

Coffs Encourager

Newsletter to the Coffs Coast area
Nambucca, Port Macquarie,
Saphire Beach & Woolgoolga
Issue 1-0509



Coffs Coast church of Christ
www.coffschurch.org.au

CWA Hall, 3 Dalley St. Coffs Harbour
Worship-Sunday 10am, Study-Tuesday 6pm



The First Fundamental

*...one so high
would have time
for.... me*

The Cinderella Man

*"keep you going
on forward, no
matter what life
hands you"*

Moses epitaph.

*Mission completed.
Gone home.*

*Still enthusiastic
and strong.*

The First Fundamental by Marvin Ancell

The whole of the New Testament is based on the central fact that Jesus is the Son of God, the Lord, and the Sovereign of all mankind. This is the premier idea in every book in the New Testament and the highest thought that a Christian can ever sit down and consider. It is magnificent! Fully stated, that's it: - Jesus is the Son Of God!

Yet sadly, it is a point in our world today that has grown to be so common, so 'churchy', that we say it and do not stop to think how awesome that statement actually is. Listen to it, -"He is the Son of God",- then and still today. He lives and is intimately involved in the lives of mankind just as He did 2000 years ago.

The fact of His continual existence and involvement with mankind is a remarkable idea and a thought worth a moment or two of our daily time. But an even more remarkable point is that for Him to be God, He has to be the most grand and awesome thought that any man, any where, can ever think.

To bring this one step closer to my own home, this high and exalted one, this supreme power, this supernatural one, loves me in spite of all of my foibles, still. He loves and listens to me just as much today, as He listened to Peter and Andrew, James and John, in the first century. You would not think that one so high would have time for this miniscule little ant called 'me', but the Son of God does have the time and the heart. He does care, and He does know "me".

So, in response to the Son of God, what do we do in our own lives with the fact that this Jesus who came to the earth is the Living Lord,

deity personified, still today? Most of us just go along, much as we did the day before, and the day before that. Plodding along, taking care of all of the little chores that must be done. Our lives get filled with the mundane and common events of living and the big and wonderful realities are set aside until a more convenient time when there is not so much work to be done.

The goal of this small paper is to help us all refocus on the reality of Jesus, the love of Jesus, and the Sovereignty of Jesus. Our goal is to help each reader to take in the wonderful reality of Jesus, and then to let that reality translate itself into the living of our lives this week. We seek to help every one of us to make Jesus the living and recognized Lord of our lives.

May the name of Jesus be ever praised.



James Walter Braddock.

Nickname(s),
Bulldog of Bergen,
Pride of the Irish,
Pride of New Jersey,
Cinderella Man.



Max Baer

“The Cinderella Man”

by Marvin Ancell

Sometime ago, Jenny and I watched a movie called “The Cinderella Man”. It is a boxing movie, and normally, I am not a fan of boxing. But this movie has a message in it that is needed by the church. That message is simple, have the pride of being that will keep you going on forward, no matter what life hands you. We’ll look at the actual life story and then we will look at some applications for today in our Christian life.

Let me tell you a bit about the story of this man. His name was James J. Braddock. He was a man who had some boxing talent, but life in general seemed to be against him. The depression was on the way and it was affecting everyone, people were finding it increasingly hard to put bread on the table. Families were being abandoned because of the intensity of the economic pressure: good strong families were being torn apart because of all of the events around them. But this man, this man from the hard working docks of New Jersey in the United States, would not give in to the pressures to give up his kids to the state, even though it was a common event around him. At that time, if you found that you could not take care of your kids, you could give them to the state and they would place them in an orphanage where they would receive food and lodging. The cartoon character ‘Little Orphan Annie’ is one of these kids. They were normally left and forgotten there at the orphanage door. But James Braddock would not give up.

As a boxer, he was one who had lost more bouts in the ring than you would normally expect and this caused him to have a very low ranking. James Braddock was reduced to having to go on daily ‘meat calls’ to get one day’s work. A ‘meat call’ is a group of men who would meet at the gates to the dock and would pray that the foreman would pick them to load ships that day. If you were picked, you ate. If you were not picked, you did not eat. If you were injured, you did not work, and thus you did not eat, and significantly, your family did not eat either. James J. Braddock

would not accept defeat and so he made every effort to feed his family. Sometimes the two dollars and 36 cents he made each day did allow him to eat, but what is so amazing is that he was willing to sacrifice his meal so that he kept on feeding his kids.

