



Update

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Vernon & Martha Hedge

“Good Kids” Still Need a Savior

Simon came to my class at the Calvary Bible Institute as a home-schooled young man who had never been in trouble with the law. Even so, this *good kid* still needed a Savior. Meet Simon in his own words:

I was born in the tiny town of Walnut, Illinois into a family of seven children. Since we didn't live close to any sizeable town, we children had few friends outside the family. We were home schooled which made a little difference in our isolation from others.

Because of the home-school setting, my parents came over as more disciplinarian than you would think of most parents. They didn't seem approachable to me, and none of us felt very close to them. We relied on each other for friendship and moral support which created a bond of closeness between us that we still have.

Even though my father had severe anger issues at times, I have no doubt that he was and is a Christian. The only problem was that he seemed to be constantly “disciplining” us children about something. I guess I viewed his discipleship program as overdone. Putting all that aside, he was an active Christian who was highly involved in a ministry called the Gideons, and often took some of us to the Gideon functions.

I figured that since I went to church every Sunday, prayed, read

the Bible every morning, and my mom and dad were Christians, that I was a Christian too. I now see that I had a head knowledge of the Bible, and knew all the stories. But I had never been convicted of the gravity of the sins in my life.

God's Word had not meant much to me, even though I had read the Bible through several times. It didn't mean much because I had not received revelation of the God of the Bible. That is how it was—until one night.

I was about to do my mandatory Bible reading, and God brought to light a completely unscheduled verse outside my regular Bible reading calendar. I opened my Bible and read Luke 6:46, *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”*

This verse pierced my soul.

I had not thought my sins were all that bad, but God in that moment showed me all of my sins were bad, and He convicted me of all of them. That was the moment I truly and totally gave my life to Jesus, confessed all my sins, and took Him as my Savior and Lord. All the Bible knowledge that I had gained finally went from my head

to my heart, and now I could get what life was all about.

Since Jesus has come into my life, He has changed both my way of life and my way of seeing life. Before, I was an angry, unforgiving, sour person who just hid it well. Since he came into my life He has given me forgiveness and love, especially for my father, where there was none before. The love He put in my heart not only changed the way I see people, it changed the way I treat them too.

It has now been five years since I have been saved, and I have been at Calvary Commission since September 2016. Even though I've been here such a short time, I have learned more about God and His Word than I probably could have ever learned in many years just having my daily devotions. I came to Calvary because I realized how busy my life was getting—almost too busy for God, and I knew that wasn't good.

Although Calvary is not a bed of roses, I am getting exactly what I came for, and that is to spend time with God and getting to know Him and His ways. Even though I still struggle with the sins of life that are common to man, my goal is God, and with His help I will prevail. A verse that means so much to me now is Philippians 3:14, *I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* ✨

A Prayer for Our Nation



Computers

We praise the Lord for this computer update. Frank and Glenna Cravalho live south of Tyler, Texas where Frank is retired from IBM. One of his favorite pastimes is to refurbish computers.

In response to last month's newsletter, Frank donated three Dell workstations, one Dell laptop, 2 keyboards, 2 mice, and several Windows software packages.

This will mean the difference for students who graduate and return to the work world to serve the Lord. Thanks Frank and Glenna!

The Calvary Bible Institute still needs at least six more computer workstations with Windows operating systems to train those who need it in basic keyboard and word-processing skills.

If you have, or your business is updating their computers and would be willing to donate them to a worthy project, we would joyfully receive them.

If you have one or more to donate, send me an email at the email address on this letterhead with your contact information, and I will contact you to make arrangements.

It could make a real difference in the availability of employment for these fellow believers after they leave school. ✨

We are grateful that we serve a Living God who hears and answers us. For whatever reason, He has chosen to move when His people pray—He's waiting on us. I would like to share this prayer with you.

O Lord, our God, You are the high and lofty One who is worthy of more honor than we are able to give. There is none beside You that qualifies to be called God. You are the One who extends mercy to those who love You and who endeavor to keep Your moral commandments.

We as a nation have sinned against You and have departed from Your precepts, judgments, and Your principles of moral righteousness which the Founders of our nation subscribed to. You placed it in the hearts of the Pilgrims and the Puritans to found a civil society that lived according to Your ways. Out of the New England states grew a moral fabric that led to the founding of this nation based on the principles of Your word. To our deep disappointment, we have long since departed from their honorable beginnings.

The ways of life and the moral law that produces a peaceful and productive society belong to You, and to our shame we have those among us who have directed Americans away from those truths. Since common sense is Your sense, we have departed from God sense in the affairs of our nation. Enough of our government has become unfaithful until it has become corrupt.

Our nation is murdering Your babies, destroying the boundaries of the marriage covenant, changing Your order in sexual matters, and generally operating in covetousness so that the securing of material possessions has become top of the list of importance. Men seek power and take over the flow of the national economy for their own selfish ends. The lovers of Truth in our country are ashamed at the decisions that our government and court systems have made.

The opposers of right have called wrong right and right wrong. To our shame, clearly revealed areas of sin in the Scripture are now celebrated in our country as right, good, and acceptable.

To You O Lord belongs mercy and forgiveness which You have set before us in the Scripture, but we as a nation have transgressed Your law, have given lip-service to portions of Your Word, but have not obeyed the voice of the Lord from the heart; therefore, the resulting curses Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 28 have been poured out on us in the forms of natural disasters, civil disobedience, social confusion, and a moral decline so that we have become a nation of liars and thieves—liars who will not keep their word, and thieves who cause stores across America to set up security to prevent theft. We have rejected Your Ten Commandments and we are seeing the results in our society.

Yet America has not received the full extent of what Your righteous judgment could bring upon us, because You have not forgotten Your mercy and You honor the remnant across America who cry out to You for revival and a moral awakening. We cry out that You remember Your mercy when flagrant, in-your-face disobedience causes Your justice to be insulted and You are rightly moved to wrath. Move in the hearts of people across this land and produce a spiritual awakening. Move in such a way in the leaders of our nation that their decisions will end up in the right way for the good of this nation, and we can bring proper acknowledgement to You so that Your character and activity will be known in the land. In the name of Jesus, let it be done to Your name's honor and glory, Amen! ✨
