

HEDGE

A Magazine for Deacon's Wives — Dutch Caribbean Union — 1/ 2021



A Hedge of Family Worship



HEDGE

This magazine is a reminder for us that God stands beside us and according to Job 1:10, He is surrounding the ministerial families and the wives of deacons and their respective families.

May each article help to set a hedge around our homes,

Alongside that, we have the responsibility to be thankful and to serve with love. Of those who have received much, much is required.

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NOTE: All unnamed article is contribution of the editor



In our time and age, just as in the past, people tend to forget and neglect that which is important. In the beginning they are faithful in obeying God, but as time passes by, the urgency declines, and they become indolent and things start getting out of hand.

Today I want to encourage each Deacon's wife, and also each reader, to comply with the expectations that the Lord God has for us. Let us allow the words of Isaiah 58:12 to become a reality, *"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, 'The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.'"*

Are there any areas in our personal lives, in the lives of our families, in our work, and in our service, where we have become neglectful? There is no need for it to remain as such. There is hope! We are still alive! Let us start working and with God's help, let us be reanimated and infuse others with our influence and let us fix things.

A heartfelt thank you for all those who have helped by writing one of the articles. May God richly bless you all!

With christian appreciation:

Anna Maria Manuela Croes



HEDGE OF FAMILY WORSHIP

By: Pastor Jurvensley Koots



I can well imagine that at these moments you are tired of hearing that we are living amidst a pandemic of Covid-19. Probably when you saw those words, you thought to yourself, “here we go again”. Maybe you even wished to turn the page and read another article without being reminded of the bitter reality. But I want you to take the time to analyse an interesting principle that this crisis has emphasized.

Whether we like it or not, Covid-19 has affected the way in which we live dramatically. There are many theories and speculations about a hidden agenda behind this world crisis, but one thing I know for sure, the Bible says that our reality is permitted by God. During a conversation that Jesus had with Peter, Jesus says to Peter, “Satan has asked permission to sift you like wheat” (Luke 22:31). In the book of Job, any act of damage that Satan wished to do, he needed the permission of God first.

You may be thinking, how can God permit bad things to happen to His children? Before this thought can cause any doubts about the goodness of God in your mind, allow me to remind you about another reality that the Bible mentions. The Bible, at many occasions says that God knows the end from the beginning, and that nothing is permitted in our lives that will hinder the Divine purposes. Do you remember the troubled life of Joseph? With this thought in our minds, let us consider the possibility that God per-

mitted this pandemic to happen, in order to teach us some important lessons. In the following section, I will clearly share some of these important lessons with you. Due to the pandemic, we have been forced to remain at home and to keep the doors of our temples closed for a period of time. While the doors of our temples were closed, we had no other option, but to remain at home and worship with our family. As the days were passing by, more and more people expressed their need to return to the temple for worship. This has brought an impression to my mind, that for many of the people of God, we have created a perception that says that our worship is complete only when we gather together in a building, called a church. And if this worship session, in this building, is not possible, we feel that our whole worship and adoration is incomplete.

Let us place all of this in perspective. I believe that one of the reasons why God permitted this pandemic was to help us understand that our first church is our family.

God wishes us to understand that the promise that Jesus made to His disciples in Matthew 18:20, namely “*where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in their midst*”, will be fulfilled in our homes when our family holds their family worship. Therefore God’s presence will be in our homes.

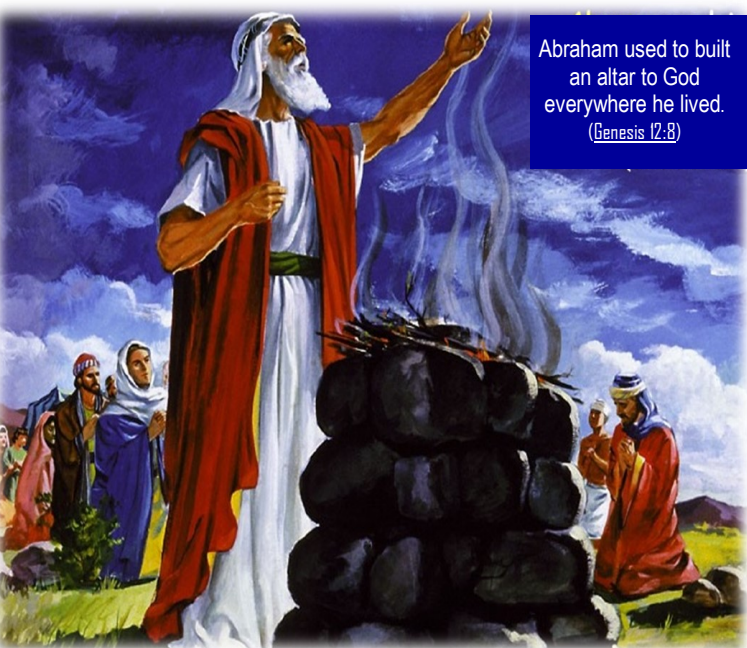
But the reality is that in many of our homes, which is the church at home, the family worship was and is neglected while men prefer to seek the presence of God in a church building.

