



*A Time To
Write...*
...And A Time
To Read

WINTER ISSUE: DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,
Welcome to the Winter Newsletter! Maybe you'd like to snuggle on the couch with a mug of hot chocolate. I'd like a peppermint stick, but maybe you don't. That's fine too. We're all different, you know, kind of like the snowflakes you watch floating to join the others already piled on the earth. Maybe you notice that this newsletter has several **double blessings**. It's because we all wanted a chance to give you our best one last time! We hope you have enjoyed these four compilations of encouragement and fun! Have a wonderful Winter!

Valerie Dyck

Welcome everyone to the last issue of *A Time to Write*. I hope you enjoy this issue! This has been a wonderful experience for each of us writers. We enjoyed the challenge of writing, designing, and editing.

From all the estimated 7 billion people in this world, each one is unique and different. God made and loves each one, sent His Son to die for them, and patiently waits for them to come to Him so He can wash them whiter than snow. Have a creative, unique, and wonderful winter!

Megan Fehr



In this Issue:

Letter from the Editors – Page 1

Children's Corner: God Watches Over Me – Page 2-3

Encouragement for Men:

Patience-A Lifesaver – Page 4

Meditations for Mothers:

Patience in Snowflake Stages – Page 5

Family Fun Night – Page 6

Recipe: Hot Chocolate – Page 6

Poems – Page 7

Teen Topics – for Young Men: – Page 8

Teen Topics – for Girls: Double Blessing – Page 9

Book Review: Unto the Hills – Page 10



Children's Corner: God Watches Over Me

Click, the chicken pen door swung open. Justin entered, carefully carrying his pail of water. He was seven and Father had said he was old enough to feed the chickens. He wasn't strong enough to carry a full pail of water, so he made several trips. The chicken pen was made of three walls of high mesh fencing. The barn made the fourth wall. A little ramp door led into the barn where the chickens laid eggs and

slept.

Justin carried the pail of water to the chicken's water drinker. The drinker sat in the middle of the pen on a large flat stone. He unscrewed the lid and poured the water into the drinker. He carefully screwed the lid on tight. The new roosters Father had bought the day before were pretty and he liked to look at them.

Suddenly there was the sound of flapping

wings. Justin

looked back in time to see the rooster fly up. He felt it dig its spurs into his leg.

Justin cried as he dropped the pail and kicked the rooster off his leg. Stunned by the kick the rooster stood still for a bit. The hesitation gave Justin time to race for the door. The rooster started to chase him. He tried to slam the door before it got there,

but it was too quick; it scooted through. Justin ran as fast as he could toward the house.

Mother was sitting in a lawn chair under a shade tree. His-two-year old sister toddled about on a picnic blanket at her feet.

“Mother,” he wailed. “One of the new roosters Father bought yesterday flew up on me and poked me in the leg.” He pulled up his pant leg to show Mother the wound. Blood trickled down his leg.

“Oh no! Come into the house and I’ll get you a Band-Aid.” Mother was shocked. “I didn’t know there was a mean one.” Justin followed Mother into the house. Mother put some peroxide on the wound then covered it with a Band-Aid.

“Thank you, Mother, it feels much better now.” Justin said. He went outside onto the porch. His tummy lurched at what he saw. The mean

rooster was heading straight for his little sister. He jumped off the porch and grabbed a stick. “Go away you bad rooster!” he shouted.

Mother heard him shout and came running. She scooped up the baby and ran inside. Justin followed close at her heels. She shut the door and hugged her baby.

“You are a very brave boy, Justin,” she said in a shaky voice. “You watched over your little sister even though you were afraid of the rooster.” Justin stayed inside for the rest of the morning. He made a little farm with his toy tractors.

At afternoon chore time Justin had to bring the chickens more water. He was afraid that the rooster would attack him again. He thought for a little. If only his pants were thicker. Then he had an idea. He got some tape and some cardboard boxes. He broke up a box

and taped it onto his left leg. After taping a second box to his right leg he went to retrieve his pail. The rooster came running. Justin looked at it fearfully. The rooster flung itself onto his leg. Its spurs couldn’t poke through the cardboard. Justin smiled and carried his pail into the pen.

