



Issue 13 **Christ For Youth**
Newsletter

ISSUE XIII

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**From the Desk of . . .
Rev. B. R. Hicks**

**Greetings from
Reverend Hicks,**

Have you ever observed certain people who possess one particular personality trait to such a degree that you can almost say, "There goes zeal or joy or humility?" Years ago I had a friend who was zeal personified. If I had to paint a picture of zeal, it would look like her.

I said all that to tell you that our Bible lesson this time is going to be about two sisters who vividly personify the characteristics of ugliness and beauty. As we study their lives, you will see a striking contrast between what ugliness and beauty can produce in one's life. This will enable you, then, to make a clear choice concerning what you want in your own life.

We all have known someone who has let the ugliness of his outward circumstances change him into a mean, grouchy, complaining individual. We also have known those who, in spite of tremendous suffering, have remained an inspiration and a joy to everyone around them.

Leah and Rachel were the sisters who personified Ugly and Beautiful. Their story is found in the Book of Genesis.

And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month. And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be? And Laban

had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an

handmaid. And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also. And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid. And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years (Genesis 29:14-30).

Jacob had left home to live with his Uncle Laban, who had two daughters. Leah, the elder, was the ugly sister; Rachel, the younger, was beautiful. That made the choice of a bride easy for Jacob. Anyone would choose a "rosy-cheeked," round, juicy apple over a green, shriveled, brown-spotted one.

Jacob loved beautiful Rachel and served Laban seven long years to get her for his bride. But Jacob never realized that he was

also getting a crafty father-in-law. Uncle Laban may well have realized that he might have ugly Leah at home with him for the rest of his life if he did not act quickly.

Imagine, then, Jacob's surprise when he unveiled his new bride and discovered Ugly had been given to him instead of Beautiful. Uncle Laban had deceived him! After seven years of anticipation, this was too much. Now Ugly was not only ugly, but hated. Jacob hated her.

Jacob had not bargained for Ugly. He had not even asked for her. He did not want her. Yet, she was his bride.

When our human senses are in control, we always judge things as Jacob did. If we are honest most of us will admit that there have been many times that we have thought, "If I had everything smooth and lovely, if I had a nice home, a new car, a good job, then I could really accomplish something for the LORD." Could we? Or does the LORD want to produce some enduring qualities within us by joining us to a few Ugliers?

Returning to the story of Jacob, we see that although Leah was ugly and hated, Jacob joined himself to her. He did so willingly, for his uncle assured him that if he fulfilled Leah's week, keeping her for his

wife, that he would also give Jacob the desired Rachel. Uncle Laban held a decided bargaining advantage over Jacob since he owned the prize so dear to Jacob's heart. So, added to the humiliation of finding himself with an unwanted bride, Jacob had to serve his treacherous father-in-law an additional seven years after he married Rachel. Evidently Jacob counted no cost too dear to pay for the one he loved.

It was during this particular time in their lives that Jacob's union with Leah produced four sons. But Rachel, the lovely, remained barren.

And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. And she

conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing (Genesis 29:31-35).

Leah's first son was called Reuben, which means behold ye a son. We might never see the Son of God in the way He wants to reveal Himself to us, if all we ever have are the pleasant, beautiful things of life. But, if in our sufferings and humiliations, we look to Jesus, we can beget a new vision of the Son. Reuben, a living vision of the Son of God, will be born when we join ourselves to the ugly suffering that God has ordained for us.

The second son born to Jacob and Leah was Simeon, whose name means he that hears and obeys. It is much easier for us to hear when we are in desperate situations, because it is then that we are listening for answers. Suffering and humiliation will beget ears which can hear the LORD.

Many times the LORD allows a Leah to come into our life, but we do not become joined to her. How many times do you suppose Jacob looked at ugly Leah, despising her, and thought, "If I could have no one but the beautiful Rachel as my wife, how happy and perfect my life would be"? But, Reuben and Simeon would

not have been born to him; neither would Levi nor Judah.

Levi was the father of the priesthood. His Name means joined. The priests were the intercessors between God and Israel. Joining ourselves to the ugly, hated, loathsome circumstances of our life will beget intercession and travail in us. It will bring forth a prayer life that will change us. For example, it was when I accepted a "Leah" in my life (a situation that I hated; something I did not want) that the LORD taught me about intercessory prayer and travail.