As a people of God, for many years, we have forgotten to do the most important thing, which is to seek God’s presence in our homes. This does not mean that worshipping in church with our brethren is wrong. In fact, we need to understand that worshipping at the church has more meaning when each family has first spent time seeking God’s presence and leading, and afterwards have come together to worship Him as the Creator of the whole universe.

Sister Ellen White, in her sermon to the church at Des Moines in Iowa, the 1st of December 1888, mentions something similar:

“May the Lord help us, my brethren, to have a good practical religion at home, because when we manage to practise our religion at home, we shall have excellent religion in a group (at church).”

The Bible supports this idea. Adam and Eve, the first family on earth, worshipped God in their home, which was the garden of Eden. I can imagine that Adam and Eve had great joy while anticipating the moment when God came in person, and sat down with them under a fruit tree, and spoke with them. When you analyse the story of the patriarchs, the great men of faith, such as Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they all called their families together for worship of the Creator, God of heaven and earth.



Abraham used to build an altar to God everywhere he lived. (Genesis 12:8)

Our roots, as a people of God, as descendants of Abraham through Jesus Christ, flow from this religious system which is based on family worship. Another Biblical example is when God liberated the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. God took them into the wilderness, and there they camped, each tribe assigned together, and each family encamped in their own tents. God, through a miracle, provided food from heaven. Manna fell down from the sky during six days, and the people were able to collect what was necessary for each day. Only on the sixth day were they permitted to collect a double portion of Manna, and to save a portion for

next morning, the seventh day, the holy Sabbath. In Exodus 16:29, Moses says the following: *“They must realize that the Sabbath is the Lord’s gift to you. That is why He gives you a two-day supply on the sixth day, so there will be enough for two days. On the Sabbath day you must each stay in your place. Do not go out to pick up food on the seventh day.”* It is important to notice that God tells the people that no one is to go out on the seventh day, due to the fact that it was the Sabbath day, the sacred day that God set apart for us to worship Him as our Creator. We can now understand that the people of Israel worshipped, while being in the wilderness, within their own family spheres.

Do you agree with me that this is possibly one of the lessons that the Lord God wants to teach us during this pandemic? Namely to go back to the basics, to our roots? That we must rebuild the altars within our own houses? And for us to stop and realise that we have lost sight of one of the most important things, namely our family worship?

How many times, as deacons and deaconesses, as elders and teachers in Sabbathschool, or at any other position within the church, you hurry into leaving the house, while neglecting the most important thing of the Sabbath, which is to worship God together with your family? Just like Adam and Eve, we also can experience the joy and sweetness of having God’s presence in our homes.

Hopefully, our greatest desire will be to experience that special moment when our family members come together in family worship.

Pastor Jurvensley Koots is pastor of the churches Nikiboko and Rincon in the island of Bonaire

YOU NEED A HEDGE!

By: Moncherie Manuela



“Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. You shall be prosperous. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house. Your children like olive plants all around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord”.¹

Don't you want this quote to be true for you specifically? I admonish you to 'be that beautiful fruitful vine' in mind, body and spirit.

But do you know that no vine prospers without a good hedge. As an influential woman in your local church, you are in need of a good sturdy, well-built hedge, so that your work inside of your home, but also in the church, may prosper. In other words, you need a supportive system in place, in order to protect what you are trying to let grow. Or a sturdy system in place to reduce or control the exposure to risks!

Development and growth

Let us define what needs to grow. Your family needs to blossom. Your husband has his responsibilities in the church which might be 'heavy-duty'. Within the hedge that you set up, your husband needs to prosper. Your children are following your example. They need to develop well. Your local church also needs to grow through meaningful relationships, through greater love for God, and through honest service in the community where you are. And you yourself must not wither, but bloom.

