

## Information and Reminders—

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Samuel Southall, and others with ongoing health battles or other trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians whom Satan will certainly attack (Matt. 13:20-23).

The men meet on the first Sunday of the month to discuss our work and duties. There is a sign-up sheet at the back for items needing their attention.

### **Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.**

-- Can you post Scriptures on our signboard during December? It has stood empty for almost two months.

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

November 24, 2013

[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## ***MARRIED TO AN UNBELIEVER (EXCERPT)***

*Bobby Thompson*

"No one told me of the unhappiness I was due in marrying a non-Christian. Now after having lived with a non-Christian for almost ten years I have been made aware of how important it is for our young people to marry Christians. These ten years have not made me an expert on the subject, but they have made me realize that I should try to reach and/or discourage the others from making the same mistake. When I fell in love with my husband, I could not think about those things that could lie ahead. The only thing I knew was that I loved him with all my heart and that no one knew or had experienced this kind of love. Ours was different as I felt there was nothing that could ever come between us that we could not overcome. After we were married, I was soon to realize how our attitudes and thinking varied. We rented a small apartment and were soon entertaining other non-Christians in our home. The drinking and dancing were all part of the things I had been taught to abhor. And yet right here in my own home, I was consenting to and becoming a part of things that a Christian has no business doing. I was getting further and further away from the church. I knew what I should be doing as a Christian, and yet I was doing nothing to change. We were happy by most people's standard, but I was miserable. I knew my husband did not share my love for the truth and he was not serious-minded about things like that. I love him so much and I was learning a hard, cold fact - that love was not enough. I wanted to return to my "first love". We talked about my return to the church and I realized another fact - he had no intention of going with me in spite of his promises (before married) that he would. I decided to wait about returning and try to work things out as best I could. In the meantime, we found out we were expecting our first child, I was elated! I also was made aware of the creation of God within me. I was soon to become a mother and have a life truly influence by me. I was going to get my heart right with God again. I repented of my sins and started

trying to live the life I so wanted to live. It was hard. First, because I had no encouragement from my husband. Secondly, we still had all our non-Christian friends in and out. My Christian friends from church came by, but not too often, because my husband openly did not like them. I loved them and wanted them in my home. I needed them. Somewhere about this time was when the hostility began. I was seeing and hearing a different guy from that wonderful guy I married. There was a wall building between us. Out of love for my husband, I again stopped attending church. I did not attend for months. I was miserable inside again. After the birth of our daughter, I wanted to get started back to church. My husband's answer was "No." He wanted me to start going to church with him where he went as a child - a denominational church that did not follow God's Word. We really had problems. I knew the error they taught and I could not worship there. He insisted; I resisted.

"Three and a half years ago, I repented again and started to live the Christian life. I thank God that He spared my life and let me live long enough to get back. There is no turning back for me now. We have three children now and I want more than anything to have a Christian home for them. This presents another problem. My husband and I do not agree on how to bring up the children. We are both pulling in different directions. I believe in teaching them to put God first in their lives and to be faithful. He still can see no reason to attend every service and openly overrides me when I insist the children go. Our marriage has deteriorated greatly over the last few years. The "church problem," as my husband puts it, had moved into every aspect of our marriage. We both keep things bottled up inside, and find that we can't talk things out anymore. I am ill with the children much too often. I know it's because things are not right my husband and me.

My marriage has reached a disastrous point. My husband has given an ultimatum - I have to make a choice - him or the church. Those of you who are Christians know what a rough decision I had. I, of course, have chosen the Lord. I still love my husband with all my heart and have prayed that God would open his heart to understand the truth. I know I have to remain faithful and do what God has commanded me to do. It looks so dark sometimes and yet I have 'to press toward the mark, to the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus'. (Philippians 3:4). I'm so weary from being torn between my husband and the Lord.

To our young people . . . My prayer is that this article may in some way make our young people, or anyone planning to marry, to marry a Christian. I can't do mine over again, but I can teach my children and others how important it is to marry a

Christian and to make that home the kind the Lord intended for it to be. (Edited and received from the Geyer Springs Church in Little Rock, AR.)"

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Not all mixed marriages may be in such severe unhappiness as pictured in the article which we have presented, but a truly happy home is where members of the family are united in Christ. Both husband and wife love one another, and above all, they love the Lord. They love their children and take a great joy in having them worship with them and participate in righteous living. Wives should continually think of Peter's scriptural suggestion regarding how they should conduct themselves in winning their unbelieving husbands to Christ. Some talk about how wonderful it would be if their husband were Christians, but they are not willing to pay the price of godly subjection to their husbands that it might be realized. We need to practice what we wish by godly living!

**Editor's Note:** This article was too long to be printed in its entirety. If you would like to read the rest of it, let me know.

God is the only one who we can know with 100% certainty will never go back on His promise and decide to abandon us (*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."* Heb. 13:5). Even marrying a Christian cannot guarantee a happy home, but clear thinking tells us that this gives us the best chance possible. And when we consider that our spouse will have an equal, maybe greater, degree of influence on our children, the decision is obvious. Use this article and Dino's lesson today to prepare you either in making a marriage decision or advising others who seek your advice.

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### **BRIEF THOUGHTS** (John Gibson)

"Remember Lot's wife." Luke 17:32

"But Jesus said to Him, 'No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'" Luke 9:62

We will never be the disciples Jesus wants us to be until we realize that the things we have left behind cannot compare to the blessings we have been given.

"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ....I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:7, 14).