

Amwell Echoes

EARLY AUTUMN 2002

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Amwell Church of the Brethren
40 Sandbrook-Headquarters Road
Sergeantsville, N.J. 08557

PHONE:
(908) 237-1454

FAX:
(609) 397-9445

Pastor:
(609) 397-4842

E-MAIL:
contact@amwell.org

We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.amwell.org

Leadership at Amwell

• **Pastor Robert DiSalvio**
(609) 397-4842

• **Deacon Chairman George Hettman**
(609) 466-3554

• **Deacon John Caimano**
(908) 284-2258

• **Deacon Robert Hughes**
(732) 780-3398

• **Deacon Jeff Kiskurno**
(215) 968-5584

From The Pastor's Pen . . .

by Robert DiSalvio, Pastor at Amwell COB



What Goes On Here?

The Fall season is upon us. It is the time of year when, after a lethargic summer schedule, we go into ministry "**HIGH GEAR**".

- Bible pages can be heard rustling as Bible Study begins each Wednesday at 7 PM
 - The sounds of dozens of feet scampering throughout the annex clamor on Friday nights as the Youth Groups get started.
- Saturday mornings alternately play host to Mens' and Womens' breakfast and discussion.
- The Tuesday Morning Craft Group continues to buzz and sew (They don't take a summer break!).
- A new round of Disciplers and Disciples convene each week to dig into God's Word and learn "The Basics".
- The Deacons are ready to begin an individual Monthly Couples Ministry. (I don't want to take the wind out of their sail by giving away details)

The Primary purpose of small groups at Amwell is to minister to individuals through their peers. Small groups centered around God's word allow people to make connections with others in the congregation in a way that can not take place on Sunday Mornings.

Growing Churches, such as ours, need to provide opportunities for believers to grow together, serve together and support one another.

(Continued page 8)

BLANCHE'S CORNER ...by *Blanche Carl*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The following is quoted from MIKE CALHOUN, speaker at the Leadership Development Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania September 16, 1995:

The die has been cast. I've stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a Disciple of His.

I won't look back! I won't let up! I won't slow down! I won't back away! I won't be still!

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure.

I'm finished and done with low living, and sight walking, and small planting and smooth knees, and colorless dreams, and tame visions and dropped goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, I no longer need prosperity, I no longer need position, I no longer need promotion or popularity.

I don't have to be right! I don't have to be on top! I don't have to be recognized. I don't have to be praised! I don't have to be regarded nor rewarded!

I now live by His Presence, lean on faith, my goal is Heaven. My road is narrow, my way is rough and my companions few, my guide reliable, my mission clear!

I can not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, nor hesitate in the presence of adversity nor negotiate at the table of the enemy, nor ponder in the pool of popularity.

I won't give up! Shut up! Let up! Until I've paid up and stored up and prayed up and preached up for the Cause of Christ!

I am a Disciple of Jesus -- I must go 'til He comes, work 'till He stops me, and when He comes in His awe for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me.

My colors are clear!



MEET . . . **THE FERELLO FAMILY!!!**

What a blessing Amwell has in the Ferello family. Joe, Sherry, Sarah and Maria are such a delight to know and to enjoy!

Sherry, who was "raised right around the corner" has always been a fixture at Amwell and came to the Lord as a young child. Joe, a Philly boy raised Catholic, admits to being a "Closet Christian, especially during a stint in the military" until one blessed Easter Sunrise Service.

He met the congregation and Pastor Bob and his personal relationship with Jesus bloomed. He has been a constant ever since!

Joe and Sherry were married in 1996 and reside locally. Joe, a draft and design professional, was caught in the "down-sizing" at Dupont and is currently passing the time at the Flemington Storage Facility. Sherry, the busy mother of twin daughters, works as Benefits Coordinator at the Hunterdon Democrat newspaper.

We all are blessed with their personal ministry in the church. Sherry, our elected Church Clerk, gives a helping hand in the kitchen when she can and takes up a role in Children's Church. Joe keeps busy serving on the Trustee Board, handling the Digital recordings for our radio Ministry and is our all-around Sound/AV guy. Being the proud parents of twins Maria and Sarah takes up almost every moment of their day! The Ferellos do seem to find that extra bit of energy and they make our congregation come alive with their care, smiles, humor and love of The Lord and of their Church.