Risks

Let us define some of the risks. The risks are fatigue and anxiety, exhaustion, anger, indifference, broken relationships, loss of trust, loss of health, being ineffective or unproductive or abused (Psalm 80:12). So, build that hedge, that system, that will make you blossom in your character, words, actions, and impact.

THE ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM

A human being consists of three parts: the mind, the body and the spirit. The mind is your thoughts, your analysis, your memory (or your complete baggage of acquired knowledge throughout your entire life), which leads to the most important goal of all; *your 'choices'*. Your body is your physical being from the hair on your head to the sole of your feet (including all your internal organs). Your spirit is your character which is formed by one important choice. Do I follow God's instructions or do I do it 'my way'? Thus character is seen through your moral and ethical principles and your personality.

God wants you to be healthy in mind, body and spirit. Listen to this quote. *"All his (her) powers must be brought under control of the great Teacher. Every faculty of mind, every organ of the body, must be kept in as healthy a condition as possible, so that the work of God shall not bear the marks of his (her) defective character. Before a person is prepared to become a teacher of the truth to those who are in darkness, he (she) must become a learner."*²

A Healthy Mind

Is my mind balanced? Am I able to make good decisions? Am I increasing in knowledge? Let us review a couple of important adjustments that are possible.³

Attitude. Think positive thoughts about yourself and your family members (Philippians 4:8).

Adversity. Allow God to help you make good decisions (Romans 8:28).

Face fears. Our God champions the forgotten (Philippians 4:6-7).

Forgive and be forgiven (Matthew 6:12).

Detox your mind. Throw garbage out. Hinder your mind to remember past hurts or past sins (actions or imaginations, visible or not visible) (Romans 12:2; Philippians 3:13).

Exercise your mind by putting in new and fresh knowledge that edifies. Read an excellent book, start or continue a hobby, watch a decent documentary, make puzzles or play games that boost your brain-power. Break the influence of secular media (The Adventist Home, page 406.1 - 409.1).

Seek knowledge when you lack information (Proverbs 24:6).

Self-esteem. Do not compare yourself to others, but practice positive self-talk (Matthew 12:37).

Have the right motivation for your actions (Philippians 3:13).

A Healthy Body

Am I medically healthy? Is my family in health? Is my house in order? ⁴

Be active. Exercise. Move! (Eccl 9:10).

Rest. Take time for relaxation (Mark 6:31).

Time-management. Have a good working routine, or make adjustments that are beneficial (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Be diligent. Do not be inactive or lazy (Proverbs 15:19).

Keep your house clean. Create order. Have a plan of action (1 Corinthians 14:40).



Menu planning. Remember, the best nutrition is to receive all 19 vitamins and minerals in our bodies. If your family eats the same things over and over, be sure that you are lacking in important ingredients. Prevent fatigue, diseases and an irritable temperament through balanced choices out of the enormous variety of nuts, grains, seeds and herbs, vegetables and fruits (Colossians 3:17).

Nutrition also means stopping with bad habits (Ludington and Diehl (2001), ⁵ p. 26). Habits such as excessive sugar intake, diets or eating (drinking) patterns that lead to diabetes, to heart diseases, diseases of the bones, addictions, neuro-cerebral shortcomings, or eating disorders.

Drink enough water and get enough fresh air/sunshine (Ludington and Diehl (2001), p. 158, 159).

Tend to your appearance. Be modest and chaste (1 Timothy 2:9; Titus 2:5). But be balanced. Esther (Esther 5:1) and the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 (Proverbs 31:22) both dressed with a touch of class.

A Beautiful Spirit

Am I a gracious, kind, trustworthy person? Can God trust me with my husband, my children, my church, my community?

Is God your priority? (Proverbs 1:7).

Let not worries be your motor, but let gratitude be your strength (1 Peter 5:7).

Be joyful. Gentle, happy women are simply irresistible. You are simply a powerful magnet (Philippians 4:4).

Use words wisely. Edify your husband, your children, your community and yourself (Proverbs 15:1; Proverbs 16:21).

Do you possess the most excellent character traits which are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control?⁶ Then you are healthy. You are sick if you possess any character traits that are described in Galatians 5:16-21.

Dear wives, there is so much more to learn and unlearn. Build a good system, be steadfast and consistent and above all else, be in health (3 John 1:2). And God who sees what is done, shall reward you (Galatians 6:9).



