Bright Covenant

by LOUISE PUGH CORDER
Franklinville, North Carolina

The Master Painter of the world
His sky-blue canvas has unfurled
And splashed true, summer colors there
To make a rainbow painting rare—
A fragile arc of wondrous span—
Bright covenant of God with man.
Its awesome splendor stretches wide
To hold a kneeling world inside
And make it marvel at the Hand
That made the sky and sea and land,
Yet cares about each creature small,
Each tiny sparrow that may fall.
The colors fade from sight below,
But in the heart they leave their glow.
AN EDITORIAL

THOSE CHILDREN in your home, whose are they? To whom do they belong? Are they yours? Do they feel they belong to you? Or do they have a feeling that they don’t really belong to anyone?

Psalm 127:3 declares, “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord,” which means that children belong to God. They are His special gifts to us, like a precious divine heritage. They came to us from the Lord, and we are to look upon them as His children, His gifts to us.

Our children are also those whom God has entrusted to our sacred care. They belong to us, too, and we are responsible. They belong to us and God together—we have them and bear responsibility jointly. He is the Heavenly Father, and parents are earthly fathers and mothers.

Nothing in all the universe is more important to God than our children. Through His Word He has given us instruction on the training and the rearing of our children. Centuries ago God promised, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Jesus said, “Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). Again He enlarged upon the importance of little children when He said, “Of such is the kingdom of God. . . . Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein” (Luke 18:16-17).

When Jesus was probing the devotion of Simon Peter upon his reinstatement as an apostle, He not only said, “Feed my sheep,” but also added, “Feed my lambs” (John 21:15-16).

Yes, we bear responsibility for the care, love, nurture, training, and leading of our children to Christ and into His kingdom. In 1980 George Gallup, Jr., in reporting to a national seminar on “Help for Families,” said that “three in four women in the United States say that marriage and children are among the most important elements that would provide the ideal life for them.”

Mr. Gallup also said, “Ninety-one percent of the American people—including the overwhelming majority of young adults—say they would welcome more emphasis on traditional family ties in the years ahead.”

He added, “Americans who say they have received religious training in their youth declined from 94 percent in 1952 to 91 percent in 1965 and to 83 percent today” (1980). “It is interesting to note,” he continued, “that this downtrend parallels a downtrend in the percentage of Americans who say religion is ‘very important’ in their lives from 75 percent in 1952 to 70 percent in 1965, to 53 percent today.”

He said, “Forty-five percent of parents say that religion in the home has strengthened family relationships ‘a great deal’; 32 percent say religion has helped their children ‘a great deal’ to work through problems in their lives; and fewer than 1 in 10 say it has not helped at all.”

These statistics from a cross section of our secular society point out the need among children for Christian training and influence and the cry for “help” by parents for their children.

The Church of the Nazarene continually lays stress and importance upon children, both those within church families and those outside the church influence, to care for their spiritual welfare, their Christian training, and their early coming to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. The church through its manifold children’s ministries bears its share of responsibility to reach, teach, and win boys and girls for Christ. Our entire program of Sunday School, scripture quizzing, vacation Bible schools, summer camps, Caravans, children’s church, and all our activities are focused upon this one purpose. We bear responsibility in winning and training our children for Christ.

WHO BEARS RESPONSIBILITY?

PARENTS AND THE CHURCH SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WINNING AND TRAINING CHILDREN FOR CHRIST.

by General Superintendent Orville W. Jenkins
CHOIR PRACTICE was dismissed early Sunday night, so I had some time before the evening service began. Walking into the near-empty sanctuary, I saw my friend Susan. Susan, a new Christian, had been battling discouragement recently and I had been praying for her. Glad for a chance to visit with her, I sat down beside her.

Almost at once I sensed a change for the better in Susan. As I listened, she explained how one thing after another had piled up until a mountain of discouragement almost overwhelmed her. She told me the last straw had come that week when her landlord informed her that she would have to move. The notice could not have come at a worse time for Susan and her little family. Financially, it was a disaster. The task of finding another house at the present rental fee seemed impossible. In desperation, Susan turned to God. Without uttering a word, he handed her the bouquet of flowers, then turned and left the way he came.

Susan said, “The sweetest peace came over me as I stood holding those flowers. Somehow I felt they came straight from heaven. God sent me those flowers to remind me He loved me. The old man just delivered them. It seemed like the anxiety of the past few weeks just melted away as I looked at that little bouquet of flowers.”

The rain stopped as suddenly as it had begun. The boys came skipping down the street, safe and dry. They had found shelter along the way and waited out the storm.

That afternoon, the impossible happened. Just the right house was found to rent at a reasonable price. In fact, it was even better than the one she had.

As Susan shared her story with me, my heart overflowed. We rejoiced together in God’s ability to meet our needs and be there at all times. He comes in different ways to assure the weak in faith that He really does love us.

I remembered the ads for F.T.D. florists and their delivery man with wings on his heels. God has a much better system to deliver His messages. Somewhere there is an old, white-haired man who loves flowers and doesn’t mind sharing them. No doubt the Holy Spirit sent out the request for “flowers for Susan,” and that day the old man heard and obeyed, then went out into a rain storm to deliver them. F.T.D. could never compete with God’s timing!

—ALMA FLOYD
Columbia, Missouri

GIVING

God gives us joy that we may give;
He gives us love that we may share;
Sometimes He gives us loads to lift
That we may learn to bear.
For life is more noble when we give,
And love is sweeter when we share,
And heavy loads rest lightly, too,
When we have learned to bear.

SHIRLEY F. STEVENSON is the pastor’s wife at First Church of the Nazarene in Baytown, Texas.
PLEA FROM PRISONER

Could you please print this letter for me? It is a plea for help, kindness, and understanding, all of which I desperately need. I am 22 years old, serving time for a not-too-serious mistake that I once made and am very sorry for. I am trying to use the time of my incarceration as constructively as possible, but it gets hard without a helping hand and no one to care. The people I thought cared, care nothing at all. If anyone out there has a moment or two to spare, please write to me.

Wendell Rooks # 19577
P.O. Box 41
Michigan City, IN 46360

PRISONER FINDS CHRIST

On Christmas, 1979, I was laying in a jail cell in Indiana, bleeding from razor cuts on my wrist. I had, over the years, completely submerged myself in sex, booze, and drugs. I was despondent and thought that I could take my own life. A man found me and called the officer. I was taken to the hospital.

A man named Harold came to see me and explained how a person is a product of God and that God rules our lives. He found me an old Bible there in the jail that I could read. He explained to me that it was not going to be an easy task, dealing with reality, even with the Lord beside me. It would be much easier than dealing with reality without His presence.

I was facing 229 years in prison; my friends had left me; my fiancée left me and took everything I owned. I was stranded in jail.

I started digging in that old Bible looking for the answer. After a while I found that God was real and that He could bring me an inner peace through Jesus. I accepted Christ and it was the turning point of my life. Soon after, my lawyers said the prosecutors in three counties were willing to give me a deal of only 5 years in

(Continued on page 20)
WHAT MINOT FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE MEANS TO ME

by JOY BAKER

I ARRIVED IN MINOT on Friday, August 14, from Port Angeles, Wash.—just 15 days after graduat­­ing from Idaho State University with a master's degree in speech pathology. Saturday, August 15, equipped with the map in my phone book and some church addresses from the Yellow Pages, I ventured out on a rainy afternoon to map a route to a church.

Having opened my heart to the Lord in a small Nazarene church in Poulsbo, Wash., and having been a student at Northwest Nazarene College, I decided to check out one of the Nazarene churches first. I got lost trying to find Southside Church of the Nazarene and was forced to head northwest, to try my luck at finding the other Nazarene church.