 **Missionary Outreach** 

Amwell Church of the Brethren supports many Missionaries. Not only do these people and organizations count on our financial support they greatly depend on our prayers and encouragement. Please send them a card or letter to let them know you care.

Rev. Leon & Lorraine Dillinger
C/O UFM International
Box 306
Bala-Cynwyd, PA 19004

Rev. & Mrs. Edwin Martinez
C/O OC International
PO Box 36900
Colorado Springs, CO 80936

Rev. & Mrs. Benjamin Meney
Box 87
Williamsburg, KY 40769

Mrs. Ruby Simek
Box 71
Ferguson, KY 42533

Word of Life
Dave & Jane Van -
Camp
1233 Meryln St
Lakeland, FL 33813

THE GREAT COMMISSION MEANS
YOU (AND ME)



Word of Life
Dave Huizing
401 N. Howell Ave.
Riverhead, NY 11901

Ventura Slip Allows "Christian Heritage Week"

Minnesota Governor. Jesse Ventura's office accidentally proclaimed seven days in October "Christian Heritage Week" and tried unsuccessfully to correct the mistake.

The proclamation, observing Christian Heritage Week in Minnesota Oct. 13-19, was submitted to the secretary of state's office along with 16 others.

"Somehow it got in the wrong pile," Ventura's spokesman John Wodele said. "It would not have been approved."

It's too late to do anything about it now, Kent Kaiser, spokesman for Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, told the Minneapolis Star-News.

"There is no deproclaimatizing. Once it's filed, it's filed," said Kaiser. "It's not like every time they send something we call over and ask, 'Did you mean it?'"

The new order bears Ventura's signature and cites comments and the writings of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and others, recognizing them as statesmen "who did not hesitate to express their faith."

Tom Prichard, the Minnesota Family Council president called it poetic justice.

"Inadvertently, or providentially some might say, he's recognized the role of faith and religion in our society," he said. "We'll gladly accept that."

A spokesman for the Center for Christian Statesmanship in Washington, told CNSNews.com the action "demonstrates that all of our nation's leaders are servants of the most high God, whether they realize it or not."

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ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER

Helen Marauda
140 West Pennsylvania Ave
Downingtown, PA 19335
610-269-7462



Christian Emery
29 Timber East Drive
Apt 201
Lynchburg, VA 24502
804-237-8958



Mike & Zina Simon
(no current information available)

GOD OR MERE MAN Read Matthew 16: 16

A young lady was engaged to Mozart, the great musician. But the more she saw of other men, the less she thought of this great composer. This was all because of his small stature. She broke the engagement.

But the day came when the world recognized his greatness. It was then that she confided to a friend, "I knew nothing of his greatness. I saw only a little man."

There are many who look at Jesus, and all they see is a carpenter, not the Christ of God; a commoner, not the Creator.

The Bible says, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

What do you see when you look at Jesus-a mere man or the Savior of the world?

Prayer: Help us, Jesus, never to doubt or deny Thee. Save us from disloyalty and discouragement. Help us to let go and let God have His way: in Thy name. Amen

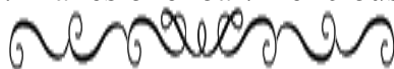
From the Recipe File of ... **MARGE LANDIS**

GRAPENUT BREAD

1/2 cup Grapenut Cereal	1 Cup Sour Cream
1 egg	1 Cup Sugar
2 Cups Flour	1 Teaspoon Baking Powder
1/2 Teaspoon Salt	1/2 Teaspoon Baking Soda



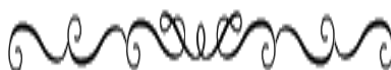
Soak cereal in sour cream for one hour. Add egg & sugar. Sift together : flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Add to Grapenut Mixture. Pour out into a greased loaf pan. Bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Makes one loaf. Delicious served spread with Cream Cheese.



Peach Potato Puffs

2 Cups Mashed Sweet Potatos	1 Teaspoon Lemon Juice
2 Tablespoons Brown Sugar	1/4 Teaspoon Salt
2 Tablespoons Butter	6 Peaches (Canned)

Combine all ingredients EXCEPT PEACHES. Whip until fluffy and light. Pour into a greased baking dish. Place peaches around the outside of the mixture. Bake at 400 degrees for about 20 minutes. Best served warm.