¹ Psalms 128:1-4 (NKJV)

² Fundamentals of Christian Education (FE) p. 107.1 i 107.2.

³ Most of the ideas come from this small book from Sharon Platt-McDonald (2009) *Healing Hearts Restoring Minds. The A- Z of Emotional Wellbeing*, High Wycombe: Advent Press Limited.

⁴ For more information see small book of Nancy Van Pelt (2008), *Secrets of Sanity for Stressed Women*, Grantham, Lincolnshire: Autumn House Limited.

⁵ Aileen Ludington and Hans Diehl (2001), *Take charge of your health*, Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association.

⁶ Galatians 5:22 (NKJV)

Moncherie Manuela is daughter of pastor Orlando and Anna Maria Manuela Croes

Hedge of Example

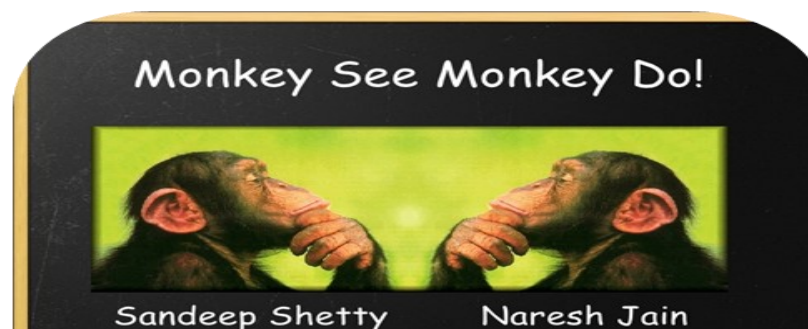
By: Ria Thielman

A hedge is a barrier that is placed around something of “value” for its protection, care or to prevent this valuable thing to get outside, or to prevent something (or someone) to come inside and hinder or destroy what is inside. In the past, we had hedges made of cactus or wood. With the sticks called chí and chá (*in Papiamentu*), we transported these columnar cacti and placed them in a braided pattern, and sometimes they took root in the ground. Eventually, it became such a construction that prevented anything from leaving or entering these hedges (Take a look at the picture).

In life, there are many types of hedges. Hedges may consist of living (animate) materials, lifeless (inanimate) materials, ideas, feelings and so forth.

If we are about to talk about a hedge made from examples, we cannot neglect the most important source of information, that delivers content about ensamples. It is our eyes. Through our eyes we absorb examples that form us into the type of person we have become, or examples that destroyed us, if we depended solely on these bad examples. How many times does a parent say to their child: “do not look at what I do, but do what I say”. Here is an example: An undesirable visitor appears in front of the house door and the mother or the father tells the child: “Tell her (him) that I am not at home. Mother (or father) have left, and you do not know when she (he) will be back at home”. The child goes and mentions what they were instructed to say. And in another situation, when the child tells a lie, the parents become angry and tell the child that he or she should tell the truth. The child is left confused. He or she doesn't know when it is permissible to tell a lie and when not.

Remember, it is ‘monkey see and monkey do’, when children are small. They will just imitate what others are doing. In Papiamentu, we say: “Kaha di òrgel no por sin su wiri”. Literally meaning, ‘a music box cannot exist without its wiri (*wiri is a metal tube with ridges, which makes a rhythmic sound when one rasps the ridges with a stick*). This means, a child cannot become someone without the aid of his/ her elders.



**It is very important
for us, adults, to educate
our children, by being
a good hedge for them.
A hedge of good influences,
and good examples that
are worthwhile imitating**

In the Bible there are many stories of people who are noteworthy and whose good example influenced others. We can clearly see this in the story of Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi. Naomi's life and conduct had such an impact on Ruth, that at the moment when they could have been separated, Ruth chose to leave her own family and religion behind and to follow Naomi to a strange place, far from her family, religion and customs. And openly she declared: *"Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God"* (Ruth 1: 16). How could she do this? It happened due to the good example that she saw.

Be a good example in your communication, your reactions, your service, your worship, your care, your reverence, in your perseverance and much more. *'That which you see, you shall become'* (2 Corinthians 3: 18). That which is constantly set before your eyes, will likely be assimilated by you.

