

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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Clean Vans & Feet

At 5:00 in the morning, decisions are hard to make, so I often let the van make the choice of which road to take: either the paved Adams Center road (takes a little longer) or the gravel Paulding road (quicker choice). Why, do you ask, do I permit the van make the choice? It's simple: if the van is already dirty and dusty, the van states very simply, "Take the gravel road, what's a little more dust?" But if my van is clean, it cries out, "Avoid the dusty, gravel road like the plague!" Is that funny, or what?

At the last supper, as Jesus was washing the disciples' feet, Peter became obstinate, not wanting Jesus to wash his feet. Jesus said, "*If I do not wash you, you have no part in me*" (John 13:8 RSV). Of course, Peter didn't want that, so he quickly responded, "*Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!*" (v. 9). Jesus replied, "*He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over*" (v. 10).

We must remember that Jesus and His disciples did not ride the train or bus around Israel – they walked wherever they went. They also did not wear "high tops" to keep the feet clean – they wore sandals, permitting their feet to get dusty on the dry and dusty paths and roads. So it was a custom that when you arrived at your destination, the host of the home (after greeting the guests) would wash their feet. It was more than a sign of welcome – it was a needed duty.

Okay, so how do these two things fit together – vans and feet? Like the choice of the van, in real life, we often do the very same thing. If our hearts are not truly clean, we've been in a little (or much) sin (the dust and dirt of the world and Self); what's a little more dust? It's much easier to sin a little more. The violence or cursing or sexual innuendoes or jesting of the movie or TV show don't bother us much. A little resistance (actually rebellion) toward our parents is acceptable – no problem, just a little more dust. Hit and miss (more miss than hit) in our personal devotions won't hurt us. And so it goes – we can choose the dirty, dusty road with seeming impunity (we think – free from judgment).

But what happens when you've been to the altar or had a sweet time of cleansing in the presence of Jesus? Now you are clean – spiritually bathed! There is something at work inside that doesn't want to go near even the dust of sin. Your heart is smitten when something unclean is even offered you. You *run* from the uncleanness as Joseph ran from the enticing Potiphar's wife. It's almost as if the decision was made before you thought about it.

There's something more to be learned here: we have to live in this world. And just as Jesus and the disciples got dusty feet from their daily walk and needed their feet washed, so we also get "dusty feet" – spiritually speaking – when we walk in this world (things we hear and see but not sin by participating in). Note that Jesus said, "*He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over.*" Walking in the world need not dirty the heart – if we are keeping it with all diligence (vigilance – RSV, Prov. 4:23) – we can still remain clean before the Lord. But we do need to wash the dust off from our daily walk. And how is this done? By daily communion with God and His saints through prayer, praise, deep Bible study, and fellowship, and by obeying God's Word (John 15:3). The more we stay out of these cleansing agents, the more the dust will collect, and the easier it will be to choose the "dusty road."

Youth, is your heart clean? The proof may be easy to discern: do you run from sin of any sort like the plague, or do you easily turn to the dusty, worldly paths? If more than your feet is dirty, go to Jesus now and bathe, and then continue in His words, "...go, and sin no more"!!! "*And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints*" (Rev. 19:8). —Don

FYI – Change of Retreat Location:
Kentucky Mountain Bible College
Vancleve, Kentucky
Retreat Date is the same: June 19-24
(Forms enclosed)

Thank you for sending in your reports. They have been a blessing to us! May the Lord continue to work in and through you as you obey Him, making the assignments more than a duty but a lifestyle that brings blessing to others, to you, and to God!!!

The Heavenly Man - report by Joanna Paulus

Brother Yun is a Chinese Christian man from a poor village in China. He put his faith in Jesus when he was sixteen, and soon God sent two Christians to give him a Bible in answer to his prayers.

He started preaching all over the countryside and many people were saved. God often communicated with him through dreams, showing him what would happen and what he should do. He was arrested and imprisoned many times but each time he continued to trust God and focus on Jesus instead of his own suffering. Often, in prison, the prisoners would see the light of Jesus shining through him. In this way many prisoners put their hope in Christ. God has done many miracles in his life, such as escaping prison, leaving China, and much more. Brother Yun is also a house church leader, and is a wonderful example of what it is like to follow Jesus at all costs in a country closed to the gospel. I was challenged to follow Jesus no matter what the cost. It will not always be easy, but Jesus promises to be with us always.

