

JOY AND CRITERIA

Ernest Gommel

June 21, 1968

TWENTY YEARS AGO, as I sat in the bar-

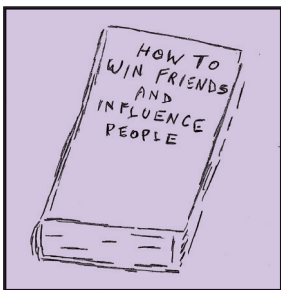


ber's chair, I was excruciatingly tense and anxious – to the point that I felt unsteady and frightened. I was trapped in the chair. I couldn't get out without embarrass-

ment. "What if I would faint? Am I going to? No, I mustn't! How do I feel? Whoops – there – I felt woozy! . . ." Ridiculous? Of course, but very real.

THE ANXIETY and fear, the reactions thereto, and the increasing anxiety and fear because of those reactions made my life a veritable hell in most situations even when alone. "What is the matter with me? Am I going to keel over? Is my heart going to stop? What . . . ? Why . . . ?"

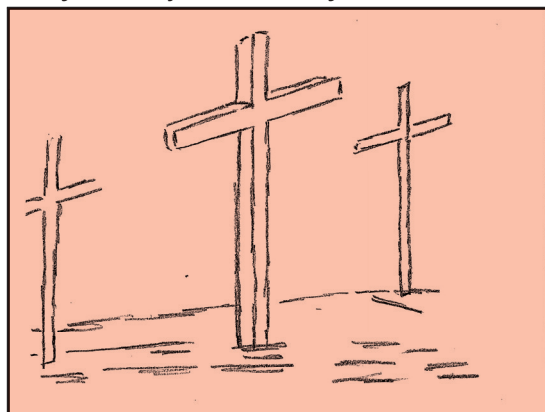
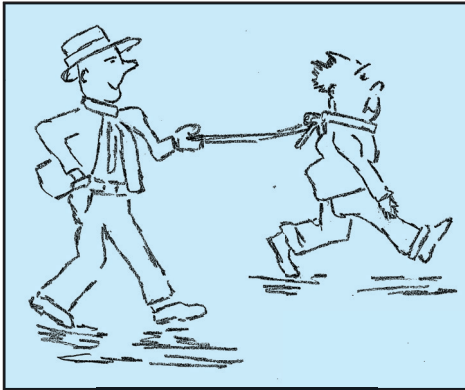
IT TOOK SEVEN YEARS – seven long years of struggle, with the help of man's psychological knowledge, essentially to be rid of this hell. What caused it? Wanting to do right, wanting to excel, wanting to be good caused it. Do you say, "Good grief! What's wrong with those desires? They sound exactly right!"? But the question is that of criteria, "Right", "excellence", "good" by whose or what standards? I came to realize that I was trying to please too many people – everyone closely involved in my life. If there were half a dozen people so involved, I was trying to live half a dozen lives. To attempt this is misery and doomed to failure. You can't please one man, much less several. I became more well, humanly speaking, as I could be less anxious about what others thought and do what seemed right to me. What a relief! But yet something was missing.



JUST A LITTLE MORE than ten years ago, I was given a joy, freedom and purpose I can never forget! It was the profound realization that God loves me just as I am! All I had to do was to give myself to Him – turn myself over to Him – let Him lead – let Him set the standards, the criteria. I would now have one Person to serve, one Person to please. This One is a boss, as He showed us in Jesus Christ, who isn't so interested in results as in the Spirit, and who is com-

passionate to the broken heart – compassionate beyond understanding! How eager I was (and am) to live this new life! How eager I was (and am) to do what He wanted! But men – even "important" men – kept saying that to serve Him properly I must act in a certain way, use a different vocabulary, play a kind of role, believe certain doctrines, obtain results of a certain quantity and quality, etc. Men, even in the church kept trying to control me.