Let each and every one of us, that is an adult, "tie the old rope to the new one", by sharing our knowledge and experiences with the younger generation. Pull the youths in, involve them in the daily activities, so that they might gain more experiences, and reason with them, so that they may learn the reasonings of things. In this manner, we are building a future generation on a firm foundation. A generation standing firmly in their shoes and being courageous in facing whatever may come their way. May their firm foundation touch every aspect of their lives, for in the end we all shall lift our eyes only into one direction.



We shall lift up our eyes to the hills from where cometh our help, our help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth and all that is in them.

Let us, mature adults, become hedges of good example in all aspects, so that when time is over, we could hear the words: *"Well done, good and faithful servant, enter in, and inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world"* (Matthew 25:34).

Lord, help us while we push on upward.

Ria Thielman is the wife of an elder and is currently the sabbath school teacher of the young adult class at the Mundu Nobo church in Curaçao



Hedge of Service



There is great pleasure and satisfaction to be found in serving others.

The Bible says: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" ([Acts 20:35](#)). Many times when we do something for someone, we do so hoping that they will reciprocate when we find ourselves in the same situations.

But when we serve, we ought not to look backwards. We ought to give/share and forget. Give and make others happy

Many times we are the ones who wish to be served.

When Jesus was on earth, His mission was to serve others. Jesus served by healing people, by blessing children, by doing miracles, and by dying on the cross.

[John 13:1-17](#) tells the story of Jesus serving His disciples by washing their feet. When Jesus finished, He left an instruction for us. He said: "*If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also must wash each other's feet*". Now, what did the Lord mean with the washing of the feet of others? Should we be walking with our buckets of water, and wash the feet of everyone we meet? No, the Lord wants us to serve others.

How can we serve, and whom shall we serve?

[Acts 20:35](#)
"Help the weak"

[Romans 12:13](#)
"Practice hospitality"

[1 Peter 4:9, 10](#)
"Give shelter"
"Take care of orphans and widows"

Help the weak ones. We must always stand ready to help those who aren't as strong as we are. Practice hospitality. How pleasant it is to invite someone to your home and when they enter, they feel immediately at home. The atmosphere in the house must be pleasant, that visitors don't wish to leave too soon.



Your house could be a place of refuge for those who are beaten down and fatigued by life. Around us we encounter many orphans and widows. Take care of their cares. You may seek help for them. There is great blessing in helping others and seeing how their needs are being met.

In the book of [Acts 9:36-42](#), Dorcas was a woman who helped others. When she died, her brethren felt her loss, because she served others well.

In [Matthew 25:32-46](#), that speaks about the end of times, when the Lord shall separate the sheep from the goats, notice the question that our Lord asks. He asks about the service that we bestowed on others. How will you answer on that day?

Let us be the difference in the lives of others, by serving them well.

Written by CARITSCHRIS, church secretary of the Montagne church.

Section of Encouragement

Hedge of Joy



Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23), but many times it seems to escape out of the hearts of Christians

Before we delve deeper into the subject, we must recognize that joyfulness is not based solely on circumstances. In fact, joy cannot impede us from experiencing negative emotions.

We know that even the more mature persons, within the people of God, had experienced joyless moments. Some of them are:

Job (Job 3:11),
"I wish I never was born".
David (Psalms 55:6-8).
Elijah (1 Kings 18:16-46).

If these men also struggled with this, how can we, nowadays, experience constant joy in our daily lives?

Do realise that joyfulness is a sense of profound happiness for what God has done in the past and for what God is doing for the future. The Greek word for 'joy' is related to the Greek word for 'grace'. It is God that grants us grace. How can we accept and experience this gift of joy?

1. FOCUS ON GOD

Instead of constantly thinking and talking about our difficulties and things that steal our joy, we can think of God. It doesn't mean that we must ignore our feelings of discontentment or try to drown our negative emotions.

Follow the example of the Psalmist, and unburden your heart to God. Tell Him clearly what is hurting. But afterwards, submit everything into His hands, and remember who He is, and become joyful in Him (Psalms 3, 13, 18, 43, 103).

2. REJOICE ALWAYS!

Philippians 4:4 gives us good advice about experiencing joy in our Christian lives. "Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say: Rejoice!" Consciously put some effort in worshipping and thanking God for everything.

3. DAILY STUDY OF GOD'S WORD

"Your word has filled my heart with happiness and joy, because I am yours" (Jer. 15:16; Psalms 19:8).

4. COMMUNICATE WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER

Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17); Jeremiah 29:12 "Everytime you look for Me and pray, I will listen."