Then, from Jacob and Leah's union came the fourth son, Judah. His name means the praise of God to be proclaimed. Eventually, out from Judah, out from praise, came forth the full stature of the LORD Jesus Christ, for it was Judah who received the Promised Seed of the Messiah.

Jacob's choice, our choice, did not, nor will not, bring forth the full stature of Jesus in us. Jacob kept Leah, the ugly, because she was the price tag to the love of the beautiful Rachel. Likewise, our union with the lovely, heavenly, resurrected Bridegroom depends on our acceptance of the despised Crucified Christ. If we reject the Leahs in our life, we refuse the union that will bring praise to birth

within us, and the stature of Jesus that praise begets.

Through ignorance we spend the first part of our life weeping over our Leahs because we do not know what they contain. After the Truth is revealed to us, we spend the rest of our life weeping in repentance because we once wept in rejection.

I can look back over my life and see that if I had made my own choices instead of seeking God's will, I would have chosen Rachel instead of Leah. But then there would not have been a Reuben, a Simeon, a Levi, or a Judah in my experiences with the LORD. I would not have a full stature of the Son of God standing within me. So, I will spend the rest of my days repenting over the times I rebelled against the suffering that God put in my life in order to bring these experiences to birth in my heart and soul.

Since we view only the ugliness, the hatefulness, the undesirability of suffering, we do not realize that God wants to give us a new vision of Himself (a Reuben), or ears that can hear and obey (a Simeon), or a heart that can intercede and travail (a Levi), or a heart of praise (a Judah) that will put the stature of Jesus within us.

As we compare the ugly with the beautiful, we see that spiritual maturity is

not achieved when all things are beautiful and lovely. But through despised, ugly situations, new stature is formed in us.

Before Simeon is born within our heart, we have ears, but we do not hear. Jesus also said that we have eyes to see, but we do not see. we see Rachel, the beautiful, as desirable until our eyesight is changed; but she was barren (until God worked a miracle and made her fruitful). She had no living seeds. However, a little growth in spiritual stature will give us an appreciation for ugly Leah, because we will begin to see what is hidden within humiliation and suffering.

Jesus was despised and rejected, an object of ridicule and shame. Young people, you need to ask yourself a very serious question: Which do you choose—Ugly, or Beautiful? Do you choose the world with its facade of beauty and pleasure, or do you choose to suffer with the Crucified Christ?

If you choose the humble, Crucified Christ, He will lead you into spiritual fruitfulness. Spiritual seeds of life will be born in your heart, producing the full mature stature of the Word Himself. The love of the world will produce barrenness and spiritual death.

Do you hate the Leahs in your life? If so, then, it

is because your eyes are not yet open to see the fruitfulness that God has purposed to give you if you will accept the joining with the painful, ugly situations of life. It is a great day, indeed, when you learn to begin praising God for ALL THINGS, including the suffering. Then after a while, you will be able to look back and say, "Thank You, Jesus, for leading me this way. It has brought me seeds of new life, new Truth, a brighter vision of You, and new ears to hear."

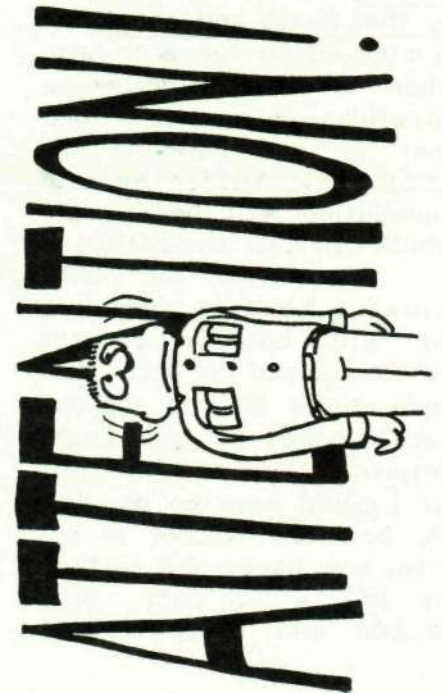
We can look at others who have refused the Leahs in their lives and find that their spiritual growth has stopped; many of them are spiritually dead. Then we can be doubly grateful that the LORD has counted us worthy to suffer for His Name's sake.

