



Pro-Anorexia?

You might say that I enjoy a good potluck just as much as the next person. In fact, were one to take a good gander at my physique, I would dare say that the conclusion would be that I don't miss too many meals. And judging from some of the other men in our congregation, I believe the same could be said regarding them as well (after all, I didn't start the tradition of potlucks in Berryville; someone wiser than I did that). To some degree, eating is considered the sign of a healthy person. And while, admittedly, there are those of us (ahem) that could eat less, nevertheless, it can be generally stated that we get our "three squares."

There are, however, those who do not eat like they are supposed to eat. I'm not talking about those who are so poor in the world that they don't have food, but rather, those who refuse to eat as and when they ought. The condition that I am referring to is known as anorexia. This is a medical condition that describes a state of mind that compels an individual to eat so little so as to be dangerous. The thought seems very foreign to those of us who like to eat. However, did you know that there are actually pro-anorexia "help" groups available on the Internet for people who WANT to be anorexic? I recently learned that the search engine Google contains links to over 30,000 web pages related to the search term "pro-anorexia." One might ask, "Who in their right mind would not want to eat?" And that is exactly the point. Those who have such a medical condition are not thinking correctly. And yet, many suffer malnutrition and some even suffer death due to this condition. Yet, what is most astonishing is that many of these have abundant access to food on a daily basis. It's not that they don't have food; they just refuse to eat it.

As horrible as the problem of anorexia is, there is an even worse problem. I'm not speaking about physical anorexia, but spiritual. There are many today who suffer from the condition of spiritual anorexia. Oh, they may be healthy physi-

cally, but their spirits are malnourished. They don't eat like they are supposed to eat, spiritually. Like those who are physically anorexic, these believe that somehow, they will be better off by not eating. Yet, their condition does not grow better, but worse each day. It is (like the physical problem of anorexia) a faulty state of mind that causes someone to so think and act. And yes, you can find many groups on the Internet that will help someone to starve spiritually; I'm afraid to say that there are much more than 30,000 web sites devoted to spiritual pro-anorexic groups. Amazingly, some actually desire to starve spiritually. Is it that there is no access to spiritual food? No, there is plenty of spiritual food available; it is just that these refuse to eat. The consequences, however, for spiritual malnutrition are far more deadly than the physical—eternal separation from God.

We learn from the scriptures that Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:35, 48). He desires that everyone eat that spiritual bread and live (John 6:51, 58). He has made an abundance of spiritual food available for all (Matthew 5:6). Why would one not want to be nourished spiritually so that they may have eternal life? One can only come to the conclusion that they have a disorder in their life. What is that disorder? It is sin. Sin is what separates man from God (Isaiah 59:2) and what ultimately leads to spiritual death (Romans 6:23; James 1:15). Yet, amazingly, some refuse to come to Jesus that they may have life (John 5:40).

How can we avoid spiritual anorexia? We must sit up and take a bit of nourishment on a regular basis. We have opportunities for congregational Bible study on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. We each have our own personal Bible that we can study at any time. We have tracts, bulletins, pamphlets and other materials that we may take with us to study at other opportunities. The nourishment is available; what will we do with it? Will we eat? Or will we be "pro-anorexic"?

A Father Who Keeps On Trying!

As we read through the Old Testament, surveying the history of Israel's moving in and out of faithfulness to God, we ought to be impressed with both God's continual effort to regain the attention of His people by various means (message of His prophets, captivity, the example of God's dealings with various nations, etc.) and His willingness to receive them back again.

For the sake of His servant David and the sake of His eternal plan God would not give up. He would punish, but He would not completely destroy. His hope was continually held out because of His desire for the nation to be drawn by His gracious love and magnanimous mercy. Though Jerusalem at times felt they had been forgotten (Isaiah 49:14) they were not. God would not put the nation out of His mind! unrelenting

Through the prophet Isaiah we have God's sentiment well stated. "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I WILL NOT FORGET YOU." (Isaiah 49:15 ESV)

The New Living Translation reads, "NEVER! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for a child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I WOULD NOT FORGET YOU!" [NLT, © 1997,

Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House]

If you talk to most mothers they will tell you how true this is. Ask your mother if it is not so. Regardless of what a child may have done, to their mother that is still their child; still their own flesh and blood. Even when that child runs away and is gone for a long period of time, that mother does not forget her child and looks longingly



for their return. But God's point was that even should a mother reach a point where she would FORGET, HE WOULD NOT!

It has always been God's desire to gain the attention of the world (Acts 17:26-27; Romans 1:19-20). Perhaps we often wonder why God has not

just given up on the world and sent His Son to bring the redeemed home and send His fire upon the unrighteous. But God is patient (2 Peter 3:9) and continues to longingly hold out hope to the wayward. He has displayed an unrelenting desire for His creation to respond favorably to Him. Praise God that His desire is to forget our sins, but NOT TO FORGET US. May we continue to respond to every sign of His mindfulness of our life.

Have a great day DRAWN BY GOD'S UNRELENTING LOVE!