5. FOCUS YOUR EYES ON THINGS FROM ABOVE

Choose to focus your sight on God and not on the difficult circumstances.

6. ABIDE IN HIM

Without God we are not able to cope, so remain in God (John 15:5).

7. KEEP THE HOLY COMMANDMENTS OF GOD.

A key to happiness is to live in obedience to God (John 15:9-11), so that His joy might be full in us.

8. COMMUNITY.

- God gave Elijah rest and sent a man to help him, namely Elisha (1 Kings 19:19-21; Eccl. 4:9, 10).
- Sharing our hurts (Eccl. 4:9-12; Hebrews 10:19-25).
- We do not belong to the world (John 17:14-16; Phil. 3:20).
- Do good to others (Gal. 6:10; Colossians 3:12-14).

Physical benefits of being joyful in our daily lives.

- It promotes a more healthy lifestyle.
- It boosts our immune system.
- It fights against stress and pain.
- It sustains longevity.
- Every emotion you feel affects the brain and vice versa.
- It improves your circulatory system.

Things you can do to feel happier.

- Take a walk in fresh air.
- Caress an animal.
- Kiss a loved one.
- Even force yourself to smile!

"Smiling can play a trick on your brain by improving your mood, reducing the beating of your heart, and reducing stress. Your smile ought not to be based on real feelings, for even the fake smile, is effective." - Dr. Samuel.

Why must a Christian be happy?

- God is with the Christian person.
- God will supply the desires in the heart of the Christian (Psalms 37:4).
- God hears his/ her cry (Psalms 145:18, 19).
- God saves the Christian.

Effects of Joy on your body (Healthline.com).

How to experience joy in my life? (GotQuestions.org).

What is the key to experiencing joy in our Christian lives? (compellingtruth.org).

4 reasons for joy in the life of a Christian ([Steve Schramm Ministries](http://SteveSchrammMinistries.com)).

Hedge of Love

LOVE comes from God. It is something good and beautiful. It is a character element that is necessary for the happiness and well-being of humans.

The Bible is filled with verses about love and it encourages us to love:

Jesus: "I am giving you a new commandment: love each other!" (John 13:34).

Paul: "Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters" (Heb. 13:1).

Peter: "Continue to show deep love for each other... love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).

John: "God is love" (1 John 4:7- 21).

The power of love (1 Cor. 13:4- 8).

This chapter describes love and the power of love, which comes from God to us. It clearly shows that love is not just a *feeling*, like many do think, and it is not the type of love that the world practices. It looks more like a definite decision, which inspires actions.

Illustration: "LOVE THAT DISARMS"

Virginia Randolph was an educational pioneer for people of color in North America. She started to teach classes, in a school in the rural south, in 1892. While she was trying to teach higher ethical norms, together with her regular lessons, she was resented by many parents.

In reality, one mother boldly proclaimed that she was going to beat each and every teacher at that school and teacher Randolph was the next candidate.



One day Virginia saw the lady standing on the porch, holding a large stick in her hand. She just finished reading 1 Corinthians 13 in class. "Children," she said while trying to keep her voice calm, "This morning the teacher is going to pray, "Lord, be merciful to the good mother who came to school today." We are happy to see you, good mother." Virginia later on directed the children in singing the song, "I need thee every hour..."

She continued, "And now, children, this is the first mother that came to visit the school. She has two sweet children, and you know that the hands that rock the cradle, lead the world. Don't you feel proud? Teacher will ask her to speak to us."

The mother was touched to the point where her eyes filled with tears. "I came for one thing, and I have encountered something else," she said. "I will never again disturb the class." And she did what she promised and became a true volunteer at the school.

It is amazing how love can disarm hostility, isn't it? This was true in the year 1892, and it is more true now (*Women's Devotional Bible*, p. 1294).

Your and mine life can be summarized in the following command: *Love your neighbour as yourself.*" Yes, it might be hard to love some people, but here is again when love can exercise its greatest power. **It is not a feeling, but a decision, accompanied by our actions.** You are determined, and you take definite steps, notwithstanding the circumstances at that particular moment.

Love transforms and saves lives. A person, at the edge of giving up, can come back when we show love. Love dries up tears and places a smile on our faces. It gives people reasons to strive to face tomorrow. It also snatches people from the jaws of lions. When you show others love, you demonstrate Jesus to them.

