News from the Brick

Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren
5352 N. Brick Church Road ***Established 1820***
Hagerstown, IN 47346

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Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:00 a.m.

October 2003

Continuing the Work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.

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Carol's Comments "Computer Cleaning"

If we confess our sin, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

Those of us who have computers know of the danger of the viruses and worms lurking out there in cyberspace. We know they are there. We even take precautions and install antivirus programs to keep the nasty varmints away and out of our computer systems. Today hackers and other computer saboteurs frustrate computer users. As fast as the antivirus programs figure out a way to stop the attacks on our computers, new ones appear that are more sophisticated.

Recently I had my computer invaded. I had the antivirus program, but I evidently didn't have a patch that I needed to completely protect my computer. And…I opened a Pandora's box when I opened an attachment that should not have been opened. About as quick as I could blink an eye, my computer was attacked and shut down anything I tried to do. You can imagine what a panic that put me in since it was a Thursday night and I had planned on writing my sermon on Friday. I put in a frantic call to my computer technician. Fortunately, he came the next day and ended up working on it for five hours. The varmint was found and cleaned from the computer. But evidently it had already done some damage, and hence the computer needed a clean sweep—it had to be wiped clean and everything reinstalled. Alas, I have a new computer, so to speak. It is just like new. The antivirus program has been reinstalled and updated and now runs continuously in the background rather than only when I initiate the program updates. I am protected once again…until a new more sophisticated attack comes along and sneaks into my system.

Let's think for a moment about our Christian lives. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, we have an anti sin program running in the background. It catches all the things that come along to tempt us and to sidetrack us from our faith when we keep our souls in running order and don't neglect those updates that protect us from new attacks. But the moment we slack up in faithful scripture study, regular church attendance, prayer time, and fellowship with the community of believers, we may find that we come under attack by temptation from plain neglect. We find that we don't quite have the trust in God that we once did or we begin to doubt God's steadfast love and presence. We open a Pandora's box straying from the Love that has enveloped us from birth. We feel alone, frightened, discouraged, and cynical. Try as we might to fix the problem, the more difficult and disappointed we become. We certainly may put in the effort to correct things, but the problem still persists. It is still running in the background. That is when we need to do a "spiritual check" –a checkup on our spiritual systems. We may have let anger linger behind the scenes instead of dealing with it. We may have let lack of forgiveness locked up in one part of our mind. We may have let resentment or hate eat away at the basic core of who God created us to be. There may be other things that you can name that have slipped in the "back door" and attached itself to those parts of your soul that once was free in Christ.

Put in that frantic call to the Master Technician. He knows just where the problem is. He knows that a "clean sweep" may be needed. He knows that we may need to be reprogrammed in Him and the anti sin program reinstalled. Christ, is the Master Technician. He is always on call and comes immediately, if we but