They are dead, but my Lord can make them alive (John 5:25), as He does every one He

calls effectually for salvation. 1995 is history. Multitudes went out under the cloud without Christ. And many more are deceived by Satan and love His hold over them. The salvation of a sinner is a pure miracle of God's grace. There is one thing, and one thing only the angels in Heaven joy over that takes place on this earth, the salvation of a sinner. And when a soul tells me: "it doesn't say that in the Bible," that is the concrete evidence he has never known Christ, and he has never known what it means to be experimentally lost.

Before the Lord saved me, I could see by His grace that the angels in Heaven took joy in only one thing on this earth. Unsaved souls are wiser than I, but they don't

know my Lord. When I sit and think that the Lord chose me out of all the human beings on this earth I can only praise and thank Him for so great salvation. God is Sovereign. But He chose me, and I don't understand it. And I, a Black man, counted as the filth of the world by others, but my Lord picked me out and redeemed me, and others He passed by. What grace! What mercy! I can't boast of anything of myself, it is all of grace. When souls approach me and tell me they know they are saved because

"I confessed," according to Romans 10, I weep for them. They know nothing about being awakened to their lost condition. And they wonder how I know the deceived hearts of man as I do. As every other believer, I learned

the hearts of men in the House of Holy Spirit Conviction. If they are ever brought there and taught by the greatest Teacher of the believer, the Holy Spirit, then they won't wonder how I know their deceived hearts. It means something to be saved.

If I had to go back over Holy Spirit Conviction ten thousand times, I would. I know Whom is at the end. It will be 24 years next month that God saved me, as close as I can figure it. Oh, the grace of God! And the mercy of God on a sinner like me. And one day soon my Lord is coming for me. That will be the greatest thing that can happen to me. I don't see how lost people live without Christ. My only Hope is Christ, and He is soon coming.

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Couples sue janitor

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KEARNEY, Neb. - Thirteen couples have filed civil lawsuits against New Life Assembly Church and a former church janitor over claims of sexual abuse of their children at a day care housed in the church.

The couples are parents of 19 children who said Neal Meiner sexually abused them while they were in Sonshine World day care.

Parents and children in the lawsuits filed Friday in Buffalo County District Court

were not named. Kent Schroeder of Kearney, attorney for 10 of the families, told The Kearney Hub Friday that several more lawsuits would be filed.

Kearney attorney Thomas Tye II filed three more lawsuits late Friday.

In February 1994, Meiner pleaded innocent in district court to six counts of first-degree sexual assault and nine counts of sexual assault on a child.

Meiner was found innocent last February of first-degree sexual assault in a case

involving a 5-year-old boy at the day care but awaits trial on charges involving two other children.

Plaintiffs in the civil suits are requesting undetermined compensatory, special and general damages for mental, physical and emotional distress they claim Meiner caused, and for repayment of medical and counseling costs, Schroeder said.

In the lawsuits, the parents also say that Sonshine World committed a breach of contract by not providing a safe

environment for their children. The parents are seeking to be repaid for their charges to keep their children at the day care, according to the suits.

A jury in a civil trial would determine damages if it finds for the plaintiffs, Schroeder said. There would be no determination of guilt or innocence.

An employee at New Life Assembly Church, who would not identify herself, said the church couldn't comment on the suits because it was unaware of them.

Sunday school lesson

Continued from page 10A

tative are very special. For one who is on the receiving end of such communication, there is great comfort and encouragement. And those who speak (write, send) the messages experience great satisfaction and blessing, too. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in picture of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).

The gospel is the right word, and now is the right time. "A word spoken in due season, how good is it!" (Proverbs 15:23)

Communication fails more often, it seems, because of poor speaking skills. Ask almost any wife Some complain that their husbands won't talk to them, but most accuse their mates of not listening.

Actually, the fault of poor listening habits is not gender-

related; females are probably just as guilty as males. Good listeners are hard to find. Effective counselors, successful salespeople, and happily married couples have learned the great importance of intentional listening. It is a gift in some persons, yet a skill that can be developed by anyone to everyone's benefit.

God gave servant Israel "the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak" (verse 4). He also gave him the gift of discernment through listening: "The Lord God hath opened mine ear" (verse 5). Both speaking and listening were essential to the servant's mission.

Successful communication continues to require clear speaking and attentive listening. God's people are advised, "Be swift to hear, slow to speak" (James 1:19). The emphasis is upon hearing. As

many have cleverly observed, that is why God gave us two ears, but only one mouth!

In Philippians 3:12-14 the apostle Paul describes the Christian life as a race, and calls the church to run it to the finish. It is clear from his words that the "race of life" is not a sprint; it is a distance run, and requires great endurance.

Paul was an outstanding example of one who was committed to finishing the race of life. In spite of stoning, beatings, shipwrecks, and imprisonment he continued to "press toward the mark." Like the servant of today's lesson he gave his "back to the smiters" and bore his suffering with grace, knowing ultimately that he would be vindicated by the Lord. Paul understood that when it comes to the race of life, it is not how fast the Christian runs but how far.

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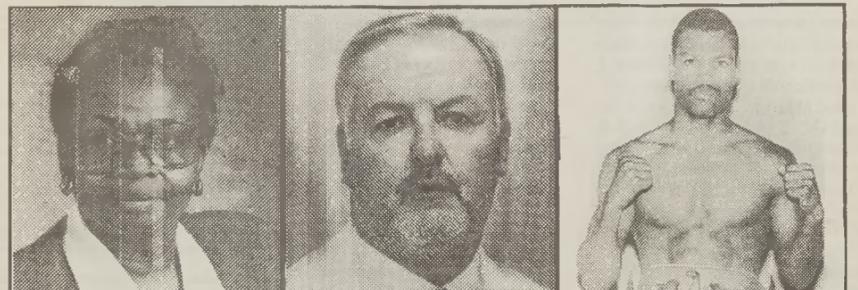
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