Carl Hanson
via teen-MAIL
<http://www.thechurchofchrist.com/teenmail>

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 10/17/04

Morning	The Proper Mode of Baptism
Scripture	Matthew 28:18-20
Evening	Questions and Answers
Scripture	NA
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	The Book of Micah

Weekly Record

Week of 10/10/04

Sunday Class	60
Sunday A.M.	72
Sunday P.M.	66
Wednesday	62
Contribution	\$2122.50
Budget	\$1778.13

Letters From the Internet

From Australia

Hey Kevin! At least I hope you're the one that answers this otherwise I just called someone else Kevin :) This is Megan and I'm having a blast in Australia! I just wanted to write and tell everyone that I'm doing great and to thank you all for the prayers you've been sending up for me. I know I couldn't be doing this w/o the grace of God and the support of friends and family! I'm learning and growing so much right now, and I thank God every day for giving me this opportunity to come to Australia and see more of His creation. It really is magnificent. Anyway! Please tell everyone I said hi and that I love and miss them all!

In Christian Love,

Megan

From Kokomo, Indiana

Hello,

My name is Chenell. And I am living in a woman's shelter for women and children. And we have bible study everyday and night! Thank you Lord!

God Bless,

Chenell

From Anonymous Location

Hi there my name is Kristin, and I Just did the study thing on our authority in religion, and wow I was blown away it is so cool.

In Christ's loving arms I go,

Krissy

From Ste. Genevieve, MO

I would like to thank you for making your bulletin available through my e-mail. I really enjoy reading it. I attend the Church of Christ in Ste. Genevieve Missouri. I would love to come visit you guys some-time. Thanks again for all you do. Keep it up and God bless you all.

Doug

From Anonymous Location

I enjoy your sermons and lessons very much. Thank you for your good work and your love for souls.

Sincerely,

Kerry

Kevin's Korner

Whew what a week it has been! This past Sunday we began our gospel meeting and it was over almost as quickly as it seemed to begin. The spiritual instruction that brother Forehand gave were superb. I believe that the lessons that were delivered were truly edifying and valuable in our efforts to continue to be faithful and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus. I know that brother Forehand was appreciative of your hospitality and I also was VERY appreciative of everything that the members here did for us this past week. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

We had two opportunities this week to teach at the nursing home. Tuesday morning brother Forehand taught from Matthew 8 and this past Thursday afternoon I had my regular

weekly Bible study. We studied Matthew 9. We are studying through the book of Matthew right now. It seems like more and more come to attend this study each week. Even some members of our community outside of the nursing home attend. Each of the residents are very appreciative of the fact that we are just studying the Bible for itself and I'm so thankful to the staff at the nursing home who have been very helpful in providing these opportunities for us to teach.

The nursing home is always looking for volunteers to help with little things. If you would like to give of some of your time to these wonderful citizens of our community, please contact the volunteer coordinator, Mary Ellen, at the nursing home.

This past Friday night we had a great time with the other Cub Scouts and their families. We had a hotdog roast, short singsong, and hayride

scheduled. The rain that rolled in Friday night interrupted our plans to a degree. It would rain and quit and rain and quit and we never thought we were going on the hayride. Finally, we just decided to go and everything worked out fine. The boys really enjoyed playing basketball and ping pong. Please pray for me as I work with these families to help them have quality time with their children.

Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn
Quigley

Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Gary Bragg, William Collins, Ruby Hand, Curtis Hull, Bill Powell, Neva Welch, Joe Westlake, Billye Wiley.
- Please remember our shut-ins: Curtis Hull and Edith Mischler.
- This month the ladies day out will be a trip to the War Eagle craft fair. If you would like to attend this event, please see Debbie Smith this morning!
- Believe it or not, October has five Sundays this year. Our quarterly singing at the nursing home will be the last Sunday afternoon of this month at 2:00 PM. We hope you make your plans to be with us.
- Fall back! — Our fall time change is coming up. It will be on the morning of the 31st, but you will need to set your clocks back before you go to bed Saturday the 30th.
- The church in Bellefonte is hosting a youth activity this afternoon. For those who are interested in attending, please see Rusty Windle.
- Our monthly youth devotional is next Sunday evening. The devotional will be at Kevin and Mary Lynn's house. Please bring chips, dips, drinks, cookies, and chocolate.
- Trish Foster is having a 40th birthday party on October 30th at 6:00 PM here at the church building. Being only 4 years away from 40 myself, I can appreciate that it is a significant milestone. Trish is asking that everyone bring their favorite game and we will eat cake, drink some punch, and play some games.
- The pantry item for this week is pancake mix.



Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	October 17th, 2004	October 24th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Bob Moore
Scripture Reading:	Leon Duncan	Jerry Roller
Lord's Table	Dan Hand	John Gass
(assist)	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
	John Gass	Ray Duncan
	Jack Gentry	Perry Foster
Closing Prayer	Glenn Williams	Bill Fort
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Brent Moore	Bruce Foster
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley
	Jerry Roller	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Brandon Foster
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Kevin Cauley
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Dan Hand
Closing Prayer:	George Eddings	Ray Duncan

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