Leah is ugly.
Rachel is beautiful.
But Leah is fruitful.
Rachel is barren.
Whom do you choose?

HAVE YOU MEMORIZED THE SCRIPTURES ON THE SEAL OF THE BLOOD?

- Section 1: Sin Offering Blood - I John 1:7
- Section 2: Trespass Offering Blood - Matthew 6:14,15
- Section 3: Whole Burnt Offering Blood - Romans 12:1,2
- Section 4: Peace Offering Blood - Colossians 1:14,20
- Section 5: Atonement Blood - Romans 5:8-11
- Section 6: Passover Blood - Exodus 12:13

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven" (Colossians 1:14,20).



**LET'S HEAR
SOME TESTIMONIES!**

"No one can tell me this message isn't real. I've seen too much of the truth and God's power manifested in my own life. The fact that the devil hates this message was clear to me from the time I got in. I had gone to a Pentecostal church for almost five years from the time I was 13. At that time, my Mother was attending Christ Gospel Church. I am ashamed now of how I rebelled against going with her. I was running from the message and from God. To this day I really don't know why. I must have been the most deceived person on earth! But I was called and chosen out and I knew it.

I finally got in the message in November of 1987, when I turned 18. Within two and a half months time I sprained my wrist, lost my job, pulled a muscle in my leg and started having trouble with my eyes. Being a diabetic I was diagnosed as having Diabetic Retinopathy. Diabetics have very poor circulation and after a while the retina in the eye starts starving for

oxygen. These new blood vessels are very weak though and break easily. They all decided to hemorrhage at the same time and this caused my fuzzy (blurry) vision. I was sent to a specialist (who just happens to be Jewish!) He said they would do all they could but my eyes were in such bad shape, they weren't sure how much of my vision could be saved.

I had a total of seven laser surgeries on both eyes within a six month period. The first surgery is the one I'll never forget. They gave me a shot directly beneath my eye to deaden it and fix it where my eyeball wouldn't move. Well, it took three shots before the stuff worked. By this time the whole side of my face was dead to any feeling. The surgery only lasted about twenty minutes and it wasn't so bad but I was shaking all over, I was so scared.

The numbness was suppose to last eight hours but I had the feeling back in my eye when I got home. It hurt so bad I wanted to cry but I was afraid to get my eye patch wet. God touched me though and the surgeries got easier. On my third

surgery, they gave me numbing drops in my eye which I liked much better.

They put me in the hospital for surgery in August of 1988 and did six and a half hours of surgery on my right eye and expected I would get 95% of my sight back. But after two months the retina moved and they said there was nothing else they could do for that eye. Meanwhile, my left eye just started clearing up. It started improving in October and by December I was seeing 20/30 up close and 20/70 at a distance. On New Year's Day my eye hemorrhaged again. Within one month it cleared up again though and was clearer than before! This time I had 20/30 up close and 20/60 at a distance. The LORD worked it out so I could get some glasses for my distant vision.

On my last doctor's visit I was seeing 20/40 at a distance (with glasses) and 20/25 up close. My doctors are baffled! They can't help but smile when they see my eyes and how well they're doing. They have X-rays of my eyes that are solid red because of so much leakage of blood. I used to be completely

off of the eye charts, which go up to 20/500. They now have pictures that show no blood at all and no swelling of the retina!

I look back on all of this and think how much God must love me to put this on me. I would cry sometimes and beg God to let me out. Just heal me and get it over with. Then I'd repent. On one side I did want out, but on the other hand, I hungered after that moral development I knew was waiting for me.

God didn't hate me or say, "Serves you right!" He loves me and when I cried, Jesus cried with me. He could see down the road when I would come to that wonderful place of having spiritual education and moral development joined. I learned a great deal of things through this experience. Valuable things I don't ever want to lose.

