

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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Shadrach Manuel Report: Maturity

One of the signs of maturity is how we treat our siblings. Do we work towards harmony, loving and serving them? Or are they nuisances, always in the way of the "important things" we "need" to do? I know I still have much room for improvement here. Some days it seems so hard to get anything "important" done (i.e., school and Shadrach assignments) with a 5 and 10-year-old around, needing me to keep them on task. But, this is all practice for when I have my own kids! Jesus is helping me to love and serve them more, especially in my attitude towards Sarah when she gets up in the morning earlier than I would like (most mornings)—devotions with no one in my lap are now over! —Joanna

Shadrach Weekend! – February 22–24 in Muskegon, MI

Starting Friday evening and ending Sunday early afternoon. If you are interested in coming, please call or e-mail us and we will get specific information to you. Start praying now for God's will, anointing and presence, and our obedience! Hope to see you there!

A Love Story Made in Heaven

We added a book last year to the Shadrach list, The Voice of Joy, which is an autobiography of Neil Verway. It is a tremendous story of the leadership of the Holy Spirit in this man's life and his ministry in Japan. He and his wife are still ministering there. Website is: www.japanmission.org. This month, I want to tell you how God brought Neil and Peggy Verway together.

Neil was raised in a Christian home and gave his heart to Jesus at the age of seven years. When Neil Verway received the call to the mission field of Japan, he was living in rural South Africa and was seriously dating a young lady. When she heard about his plans, she said she was more than happy to marry Neil but she was never going to Japan. Because of their strong attachment, Neil was thrown into a furious battle about which he desperately wrestled with the Lord. Finally, he told the Lord, if He still wanted him to go to Japan even without his sweetheart, that he wanted the Lord to help him lead two people to Jesus that next week. Neil decided he wasn't going out and looking for anyone either. The book tells the story of how the Holy Spirit led two different people to him at different times that week who wanted to get saved. The decision was made! Neil, still in pain over the loss of his girl, brashly made a covenant with the Lord: "I'm finished with women!...For sure! I'm going to serve You unmarried for the rest of my life!"

Neil arrived in Japan in 1951. The culture was quite a shock for shy, backward Neil Verway. He remembers being pushed onto jam packed trains, and one time on a train, he lifted one foot up to get his balance...and then didn't have room to put it down for the rest of the trip! The first step in his ministry was to attend language school. Another student who was attending was Peggy Davey. The crowded life in Japan was not a shock to her. She came from London and she was thrilled by the life in Japan. She was not raised in the church and didn't feel the call of God on her life until she was 22. She had a vivacious personality and immediately began to talk to

her friends about Jesus. She then joined a missionary training college and was off to Japan.

There was an immediate drawing between Peggy and Neil. This was very disconcerting to Neil as he had every intention of holding to his promise to God to not have anything more to do with women. The eighteen months that he waited to do something about this tugging on his heart about drove Peggy crazy with her outgoing personality. The verse that Jesus gave her was Ruth 3:18, "*Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter.*"

Neil's turmoil over the issue increased. Finally, he asked for time off of his language studies to settle the matter. He fasted and prayed. After six days, he still did not have an answer, but the Lord then gave him this verse: "*..it happened after ten days that the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah...*" (Jer. 42:7). Ten days!! That seemed too long in his anxiousness to have the matter settled. Heaven was completely silent then until the 10th day. He was weak and discouraged. The verse the Lord gave him on the tenth day was from Isaiah 55:8, "*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord....*" All of a sudden, he knew! It was like God said to him, "In South Africa you made the choice, in Japan I made the choice for you!" God had released him from his foolish vow, and wanted him to marry Peggy. For two more days, Neil continued to fast – praising his magnificent God.

When he came down from his mountain, he informed Peggy of how the matter was settled. They were both filled with joy and expectation of what God wanted to do through their lives. Now they have been serving in Japan for over 50 years. Their book tells many wonderful stories of the Holy Spirit continuing to lead them. (Excerpts taken from Half a Century in Japan by Neil Verway.)

Reports due: 3rd Trimester- May 16, 2008

Book Report (choose from Booklist)
Memorize: Hebrews 12:1–14

Servanthood and Witnessing Reports
Shadrach Manual Report #3: Fruitfulness

Book Report: Rees Howells Intercessor By Norman Grubb

It was amazing to read of the life and FAITH of Rees Howells. He was a man totally surrendered to God in all areas of his life, TRUSTING GOD for his needs without making them known to others. The Holy Spirit made him live out the Bible in ways most people thought crazy, strange and embarrassing. (If you are really dead to the world and do not care what others think of you, in a culture where absolutely NO man leaves the house without his hat, in the daytime anyway, except maybe a tramp, would you do it? The Spirit told Rees to, and he did—after much struggle.) God called him to be an intercessor, which often meant living the same way the people he was interceding for lived, such as tramps.

One great test came when God called Mr. Howells and his wife to Africa. Earlier they had offered to raise the child of another missionary couple to Africa so they could devote their whole time to mission work. Now, God was asking them to do just that—give up their own baby son to someone else to raise and go themselves. It was one of the hardest tests of their lives—no thought of Samuel (God gave them the name—and his mother's name was Hannah!) was to bring them back to England. During their six years there, there was great revival, the Spirit poured out himself on thousands of people, in six countries.