The best way to preach Jesus is to show love

When people experience love, they are convinced of their sins and they desire to change, thus saving their souls.

Benefits of having a heavenly hedge around our marriage.

Job 1:10; Isaiah 5:1-7.

1. A heavenly hedge around you, your marriage, your home. This is a living hedge, filled with health and well-being. It also preserves your matrimony and every relationship in your life, a protection against the devil.

2. Blessings upon the work of your hands. It encircles your business, your career, your workmanship. A business that lacks the protective hand of God, may be easily destroyed, whenever the enemy of our souls attacks it. Therefore, seek God heartily and ask for His blessing and leadership in

your work, and your career.

3. A marriage secured under the hand of the Lord will experience prosperity. If there is a crack in your marriage, this may not happen.

4. The hedge around your marriage, makes your union fruitful and productive (Isaiah 5:5, 6). When this yard is fruitful and bearing produce, the abusers of matrimony cannot enter in and devastate your home, when God has placed a hedge around it. So, always maintain your faith in Christ Jesus, while strengthening your altar of family worship, always praying together as spouses, always reaching an agreement together, and seeking to understand each other. Fulfill all the promises that you promised each other at your wedding.

5. When you fix and build the celestial hedge around your matrimony, there will be more peace, unity, love, understanding and progress available for your marriage and home.

"Encourage the expression of love toward God and toward one another. The reason why there are so many hardhearted men and women in the world is that true affection has been regarded as weakness, and has been discouraged and repressed. The better nature of these persons was stifled in childhood; and unless the light of divine love shall melt away their cold selfishness, their happiness will be forever ruined. If we wish our children to possess the tender spirit of Jesus, and the sympathy that angels manifest for us, we must encourage the generous, loving impulses of childhood" (DA 516).

Help in relationships
(jollybeach.blogspot.com)
Power of love in a christian
(bactosonship.com)



Hedge of Forgiveness

By: Marsella Cicilia



“If you forgive people their trespasses, your Father in heaven will also forgive you” (Matthew 6:14).

House animals are very friendly and have much affection for their owners. If on a given day you scream at them, get angry, abandon them, or not give them food, they always forgive you. The next day they will happily run back to you. Do you know why they forgive us? Because they love us. If someone treats us badly, forgive them, so that we can be free and happy again. We must forgive all men.

Do you know what forgiveness means?

Forgiving others means that we forget or let go of all negative thoughts, bitter feelings, anger and the desire to retaliate, and to use these experiences as lessons that edify us towards a better well-being, and not to use them as excuses for unforgiveness. Depend on God for your inner peace. Forgiveness is the same as writing something wrongly and correcting it with a typex or gum.

Jesus is our example

Jesus asks us to forgive all bad stuff because He himself forgives us. The Bible tells us that if we do something wrong and repent of it, He will forgive us, because He loves us very much and He will throw our sins in the depths of the sea. We also need to act this way, when we forgive others.

The Bible tells different stories about people whom God forgave:

- * Adam and Eve
- * Israelites that worshipped the golden calf
- * David
- * Solomon
- * Women prostitutes

Jesus forgives a prostitute

In Luke 7:36 we encounter the lady in the house of the pharisee Simon, who invited Jesus to dinner. Jesus comes and sits at the table. Now, there was a woman, living a bad lifestyle in that city. When this lady heard that Jesus was in the house of Simon, she brought a flask of perfume.



This woman remained standing in the back close to Jesus' feet. Tears fell from her eyes, and began wetting the feet of Jesus. Then the lady dried Jesus' feet with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. The pharisee, who saw everything happen, thought in himself, “if this man was a real prophet, He would know what type of a woman she was, a sinner.” Jesus said to him: “Simon, I have something to say.” Simon said, “please, do speak master.”