Lo and behold, I did find the sign that said Minot First Church, and saw a white Nova with red and blue stripes parked under the carport of a brick building. Inside the car was a lady and two kids. The little girl was trying to crawl out the window and the boy was trying to keep her in the car by holding on to her feet. The man wore a sport coat and dress pants (on a Saturday!) and was standing outside the car chatting with the lady. What impressed me as I scoped out the situation was that everyone was smiling and they didn't even know I was watching.

Having never seen a carport on a church I was a little taken by surprise. At home most large brick buildings with carports are funeral homes. I honestly wondered if the building used to be a mortuary. Now I've worshiped in a converted milkbarn, even in an old Eagle's Hall, but never in a funeral home. I decided that even if it once had been a place to pay last respects to the dead, the all-American family was definitely alive and happy.

I returned to my apartment, fixed myself a sand­wich—my freight containing my household belong­ings had yet to arrive—and I prepared to worship at Minot First Church of the Nazarene. I found it diffic­ult to sleep that night, for I was both nervous and excited about beginning my hunt for a church home.

The next morning, with bags under my eyes and butterflies in my stomach, I marched through the doors of the converted funeral home. Before I knew it, I was drinking a cup of coffee, sitting in a Sunday School class, shaking hands right and left, and even had an invitation to stay after church for a hot meal—a much welcomed break from my sandwich diet of the previous few days.

The following Thursday, when the church newsletter arrived, I squealed with delight at receiving mail at my new address, especially since it was addressed to someone other than “occupant.” I had it memor­ized by Friday morning!

It's amazing that three months have passed by. Minot First Church of the Nazarene is meeting my needs, as I have discovered it to be a Bible-teaching, Bible-preaching, Christ-centered fellowship where its people are actively seeking the Lord. This church is meeting my needs to feel I belong—I definitely feel a part of the church family. I am also relieved to know now that the church was never a mortuary; the build­er was just practical in adding the carport.

I have never had people express their genuine love and concern for me in so many ways. With all the tears I have spilled, I am certain I have helped sup­port the Kleenex industry. There have been times when my heart was heavy and ached terribly because of feelings of inadequacy in my new job, over­whelming loneliness, and unpleasant memories of the past raising their ugly heads. But I know I can face it all because of the unselfish, Jesus-like love the body of believers of Minot First Church of the Nazarene have shown me.

My position as associate speech pathologist in a private practice brought me to Minot, N.D., but I can honestly say that my church family is my primary reason for desiring to remain here.

For all of your acts of kindness, ranging from put­ting the head bolt heater in my car to just a phone call to say I was being thought of, I thank you and appreciate you!
Give your life to God; He can make more of it than you can.' This is the advice that D. L. Moody gives us. But does it work? It did for him. Moody was a man whose life was powerful in God's hands. People who have followed this counsel have always made the most of their lives. Many people are thankful for Elizabeth. Over 30 people trace their conversion back to her teaching. She had put heart into some people who were despondent. Several who needed guidance had consulted her and had always been glad they followed her advice.

In her younger days she had not been blessed with money, education beyond high school, or an attractive physique. How then had she been so useful?

When asked, she explained: "In my late teens I decided I wanted to live a useful life. When I was reading my Bible one day I met Paul's command to surrender myself to the Lord. The words seemed to have a personal message for me. At once I gave my life to the Lord, asking Him to make the best use of it. What you have mentioned about being used by Him started at that time and depended entirely on my surrender to Him."

Surrender to God must bring effective living because that is what He asks from us through Paul: "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God" (Romans 12:1). This surrender is the complete dedication of every power and faculty of body, mind, and spirit to God. It is dying to our own plans and living for Jesus Christ. It is complete abandonment of ourselves to Him and so the final severance of every competing allegiance. To surrender ourselves to God is, as F. B. Meyer says, "to recognize Christ's ownership and to accept it; and to say to Him with the whole heart, 'Lord I am thine by right, and I wish to be Thine by choice.'"

Since surrender embraces the whole of life, we cannot confine it to what we may call the religious side of life. Our increasing leisure is to be surrendered to Him. Surrender also includes how and where we earn our livings.

How do we make this surrender? Dr. R. A. Torrey gives us this excellent advice: "Say to God, 'Heavenly Father, henceforth I have no will of my own; Thy will be done in me, through me and by me, regarding me, in all things. I put myself unreservedly in Thy hands; now do with me just what Thou wilt.'"

We are handing God a blank sheet of paper on which we have signed our names at the bottom. We are asking God to fill in this sheet exactly as He likes. Then when we see what He has written, we proceed to obey His will.

Some people hesitate to surrender their lives to the Lord because they fear the consequences. Augustine answers this fear. "What I feared to be parted from was now a joy of surrender. For Thou didst cast them forth from me ... and in their place didst enter in Thysel, sweeter than all pleasure."

God is sure to tell us exactly what He wants us to do, though He may not tell us all that is involved in the surrender. He then expects us to give complete, unquestioning, and immediate obedience. Since we have surrendered ourselves to Him, arguing with Him, or evading or dismissing His direction would be wrong.

Our surrender could be costly. The Lord may call us to a completely new way of life. He may ask us to spend less money on ourselves so we can help others more. He may ask us to take on some responsibility we would naturally shrink from shoulderling. Possibly He will put His finger on something we practice and tell us to give it up. He could urge us to give up a certain friendship because it would hinder our spiritual growth. The possible cost should not put off our surrender.

Among men offering themselves for the ministry was one young man who had taken a degree at Oxford University and gone straight to a well-paying job. One committee man interviewing him asked: "You realize, of course, that you must now face three years in a..."
theological seminary with no money coming in, and, that after that, when you get a church your stipend will be little more than half what you are getting now?"

"Yes," the young man replied, "I have tried to take all that into account. But it still seems to me that I should go into the ministry. I feel I can do no other and I leave the future wholly in His hands."

Surrendering our lives to God will make them powerful and effective. Wilbur Chapman looked into General Booth's face and saw him brush back his hair from his brow as he heard him speak of his trials, conflicts, and victories. Chapman asked him: "General Booth, tell me what has been the secret of your success?"

The general hesitated a second and Chapman saw tears come into his eyes and steal down his cheeks. Then he said: "I will tell you the secret. God has had all there was of me to have. There have been men with greater opportunities, but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart and a vision of what Jesus Christ could do, I made up my mind that God would have all of William Booth there was."

Wilbur Chapman adds: "I learned from William Booth that the greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender."

Our right attitude to God is to follow David Shepherd, a prominent British sportsman, who has more recently become Bishop of Liverpool. He says: "I came to Jesus . . . without any idea of what the future would hold. I remember the prayer I prayed that night I asked Him into my life. 'Lord, I know not where this is going to take me, but I am willing to go with You—please make me willing.'"

When we surrender our lives to God, He who is infinite in love, wisdom, and power will do the best that is possible with them. We may not see this at once, but we will sooner or later. God floods the heart of the surrendered person with light, joy, and peace and fills his life with power. Our absolute surrender to God is the only way to make the most of our lives.

Those early morning moments, Lord,
When I'm alone with You,
I value more than vaults of gold
Or what gold will accrue.
I can't assess in money, Lord,
The worth of secret prayer,
And no possession ranks so great
As knowing that You care.
Perhaps tomorrow I'll be stripped
Of what few things are mine,
But who can rob my heart of You?
Iron bars cannot confine
My soul aflight on wings of prayer.
Though life seems but a maze,
Complexities become minute
Viewed with an upward gaze.
O precious Jesus, in this hour,
Forbid my soul to rush,
Compel me here to tarry long
Steepled in Love's holy hush.
I'm like a watered garden, Lord,
All glory-drenched and new,
When I have knelt in early hours
And spent that time with You.

