

Life Is Sweet

The ultimate purpose of our life, as the Puritans expressed it in the very first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. Everything else in our lives derives its meaning from that most foundational bedrock principle. Even our very lives are given to us by God, as to stewards – to use those lives for that end and to that purpose.

That gift of life is precious. That gift of life is sweet. We have always been horrified by the callous, life-denying abortion industry in the U.S. Since 1973 millions of precious little lives have been snuffed out before being able to take their first breath, in the name of the “right to choose.”

Many years ago a much-younger Franky Schaeffer (son of Dr. Francis Schaeffer) spoke at Covenant College, as a Pro-Life activist. Much of his speech was the standard fare for the Pro-Life movement at the time, and, though perfectly true and valid, was quickly forgotten. But Bill remembers one point rather vividly, even these many years later, because he had not heard anyone make that point until that day. Franky said words something to this effect:

Do you really want to help the Pro-Life movement? Do you want to make a difference and help stem

the tide of slaughter in this country? Then I urge you to actively *affirm life!* What do I mean by that? I mean live your life before God and the watching world, as though that life *really is* a precious gift from God! Too many people do damage to the Pro-Life movement by a living denial of the sweet gift of life. On the one hand, they say that every life is a precious, sweet gift from God, and we must stop treating these unborn children as though their life is worthless. Yet on the other hand, they live their *own* lives as though that *life*, that *they* received from the hand of God, is really a *curse!* ‘Oh, life is awful; woe is me!’ – such an expression is a contradiction for a Pro-Lifer. Yes, sin is a continuing reality in this fallen world. But even in this fallen world, life is precious; life is sweet. Use that precious life to glorify and *enjoy* Him!

Bill preaches through an interpreter in a church in Mexico City



Franky went on to encourage us to go on a picnic with our family, and bear testimony to the wonder of life. It wasn't *quite* like sporting a bumper-sticker that said, “Fight Abortion; Have a Picnic.” But the idea was somewhat akin to that, and comes close to that principle that Harry

Blamires calls “sacramental thinking,” in his book, *The Christian Mind*.

It is also somewhat akin to the principle Bill spoke of in his address to the Abraham Kuyper College in Mexico City – that all of life is a response to God. Whether you eat, or drink, or work in an office, or drive your car through the nightmare on Mexico Street, or bear testimony to the gospel in a conversation with a friend – do it *all* to the glory of God! We may glorify Him – indeed it is our duty to glorify Him – in each and every aspect of our lives. And that very life itself, is a precious, gracious gift to us from God.



The staircase inside the “house that Max built,” in Cheran, where Bill slept

All this has been brought home to Bill in a very personal and traumatic way in recent months. About a month after returning to the US, Bill was hospitalized with a very serious case of Hepatitis-A. The doctors were very concerned, and began preparations

to send him to another city where he could get a liver transplant, if one were available. A lot of what happened during those days is simply lost to Bill’s memory. The response of the Lord’s people was very encouraging. Word spread quickly, and thousands of believers around the world were appealing to the heavenly throne on Bill’s behalf.

Within two days, the response was so dramatic that the doctors were then talking about when they could send him home from the hospital. Recovery from such an illness is quite slow, and Bill is still weak, and cannot sustain his normal pace of activity. But we are extremely grateful for his progress so far, and very thankful for the prayers of God’s people.



A group gathers for worship in the Tarascan village of Paracho. There were many fond memories of “Tata Max,” - Dr. Lathrop

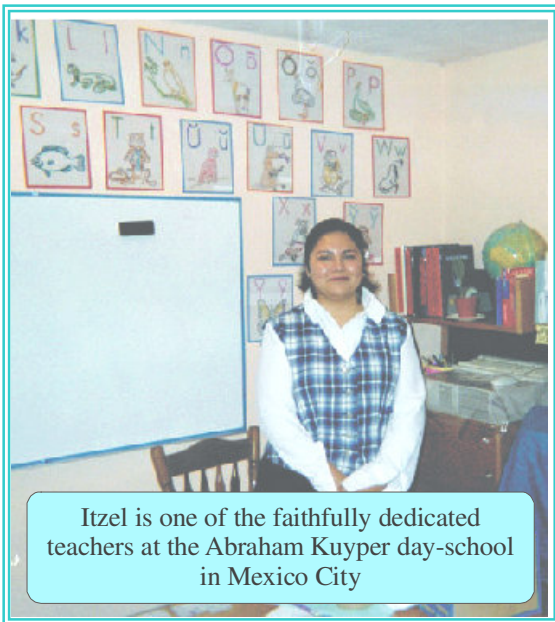
Having passed through the deep dark valley, Bill has a renewed perspective on Biblical priorities. When brought face to face with eternity, there is an added depth of clarity to our view of what is genuinely important. And Bill has a fresh appreciation of the sweetness of God’s gift of life!

We still appreciate your prayers as Bill continues to tread the long and slow road to full

recovery. We are very happy with progress so far, but there is still a long way to go.

From the Field

The illness has served to put Bill a bit more out of touch with the steady progress in Michoacán, but the work still continues. Prof. Misael Custodio was to be in Michoacán in January, for his brother Salomon's wedding, as well as to talk with the brothers about future plans and projects for 2004. We are encouraged to see the Manifestors becoming more organized and efficient in their kingdom labors.



We continue to hear from Dr. Max Lathrop, who is still in the rehab center in Edinburgh. Feel free to send him a note and let him know you are praying for him, and the Doxists in Mexico. It is very encouraging to him to hear from someone whose life purpose is

consciously to bring glory to God – to Doxa-fy the Lord.

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Dr. Maxwell Lathrop



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Items for Prayer

Rejoice with us in Bill's recovery, and yet please continue to pray for his increased strength and health.

Please pray with us again for Bill's mom, Ellen Higgins. Her protein levels are elevated again, and it looks like the cancer is returning. She will soon begin another regimen of treatment to see if it can be brought under control again. Pray for the Lord's hand of comfort, for His healing hand, for the doctors' wisdom, and that the Lord would glorify the greatness of His mercy during this time.

And please continue to pray for the Lord's work among the Tarascans in Mexico.

Thank you so much for your faithfulness in Christ's Kingdom.

The *Higgins' Herald* is published as often as we can get to it. The opinions expressed herein are those of the Editor-in-chief, and/or its Editorial staff, unless we didn't really mean to put it just that way. For any blessing you may receive from this publication, we give all glory to our Lord. For any blame, it lies with me. *sic biscuitus disintegrat, cum grano salis.*

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