At supper Mother told Father about the rooster. “We will have to have chicken soup tomorrow,” Father said. He turned to Justin. “You were very brave son. You conquered your fear of the rooster to protect your sister. The way you watched over your sister was a lot like God watching over His children. He will always protect us and will not let anything happen to us we cannot handle.”

Justin smiled happily. He was glad God watched over him.

Andrew Fehr

Encouragement for Men: Patience - A Lifesaver

Greetings to all in Jesus' name,

Patience? Why patience? Patience in a fast-paced society? Yes, we need patience in this "microwave society" that we live in. As I have been thinking on the topic of patience, I would like to share a few thoughts.

The Hebrew writer writes: **"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."** (Hebrews 10:36) We have a need of/for patience as God's people, regardless of what society does. The faster the society, the greater the need for patience. The greater our trials, the greater the need for patience. The opposite of being patient is to be in a hurry.

"Hurry" is the **devil's** strategy! The devil is always in a hurry and always trying to make people scurry around. Why is that? Well, if he can get us to run around without giving much thought to what we're doing or how we're doing what we are doing, then we most often mess up and fall short of the glory of God. Without the exercise of patience, we tend to run ahead of God.

Jesus said: **"In your patience possess ye your souls."** (Luke 21:19) From these words, we can clearly see that patience plays an important role in the salvation of the soul. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we both understand what patience is and then exercise it in our daily lives.

What is patience? Patience comes from the Greek word "Hupomone." This Greek word is

made up of two parts, 'hupo' meaning 'under', and 'mone' meaning 'to abide'. So literally, patience means to "abide under."

Patience implies suffering, enduring, or waiting. Patience carries the idea of enduring with courage and thereby overcoming the various temptations and trials. **"In your patience possess ye your souls."** Patience is our lifesaver! Patience enables a man to continually resist the pressures of external circumstances.

The benefits or possible fruit of patience are:

- proper judgement
- strengthening of the inner man and the spirit
- preventing the "fuse" from blowing
- overpowering anger
- defeating pride
- bridling the tongue
- restraining the hand
- enabling us to dwell with our wives according to knowledge.

Patience is an attribute the Lord wants his children to have and exercise.

Patience is mentioned 33 times in the New Testament. (KJV) James tells us how to obtain patience, **"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing"** (James 1:2-4)

Paul says, **"Therefore being**

justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience" (Rom. 5:1-3)

Patience is a much-needed attribute for a Christian to possess. **"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us"** (Heb. 12:1). Running with patience..... running with endurance and perseverance.

In closing, I'd like to leave us with a quote from M. H. Lount: **"God's best gifts come slowly. We could not use them if they did not. Many a man, called of God to...a work in which he is pouring out his life, is convinced that the Lord means to bring his efforts to a successful conclusion. Nevertheless, even such a confident worker grows discouraged at times and worries because results do not come as rapidly as he would desire. But growth and strength in waiting are results often greater than the end so impatiently longed for. Paul had time to realize this as he lay in prison. Moses must have asked, 'Why?' many times during the delays in Midian and in the wilderness. Jesus Himself experienced the discipline of delay in His silent years before His great public ministry began."**

Henry Klassen

Encouragement for Mothers:

Patience in Snowflake Stages

As I watch snowflakes drifting down and covering the earth with a blanket of white loveliness, my thoughts turn to our Creator. His Holy Spirit gently falls upon us mothers and works in our lives as we raise our children for His glory. Each snowflake has six sides. It reminds me of six stages in our children's lives. The Holy Spirit works gently in us mothers, giving us wisdom and patience throughout these stages of raising children.

1. First we find out we are to be a mother. Excitement rings high! Then, oh, for patience to bear the first months of sickness. God reminds us that He is intricately shaping and forming our little one, and encourages us to be patient until we can finally hold our reward in our arms.

2. The newborn stage is filled with joyful cuddling and warm kisses. Our schedule changes and our nights are interrupted with feedings, diaper changes, and comforts on the rocking chair. Our eyes burn from lack of sleep and our Quiet Time is very hard to fit in. "Lord, I'm so tired," we cry. "Will baby ever sleep through the night?" Gently His Spirit ministers to our hearts and fills us with renewed energy. "Be patient," we hear Him say. "Pray and read My word during the moments you can.

3. Toddler and preschool years are filled with their little antics, cute imitations, and merry laughs. Such fun! Yet we need patience for those teeth to all come through. The clock ticks as we encourage the toddler sitting on the potty seat, again. Patience for their curiosity and messes. Patience while we teach them the importance of obedience so they will be obedient to God when He calls them.