Just remember there are lots of ministries here at Amwell. Each is supervised in the best way possible. Each is staffed with people who have answered The Lord's call to use their gifts of the Spirit for the furthering of Christ's Kingdom here on earth!

If you see or know something that should come to the attention of a Deacon (a spiritual matter) or a Trustee (concerning safety, building & grounds, or financial), please let them know as soon as possible. Often there are rules, regulations or other matters of RED TAPE that need to be addressed. If the proper people are not made aware of problems or potential problems, they can not do what is asked or needed of them.

We are all so willing to do what we can or what we should. Please be mindful that there is a "Chain of Command" at Amwell that we must follow for order and effective ministry. We all are concerned with the running of the Church, the proper execution of rules and the uplifting of the Lord!

Where Does My Dollar Go?



Ever wonder what happens to your dollar when you toss it non-chalantly into the offering basket? Did you stop to think where it goes? What it buys? What it does for the edification and glorification of the Lord Jesus? Do you say a silent prayer as it passes from your hand into the next? Please consider the following:

A Full-Time Pastor; Not many churches of our small size are fortunate to have a Pastor who spends 40 hours each week doing the Lord's work and caring for the congregation. In our case, we are truly blessed with Pastor Bob who opens his time, heart and life to The Lord's ministry 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Deacons have offered their time and service nearly as generously. These 4 men have taken the spiritual concerns of this church to heart and want to care for the congregation as Christ instructed. They do home visits, special counseling and take the entire welfare of each member to heart. If someone fails to attend service regularly, the deacons call or visit. If a crisis happens in someone's life, the deacons want to be there to share the burden any way they can.

The Trustees are an elected group of hard-working individuals who have taken their gifts of service and administration and carry the responsibility of taking care of the physical needs of the church building and grounds. They spend many of their hours each month working on budgets, doing chores around the building, and generally have accepted the responsibility to maintain the building, grounds and fiscal running of the church.

The Busy Bees: In the tradition of a concerned Brethren Church, the ladies take care of charities that touch their hearts. The Peter Becker Nursing Home is a project the ladies work hard to support with their time, efforts and fund-raisers. Imagine being a resident of a nursing home and no one cared if you had new clothes, toiletries or visitors ...our ladies bring smiles and surprises to the Home. What a wonderful ministry! What would The National Day of Prayer be without the ladies? It is broadcasted through Hunterdon County and the satisfying refreshments after have been a community tradition for over 12 years!

Our Music Ministry grows each week! We now have a power point presentation to make singing along a bit easier. (The power point is also used during Pastor's sermon & during VBS and can be adapted to Wednesday Bible Study!) We have a fabulous keyboard player, a drummer who gives his all and the Praise Singers who willingly raise their voices to Praise God every week! What would our service be without music? Without a piano for the hymns? When we DON'T have the music, we miss it!

The Lord's message is sent over the **radio** and onto the **internet** with world-wide listening possibilities! When technology is used properly, The Gospel can be up-lifted to thousands, maybe millions! We have the chance to bring The Word to a starving and hungry world!

Vacation Bible School has been an Amwell tradition for over 51 years with no end in sight! We offer a high-quality VBS to the community and it is not unusual for over 90 children (not to mention the dozens of adults) to crowd our grounds for 2 weeks each summer! The Gospel is given to many people during these 2 weeks and we have seen planted seeds take root and bloom.

Sunday School for children AND adults has been a high priority of Amwell since the beginning. Every week dedicated teachers and students gather to be fed the Bread of Life in a learning and casual atmosphere.



Friday Night Youth is also a tradition here at Amwell. The kids get together for fun AND fellowship. The words of Christ are presented to them at a level they can understand. They also go on outings, have meals together and just enjoy a decent Christian relationship with their peers.

Ever have lunch after Church? Ever wonder where the food comes from? Just appears? Catering? Nope.

The Ladies of the Kitchen Ministry make sure we are physically fed after we have been spiritually fed. These wonderful meals follow Church services, funerals, special events like The National Day of Prayer, VBS classes....and much more.

