

**QUIET TIME GUIDE**  
**FOR Friday 6/27/08**  
**FROM JACK MILLWOOD**

**Greeting:**

Last night I was sitting at the house and I looked over on the sofa and there was a 20 year old on the couch searching the internet while watching television. Beside here was a 15 year old typing on her cell phone while watching television. I made the comment that I had not heard one of them say a word in a long time. Of course they made no comment to that either. In a few minutes, long past my comment, I heard the 20 year old so *“What? What are you talking about?”* I wasn’t sure if she was talking to me or what, so I said, *“You talking to me?”* She replied, *“No, I am talking to her,”* as she pointed to the 15 year old right beside her. Of course I then asked, *“Did se say something?”* It was then I found out that the 15 year old had been typing text messages to her WHILE SITTING RIGHT BESIDE HER! The 20 year old then started giving her havoc about text messaging her while she was sitting beside here. She said, *“Why don’t you just talk to me?”* I thought to myself, *“Yep, we are living in a world of new technology.”* If you do not have teenagers maybe you don’t know it yet, but we now live in a world of text messages and e mails. Kids are really into the text messaging. Every where they go they text message. They type in a sentence or two and send it over the phone to their friend’s phone. They do it constantly. They do it in the car, in the movies, in the park, on the beach and even in church. Yes, I knew that. I must admit that I text message my kids who are out of town almost every day. Some times it is just to say hi or to tell them I love them. It can be a great way to stay in touch without inconveniencing others all the time or when you do not have time to talk. I must admit I have become a slave to e mail. Modern technology can be a wonderful tool and I do love it. However, as strange as it may seem it can also be a means of preventing communication. I remember watching about a year and a half ago when I had to stand along the highway in a Santa suit to help our teenagers sell Christmas trees. I stood there watching the cars drive by and I noticed a strange phenomenon. There would be three or four people in a car and they would all be on their cell phones. I saw this repeatedly. It made me think a little. Here we are driving along in a car and we are talking to everyone except the people in the car with us. I started noticing this in my own life. People are with other people and they end up talking to people they are not with by using the computer, the cell phone or the text message system. I am not being critical. The point I am making is that in an age of instant communication we are often busy talking to everyone without every really talking to anyone. What we have gained in **access** to people some of us have lost in **intimacy** with people. In many cases our conversations have all turned into “shallow conversations” and we have avoided “in depth conversations.” I know in the business world business men and women love to communicate by e mail because they get to the point and are succinct. In real life conversations some times need to be more in depth and genuine. In a lot of ways our conversations have turned into shallow and meaningless conversations. For example, when you are talking to people do you ever get to a depth in your conversation where you can actually talk to people about spiritual matters or matters of the heart? Have you reached a level of intimacy where you can be transparent and talk about what God is doing in your life. Many of us have co workers, and neighbors and class mates

that we talk to all the time yet we never really talk to them. When is the last time you talked to some one about what God has done in your life? As I read Psalm 107 today I seem to hear the Psalmist saying, “Speak up man!” He said, “**Let the redeemed of the LORD say this...**”

**Scripture for today:**

***Psalm 107: 1 “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say this— those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, 3 those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south. 4 Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. 5 They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. 6 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. 7 He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. 8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men...”***

**Life Application:**

In your conversations with those in your life do your conversation include spiritual things? I know we talk about the weather, shopping, sports, etc but do we get to the level of talking about the real issues of our lives? One of the reasons we emphasize small groups in our church is so that people can develop relationships with others that can go beyond the surface level and reach a level of intimacy. Do you have those relationships in your life? Is there some one or are there people in your life you can speak openly and honestly with about what God has done in your life? Perhaps God has placed someone in your sphere of life that needs you to reach out to them on a deeper level. Perhaps we need to slow down just a little to listen to those in the same room with us or in the same car with us. Maybe they need to talk about issues that are real? Take the time to listen.

**Spiritual exercise:**

Several times in our quiet times together I have encouraged people to share their life stories with others. I encourage you again today to do that. Have you taken the opportunity to “**Give thanks to the Lord?**” Have you taken the opportunity to tell others what God has done in your life or what he is doing? Has he “**gathered**” you from “**wandering?**” Did he find you “**hungry,**” “**thirsty,**” or “**ebbing away?**” Were you in “**trouble**” or “**distress?**” Perhaps now he has lead you on a “**straight**” path to a new destination of wholeness and safety? If so “**Give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds.**” Is that too deep of a conversation for you? Stretch yourself!. Find someone to share with today. Again, I encourage you to share it with me. Write me a note and share with me what God has done in your life. Tell me the story of God making a difference in your life. I will join you in giving thanks.

**Thought for the day.**

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!