I have a real gratitude for reading and other small details. And I don't neglect my study anymore. I remember when I'd stare at my Bible and want to pick it up and read it so bad. Young people, we need to learn to not take our privileges for

granted. We always say, "I'll do it later." We don't know if we will or not. God doesn't owe us anything. We need to study and read God's Word while we can, and pray while we are able. I lost the privilege of eyesight and it is a horrible feeling to know you can't even read one scripture.

I still can't see out of my right eye but I know God can heal it. But, if He doesn't, I am still happy. That eye stands as a witness of where God brought me from!"

L. H.

and here is another testimony.....

"I thank our LORD Jesus Christ for bringing me into the Crucified Way and for keeping His hand on my life before I was saved by His Blood. I thank Him for His stature which I fell in love with two years ago. It has changed my life and is still changing it today.

I was raised in a church along with my sister and we were taught the Word of God. They were just stories to me then but they were so good and something was just right about

them. As I was growing up I was a kid of knowledge. I liked to read. I loved math and science most of all. I loved space. There was something so great out there, I could look for hours. I never seemed to like what other kids liked. I felt like I did not belong here.

I tried to be like others but I could not. I even backslid out of the church I was attending because it did not fill my knowledgeable mind. I was a scientific minded person but even science did not fill my desire for knowledge. My sister found a new church she liked called Christ Gospel Church, and she would try to get me to come but I made excuses not to go because of my past church. But I saw a real change in my sister. She would try again and again and I would keep coming up with excuses. So one day I got tired of her asking me to come, so I thought, with my scientific mind, of an excuse that surely she could not come up with an answer to. I told her, "I will come to church when I see a pig fly!" For sure my sister was confused. She could not answer that excuse!

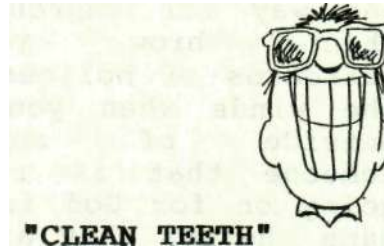
Two months later, as my sister and I were walking in a new little store to look around, I heard my sister shout, "Look Here!", and as I turned to look, before my eyes was a picture of a pig with wings, flying! My sister, remembering what I had said, turned to me and said, "There you go brother!" Well, being a man of promise, I went to church that Sunday and my eyes saw that stature with Jesus on it for the first time. I could not get my eyes off of it. Knowing a little bit of salvation of getting on my knees and the Father being on top, this scripture came to me from John 14:6:

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.

I love this scripture even till today because I saw all that growth that I had to do to make it into the New City. Since this I have been filled with the Holy Ghost and have been baptized in His wonderful Name. And I am giving it my all 100% everyday because I WANT TO BE IN THE BRIDE!!!

D.W.F.

A GROOMING TIP



Although it is one of the basics of hygiene, many people don't take care of their teeth like they should. Here are some of the basic steps:

1. Brush your teeth at least twice a day. (A toothpaste with fluoride is best.)
2. Take time to floss your teeth at least once a day. Bad breath and tooth decay is caused by particles of food that are lodged between the teeth and around the gums and they cannot be removed with normal brushing.
3. **ATTENTION TO THOSE WITH BRACES!** Brush or floss after every meal
4. Use a mouthwash regularly.
5. Be sure to see your dentist at least twice a year to have a checkup and your teeth professionally cleaned.

1990 CONVENTION DATES

Mark your calendars now with the 1990 convention dates.

Ministerial Convention
Feb. 27 through March 2, 1990

International Convention
- July 3 through July 8, 1990

Youth Convention
August 16, 17 & 18, 1990

Sunday School Convention
October 16 through October 19, 1990

CHRISTIAN APPAREL

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

I Timothy 2:9 & 10

Recently, in a family meeting at church, Sister Hicks addressed the topic of modest apparel. This topic applies especially to women of Christ Gospel Church, but men must be careful of this also.

Our separation is what separates us outwardly from the world and it is the way in which we dress that indicates our holiness. Therefore, the way we dress ourselves should not be in any likeness with the world. However, this does not mean that we should be ashamed of how we look. We can be neat, clean, and in a well dressed manner. But we don't need to take part in most of the indecent fashions of today. Girl's skirts need to be a decent length and they should have a reasonable slit in them. Not one above the knee. The slit should be very minimal so not to show off their legs, causing boys to lust after their bodies. Blouses should have a decent sleeve length.