(continued on page 9)

Parishioner's Potpourri



OCTOBER, 2002

- Morning Star Craft Group Meets Every Tuesday @ 9:30 AM
- Every Wednesday: Dessert & Bible Study starting 7 PM.
- Olympians and Teen Youth Group Friday Evening
(See Michelle DiSalvio)
- Men's Prayer Breakfast Every Other Saturday 7:30 AM @Amwell Church of the Brethren **OR** First Brethren Church of Sergeantsville (See Jeff Kiskurno)
- Saturday Morning Women's Bible Study (See Carol Hettman for Time & Place)
- 3 Busy Bees @ 7:30 PM In The Annex
- 17 Thursday Noon Group @ 11 AM (Place TBA)
- 20 Mission Sunday
- 20 Love Feast

NOVEMBER, 2002

- Morning Star Craft Group Meets Every Tuesday @ 9:30 AM
- Dessert & Bible Study Wednesdays 7 PM.
- Olympians and Teen Youth Group Friday Evening (See Michelle DiSalvio)
- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:30 AM Every other Saturday at Amwell Church of the Brethren **OR** First Brethren Church of Sergeantsville (See Jeff Kiskurno for schedule)
- Women's Bible Study Every Other Saturday Morning (See Carol Hettman for Time and Place)
- 7 Busy Bees @ 7:30 PM In The Annex
- 17 Mission Sunday
- 21 Thursday Noon Group @ 11 AM Place TBD
- 27 Thanksgiving Eve Service at Amwell@ 7PM

WHEN LOVE

Dedicated to the Husbands & wives in our Church



When love is found and hope comes home, Sing and be glad that two are one.
When love explodes and fills the sky, Praise God and share our Maker's joy.

When love has flowered in trust and care, Build both each day that love may dare
To reach beyond home's warmth and light, To serve and strive for truth and right

When love is tried as loved ones change, Hold still to hope though all seems strange,
Till ease returns and love grows wise Through listening ears and opened eyes.

When love is torn and trust betrayed, Pray strength to love till torments fade,
Till lovers keep no score of wrong, But hear through pain love's Easter song.

Praise God for love, Praise God for life, In age or youth, in husband, wife.
Lift up your hearts, let love be fed, Through death and life, in broken bread.

--- by *Carol Stream*



From The Pastor's Pen

(continued from page 1)



According to the literature on Church Growth, people are drawn to those growing churches:

- Where they feel welcomed by the congregation
- Where the Music Ministry is worshipful, uplifting and transcending
- Where the preaching is Biblical and relevant...speaking to the spirit, mind and heart
- Where the Church reaches beyond the walls of the building to touch the hurting community with truth AND love
- Where supportive relationships can be developed within small groups

When people are invited to churches where those basic components exist, they find a church family with whom they can worship.

The new members we have welcomed into Amwell this year say we are that kind of church!

Let us keep **PRAYERFULLY** moving forward for God's Kingdom.



GRATITUDE

by Evelyn Behrens
(The Gem)

What gifts can I give you, Master?
You lived and died for me.
A thankful, loving, obedient heart,
A life full of service to Thee.

AMWELL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN COMMUNICATION SERVICES

**Carrying the Gospel as
far as the World can
Receive It**

We are on the Internet at:
www.amwell.org

**The Church of the Brethren
Website:**

<http://www.brethren.org/>

We also broadcast sermons on:

WDVR 89.7
Each Sunday at 7:30 A.M.

We Sponsor the Ravi Zacharias
radio programs:

"Let My People Think"

and

"Adventures in Odyssey "



(continued from page 6)

We welcome new members with *Baptism and Discipleship classes*. Each new member of the family of God is counseled by a trained volunteer who is willing to teach and share the special wonders of being a child of God.

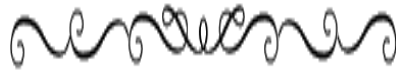
Many different *Missions* are sponsored at Amwell. We send love offerings and prayers to missionaries in the U.S. and abroad. We take The Lord's command to GO YE to heart and we support efforts to spread the Gospel world-wide.

The Card Ministry at Amwell is a quiet but welcomed one. If you have ever been in the hospital or have had a birthday, you probably opened your mailbox and found a special blessing from the Amwell Church of the Brethren. Nothing fancy; just a reminder how precious you are to us and to God.