4. The school child is busy learning many new things, especially academics. Teacher-mom's patience and energy is tested often. Despite this extra-busy season, there are so many blessings and relationship building opportunities as we learn and work together. God has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. What a comfort and strength!

5. Then—suddenly it seems—the teenage years are upon us! We must be patient with them, hear them out, and try to understand where they are coming from; letting them make some mistakes, loving them regardless and giving them space. Such precious years. We must remember that the Holy Spirit is working in their lives. Maintain open communication with them about their values, beliefs,

goals, views, and purposes.

6. Having adult children is a very unique stage, different than any of the others. Trusting God and lots of prayers are very important. Have a good relationship with your adult children. Speak to them with respect; treat them with respect. If they make a mistake, forgive them and don't bring it up again and again. We as mothers make mistakes too. Pray and trust that the Holy Spirit will be with them, help them and guide them. He has been faithful in helping us, and He will be faithful in helping them too.

A snowflake reflects the sun's light. May God's light reflect in our lives as we mother our children throughout these stages.

As we read the Word and yield ourselves to Him, our patience will be rewarded. We, through every test of patience, are helping shape our children and bring them back to Him! We will have beautiful, clean snowflakes that reflect the Son's light.

*Tina Fehr and
Susie Klassen*

With special input from :

Tina Waffe

Family Fun Night

Winter! There are so many different activities you and your family can enjoy in the snow.

Here are three ideas.

Option 1: Sledding

1. Dress in warm winter clothes.
2. Load all your sleds into the van.
3. Find a big hill.
4. Climb to the top of the hill.
5. Slide down.

Variations:

- Slide down with your brother or sister on a G-T.
- Make a long sled train with all your family members on saucers. See if you can get to the bottom without breaking the train.
- Go down the hill on a saucer. Get your dad to spin you as you start off.
- Venture down the steeper side of the hill. Watch out for the bumps!
- Race with one of your siblings (or parents) down the hill.
- Slide down on a snowboard.
- Take a picture of your little brother or sister sledding.

Option 2: Skating:

1. Dress in your winter clothes.
2. Load all your skates, snow shovels, and sleds into the van.
3. Find a frozen pond and ask permission of the owner.
4. Get a pond expert (your Dad) to safety check the pond for breath holes.
5. Clear a large portion of the pond. You can do this with skates on, or skates off. Skating and shovelling off the pond is fun.
6. Skate!

Variations:

- Play tag.
- Play British Bulldog.
- Play a game of hockey.
- Pull your little brother or sister on a sled.
- Help your little brother or sister learn to skate.
- Skate and talk.

Option 3: Snow fun at home

1. Dress in your warm winter clothes.
 - Jump into a deep drift outside.
 - Make snow angels.
 - Catch snowflakes with your tongue or your glove.
 - Make a snowman.
 - Make two snow forts, divide your family into teams and have a snowball fight.
 - Make a long track in the snow and play fox and geese.
 - Throw snowballs for your dog to catch.
 - Lie back in the snow and gaze at the stars.

After:

- Make hot chocolate.
- Curl on the couch in the living room or sit around the table.
- Munch on a snack: popcorn, chips, cookies, etc.
- Read a story, play a game, or have devotions.

Recipe

Hot Chocolate:

4 c. milk

1 c. cream (you can substitute milk for the cream if you want to)

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. chocolate chips (you can use any kind of chocolate: milk, white, dark, semi sweet)

Heat the milk and cream, but not till boiling point. Turn off the heat, sprinkle all the chocolate chips over the milk mixture. Wait a minute, and then stir till all the chocolate is melted. Heat again, almost till boiling point. Serve. This makes between 4-5 servings.

Variations:

- Dollop some whipped cream on top.
- Float a marshmallow or two in your cup.
- Add several unwrapped candy canes into your hot chocolate as it is heating. Sprinkle some crushed candy canes on top of the whipped cream for a mint hot chocolate.
- Fill your mug up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with hot chocolate. Fill the rest with coffee for a latte.

Have Fun as a Family!