HOW I HATED TO LEAVE the security and fraternity that the usual church represents! What a struggle! What pain and soul-searching was involved! But, thank God, He saved me from this strangulation and would set me free – except for the brainwashing – the preconceptions we brought with us to this free church of which we are now a part. How we have to fight Satan to see through his deceptions. Only by the Holy Spirit are we finally coming to realize the ultimate joy – the ultimate freedom that comes from breaking the chains men (our very selves and others) would forge around us. Only by the always new light of the Holy Spirit is our joy being completed as we come to realize that there are no criteria by which to judge success – there is only one Criterion: God as we know Him in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit! Growth in numbers means nothing, Praise God! Financial success or failure is irrelevant, Hallelujah! The approval of "religious" or other men is probably proof that one is on the wrong track, Praise His Name!! We can never really know whether what we do is good or right in terms of any worldly value, Glory Hallelujah!!! The only criterion is His



Peace that is beyond understanding – His blessed assurance! Joy to the world – to all who will believe, the Lord is come! Let no one convince you that He comes in a prison of doctrines, formulae, success in any form the world would recognize!

...and God chose what is foolish in the

world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, . . . "(I Corinthians 1:27,28)

ARE YOU DESPISED by the world – by yourself – a failure? God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life – results that contradict and confound the values of the world, results that bring inner peace, real joy, genuine success by His Criteria! You don't have to live the lie anymore!

IN SUMMARY, there is only one joy: to please God. There is one way to please God: For your desire to be to rely on His mercy and to yearn to be perfect in trust and obedience. Beyond this there is nothing but the peace that confounds man's logic – His blessed assurance.

THIS TESTIMONY IS TRUE.

Note from Linda Gommel

The following article "Joy and Criteria" was written by my dad, Ernie Gommel, in June, 1968, almost 60 years ago! It was printed in our little newsletter "The New Light".

We've been reading those old New Lights lately, and in this case, I decided to share my dad's personal story of his joy

at discovering how God's love and acceptance could relieve him of his anxiety at having to please the world and having to be good enough to qualify for His favor.

Maybe it can speak to you or someone you know who may be living with the burden of guilt or the anxiety of pleasing people rather than God. Becoming God's person is urgently important as we see rapidly increasing signs indicating that God may be wrapping things up in this world, signs that are leading to the final judgment. It's best to be on God's team when that time comes.

Linda Gommel



Mark your Calendar for

MEGA SWAP MEET

**Sat. October 3
8am to 3pm**

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, September 28th

5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge

on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Rd.

LVEDA provides an important community forum recognized by County, State, and Local Representatives. Supports real economic development consistent with our rural goals. Opposes projects that harm our land-use integrity and quality of life.

**Is something bugging you?
COME TO THE NEXT MEETING
TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!**

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

THE PATRIOT POST IS CLOSED ON SUNDAY

The Lord moves in mysterious ways but you don't have to. Please use your blinker.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

CANADIAN GEESSE WILL NOW BE REFERRED TO AS DONALD DUCKS



PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

"Of course we feel grief and sorrow when a loved one leaves us. And, too often we fail to remember that if our Judeo-Christian tradition means anything, the departed has simply moved on to what we've been assured as a better life."

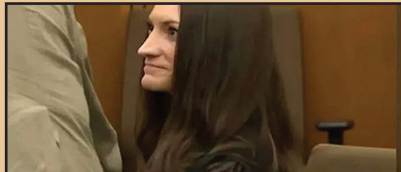
Ronald Reagan

PATRIOTPOST.US: ANALYSIS FROM OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY



Trump Officially Classifies Liberal Women As Terrorist Organization

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS



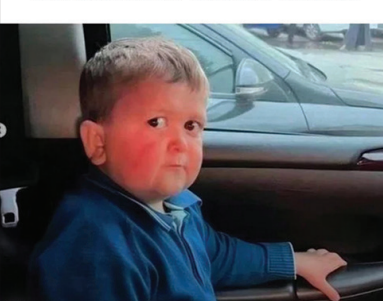
Melissa @MyUnveiledTruth

Feminists: "hormones after birth make us murderous and we can't help it."

Also feminists: "if women ruled the world, there'd be no wars and there would be world peace."

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

KIDS HEARING THEIR MOM SAY SHE UNDERSTANDS LINDSAY CLANCY



PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS



Men killing 1 billion people in wars over all of human history

Women killing 1.3 billion people via abortion since 1980

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

WE DON'T EVEN NEED FARMERS



WE HAVE GROCERY STORES NOW

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

Allie Beth Stuckey @conservmillen

Hello, and welcome to ClownTown, where the dude on the left is an empowering woman, and the woman on the right is a white supremacist.



PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS



THERE! I TOLD THAT TRUMP LOVER WHAT I THOUGHT!

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New Data Center Built To Handle Influx Of Online Rants Against Data Centers

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LVM Commentary - September 17-23, 2026