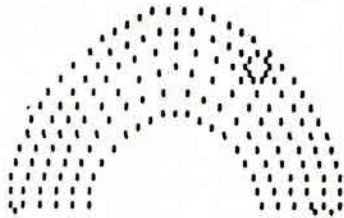


SEPTEMBER 1986

GOD'S RAINBOW PROMISE



RAINBOW COVENANT

Our GOD made a COVENANT with us. GOD said, "I do set my BOW in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a COVENANT between me and the earth." (Gen. 9:13).

The COVENANT includes:

- 1.) No more floods that destroy the whole earth. (Gen. 9:11).
- 2.) No more curse of the ground. (Gen.8:21).
- 3.) Everlasting Kindness. (Isaiah 54:8).
- 4.) Mercy. (Isaiah 54:8).
- 5.) No more wrath. (Isaiah 54:9).
- 6.) No more rebuke. (Isaiah 54:9).

The RAINBOW is a very good, old Biblical symbol. It should be held in honor by all Christians. Christians should resist the present attack on the RAINBOW COVENANT.

Our daughter, Marcellene, wrote an article about her appreciation of the RAINBOW; so here is what we think about the RAINBOW.



A FAMILY OF COLLECTORS By Marcellene Ebaugh Currans

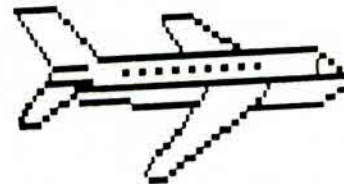
Mine is a family of collectors. We have collected everything from gum wrappers to lightening bugs. As each of us matured, our collections became more sophisticated.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HOBBIES

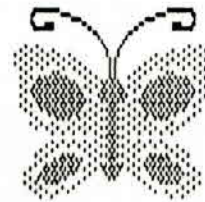
God began to speak to us through our individual collections and hobbies.

MIKE'S AIRPLANES

My brother, Mike, collected airplane paraphernalia. An old leather cap with goggles, a silk scarf, and an airplane propeller are just a



few of his favorite items. His hobby became a symbol of the career he would pursue as an adult. He is a jet pilot now, and still collects unique airplane items. God began directing Mike's career path even before he could drive a car.

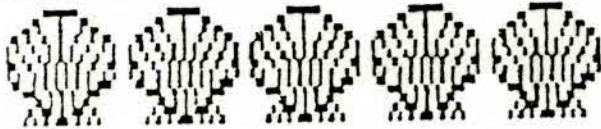


DIANE'S BUTTERFLIES

My sister, Diane, began collecting butterflies as a little girl. She started with a specially designed softweave net. After enveloping the butterflies in her net, she carefully and meticulously mounted them. Diane became an expert at the common and scientific names of these delicate creatures. The butterfly became a symbol of God's promises and his everlasting life. She still collects butterflies, but they now symbolize the hope of body salvation.

ROSIE'S SEASHELLS

My sister, Rosie, collects seashells. She started "because they were pretty and she liked them." Rosie knows more about sea shells than anyone I know. All of her shells are labeled with the scientific and common names. As her collection of sea shells grew, so did her understanding of them. She began to realize that they are all different, amazingly beautiful, individual homes for God's fragile water

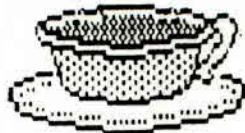


creatures. The shells became symbols of God's desire to provide a home for each of us, but even more, a home that will withstand the elements and the test of time. Each shell reflects the needs of each creature. If God takes such care to create individually beautiful homes to protect these creatures, certainly He will do no less for us.

MOTHER'S DISHES

My mother collects dishes. For as long as I can remember, she has been a wiz at setting a table that would rival a "Better Homes and Gardens" picture. She had a plaque over her kitchen sink that said;

"Thank God for dirty dishes
They have a tale to tell
While others may go hungry
We're eating very well."