—MARY MASON
Lakeside, California

Early Morning Moments
IN THE FIELD HOUSE at the University of Kansas there is a plaque honoring an obscure athlete of an earlier generation. This boy went out for football. He never broke a training rule during the season. Yet he never played more than two minutes in a competitive game during the four years. Because of his faithfulness, the coach had the following epigram inscribed on the plaque: "Four years on the scrubs... HE NEVER QUIT."

Scripture teaches that faithfulness is important regardless of how much ability a person might have. In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 24:14) it was the one-talent man who failed and lost his reward. He failed not because the challenge was too great, but because he could not be depended on to use the ability he had.

While the hope of reward should not be the basic motive in being faithful, nevertheless a reward will result. The experience of the dependable men in the Parable of the Talents illustrates the truth of Proverbs 28:20: "A faithful man shall abound with blessings."

There is nothing in this world like old-fashioned dependability. The apostolic church "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42). I like that. Poverty and persecution could not stop them. These Christians never quit; they were faithful.

When Polycarp was 100 years old, he was condemned to die because of his faith in Christ. As he was being led to his execution, the heathen urged him to say at least one word against Christ to save himself from the agonies of a fiery death. Polycarp answered: "Eighty and six years have I served Him and He has never done me anything but good all my life; and shall I now renounce Him in my old age?"

In A.D. 155 he was burned at the stake. He was as faithful in death as he had been in life.

Many have found strength and encouragement in the faithfulness of God. We know that He is faithful. We sing, "Great is thy faithfulness," and recite, "God is faithful" (1 Corinthians 1:9). The more we come to know Him, the more we will possess and reflect His divine qualities, including faithfulness.

Albert Schweitzer was visited by the American playwright Thornton Wilder, who asked this question: "Tell me, Doctor, at the age you have reached (he was then nearly eighty), how do you feel about the loves of your youth—Bach, Wagner, Goethe, Kant, Hegel? One does change in the course of a lifetime."

Schweitzer answered him: "Me? I am faithful."

Faithfulness is a quality which God's people should manifest in every area of life. They should be faithful in their relationship to the Lord (1 Corinthians 4:1-2), and they should also be dependable in everyday matters (Ephesians 6:5-9).

Faithfulness must be manifested in the small as well as the more momentous events of life. Actually, how a person performs in insignificant matters is often a better index of true character than his performance in spectacular ones. Jesus said: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much" (Luke 16:10).

It is not enough to prepare ourselves to work for the Master. It is not enough to begin a good work for the Lord. These labors must continue a lifetime. Our Redeemer declares, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). There is no promise to the one who quits his labors of love in midlife. God is not so concerned with what we have done as with what we are doing.

A man went out into a woodland to clear up the underbrush. He took with him his dog. As he worked he became warm. He removed his coat and placed it on the ground and gave orders to his dog to watch it. As he cleared the land, he began to burn piles of brush. A wind arose, and the fire got out of control. The man ran to a nearby plowed field. When he arrived there, he thought of his dog still in the fire zone. He was unable to go back, but he thought the dog would also find a place of safety. When the fire subsided, the man returned to the woodland, and went to the place where he left his coat and his dog. He found the charred remains of his dog and beneath the dog was a mere scrap of his coat. The dog had been faithful.

The man carried the remains of his dog back to his house. In the backyard he prepared a grave, buried the dog, and put a fitting headstone upon the grave. All of this was done with great tenderness. Why? Was it because the dog was beautiful? No. Was it because the dog was a thoroughbred? No. It was because the dog had been found faithful.

The beginnings of faithfulness are always the little things that we think will make no difference. No one
was ever called of God to a high position who did not lay the foundation of that call in courageous devotion to the small details of life. He who is conscientious now about little things will someday be made “ruler over many things.” Then the words of Jeremiah 30:19 will be fulfilled: “I will . . . glorify them, and they shall not be small.”

If for my hands there is no larger task, Then, precious Lord, for this I ask— In little things I e'er may faithful be, And thus bring honor rich to Thee. —Anonymous

For bravery and faithfulness to duty, many have been honored with words of gratitude and special awards. To hear words of commendation from the president of the United States, or some other high-ranking official, must be appreciated by the receiver. A greater experience awaits those who have been faithful and true to God, and have done their best to make the world better. No greater words of commendation can come from anyone than those spoken by Jesus when He said: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:21).

VISION*

by ALBERT J. LOWN

HUMOR is often the saving grace of those who live with and overcome the handicap of double vision, for “I can see two of you” may be a blessing or an added trial. Only those who know the difficulty of judging step or distance, and have been disbarred from driving, know the handicap that double vision brings.

Spiritually, double vision is essential for steadfast Christian service. Beyond facts and circumstances, however encouraging or depressing, those who would serve God must also see the hosts and chariots of the Lord—the purposes and power of God available in hostile situations and overwhelming problems.

Elisha’s young servant was completely dismayed when he saw the city of Dothan surrounded by Syrian troops intent upon capturing his master. In the early morning light, facts and pessimism were equally real: “Alas, master, what shall we do?” There was apparently no way out or through the enemy forces. Then Elisha prayed: “O Lord, open the young man’s eyes.” The prayer for double vision was answered and the servant saw the hosts and chariots of God assembled to protect and preserve his master. The facts had not changed, but the ability to meet them was transformed.

The gift of second sight, the inner vision of faith, is essential for Christian living and service. It was exercised by Ezekiel in an unlikely place, “down by the riverside” among a captive people whose spirits were as bowed down as the branches of the willow tree. With clear vision the prophet saw the turning wheels of divine government moving to an appointed goal. Within them was the perfect consciousness of God, “Eyes within and without,” and the Spirit of God seeking the “hand of man” to cooperate with His patient, all-wise purposes.

A changed Ezekiel saw the qualities God seeks in His servants in challenging, hopeless circumstances: the strength of a lion, the patience of an ox, the enthusiasm and vision of an eagle, and the intelligence of a man. Double vision turned the chastening captivity into a penitent preparation for a remnant to return and rebuild the waste places of Jerusalem.

So often Jesus looked upon lives and situations with double vision: upon a rich young ruler, seeking riches enthroned in a gifted life; upon Peter, seeing a Phoenix leader rising out of catastrophe; seeing faith beneath beggary, blindness, and moral bankruptcy. Where others saw half a man. He saw the man to be.

Paul, too, coveted double vision for his converts. He prayed for “the eyes of their understanding” to be opened to see “the excellency of the power which is of God,” the power that raised Jesus from the dead. Looking upon outward appearances alone, and considering the odds against us, may well terrify youthful faith, until the inward eye sees the hosts and chariots of the Lord.

The hosts of God encamp around The dwellings of the just: Deliverance He affords to all Who on His succour trust.

ALBERT J. LOWN is an evangelist from Keighley, Yorkshire, England, and a frequent contributor to religious periodicals.
I FEEL LIKE A FAILURE, Mom," Mark said in an anguished voice that paralleled the despair I saw in his eyes. "I've tried. I've studied. I just can't seem to understand it."

My heart wrenched at Mark's words as I shared his pain. I wanted to say, "Mark, you're certainly not a failure. No one is a failure at 15. Just keep working at it. You'll catch on." But the words went unsaid because they'd been said before. And this time I knew words wouldn't help. Mark needed results, not a pep talk. He needed action. Something had to change.

What needed changing were the weekly scores he brought home from his algebra class. They were all Ds. It didn't matter that he did the homework assignments, studied for the tests, and even went in after school for extra help from Mr. Hegg, his algebra teacher. The results were still the same—an unbroken succession of Ds.