Megan Fehr

POEMS:



Snow

Snow! Snow! Snow! Snow!
Purest white, falling so slow,
Piling high on the evergreen bough,
Drifting around a tranquil doe,
Out on the road; everyone's foe.
I with my sins had no place to go
Until Jesus came to this earth below,
He set me free - this I know -
Washing me whiter than snow.

Elizabeth Klassen

Just One

One Snow
Just So
To make it bright
Where the brown earth had been.

One Son
Just One
To make it bright
Where the deep guilt had been.

Now I
Just I
Can choose the light
Or the brown guilt of sin.

Lord You
Just You
Fill me with light
And joy and peace within!

Valerie Dyck

Teens Topics:

for Young Men

Of Men and Boys

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” 1 Corinthians 13:11

This verses teaches us that as we grow into manhood there is a maturity that is coming about and childish things are put off. In today’s society, fun and play is emphasized and becoming mature is delayed or in some cases never comes. Men are called to be the leaders yet often they shrink from responsibility. Young men grow up with a passion to play instead of to lead. Instead of seeing and pursuing their God-given responsibility, they play their life away.

Webster’s defines responsible this way: ‘Liable to account; accountable; answerable’.

As a child grows up, he moves away from being unaccountable before God to being accountable. Many people want to remain

unaccountable, yet it does not work this way. If an individual who has come to age continues to live as he did when he was a child, he has not put away childish things. Instead this person wants to have the benefits of growing up but not take the responsibility that comes with age and therefore remains a boy.

I want to clarify that ultimately, everyone that has come to years is accountable before God even if the individual lives like he is not. Someday he will have to give an account. As a boy grows older, he wants more privileges. He wants to be able to spend his own money. He wants to drive. He wants to own his own car. He wants to get married. He wants to have children. He wants to start his own business, I could go on. All these are good things as we grow up but if we remain as a child in a man’s body, we are missing God’s plan for us.

I remember a father’s concern over his son’s lack of desire to take responsibility

at work. The son would do a monotonous task all day at work but made no effort to advance in the workplace and after work he was content to play games.

As I grow older I realize more and more that the more privileges you have, the more you are responsible for. This is not a bad thing. I believe God has ordained it so to bring us to maturity.

Even though some of these privileges are welcomed but the responsibilities aren’t always so welcome let us embrace the entire package so we can become the men that God wants us to be. I want to encourage you to put away childish things and embrace ‘becoming a man’.

“But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.” Hebrews 6:9

John Dyck

Teens Topics: *for Girls*

As a **Double Blessing**, in this issue there are two articles for you!

Contentment with Myself

I'm sure you've all heard the saying "Be yourself-everyone else is already taken." The thought of someone trying to be someone else can be humorous. The truth is, we all struggle with it. Rachelle has such a bubbly laugh so Miriam tries to laugh like that. Be yourself-God made your laugh especially for you. We are all unique, special, different, one-of-a-kind. If we all laughed like Rachelle it would soon sound boring.

As girls, it's sometimes a struggle to find out who we are and to be like our self. We quickly feel inferior around strangers because we wonder "What *will they think of me?*" The people who we are around do make a difference in whom we are. That doesn't change God's very own design for YOU! Can you relate to the following examples?

Emma is a slow, methodical worker

while Carol flies around at top speed. Schoolwork comes easy for Jane but Charlotte struggles in every subject. Felicia loves to meet new people while Kimberly gets panicky at the thought. Marilou can't stand being in charge of an activity whereas Tania thrives on it. Hanna can't think straight if a book is out of place on the shelf while her sister Lauren doesn't notice a cluttered room.

From character, to talents, to hobbies, to looks, we vary. If you are a Carol you will need patience with Emma. If you are an Emma, you will probably find that you are better at cooking than Carol. When we combine everyone's strong and weak points, we get a beautiful picture.

Not comparing ourselves among ourselves also comes into the picture. Often we feel self-conscious about who we are and our lack of...talent, beauty, ideal laugh, voice, creativity, etc. Take heart! Most times people don't think about it till you mention it. Relax, and

learn to be who God desires you to be.

Learning to be content with who we are is not very easy. I often find myself looking at someone at wishing I had their complexion or voice. I find it helps to meditate on the thought that God specifically designed me because that's who He wanted me to be and to not be ashamed of my lack of talent, looks, etc. but to use what I do have.