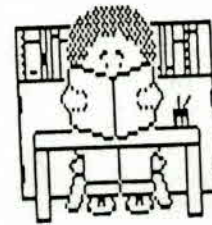


My mother lived this poem. She stood at that sink washing her pretty dishes by hand in the stifling heat. No one had air conditioning in their homes in those days, let alone a dishwasher. She never complained; those pretty dishes symbolized God's power to provide for her growing family. Mom still collects those pretty dishes, and God is still providing for her maturing family.

DAD'S BOOKS

You can guess what Dad collects. He collects books. Books are in every room of the house. He reads very few novels, his books are nearly all instructional. Some of his most prized possessions are books. We always know where to find Dad: at his desk surrounded with volumes of books. Dad's book collection symbolizes God's desire to anoint man with

wisdom and Knowledge. "In the volume of the book..."



A LITTLE LONGER FOR ME

It took me a little longer to develop a special interest in any one collectable. What ever was pretty or unusual, I collected it. I didn't have a specific collection that was exclusively mine, until I became an adult. Each member of my family had something that they could easily be identified with. When we went to the flea markets, it was easy to pick up an inexpensive yet special item for each member in the family. We had a lot of fun sharing our special little treasures with each other. God had been speaking to me, but not yet through a hobby.

DIVORCE PRODUCED LONELINESS

I went through a rather traumatic divorce and was experiencing intense LONELINESS. Being with my family and friends did not ease the LONELINESS. I needed a husband and father in my little family's life. The pain of the LONELINESS sometimes became too much to bear. It was during one of those times that I reached for my Bible, hoping God would speak to me through some story... or something...anything. I just needed to know that he remembered I was here and trying to raise two very needy children by myself.

BIBLE ANSWERS

I read the story of Noah. It wasn't very exciting since I have read it many times. But slowly God began to speak to me through this old story. God showed me someone who had been LONELIER than I was. Even though God allowed Noah to live, while the rest of mankind perished, and even though the entire earth became his to possess, he simply could not have been human if he did not experience LONELINESS. I believe that his LONELINESS must have been nearly overpowering.

RAINBOW HAS NEW MEANING

Suddenly, the RAINBOW took on a new meaning to me. It is a symbol that God will never again destroy the earth by water. Most every Christian knows that. This contractual

agreement between God and man, was notorized, if you will, by the RAINBOW. What peace the RAINBOW must have brought to Noah and his family. And that same peace was brought to me that night. In addition to the promise to not destroy the world again with water, God showed me that the RAINBOW is a symbol of overcoming LONELINESS. Now, whenever I see the RAINBOW I am reminded of God's promise that no one would ever experience such intense LONELINESS again. God knew that I needed a tangible expression of His love for me. He provided this through His symbol, the RAINBOW. So now, I collect RAINBOWS!

RAINBOW COVENANT

God had just begun to show me how much he cares. One lonely night I had been praying about my children, their need for a father, and mine for a husband. I randomly opened my Bible to Isaiah 54. Every verse in that chapter was written especially for me, but I didn't know at the time that the whole chapter was about THE RAINBOW COVENANT.

CHILDREN OF THE DESOLATE

Starting with verse 54:1, "Sing O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the DESOLATE than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord." It startled me to read this sentence.

CRYING HEALTHY BABY

Earlier that day, during a telephone conversation, I heard a baby crying in the background. My friend was extremely exasperated with her baby's constant crying. But that crying was music to my ears. It meant her baby was healthy.

STEPHEN IS RETARDED

My last baby, Stephen, never cried...he couldn't; he was severely retarded. My Doctor told me that Stephen would probably never sit up, and he would never be able to feed himself. I'd have given up all those nights that he didn't wake up to nurse, for just one good healthy cry. And because of my age then, and several other factors, I suspected that I would never have another baby.

PERSONAL GRIEF

God got my attention with, "Sing O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou yhat didst not travail with

child: for more are the children of the DESOLATE than the children of the married wife." (Isaiah 54:1). It shocked me to realize that He cared about even the intimate details of my personal grief.

A WIFE OF YOUTH WHEN REFUSED

Isaiah 54:6 painted a portrait of me... "For the Lord hath called thee as a woman FORSAKEN and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God." I had married very young, and my husband left me with two pre-school age children by the time I was 22 years old. Verse 6 described me! I read on...