Mark's father and I knew that he was making a real effort to bring the grade up. After all, he did have a lot at stake. Since turning 15, he was eligible for a learner's permit, and, like his friends, was eager to learn to drive a car. John had given his permission with one stipulation: the algebra grade would have to be improved first. We hoped that this requirement would provide the needed motivation and expected the grade to improve soon. As weeks went by with no progress, however, it became clear that the problem was more serious than we had realized.

And now here was Mark—hurt, defeated, more than a little resentful—asking for hope and help. Finally, I answered, "Mark, let's take this problem to the Lord and trust Him to guide us."

"OK," Mark answered, nodding slowly in agreement. I could see a glimmer of hope being rekindled in his eyes.

We prayed together, asking for God's help and expecting change to occur. Then we shared what we were doing with the rest of the family, and we all began earnestly praying to God on Mark's behalf.

An immediate result of focusing, not on the problem, but on God, was that Mark was able to relax. The tension in our home eased. Expectant confidence replaced worry and anxiety. Mark's resentment dissipated as he realized we didn't enjoy denying him privileges because of his grades, but, in fact, everyone in the family wanted to see him succeed. We were taking action through faithful prayer to this end.

Mark's mind was renewed and his spirit encouraged as he put his trust in God. He found strength to persevere and faith to hope as the family united to support him. He approached his studies with a new determination that with God's help he would succeed. "Put your trust in the Lord your God, and you will be established" (2 Chronicles 20:20, ASV).

Algebra test day arrived. When Mark came home from school, we couldn't wait to ask him how it had gone. "I think I did pretty well," Mark answered. "Of course, the test results won't be out until next week; but, you know, I really felt like I understood the equations, like I knew what was going on."

The following Wednesday we received this letter in the mail from his algebra teacher:

Dear Parents,

Each week, in Algebra I, the students receive a grade, which is based on daily work and a test.

I am happy to report to you that for the week ending February 27, Mark got an A. This is an excellent accomplishment and I'm sure you will be as proud of it as I am.

Sincerely,
Mr. Hegg

Yes, we are proud of our son for this accomplishment. We are proud of him for not giving up. And most of all we are proud of him for having the courage and willingness to put his trust in God and to believe Jesus, who said, "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

Problems do not have to divide our homes, frustrate and defeat us, or cause us to lose our self-esteem. Instead, by centering our attention on God, as Mark did, our problems can be transformed into opportunities; opportunities for greater unity in our families, for developing a deeper faith, and for enjoying a new self-confidence. These are the results of choosing to rely on God, who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

VALKYRIE MURPHY is a free-lance writer, and is a member of the Bend, Oregon, Church of the Nazarene.
FULLY EXPECTED to break the crust of ice I knew would be in the Communion cup before I could drink from it. For a cold front out of Mongolia was penetrating both the Korean Peninsula and the chapel of Korea Nazarene College, during the final service of the calendar year and the college year.

Shin Min Gyoo, a graduating senior, offered me his black embroidered cushion as he sat by me. I waved it away, for he was just now recovering from bronchitis and needed it worse than I. His breath, and that of a hundred others, steamed white in the air with little, enthusiastic puffs as “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” rang throughout the auditorium.

I watched the men step out of their shoes as they stepped onto the platform. A little heater was there to keep shoeless feet from getting too cold. I smelled the fragrance of newly made, unpainted pews, given by the alumni association. A lovely gesture on the part of someone, I thought, to initiate them in this special service. I listened to the president comment about the pews as he glanced approvingly at them. “Every day is a little step further into our future,” he said. I sensed his continuing thrill as he sees God’s plan for KNC being worked out step-by-step.

My mind went back to the dedication service, a few months ago, of the one building on the campus. It’s a big, modern building on a miracle site. Set on a hill, it is surrounded by mountains, with rice paddies, little villages, and a busy highway and railroad below. (If my students or I do not become inspired by what happens in the classroom, we have but to glance from the windows.)

My reverie was broken by the poised appearance of a lady attractively dressed in a yellow hanbok, the traditional dress of the Koreans. As she sang the Lord’s Prayer, I found myself wishing that everyone in a Nazarene college chapel could hear her. Korean lips hallowing the name of God are beautiful! I listened next to the president’s sermon on forgiveness. “Forgiving is love in action. Without forgiving, there is no church. Without forgiving, there is no growth.”

Rev. Patch’s words, resonant and earnest, harmonized with the gold and black insignia on the wall behind him—the seal bearing the Bible, the dove, and the words “Church of the Nazarene.” An international chapel message against an international backdrop; good for chapel at BNC, my teaching alma mater, and for my present college, KNC.

Yes, some things were different about this chapel service from those I attended for nearly 40 years—mountain views, with little burial clearings and mounds far up their slopes; two women with big bundles balanced on their heads as they walked through the rice paddies; the little stove on the platform; the unpainted pews; the unfamiliar language; the bows of the participants; girls serving Communion. But I felt God’s Spirit and rejoiced, grateful that chapels are still a vital part of Nazarene colleges.

Two chapel services were responsible for my being in this one. The first occurred a couple of years after I was converted, at Fort Wayne Bible College. God used Dr. A. W. Tozer and his message on finding and doing God’s will to reveal His will for my life. It became unmistakably clear that teaching in a Christian college was His plan for me.

At another chapel service, this time at Bethany Nazarene College, I sensed guidance concerning further teaching even though I was to retire shortly. During the senior chapel at the close of school, He confirmed what had been rather vague before, teaching at Korea Nazarene College. As the class sponsor, Professor Mark Reighard, played his testimony, “Jesus is all the world to me,” on the piano, assurance came that this was His further plan for my life.

The pianist was now playing softly, “Jesus, keep me near the Cross,” as Rev. Kang, the chaplain, began the Communion service. The Communion cup did not contain ice crystals, as I had thought. The warm singing and fervent praying must have melted any that had accumulated!

At the close of the service, nearly two hours long, we gathered around the seniors kneeling at the altar and joined hands. I was conscious of two things: deep gratitude for the very special chapel-habit in Nazarene colleges; and, the hope that I was not freezing the hand of the student on either side of me!
Many Christians have a distaste for the word revival. I am grateful this is not true with a large segment of the people called Nazarenes. If there has been too much exaggeration, too much fanatical excitement, and too much transient profession, I can understand why some sober-minded Christians tend to prefer other labels such as “Crusades,” “Spiritual Enrichment,” etc. But inasmuch as the word revival is biblical, I want to discuss the subject, Revive to Evangelize.

All “worked-up” revivals are bad. A true revival cannot be organized. Spiritual influences cannot be treated as fixed quantities. To revive means to bring back to life, to renew, to give life, to awaken. It is a great spiritual awakening in the Church. In one aspect it is an alarm, a call from God to the Church to arise out of its sleep and sound the battle cry. Revival is a work of the Holy Spirit among God’s people whereby they get right with God and with each other.

Perhaps never before has the need for revival been so widely recognized. Unrest, bloodshed, crime, racial strife, pornography, lust, hate, greed, fear, false teachers, cults, humanism, and liberalism are rampant. May our hearts cry out to God like the prophet Habakkuk, “O Lord, revive thy work” (3:2).

The Church lives in the hour of its greatest opportunity and faces its greatest challenge. Some contend it is impotent and spiritually deficient; it is rich and increased with goods. The Church can no longer say, “Silver and gold have I none.” But does it have the power to say to a crippled, desperate humanity, “Rise up and walk”? A revival involves prayer, and we are too busy for much of this. Prayer can solve problems, lift burdens, harmonize the membership, deepen the spiritual life, extend the horizons, produce pente­costal revivals, defeat the world, the flesh, and the devil, and “get the glory down” as nothing else can.