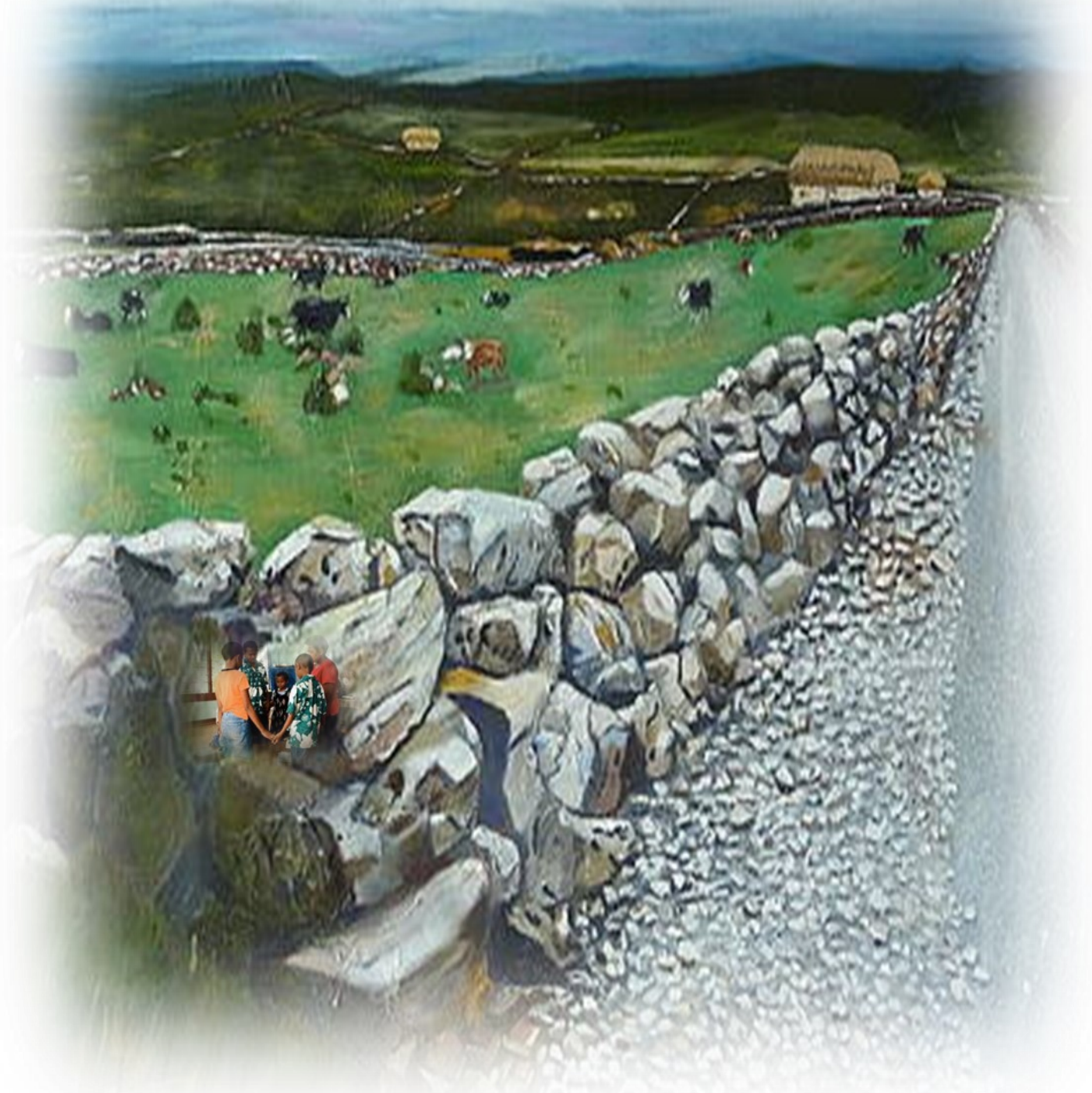
“Two men had a debt with a moneylender. The one had a debt of 500 pieces of silver. The other was indebted for 50 pieces of silver. Because both these men were unable to repay, he decided to cancel their debts. Now, which one of the men will love him more?”

Simon said: “I suppose it is the one that had the largest cancelled debt.” Then Jesus said: “Correct!” And he turned to look at the lady, and told Simon: “Do you see this lady? I came to your house, but you did not offer me water for my feet, but she washed my feet with her tears, and dried them with her hair. You have not even given me a greeting kiss; but she has not stopped kissing my feet from the moment she entered. You have not perfumed my head with oil, but she has poured out perfume on my feet. Therefore, let me tell you, she has received pardon for her sins; that is why she is demonstrating so much love.

Throughout history, God has forgiven many people. Even though many of us have heard this story before, we ought to become like this lady, who believed in Jesus, and who believed that Jesus forgave her sins. Let Psalms 51 be our example, that it may lead us to forgive and be forgiven.

May our good God keep blessing us in His ministry, while we work in His cause.

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“A lazy person’s way is blocked with briers,
but the path of the upright is an open highway.”
(Proverbs 15:19)