Boys should not wear pants that are tight, revealing their secret parts. Clothing should be worn in church which will not hinder you from freedom of worship in the Spirit.

However, don't dress one way for church and then throw your standards of holiness to the winds when you are outside of church. Someone that is really going on for God is the same whether they are in church or away from church.

Whenever you select your clothes, be sure to stop and take time to whisper a prayer and ask the LORD if He is pleased with you wearing that. Always strive to please Him in everything that you do!

Here's a recipe for an "any time" snack!

SNACK CRACKERS

Ingredients

- 16 oz. pkg. oyster crackers
- 1 pkg. Ranch House dressing
- 1/2 teas, dill weed
- 1/2 cup oil



Directions:

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Stir and shake several times over a period of several hours. Store in an air tight container.

LETTERS

We've received some letters that we would like to share with you.

"Dear Newsletter Staff:

I think it's really neat that there is a newsletter made especially for teenagers in the Crucified Way. I usually sit down and read the whole thing as soon as I get it and then my Mom reads it. (I think she likes it almost as much as me!)

What Sister Hicks said about speaking the truth is just what I needed. It really made a lot of sense to me since that is right where I've been living. I've always had a tendency to speak negatively about life in general, but now I know that I need to speak the truth even when I don't feel like I even believe it.

I also really appreciated the article called, "Are You Lonely?" I moved two years ago from a place that I had lived for ten years. (That is over half of my life.) I've never felt as lonely as I did then. Except for my brother and parents, I did not know anybody. At that point I had to surrender to go on without my old church friends - just Jesus. I found out during that time that Jesus really can be your friend. It is great to have a friend that understands where you are coming from and why you act the way you do. Not even the best of earthly friends can always understand how you're feeling, but Jesus can because He's right there with you.

Now it is two years later and I don't feel so lonely anymore. Even though I only get to talk to the teenagers a little bit before and after church (because I'm a long-distance phone call away from everyone and too far away to come in for most of the extra activities), I still don't feel as lonely as I used to. God has brought my family a lot closer together and I'm grateful for that.

I'm glad that I have a mother that I can talk to, a brother that talks to me and Jesus to always turn to.

I guess I have one more thing I'd like to say before I close. Do you think that you could ever do an article explaining how the **Christ For Youth Newsletter** is put together from start to finish? I'd really like to know.

Thank you for taking the time to produce the **Christ For Youth Newsletter**. It's great! God bless you all!

Sincerely,
J.B.

P.S. I like the pictures in the newsletter. Some of them are really funny!



Be sure to write to us. Let us know when your address changes too.

And remember. . . a subscription to the Christ For Youth Newsletter is just \$1.00 per year!

We've received several poems from one of the teenagers in the Jeffersonville Christ Gospel Church. We will be sharing them with you in this and some future issues of the newsletter. If you too write poetry, wish to submit an article, a recipe, testimony, etc., send it to the attention of the newsletter staff. Let's make this newsletter one from our young people and churches around the world!

EMOTIONS
by D.D.M.

Greed, it roots itself deep down in our soul, Sprouting like a river that branches out, Always flowing, Festering deceit, hate and jealousy.

We never see it for itself. Hiding beneath righteous anger, We think we're in control, But we're just along for the ride.

Never looking for the telling symptoms, Rotting this earth in its grasp. They laugh at us thinking we don't know the answer.

God watches, hoping
we will come to Him,
Through the pain and
confusion.
In the darkness when
you see the light,
At the end of the
tunnel.

We were always
looking in the wrong
direction,
But God made the
correction.
He gave us hope and
love in exchange,
For the hate and
deceit,
And greed, found only
in defeat.

How close we were to
stepping off,
The edge into a deep
abyss.
It has always been
this way for man,
Taking too long to
make a stand,
And demand,
Taking God's hand.



Are you reading your Bible
EVERYDAY???

If you don't eat natural food,
you will eventually starve to
death.

If you don't eat spiritual
food, you will starve to death
too!