I am persuaded that God is waiting for some church to say, “Our church may not be a lot of things, but it is going to be a praying church.” When a church says that and means it, get ready for miracles. Do you believe that if we honestly admit our spiritual poverty, then make an effort to correct all which is contrary to God’s spiritual laws, and to measure up to God’s standard in every dimension of Christian living, that a spirit of revival will surge through our churches? I do. Many pastors and laymen believe it. The church’s finest hour depends on its willingness to do what God has commanded. We must not only believe that prayer is necessary, but prayer and fasting must be preached and practiced. Special emergencies call for special approaches to God and fasting is one of the special methods of approach.

May the people called Nazarenes have a rebirth of praise, joy, love, freedom in the Spirit, a holy compulsion, and a heavenly compassion for lost humanity.

When genuine revival comes to a church, that church is ready to become a soul-winning church. This, in turn, will bring about the kind of spiritual and numerical growth the Bible so clearly defines.

Genuine revival brings the church to its knees; believers are sanctified; backsliders are reclaimed; restitutions are made; forgiveness is asked; old grudges are forgiven and forgotten; backbiting, slander, and divisiveness are demolished. If the church has a spiritual cancer, only a Holy Ghost revival can remove it and provide the spiritual outflow that churches need to be effective forces in the world. Pastors, are you looking for new Nazarenes this year? I am sure you are. Your laymen, filled with the Holy Spirit, can be great soul winners. Evangelism will begin when revival comes.

It is interesting to note the different places souls are won. This should incite saints to be on the lookout for sinners and to tackle them anywhere. Some disciples were won by the Sea of Galilee. The Samaritan woman was won by a well. Matthew was won at the receipt of custom. Some sinners were won by Christ at the dinner table. Christ won Zacchaeus while he was up a sycamore tree. The Ethiopian was won in a chariot by the highway. The Philippian jailer was converted in jail. D. L. Moody accepted Christ in the rear of a store.

There must be a concentrated effort to bring re-
vival to this particular church. Everyone, yes, each member of the church, must be a member of the crew, with no one remaining on the passenger list. All must leave the spectators' section and mount the witness stand to declare person-to-person the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to a dying world. The Church is a movement. The Church began in power. The Church moves in power. It is an incarnation of spiritual power. The Church must not sit immobile on some street, fastened to the foundation of indifference, traditionalism, and contentment. We must ask, "Is ours a church moving out into the highways and on to the bridges of the world on wheels of prayer, faith, fasting, enthusiasm, and dedication?" The church must be more than a place of worship, more than a place where saints come to pay their tithe, sing their songs, say their prayers, and listen to another sermon. If revival comes, the church will be a growing, effective, dynamic force in the community. Remember! When revival comes, evangelism begins.

“ME-ISM” MUST GO
by EARL C. WOLF

THE “ME-DECADE” IS OVER, says Daniel Yankelovich, New York pollster and analyst of social and political trends. The “me-ism” that spread in the decade of the 70s will give way to commitments to others—family, neighbors, community, co-workers—in the 80s. The self-centeredness of the 70s has brought loneliness and frustration rather than fulfillment. Any commitment that strengthens society and contributes to human betterment is a welcome improvement.

Whether or not Mr. Yankelovich’s predictions for the 80s are correct, one thing is certain. In the biblical sense, “me-ism” must go. When Jesus said, “Come, follow me,” He challenged us to surrender ourselves and to make a complete commitment to Him. This commitment results in life’s greatest rewards. It moves us from the cult of self-worship to the most fulfilling of relationships. It spells death to self-absorption and opens the way to life’s essential and meaningful responsibilities.

The decade of the 70s testifies to the fact that life turned inward—absorbed with self-gratification—is damaging and disruptive. “Me-ism” failed. Its rejection of systems, institutions, and social responsibilities was an experiment in disappointment. The social and religious dimensions of life cannot be ignored or devalued without great cost to individuals and society.

The message of “dying out to self” that we heard so often from the holiness preachers of the past sounds strange to our modern ears. But their message was psychologically and biblically sound. Death to self is the only way to the new life in Christ. It is this death that places self and others in proper perspective. The crucifixion of self—the old sinful self—does not destroy one’s essential selfhood. It results in a new awareness of oneself as a redeemed child of God, as one renewed in the image of God, as one whom Christ loved and for whom He died. It brings a new understanding of self and others; it results in new commitments of loving and caring.

The present scene is filled with such programs as self-analysis, self-actualization, and self-awareness. Much of this is simply humanistic psychology. The message of Christ, however, is that of self-crucifixion. But that crucifixion leads to resurrection—to a redeemed selfhood and a new life of rewarding relationships.

The apostle Paul modeled for us the way of commitment. He wrote to the Galatians: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (2:20, NIV).

Paul’s journey to life in Christ was not easy. It is never easy to die to self. Paul paid a price for his faith-commitment to the Man of Galilee. After reviewing his distinguished record as a devout Hebrew, he declared: “Every advantage that I had gained I considered lost for Christ’s sake. Yes, and I look upon everything as loss compared with the overwhelming gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I did in fact suffer the loss of everything, but I considered it mere garbage compared with being able to win Christ” (Philippians 3:7-8, Phillips).

There’s a price to pay, too, for missing life at its best. “Me-ism” is a deceptive way of license that leads to confusion and bondage. Commitment to Christ is a way of responsible action that leads to glorious freedom.

EARL C. WOLF is a writer and Nazarene elder residing in Kansas City, Missouri.
WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, "I am a divorced person," we tend to assume that he or she wanted the divorce. It doesn't seem to occur to us that perhaps the person did not wish to be divorced. Divorce is forced on many men and women. They protest, but no one hears or heeds. They are helpless to do anything about their situations.

It is a sad day when anyone hears a companion say, "I do not love you anymore. I want a divorce." At first one is sure it isn't happening. He knows there is a mistake in all this. Given a little time he is sure it will all work out. Nothing is more traumatic than rejected love. One cannot force another to love him.

Then comes the day when one is "served" with orders from the court. Often he cannot recognize himself as the person described in these official, sterile papers. In anger, he believes he can prove to the court that he is not guilty of any of the terrible things alleged. Too late, he discovers that the court is not even remotely interested in the truth or untruth stated. If one person wants a divorce, the entire family gets a divorce, and without a family vote! When one person files papers expressing a wish to be divorced, everything that follows is a mere formality.

Can a person contest a divorce? In most states that is no longer an option. Call character witnesses? That is neither pertinent nor relevant, the courts say. Despite all the "bad" things stated in the petition for the divorce by "the moving party," the protesting party will be told that no one questions his character. What they are saying is that the marriage is over and the entire family will have a divorce whether or not they want it. Hardly a democracy, but that's just the way it is. Certainly it isn't justice by any stretch of the imagination, but unfortunately it is reality for hundreds of thousands of persons who neither intended nor desired to ever be divorced.

Many will say, "But can't I require my spouse to get counseling before this happens?" Lawyers sometimes will say you can while they are waiting for you to pay their retainer. As soon as the "up front" fee is paid, you discover that no one can force the other party into counseling. Besides, even if you proved the
other person mentally incompetent or emotionally disturbed, it would not prevent the divorce. If the “moving party” is willing, counseling may take place, but one is at the mercy of the spouse.

One may believe divorce is wrong. He may be willing to go to counseling and to enter into any kind of therapy. He may never know why there are “irreconcilable differences” or what they are. Perhaps he is willing to work toward some kind of reconciliation. But he is powerless unless the other party agrees. We need to understand that divorce is forced upon some persons against their wills. They would prefer death to divorce, but they have lost all power of choice in this matter. No one is interested in bargaining. Nothing can be more traumatic than being rejected by the one you most love and having absolutely no power to do anything about it.