By the time of World War II, Rees had started a Bible College. For six years, during the war, the college was shut down so the students and staff could devote their time to intercession for the nations involved. They had great faith—believing faith—once they believed they had victory, their intercession turned to praise.

I was very challenged by the life of Mr. Howells to surrender every area of my life, totally, completely to the Holy Spirit. And also by his faith in the word of God—what He has said He will do He will do. —Joanna

Quote from a message by Loran W. Helm:

“Tell the women and girls to always be as becometh holiness, look like women, act like women...be a holy people. Don't look like the world; don't take on the styles of the world. We have to be careful how we wear gold and what we put on as apparel.” “See, we in the church have grieved the Holy Spirit because we took on the styles of the world. We take them right on and grieve the Holy Spirit.”

Book Report: The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

Corrie ten Boom grew up in Holland, living a peaceful, happy life in a Christian family. When she was young, three of her aunts lived with their family of six, but eventually her brother, Willem, and her sister, Nollie, got married and moved away and Mama and the aunts died. So the three who lived at the Beje (the ten Boom's home) were Father, Corrie, and her oldest sister, Betsie.

In 1939, Germany began a war with Holland, and in five days the Germans had taken over, and Holland surrendered. Jews began to be treated very badly, even by many Dutchman. Soon, all Jews were under arrest, and they began to come to the Beje for hiding, and the ten Booms would find places for them in different homes. Eventually a secret room was built into the Beje, and seven Jews began to live there permanently.

Then, finally one morning the arrest came to all who were at the Beje, except the Jews who were safely hidden. After about ten days, Father became ill and died. Betsie and Corrie were shipped several times from place to place, twice as many as would fit into train cars, being treated as animals. Often they were fed only two meals a day—a plate of tasteless gruel in the morning and a piece of bread in the evening. Some places they were put to work at factories, or digging trenches. About eight people would be crammed into bunks designed for four. Although they were not allowed to keep belongings, God graciously provided a way to smuggle in a Bible, and every day in concentration camps they held Bible time and prayer meetings with other prisoners where the guards would not stop them because of fleas. So many women wanted to participate in the

meetings, that they began to hold them twice a day. Nearly a year went by when Betsie got very ill and was taken to the concentration camp's "hospital." She did not live long. Three days after Betsie's death, Corrie was released. Later she found out that it was by human mistake that she was released. The next week after her release, all women her age had been taken to the gas chambers. After her release, Corrie began to fulfill Betsie's dream of a home for those who were hurt by the war. She also traveled around to many countries speaking, and found Germany to be the most desolate and ruined.

I marvel at the faith and endurance that Corrie and Betsie had and pray that God will help me to be that way, too. I am also thankful for the way that God uses persecution of His children to help those around them. —Rachel

Conviction or Condemnation???

A magazine that I particularly enjoy is “Brush Arbor Quarterly.” There is an article in the current issue by Israel Wayne entitled, “Conviction or Condemnation.” It has caused me to think that it may be time to review the difference in our newsletter.

What *is* the difference between condemnation and conviction?? Condemnation is a weight of judgment that God reserves for the unpenitent sinner (James 2:10). Conviction is God's work to bring us into right standing with Him (Heb. 12:6). Furthermore....

Condemnation on the believer is from Satan. It is a generalized beating down and discouragement that has little or no hope in it. Such as, “I'm never going to get this walk with God right. I've got this problem...this problem...and *that* problem...plus a bunch more. I've been struggling with this for years...and making no progress.” Condemnation makes us feel that intimacy with God is impossible for us. Condemnation doesn't even go away when we try to make things right with God and man. No, the devil will continue to be the *accuser of the brethren* until the end of time (Rev. 12:10).

Conviction on the believer or unbeliever is from the Holy Spirit. It is a specific awareness of a specific sin(s) that grieves Him. We know that there is hope upon making the proper confession to the Lord and/or to people. Conviction turns into joyous victory when we deal with our sin. Conviction only brings us closer to our goal of being more like Jesus. It helps us!

What are the similarities between conviction and condemnation?

- 1) There can be truth in both of them – the Devil will condemn us with true statements about our weaknesses. He wants us to forget that it is only with Jesus' help we can make it. He wants us to focus on our failings.
- 2) Condemnation or conviction can both come through people – Individuals can speak either condemnation on us or conviction on us. Again, remember that condemnation is an overall defeatism. However, conviction, though it may be still very difficult and momentarily discouraging, is specific in nature, has hope in it and has relief on the other side.
- 3) Our carnal nature will try to use *both* condemnation or conviction for our downfall. The flesh in us will wallow in condemnation and a ‘woe is me’ attitude. On the other hand, our flesh will also try to convince us that the sins the Spirit is convicting us about aren't that important! When we are feeling uncomfortable about something in our lives, we need to get in prayer with honesty before the Lord. Are we willing to make things right where we need to? Or are we going to blow it off as ‘not necessary’? Let's say, “I surrender all!”
- 4) Conviction and condemnation both bring sorrow.

The Holy Spirit wants to bring us to victory and joy. Conviction will definitely get us there – not condemnation. I will close with the same verse Bro. Wayne used in his article, “*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*” (2 Cor. 7: 10) —Karin