FORSAKEN

Verse 7 says, "For a SMALL moment have I FORSAKEN thee." I KNEW I had been feeling FORSAKEN, and at the time I felt that even God had FORSAKEN me, and this verse confirmed it. I had been mistakenly taught that God was always right by our side, ever knowing and ever present. Maybe He is, but at that moment in my life, I knew He was NOT hearing my cries. No one had ever told me that the time might come when I would feel FORSAKEN of God and afflicted.

STRONGER BIBLE FAITH

Reading that verse made my faith stronger because I learned that the Bible always tells the truth. He did FORSAKE me, like I suspected. Now, I knew it, in spite of the teaching to the contrary that I had received. That made the Bible even more real to me.

SMALL MOMENT

It was another comfort to notice that the FORSAKING would only be for a "SMALL MOMENT".

GREAT MERCIES

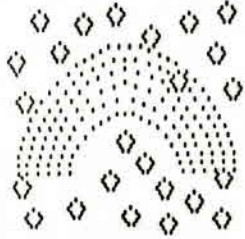
And that's not the end of it, "But with great MERCIES will I gather thee." That's when I needed to read about God's MERCY.

RAINBOW NOTARY SEAL

Verse 9 fairly jumped right off the page at me. God sealed this whole chapter with the "notary seal" of the RAINBOW! "For this is as the WATERS OF NOAH unto me: for as I have sworn that the WATERS OF NOAH should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be WROTH with thee, nor REBUKE thee." God sealed that covenant with the RAINBOW.

NEW MEANING TO THE RAINBOW

This added new meaning to the RAINBOW. No matter what I had done (or NOT done), God would not be WROTH with me, nor REBUKE me; and this promise to ME was as binding as the promise God made to Noah!



WHY I COLLECT RAINBOWS

Now you know why I collect RAINBOWS! I have become known for my collection of RAINBOWS. RAINBOWS tell me that a better day is coming. I needed that! Sure there are RAINBOWS all around my house. The RAINBOW is a great comfort to me. God promised that 1.) He would not FORSAKE me, 2.) He would not be WROTH with me, 3.) He would not REBUKE me, and 4.) He would be MERCYFUL to me. He told me that His promise was SEALED with the RAINBOW.

CHILDREN TAUGHT OF THE LORD

Then God began to deal with me about my children. "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isaiah 54:13) Any single parent can identify with this verse. The fear that divorce will permanently harm our children can be a burden, too great to bear. We pray for our children and hope that everything will turn out "all right." We read books and go to seminars, anything that will teach us to train our children in the most positive way possible. After reading this verse, the heaviest of all burdens was lifted from me. I began to believe that God Himself would be the teacher of my children. From time to time I must go back to this verse . . . our society does not make it easy for our children to have peace.

REINFORCEMENT

I printed this verse on construction paper and hung it on my refrigerator, right next to a picture of the RAINBOW. Everyday for two years I read this verse and prayed that God would bring peace to my children. It worked! They still have their problems (like all kids do) but peace is beginning to fill their minds and hearts.



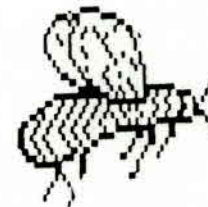
MY NEW HUSBAND ART

I've been through a lot of changes since the night I first read Isaiah 54. I was called to jury duty and it was there that I met Art, who was later to become my new husband. God provided like He said He would. But would anyone ever think that God would plan our meeting while we were both on jury duty? I agree; that's not a very romantic place. I still collect RAINBOWS to remind myself of the promise and provision of God!



STEPHEN IS MUCH IMPROVED

Yesterday Stephen got off of his tricycle, walked into the kitchen, and said, "Water, Mom." Remembering what the Doctor had told me about Stephen's poor future, I gave thanks to God for his improvement. And when I glanced at the RAINBOW on the refrigerator while getting the water for him, I thanked God again. I needed that!



DAVID'S FUTURE

My first son, David, now has two collections. He is collecting empty locusts shells and baseball cards. I wonder what meaning these collections will have in his life...

This ministry does not exist apart from the prayers and gifts of our friends and students.