Every conceivable emotion emerges. Guilt—I must have failed; I must be a failure and therefore I cannot be any good! Fear—What am I going to do? Can I make it alone? Will they take my home and children? Anger—How can anyone do this to me? How can the person who loves me do this to me? Despondency—There is nothing I can do! Utter rejection—The one I love most in all the world is totally rejecting me! Then comes a mixture of love, hate, and a sickening sense of dread and disgust. What follows is lots of self-pity, mistrust, and the feeling of impotence.

Impotence—that is what one most feels! The marriage and all the love that goes with it is cancelled. One can now see his children—when the court says, if the custodial parent agrees. He or she can stay in the home or be evicted from it on the word of the judge. It is like racing full speed down a hill backwards in a truck that has no brakes! Losing control of one’s own life is most frightening. No one likes to surrender his sense of autonomy. Self-esteem goes out the window and one feels helpless as well as hopeless.

Wounded soldiers need a rescue squad. The church knows how to respond to people who suffer loss by death. When loss comes as the result of fire, storm, or flood, the church responds with compassion. Sickness and disaster do not daunt the church. They are not afraid to minister to the troubled. But divorce frightens the church! We are afraid and embarrassed by it. We are not yet ready to admit that it’s our problem. Sometimes we appear afraid to minister to the divorced because we fear contamination—it might happen to us. Our fear keeps us from those most needing us, and they die for lack of our love.

To be compassionate would force the church to own its embarrassing problem. Is it possible that we have confused compassion with condoning divorce? Many who have been divorced will be the first to condemn divorce. They are not asking that the church condone divorce; they are asking the church to love them. But all too often the church, being fearful of guilt by association, says to those wounded by divorce, “Heal yourself!” Do we not realize that he or she did not inflict the wounds and has no power for self-healing? If the Church would incarnate Jesus and be the Body of Christ, it must help to bring healing to those wounded in divorce battles.

Do not be embarrassed by the wounded! Many of them did not want to be divorced. Be sensitive, for they are already hurting. Do not add to their already unbearable pain by further rejecting them. They have already felt rejected by ex-spouses, sometimes by their children, almost always by the couples they ran with. They do not need the church which preaches love and compassion to add to the burden by rejecting them.

They need all the love, patience, understanding, and compassion the church can give them. They do not need pity; they do need love, care, and compassion. They need the help and strength of the church in order to survive. Like those who have suffered losses of health and property, they need support of the Body of Christ. It wouldn’t be a bad idea if the church tried to help them start over again, just as it does when one’s house burns. Whatever the cause, the losses are the same! May God give to the church strength and compassion to rescue these wounded soldiers.

**HEALING BALM**

The wound was deep, my heart was torn
With pain like I had never borne.
I thought the heartache to conceal
And hoped, in time, that it would heal.
It seemed so hard to realize
Why prayers then rose to brazen skies,
’Til God’s still voice came ringing true,
“Have I not forgiven you?”

At last the answer became plain:
Forgive the one who caused me pain
To know God’s peace, that blissful calm—
Forgiveness is the healing balm.

—CHRIS GRAUMAN
Peoria, Illinois

JUNE 1, 1982 15
I heard a businessman ask the skycap at the air terminal, "Is there a shuttle bus to the Sacramento Inn?" I sensed an impulse unlike my normal reactions to meet this man.

"Hello, I'm Wilbur Brannon," I gave him a firm handshake. "I'm going right by the Sacramento Inn and will be glad to drop you off if you want a ride."

He said yes, and we immediately began getting acquainted.

A distinguished man in his middle 50s, John Duncan (a pseudonym) had been with an international corporation for over 20 years. He was now vice-president in charge of Government Affairs. John had seen the company grow from a $5 million business to a $50 million business. With his intimate contacts in Washington, D.C., and a strong concern about the moral climate of our nation, he had decided to run for Congress from the Northwest. The trip ended too soon. The time was too short. As I wheeled into the Sacramento Inn, I said, "John, I can identify with your pragmatic approach to religion, and that's important. But before you leave me, I'd like for you to know that there is reality in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Although it is spiritual and internal, it is real. I have come to know it personally."

There was much more to say. John knew it. So, as he got out of the car, he said, "You have my card. Why don't you put in a letter, 'This is what one pastor believes,' and send it to me?"

What an open door! I prayed for guidance.

"Dear John," I began, "thanks for the chance meeting and stimulating conversation on our way to the Sacramento Inn last Friday. "Your last words to me would not let me rest—so
I have put in succinct form what one pastor believes. Here it is:

1. **Man** (the personal) has infinite value—the highest expression of what is spiritual among all creatures. It is moral failure.

2. **Sin** is life’s greatest negative force—a value system that proves unworkable. It breaks down on all levels (personal, social, and organizational).

3. **Love** is life’s greatest positive force—healing, reconciling, creating, and bonding relationships, even with oneself.

4. **God** is love—uniquely, adequately, and redemptively revealed in Jesus, the Christ.

5. **Salvation** is allowing the same Spirit that was the ‘logo’ of Jesus’ life to become the motivational and integrating power of one’s life—influencing one’s attitudes, actions, and decisions; establishing one’s goals that transcend time; thus participating in ‘divine life’ that is eternal in its quality.

6. **Christianity** is not a system of beliefs or an adherence to certain codes; rather it is a relationship.

7. **Faith** is a response of commitment to the sacrificial love of Jesus remarkably demonstrated in His death—and allowing that love to be internalized as spiritual Reality!”

I closed the letter by asking John if any of this made sense to him. Twelve days later, from a hotel in Washington, D.C., he answered me in longhand with appreciation for my prompt letter. He was “impressed with the brevity and succinctness of your [my] beliefs.”

He particularly liked the sin and love “planks.” (That’s a politician for you!) He further stated, “I would probably like to have a ‘Christianity’ belief, and the relationship you mentioned. For those who buy it, I’m happy for them—particularly if it works in their lives. I must say I’m impressed with the impact it can have on some people’s lives . . . I applaud your belief . . . Your congregation and the country simply have to be better off for your inspired, dedicated efforts.”

John’s response reveals the hunger within the human heart to know God. Men in high levels of responsibility want to know the bottom line of a valid religious faith. They want to see it worked out in practical living and demonstrated with personal integrity.

John closed his letter, “Again, many thanks for the best ride I’ve had in a long time . . .”

No person is “taken for a ride” when we share our faith. Actually, he is liberated if he can see its practical value in our lives. To introduce him to the possibility of experiencing a relationship with God through Christ is to give him “the best ride” he’s ever had, for it’s the ride to Life!

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**Book Brief**

HOLINESS IN THE MARKETPLACE

GENE VAN NOTE, author

If you think this book has anything to do with “big business” you have another think coming—unless you equate “big business” with man’s partnership with God through His Holy Spirit.

Holiness in the Marketplace is a book about real people. To most of us, few topics are more interesting than learning the success secrets of people just like ourselves. That’s exactly what Van Note’s latest book offers, a collection of fascinating true stories about persons who overcome severe obstacles, setbacks, and personal crises in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In nine chapters you will meet “unknown” Christians whose exploits for God have never received wide publicity. They are blood brothers and sisters to all whose faith has been severely tested. In the 84 pages of the book, you will be able to look inside some very special Nazarene Christians . . .

Mrs. Adelina Dominques, a Cape Veridian who found creative ways to express holy love for her poor and lonely countrymen adrift in a new world.

Alex Steinkamp of Sacramento, Calif.; a banker who could have been victimized by the Great Depression, but who learned to depend upon the Spirit’s leading, and eventually became deputy state treasurer under Governor Ronald Reagan.