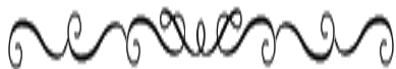
Talk about *Fellowship!* The Bible instructs us in several passages (2 Cor 6:14, Eph 5:11, 1 John 1:7 for example) of whom we should have fellowship. Amwell Church of the Brethren provides MANY opportunities for fellowship with other Christians. The Morning Star Craft Group, The Men's Prayer Breakfast, The Women's Bible Study, Wednesday Night Family Bible Study, Men's Softball, The February Retreat to Camp Swatara are just a few chances to get together with family and enjoy each other in the Lord.

We can offer the *informal helping hand of counseling*. The Pastor and Deacons have the occasion to visit Hagedorn State Hospital, Peter Becker Nursing Home and other nursing homes. They willingly do hospital and home visits to the ill and to shut-ins. They offer pre and post marital sessions, personal intervention counseling, the occasional prison visit...where they are needed, they are more than willing to go to serve the Lord and His people.

The next time you want to know where your dollar goes, just look around you at the **life and activity** in our church! All of these services to you and the community and for The Lord are done with no charge. We want to offer God's love where we can. We want to touch people at the point of their need, where The Lord instructed us.

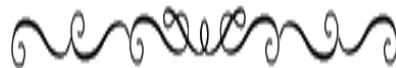


Remember the elderly and shut-ins of our congregation with a card or call!



TIME CHECK!

Don't forget: Set your clock BACK ONE HOUR Saturday October 26



TRACTS AND READING MATERIAL

We have an abundance of tracts and reading material available on the tables at the back of the Church. THE DAILY BREAD, Brethren magazines and other reading items are offered and you are encouraged to read them and share them with your family and friends.




LISTEN UP! EAT UP! GIVE IT UP!

THE BUSY BEES NEED YOU!

Those Busy Bees are all abuzz with up-coming events and socials! PLEASE mark your calendar and join them with some Autumn fun and fund-raising:

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3rd will be the **ANNUAL BUSY BEE AUCTION** It starts promptly at **7 PM**. Refreshments will be served during this time of fellowship and cut-throat auction action!



The Bees will be sponsoring a **the 20th ONLY**. The clothing  **Clothing Drive** from **October 14th thru** will be picked up by the charity on Sunday the 20th and you may drop your clothing off at the Church **ONLY** from the 14th to the 20th. See a Bee if you have questions.



On **NOVEMBER 14** they will be bringing back the ever-popular **Soup Supper**. Serving time **WILL BE LIMITED** as there will be a historic slide show presentation following the meal. Slides will include precious memories of the Church, the area and perhaps some familiar faces.



Our busiest service club at the Church will need your help while they help others. Say what you will about those Bees ... they have a hive full of activity and fun planned during the up-coming months!



ATTENTION ALL VEGGIE TALE FANS!



According to recent TV and Internet sightings, **VEGGIE TALES: THE MOVIE** will be hitting the big screen with a **Veggie Version** of **Jonah and The Whale!** This **FAMILY** and **KIDS** feature is scheduled to premiere in theaters October 4th. If you have small children and have been aching to take the whole gang to a movie you have confidence in, this is it!



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Yes! You guessed it! Choirmistress Jean DiSalvio and the Amwell Choir are issuing an invitation to join up! If you feel the call to sing in the choir, now is your chance to grab some music and jump right in! This is the perfect outlet for those closet "shower singers" to perform for others. The choir welcomes new members anytime but isn't this just a **GREAT** time to volunteer? Ask Jean or any other member for practice times. We usually get together after Bible Study on Wednesday nights or a quick rehearsal is sometimes called after services on Sunday. Not a lot of time is asked of you...just a willing spirit and a love of the Lord. Won't you join the Choir?

AMWELL PARTNERS WITH GOOD SHEPHERD KOREAN CHURCH

A new church planting begun several years ago by our Korean brothers and sisters is growing in Lansdale, Pa. The fellowship, able to purchase a day care building for about \$200,000 had settlement on October 22, 2001. The district supported the purchased of the building with the Indian Creek congregation being the primary sponsor. About 40 worshippers gather each Sunday under the leadership of Pastor Tae Lee.

The District Korean Advisory Committee has invited congregations to share \$1000 a month toward the mortgage payment for the next three years. Amwell was given the privilege to share in this district mission opportunity during the month of September 2002.

