

Haven Newsletter

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To be a Servant

In talking to a friend and discussing our upcoming adoption, he commented that he was glad that this was *our* calling, implying of course that it was not his. His comment was fairly common from many of our Christian friends. While none of them would say it aloud, for many it is inconceivable that anyone would want to do this at our stage of life. This upsets the American Christian applectart. Why your retirement might get messy, and you might not be able to afford all the good things that being an American Christian has to offer. This issue of retirement for Christians is a fun one for another day, but I am at a loss for any Biblical support for the idea that our rest comes in this life! To the contrary the Apostle tells us in the book of Hebrews that our rest or Sabbath will be with our Lord in heaven.

Why do you call me Lord, and do not do what I say?

a merciful and loving God through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Anyone reading this newsletter relate to that? There is no special call to adopt, any-more than there is a special calling to read the Word, pray or love one's neighbor. Perhaps an illustration can help here. In conversation with

Well Master, let me think it over, and if it works out right for me, I will do what you say.

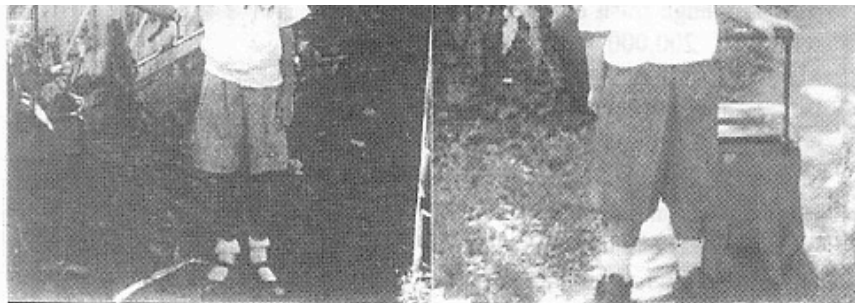
Mormons, they often want to appeal to "praying" as to every decision they make. They are waiting for certain emotional or physical responses to their prayers. This is in line with their appeal to read the Book of Mormon and pray, waiting for the infamous "burning in the

bosom". I usually respond by asking them if I need to pray about stealing someone's wallet, when the Lord has already told me what he thinks of stealing (DON'T) and for that matter, about false prophets (STAY AWAY!). If I am right here, then let us look at what the Apostle James says in relation to the subject at hand. James 1:27 says this "This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world". This is one of many commands the Apostle James gives in reference to what real belief is, as opposed to "make" belief. The Lord once asked the question "Why do

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My response to my friend and many others in this situation is the same. "This is not a calling, this is just obedience." It strikes me that if this is a "calling", then we are special people, somehow suited to this. Terri and I beg to differ - we are sinners, saved by



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To be a Servant, continued...

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you call me Lord, and do not do what I say?" Ouch. Anybody else here stung by that rebuke? Servants do not have the luxury of saying, "Well Master, let me think it over, and if it works out right for me, I will do what you say". If the Lord has called us to reach out, our "prayers" serve only as delaying tactics.

To This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world

In a few months we go to Manila to pick up Joahana and Ritchie. This is in obedience to the call of Jesus Christ to love those who are in need. I don't see an age requirement in Matthew 25 or James 1. Terri and I are committed to doing whatever we can with the rest of our lives to serve our Father, and we are thankful that He would use sinners like us. That in one sense is the greatest miracle of all the Lord's works, that He would take a louse like me, save me, and use me to help others. God is so awesome. We are amazed at his "Amazing Grace". For those

Lord in His mercy has kept them alive and now is bringing them here to be in our family. We saw how the people in Manila lived the last time we were there, and we realized how rich we really are, even as lower middle class Americans. So in light of all this, we know that serving the Lord here is not a burden, but a privilege. We are so thankful again for all of you who have made this possible through your generous giving in service to our Lord.

Quezon City Dump Site



Non-Profit Update

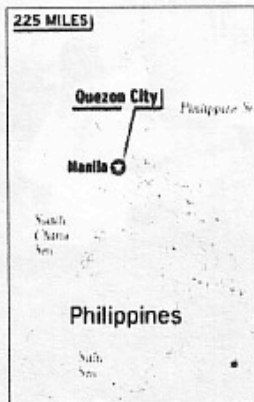
I spent an hour this last week at a meeting here in Denver with Word Faith Teacher Ken Copeland. I note the time because I can usually only handle a few minutes of him on TV before I get ill. He pulls the Bible out of context with every breath, and repeatedly was receiving new "revelations" from the Lord the whole time I was there. He is the paramount example of the dangers of mixing two already toxic chemicals - new "revelation" and non-accountability. To question Kenny's pronouncements is to be in danger of instant death from "God". Like Benny Hinn, Ken Hagin, and so many others, they thrive when they are above rebuke. We pray for their repentance and that their sheep, who practically worship at their feet, will be released from their deception.

Special Book Announcement

For many of you this will be a hard thing to see or read, but I would highly encourage you to read a book written by some friends of mine. The book is entitled "A Matter of Basic Principles - Bill Gothard and the Christian Life". It is written by Don and Joy Veinot and Ron Henzel and published by 21st Century press. You



who are still convinced that this is a hardship on us, please consider the story of Joahana and Ritchie. In their short lives they have seen so much suffering. They are at a shelter next to the infamous Smoky Mountain in Quezon City. This is a huge trash dump with an estimated 200,000 people living literally in the dump itself. Their fathers and mother were all drug addicts. The mother was a prostitute who died in her early twenties. Ritchie lost his kidney when he was one, and has had several serious illnesses as an infant. Yet the



can find it at the website for the Midwest Christian Outreach at www.midwestoutreach.org. Though again I know many of you respect Bill Gothard and were influenced greatly by his teachings, there are both personal and theological reasons to see him in a different way. Before you react, I would encourage you to read the book, check out the facts and then make your decision.