Widowed Jean Leathers Phillips, whose typewriter has turned out miles of copy for the Christian and secular press, who has experienced the dregs of sorrow, and still is able to write:

*When on my heart was poured a cup of sorrow,*
*And clouds of trial gathered ‘round my head.*

*Then came my Father with strength unmeasured,*
*With tender mercies more than tongue can tell,*

*And said: “My child, My dearly loved and treasured,*
*I am with you and now are all things well.”*

And there are others: an unnamed mother who discovers her daughter’s involvement in sexual perversion; Bob Potbury, the Ford dealer who decided that no sacrifice was too great that would hold his family together; and others with true stories just as moving and timely.

Again, the common denominator that runs through this outstanding collection is: God’s Holy Spirit gives power to face the everyday occurrences of life. Buy and read this book!

Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City
To order, see page 23.
PHILOSOPHIES IN CONFLICT

Last March 6, philosopher and novelist Ayn Rand died at age 77. She was known for her philosophy of “objectivism,” which she termed “rational selfishness.”

“Objectivism” is tersely expressed in the words of a character in her major novel: “I swear—by my life and my love of it—that I will never live for the sake of another man, nor ask another man to live for mine.” Rand’s thinking was poles apart from the teaching of Christ.

Jesus Christ lived and died for the sake of others. “For your sakes,” Paul wrote, “He became poor, that you through his poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

“For their sakes,” said Jesus, “I sanctify myself” (John 17:19). He was referring to His coming death on the Cross.

Not only did Christ live and die for others; His disciples are expected to follow His example. “For the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake” we are to pray for one another (Romans 16:30).

“For Christ’s sake,” the apostles were willing to be counted fools by the world, and to suffer hardship and persecution (1 Corinthians 4:10; 2 Corinthians 12:10).

“For Jesus’ sake,” they were servants of the church and faced the constant threat of death (2 Corinthians 4:5, 11).

“For the gospel’s sake,” Paul was willing to be “made all things for all men” (1 Corinthians 9:23).

“For the elect’s sake,” Paul endured suffering (2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Colossians 1:24).

Those who sacrifice homes and families “for the kingdom of God’s sake” are promised manifold rewards in this age and the next (Luke 18:29).

Indeed, Christ declared that “he that loses his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 10:39; 16:35). Self-denial for His sake, even to the point of death, is the very essence of Christian living.

One cannot follow Christ and Ayn Rand. And Jesus Christ is the final judge of Rand and all her admirers!

PRACTICAL PERFECTION

The foremost biographer of Robert Frost presents him as a complex of unresolved conflicts and contradictions, many of them existing from childhood.

Lawrence Thompson thinks Frost “confused the ideal with the actual,” and suggests that one source of his complication “occurred when his devout mother taught him the lofty biblical precept, ‘Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.’” He goes on to say that Frost strove for “this perfection” with disturbing results.

To illustrate the striving and its results, Thompson tells how young Frost, unable to shape letters perfectly in imitation of his copybook examples, would become enraged and tear out whole sheets of paper because of one mistake.

Well, that is not the kind of perfection Jesus Christ is speaking of in Matthew 5:48.

For all we know, the Father, being endlessly creative, might never shape the same letter twice in the same way. After all, He has no models to copy; everything He makes becomes one.

More to the point, our Lord is not talking about some abstract ideal of perfection. He is discussing a specific kind of perfection—the perfection of love. God’s love is perfect, for it extends to friends and enemies, to good and evil persons. Nor is this love abstract; it is concretely expressed in His gifts of sun, rain, and Jesus.

Jesus Christ commands, and enables, His followers to love all people, to have an active goodwill towards even those who are unlike, or who dislikes, them.

From the way Frost treated his family, his friends, and especially his critics, we may conclude that he was more concerned as a boy about his copybook than he was as a man about his contemporaries.

A timeless “ideal” is not in sight in Matthew 5:48. Our Lord is calling for loving-kindness towards all who enter our lives, even towards those who come to hurt us, a loving-kindness expressed in words and deeds.
Disciplined living calls for a control-center impervious to the caprice of impulse and the clamor of appetite. That control-center is the Holy Spirit, a purifying, energizing, guiding Presence within us.

SELF-CONTROL

"The fruit of the Spirit is ... temperance."

"Temperance" here means self-control, and it has special reference to our impulses and appetites. The Holy Spirit helps us to discipline ourselves, so that our lives are governed by God's Word, not by our whims and wishes. Self-control is not self-created. Against the blind strength of our physical appetites, our resolutions and efforts are overmatched. We need a power greater than our own to make and keep us pure. That power is the Holy Spirit, dwelling in us as a restraining force against temptation.

Self-control is an expression of love. It is love exercising restraint and wisdom when appetites and desires are aroused. The Spirit creates and increases within us a love for God that is our best defense against sin. We love Him too much to disobey or betray Him by wrongfully indulging our desires.

A splendid Old Testament illustration of this power of love to keep life under control morally is furnished by Joseph. As a normal, healthy young man he was confronted by a married woman who urged him to become her partner in adultery. Sexual appetite is blind. It cannot read moral codes or marriage licenses. But Joseph did not allow his physical desires to dictate his response in the situation. Why? Here are his own words: "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" He loved God too much to "make love" with Potiphar's wife.

Jesus, filled with the Spirit, entered the wilderness of temptation. After a 40-day fast, He was intensely hungry. He possessed a self-control, however, that enabled Him to repel the tempter's suggestion to turn stones into bread. He chose to live by the Word of God. Devotion to the Father's will was greater than hunger for bread.

Disciplined living calls for a control-center impervious to the caprice of impulse and the clamor of appetite. That control-center is the Holy Spirit, a purifying, energizing, guiding Presence within us. He makes self-control possible in a world where self-expression and self-indulgence are rife.

AUTHORITY AND MOTIVES

The other day I drove past a schoolyard where children were playing. I saw a little fellow give another boy a hard shove. The angry pushee took off in hot pursuit of the pusher. Behind them both galloped a middle-aged teacher, vigorously blowing a whistle. They ignored her shrill commands to stop, and she couldn't catch them. Obviously, they were unimpressed with her authority—at least for the moment.

You can get a youngster to stop if he loves or fears the would-be stopper sufficiently. My mother would never have chased me, and when she said stop, I hit the brakes. When she said, "Come here," I did, even when punishment awaited me. I respected her authority, mostly from love, partly from fear. (She was no skinny-minnie, and she packed an awesome wallop.)

Obedience is motivated not only by love and fear, but also by respect for wisdom. Some leaders exercise authority by the depth of their learning and the strength of their wisdom. You trust them to instruct and guide wisely.

When authorities cannot command respect because their character or knowledge is deficient, they must rely heavily on instilling fear as a motive. On the other hand, if authorities are noble and competent, but those they seek to lead are rebellious and incorrigible, fear is still necessary to produce right behavior.

The Christian follows One whose love, power, and wisdom are perfect. Immature disciples of Christ may obey because they fear the consequences of disobedience. As they mature, however, becoming "young men" and "fathers"—to borrow John's terms—they obey out of love. And they trust the guidance of the Lord, for He is too wise to be wrong, just as He is too kind to be cruel. When He blows the whistle, we stop! When He points forward, we go. We are convinced that His will is right, good, and joy-producing.

A mature Christian is convinced that the Lord's will is better for him than having his own way could ever be. For that reason, his obedience is swift and unquestioning.
the state prison. The other coun­
ties would dismiss their charges
if I made full restitution for all of
the bad checks. I was elated.

As I now sit with five months left
to serve on my sentence, I feel a
real closeness to God and a se­
renity about life.