Later, after living with the daily grind of the meat call, in the darkness of the moment, a friend got him a fight at the last moment as a lead-up fight to a major bout latter that evening and to the crowds astonishment this man who was a 10-1 underdog won! It got him another fight, and again he won. The story just kept on repeating itself. This man who for so long could not win enough to keep his boxing license as a professional boxer was now winning and climbing the ladder. The license was returned. He kept winning. He kept on trying. He was becoming the voice of a defeated mass of people who needed a hero who had been down to the very bottom of the pile, and who had the courage to rise up again. They knew him, they watched him, and they drew courage from him.

As it all progressed, the Cinderella story came to its conclusion and he was given a title fight against the world champion heavy weight, Max Baer. Max Baer did not take him seriously and lost the fight, giving the world championship to this man who fought as the greatest underdog in boxing history. During the two years that he was the world heavy weight champion, he was known as being a very simple and humble man. He did not draw attention to himself and brag as you would expect boxers to do. He was the silent voice of decency and caring, the voice of hope and perseverance,

There are two very important lessons that we need to learn from this story. First is the lesson of good pride. We often come to the idea of pride with a very negative perspective. We know that the pride of life is bad as defined by John in I John 2:16. That

kind of pride is the pride of the braggart, the swagger, the vain glory, the empty talk of the one who wants to be big, but who is not. This is all a false pride, a dangerous pride, a pride of self and of selfish desire. The good pride is that feeling of boundary that says, "I will not slip beyond the ways of honesty and good behavior."

For the Christian, this means that I will recognize that it is Jesus who saves me and not me by my own efforts. This is the good pride that says "I value God and God's way and I will not leave it, for I know what I have and it is necessary to real spiritual life."

Joshua had this kind of pride when he declared that for him and his house, they would serve the Lord. He would not abandon God or God's way. You could count on him and you would know where he was going to be standing. That is the good pride. We all can be down and at the bottom of life's heap, but we are still to live with the same kind of attitude that typified Joshua and the great men of God. They had a pride in them that was said with their head held high; "I will serve the Lord and I will rely on Him, -and further more I will try to do right as best as I can, without making a public show of it." This is good pride.

The second lesson that the story of James J. Braddock calls to our memory is that of the love that a parent has for his children. We need to love our kids. To work at bringing out the very best in them, of helping them to be the best that they can be, for the Lord. This is the idea that was so much a part of Jewish life. You teach your children on the doorstep, and out in the paddock, under the sycamore tree and at the breakfast table. It is the way things should be. This is what James J. Braddock did with his kids. This is what the gospel writers taught us to do with our kids when they gave us the summary of Jesus' life, "He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and with man."

There are lots of good men around that remind us of the principles that God has set up to guide us to a better life. Some are in the church and some are outside of the church, but a good example is still a good example and we should look to see them always, and then look to use them consistently and lovingly. We need godly pride and we need to teach godly ways to those that follow after us. One of the things that we can all do is to make time to build each of these traits in ourselves and in our family lives.



Sinai Desert

Moses-Going strong by Dennis Yealland

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years.

People grow old only by deserting their ideals.

Years wrinkle the face, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

Worry, doubt, self-interest, fear, despair these are the long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back into dust. Cicero

The world demands more and more from us as we grow older and when life slows after the children leave home often the effort to keep everything going and the family together has dampened our enthusiasm and reduced us to quiet nights in front of the T.V. The idea of climbing a mountain or trekking across a desert, especially for the next forty years, is beyond our imagination let alone our ability.

Yet that is exactly what Moses did.

At the age of eighty enthusiasm for God's people and his single-minded determination to follow God's plan strengthened his spirit in the service of God, to believe God's promise and obey God's will for His people. Yet Moses held no higher position in God's sight than any of the rebellious ex-slaves that grumbled constantly, disbelieving their God who provided such a great salvation.

At one point in the journey the people again called for Moses to relieve their thirst. Moses frustrated with the people's grumbling, unbelief and disobedient constant testing of the LORD, in turn showed his humanity and struck the rock - instead of the people, and bore the penalty of disobedience and frustration himself - he would not pass over into the promised land! (Num 20:2-13)

At the end of Moses' mission God blessed him and led him to the top of Mt. Nebo. Here He showed him His gift to the Hebrews, the object of Moses' mission, the promised land. A land in which they would become a nation, a people for God's own possession blessed by a merciful God who keeps his promises.

"Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it. And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no-one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone." Deut 34:4-7

Moses epitaph.

*Mission completed. Gone home.
Still enthusiastic and strong.*

"May God bless us, even when we are frustrated and sin, with lifelong enthusiasm and strength in Him."