See the Bulletin Board for pictures of this new fellowship known as the **GOOD SHEPHERD KOREAN CHURCH** whose address is 30 W. Mt. Vernon St. Lansdale, Pa 19446. We are thanked for sharing in this district outreach ministry.

Brethren Softball Team Wrap-up

by Jean DiSalvio

Far and wide are the reaches of the Lord's people and their work (and play). One example of His Handiwork lies in the sport arena. Some, here at Amwell, have been bitten by "The Softball Bug".

For several years now, Dan Apgar, Chris and Tim DiSalvio, Chris and Shawn Emery, George Hettman, Gary Mazingo, Mike Pierman and Ed Waldron have played on the Brethren Softball Team, joining with members of the First Brethren Church against other church teams in the league. They wear **#8** on their uniform sleeve in memory of Ed Suydam, who especially loved the team and was one of its most dedicated and enthusiastic players.

They start practice in March for a season that lasts from April to July. Select Monday and Thursday nights will find the team playing at various fields in and out of the county.

Along with this very special team come **THE FANS!**

Most softball teams either come to the games alone or with a handful of fans. Not the Brethren Softball Team! They've produced faithful followers that can number from the 20s to the 40s! They are a group ranging in age from babies to Senior Citizens! Lots of puppies and dogs come too! The fans watch, cheer, yell advice, play, talk, eat, spit, sleep, and generally have a great time!

The team's record is distinguished. They've been in the championship playoffs for the last 5 years. They were League Champs in 1996. Win or lose, though, the fans love their team!

If you're looking for an enjoyable way to spend a summer evening, come out and join the fans cheering for The Team in the 2003 season. Be careful, though. It could become a habit!



The following poem was written after an especially thrilling game played this past summer during a Softball Tournament in Pennsylvania that draws Church teams from all over the country. Our boys had been on a two year losing streak but things began to change in a very dramatic fashion...

THE GLORY GAME



The heat hung heavy on The Team that day
Sweat mixed with dust turned to grime
The fans sat fading as the sun crushed down
Mothers moaned, children squinted, babies cried.



Opponents lacked mercy whacking each pitch
The Team took their licks every inning
They twisted and turned chasing elusive success
But the afternoon saw hopes fast dimming

Break time allowed for a swim and a shower
The Team downed Maggie's chicken, drank, sucked ice
They sat trading laughs and talking softball
While planning their Flight Game that night

Then The Team suited up, the caravan formed
Find the field, Game four soon to begin
Scorching sun yielding ground to a more gentle breeze
As fans eyed the team from Long Island, New York

Defeat marked their day, they were loud; hungry
They roared yelling like giant Philistines
But The Team's time had come to Answer the Call
They tottered but the battle enjoined



Adrenalin flowed; tempers flared; shouts flew
Ed, were you watching them stretch and then strain?
While fans screamed, Our boys of summer dug deep on this night
In Year Three, they were claiming their due!

The pitcher threw strikes, the mitts found their mark
The bats cracked with hit after hit
Inning three: the tide turned; The Team strutted their stuff
And the cheers from The Fans knew no limits



The Vict'ry came sweet as New York shut down
The Team saw the fruit of their labors
Could The Lord have been smiling at the Brethren on Field C?
It sure felt like the glow of His Glory



A Fan
Valley Forge Softball Tournament
August 2, 2002



JUST A LAST MINUTE THOUGHT ...
SUBMITTED BY *STEVEN HARCLERODE*

Church Marquis Signs

"The best vitamin for a Christian is B1."

"Under same management for over 2000 years."

"Soul food served here."

"Tithe if you love Jesus! Anyone can honk!"

"You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving."

"Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!"

"Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church."

"Reputation is what people think about you. Character is what people know you are."

"Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case!"

"Come early for a good back-seat"

"Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due."

"Wal-Mart isn't the only saving place."

"Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible."

"It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees."

"What part of "THOU SHALT NOT" don't you understand?"

"A clear conscience makes a soft pillow."

"The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday."

"Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive."

"Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings."

"Forbidden fruit creates many jams."

"Christians, keep the faith... But not from others!"

"Satan subtracts and divides. God multiplies and multiplies"

"May is God's apology for February."

"To belittle is to be little."

"God answers knee-mail."

"Try Jesus. If you don't like Him, the devil will always take you back."