Ten Peas in a Pod - report by Jake Litchfield

This book was inspiring in many different ways. It's about the Pent family and their adventures as they traveled, sang, quoted Scripture, spread fertilizer and trusted God for every need. What would strike someone about the Pent family is that from an early age each of the children started reading the Bible for a half an hour every day. This resulted in having much of the Bible memorized by their upper teens and early twenties. A couple of the boys were once challenged by another boy to finish any verse in the new testament and neither of them let him down, he got so frustrated that he went to the Old Testament, but in vain, these two guys finished every verse that he started.

The Pent family would travel across the USA and Canada to sing, quote the Bible and share the gospel. They didn't have a regular salary so they had to trust God for their every need.

We took this book to Montana with us and read part of it on the way and sometimes found our sides ripping with laughter at some of the instances that occurred, and other times sat in awe at a God that can keep a family of ten people fed and clothed. I have been greatly inspired to memorize much more Scripture. What better way to prepare for the mission field?

There is so much more in that book but I'll let you read it for yourself.

Help Needed: *Because of Don's work schedule, we need someone to be willing to make copies of the videos and the audio for this summer's retreat. If you are interested in doing one or both and have access to equipment to do so, please let us know. Also, we need some people who can bake snacks and other goodies (made with honey, sucanat or xylitol) for our week retreat. Please let us know if you can help out with this as well. Thanks so much!!*

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Witnessing Report

My voicemail in my cell phone begins with the Scripture Proverbs 1:7, and then it is my personal voice. A friend called Nanxin tried to reach me 4-5 times; I finally returned his call the night before. We used to go to the same elementary school in China. He just got married on March 1. He asked me what I was saying in my voice mail. I said, "Give me a moment," and I pulled out my Bible and read him the Scripture. Then he asked me what that meant. I held my breathe and made a quick prayer to God asking Him to open my friend's ear so that he would understand our Father's Words. After I read him the Scripture he still didn't know what that meant. I sent up another quick prayer to have the Holy Spirit help me to explain. Praise the Lord! With His help I explained and shared my personal testimony with him. Then he said, "You are lucky, you have experiences with God." I told him that you can too and asked him if he would like to pray with me. He told me he would get back with me next week. I will continue to pray God will help this young man. I believe I have planted the seed; the rest I will let our Father do: water it and when He says it is time to grow, it will become so beautiful, like Jesus Christ. Praise God for His grace. Thank you Father! -Mai Kwok

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A Word from Pastor Schultze... *The Devil Makes an Offer*

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them." —Matthew 4:8

Before Jesus could begin His ministry, the Holy Spirit sent Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Notice, before God can use you in that for which you were born, He will test you and try you so that you may know the power of triumph. As the devil showed Jesus the glory and glitter of the world, so he will show it to you. As Jesus was tempted to say yes, so will you. The devil, too, will offer you as much of the world as you can hold—if only you will say yes to him. Jesus saw through the whole scheme and knew that beneath the glory of the world there was nothing but rotteness. The foundation of the world's glory, her trophies, her toys, her entertainment, is filth. In other words, the devil will only show you the world's sunny side. Oh, do not be deceived. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). If you love the things of the world, its toys, its videos, its romance stories, its dress styles, its pornography, its pride, its lifestyle, the love of God will not be in you. Love for worldly thing voids divine love from your heart.

Jesus could see through the devil's offers. How did He see through it? It was because He had been in prayer and fasting the day before this temptation, and the day before that, for many days. Unless you keep up your daily prayers and fasting of the things of the world, you will not discern the wickedness, the deceitfulness, and the scam of the devil's offer. Jesus saw it, and so through it He was able to give life to others. As the devil offered Jesus the world's goods, so he will do it to you. Keep prayed up, stay in obedience, and keep saying, "No! I shall worship God only."