The more we think about our problems the worse they become. So honestly, what gifts God has endowed you with? (Yes, you do have some!) He understands why you would like to be blue-eyed but knows that one day your brown eyes will have a special purpose.

So be yourself! God has a reason for creating you, YOU!

Elizabeth Klassen

Unique and Useful

Have you ever watched the snow drifting down, and wonder how each of the thousands and millions of snowflakes are different? Each has six sides and is made of the same substance. How can each one be different? Well, God has made eight billion different people on this earth, and each one is different, unique, special and one-of-a-kind, even though we all have a heart, two lungs, and red blood.

Maybe sometimes you feel like you're an original person, and there's nothing special about you. Take heart! You are special! God has a purpose for your life! Imagine if you knew your best friend thought about you 100 times every day. Wouldn't that make you feel special?

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: (Psalms 139:17,18) God thinks about you millions of times every day. Picture the shores by the lake or ocean - the endless expanse of sand. God's thoughts toward *you* are more in number than the sand. You are a unique creation of our God!

Maybe you think you're too unique. That no one can understand you, or ever goes through what you're going through, or you can't do what others can. I often feel this way. I'm not a cook, baker, seamstress, or a pianist. My sisters are all four. But take heart, my friend. You are not alone. Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (1Pe 5:9) If you feel like no one is

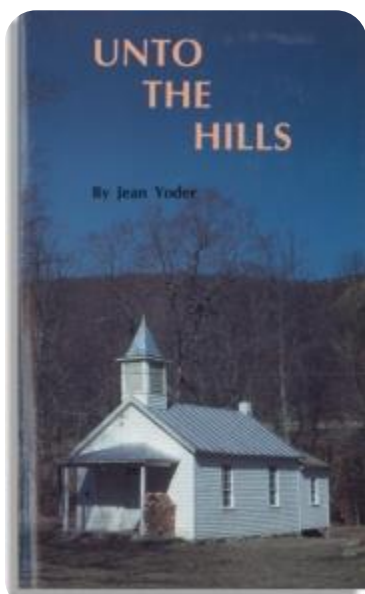
like you, remember there are others who are experiencing the same things you are.

Think of the things you can do. Don't 'compare yourselves among yourselves'. Comparing feeds self-pity. Self-pity causes unhappiness. Unhappiness steals our unspeakable joy. Without joy, there is no victory. Without victory, our life goes into a downward spiral. Focus on what your talents are, and rejoice when others use theirs, even if you can't do what they can. Be what you are. Don't try to be some-one else. Because then, someone else will have to try to fill your shoes.

Be a little snow flake. You might not be the focus. But you are needed, with *your* talents to make a glittering world!

Valerie Dyck

Book Review: UNTO THE HILLS



Teacher Laura often gazed up at the hills surrounding the country school house and thought of their Maker. She had left a good paying job to come and teach because she felt God calling her to the responsibility, but she had not known the trials or blessings that would come her way. Often, she felt her need of God's grace as she handled different students, different characters and different situations.

Such as Calvin who made the most trouble. He had his work done in record time and could fill up the rest of his time thinking up mischief. He tried Laura's patience much. Sally was the eighth-grade girl that was rebellious and self-defiant. Christopher was very sensitive and easily hurt. Henry liked to tell the teacher everything before anyone else did. Dora was a first-grader that was sweet and unselfish to everyone.

Almost more unexpected than the students were the parents. Calvin's dad told Laura that Calvin was bad in Calvin's presence. Christopher's mom felt Laura was not understanding enough to her sensitive children. Another mom thought she should be outside at recess more.

By the middle of the year, Laura knew she would not come back the next year. She felt the students, especially Calvin needed a more experienced teacher. Yet she felt if she wouldn't come back it would be like running away from the work God called her to do. The

children were improving and she feared a different teacher wouldn't recognize the good that could be brought from each individual child. "They were *hers* to cry for and wrestle over and pray for, *hers* to laugh, work and play with." God had been faithful in the last year and He would continue to be.

Unto the Hills was challenging to me. It reminds me to be understanding of different characters no matter who they are and to love as Christ does. Everyone is their own unique character and I need to have patience in my interaction with them. It was an interesting story and reminded me to turn to God for wisdom in every situation.

Unto the Hills is a good story for teenagers and adults. The Creator of the hills and mountains is concerned about us and will help us in every problem. We can rely on Him.

Melodie Dyck