Richard E. Milhem, Sr.
Michigan City, Indiana

THE HERALD HELPED

My mother, Mrs. Louise Bell,
died recently. She was not a
member of the Church of the Naz­
arene. However, for years I have
sent her the Herald of Holiness.
I have no doubt she died in the
Lord. I feel real good, now, that
she received so much good and
comfort from our publication over
the years. Though she casually
attended another church, I feel
that her main spiritual nourish­
ment came from the Herald of
Holiness. Thanks to all the people
over the last 10 years who made
this possible.

Ralph A. Fink
Wauchula, Florida

SPIRIT RAISER

I don’t remember for sure how
long we have been getting the
Herald of Holiness. But my kids
grew up in the Nazarene church
in Mesquite, Tex., even though
most of them are no longer at
home. Recently I was very ill and
was in the hospital in the intensive
care unit, and had major surgery.
I had a long hospital stay, about
four weeks. My husband brought
books for me to read, among
them our Herald of Holiness. It
raised my spirits and helped me
so much. Thanks for a great mag­
azine.

Mrs. R. D. Harwin
Mesquite, Texas

BACK TO BASICS

I am writing to thank you for
the article, “Kirby’s Cat Killed a
Snake.” I could relate to that.
Theology is okay, but we need to
get back to some of the person­
al basics of Christian living, the
simple things that affect and
touch our lives. We need more
time in our services to tell what
God is doing for people. We need
encouragement and compassion
for each other. Just give us some
more like it.

Jo James
Pasadena, California

WHEN SILENCE SPOKE

by CLARENCE D. RUTSCHMAN

I was riding with three other salesmen when
they suddenly began telling dirty stories and
laughing hilariously. And there I was, a young Chris­
tian, caught in the middle of a very difficult situa­
tion. Each day I had been trusting God for grace to
keep me unspotted from the world, and now my
Christian integrity was being put under tremendous
pressure.

I felt extremely uncomfortable and started to pray
silently and earnestly that God would help me to
respond in the right way. But resolve as I would to
make a verbal stand for the Lord and for my own
personal convictions, I just simply could not force
myself to utter a single word. And under the circum­
cstances I was wondering if this may have been God’s
way to prevent me from casting my pearls where they
would be mockingly trampled upon.

Whether or not I had failed the Lord by my silence,
one thing was certain—the Lord was clearly at work
in the situation. For at lunch time, when one of the
men, named Bill, and myself were alone, he looked
straight at me and said, “Say, you are a Christian.
aren’t you?”

CLARENCE D. RUTSCHMAN is a minister in Phoenix,
Arizona.

“By All Means... Save Some”
Dr. Steve Forsythe, MANC assistant professor of agriculture and agricultural mechanics, was elected recently into membership in the American Society of Agriculture Engineers. He was selected to mechanization—associate member status. The national headquarters of the organization is in St. Joseph, Mo.

Forsythe received his doctorate in agriculture education—agriculture mechanics from Oklahoma State University, and has been with MANC vocational agriculture since August, 1981. Prior to that he taught at Oklahoma State University and also taught vocational agriculture for five years.

The American Society of Agriculture Engineers, formed to promote the art and science of engineering as applied to agriculture, invited Dr. Forsythe to address one session of the June, 1982, summer meeting held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Rev. Don Henderson, pastor of the Gainesville, Fla., Trinity Church, was recently selected for the Benjamin Franklin Literary and Medical Society Award.

This award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated meritorious services to mankind. Rev. Henderson was instrumental in helping 10-year-old Billy Eastburn receive a new kidney so he would not have to undergo three dialysis treatments weekly. Billy’s surgery was successful. Rev. Henderson’s concern, both before and after the operation, is credited for aiding Billy’s recovery.

DENVER FIRST SELECTS LAYMEN TO SERVE

Based on Jethro’s advice to Moses (Exodus 18:21), a concept was born in Pastor Don Wellman’s heart: a way to bring broad-based, personalized spiritual support to the growing congregation of Denver First Church.

The idea matured to form a board of deacons—approximately 100 laymen were commissioned in the March 7 evening service. They were sent out to serve—committed to a daily ministry in the homes of those families connected with Denver First Church.

Each deacon will receive 6 to 10 families with whom he will share prayer support, involvement in Sunday School classes, Bible studies, discipling, personal evangelism, and general communication about church happenings.

In his commissioning prayer, General Superintendent V. H. Lewis called for a renewal of “grassroots ministry” through the laity of the local church.

Pastor Wellman commissioned and challenged the church, clarifying the role of the deacons, saying, “Tonight we begin by offering ourselves to you as ‘Servants of the Lord’ to advance a ministry among you of prayer, concern, growth, unity, communication, fellowship, evangelism, and love.”

Leadership and support for the board of deacons are provided by 10 senior deacons who, through prayer and counsel, seek to equip the church for ministry to its families. Each senior deacon communicates directly to the 10 deacons under his care.

General Superintendent Lewis focused his sermon topic on the times of teaching instruction that Jesus gave to His disciples, telling of the Comforter that was to come. “We need a great inner revival,” he said, “with people open to the working of God’s Holy Spirit.

“Where Christ had only one body, the Spirit has 1,000—100 here tonight with which He can walk from this church in those who knelt here in special service . . . to do what God wants done.”

A fellowship dinner was held on February 28 at the Largo, Fla., church in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Harold F. Miller, Sr., on their retirement after 11 years of ministry there. Dr. J. V. Morsch, the Central Florida District superintendent; Rev. and Mrs. E. T. Hollett, the church’s incoming pastor; and Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Mosgrove, of the St. Petersburg Lealman Church, were present. Rev. and Mrs. Miller’s family also attended the occasion. A money tree was presented to Rev. and Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Miller received a white orchid corsage. Rev. Miller was active in the ministry for 33 years in Indiana and Florida and served on several district boards and committees. Rev. Miller will continue his ministry in pulpit supply and weekend meetings.
MISSION TO THE CITIES LAUNCHED

In response to the vital frontier of urban missions, Youth Ministries, in cooperation with Church Extension Ministries, will again launch a program of outreach to the inner city for college students this summer—MISSION TO THE CITIES. In seven major urban areas of the world, 40 Nazarene collegians will be part of a major evangelistic and church growth thrust, along with local churches and district organizations currently involved in ministry in those areas.

MISSION TO THE CITIES teams have been involved on an individual basis in an extensive preequipping program on their college campus before their arrival at the Youth in Mission training camp at Golden Bell, Colo., on June 13. After a week of preparation through ministry seminars and spiritual training, the next stop will be the Summer Institute for Urban Missions at Simpson College in San Francisco. There they will encounter training in cross-cultural understanding, socioeconomic factors in urban life, and ministry tools in an inner city setting.

Assisting in their equipping will be Rev. Jerry Appleby of Church Extension Ministries, Jose Pacheco, Barry Cunningham, Franklin Cook, and Norm Shoemaker. June 30 will mark their arrival in such cities as Dayton, Pittsburgh, San Antonio, and Chicago in the United States, Toronto in Canada, and international urban areas in Seoul, Korea, and Paris, France.

During their summer experience, MISSION TO THE CITIES teams will be involved in street evangelism, backyard Bible schools, canvassing, worship services, follow-up visitation, organizing home Bible studies, and assisting in youth activities.

MISSION TO THE CITIES is a program unit of Youth in Mission, sponsored by Youth Ministries. Directing the program is Mike Estep, Campus Ministries program director. Assisting him in MISSION TO THE CITIES is Bruce Oldham, director of Early Youth Ministries and Bible Quizzing.

Youth in Mission involves hundreds of college students in life-changing summer ministries each year. Pray for these collegians during their summer of service.

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FORT MILL CHURCH SETS NEW EASTER ATTENDANCE RECORD

The Fort Mill, S.C., church had a total attendance of 6,153 on Easter Sunday. The attendance figure was reached in three separate Sunday School sessions which reenacted the Easter story with a Live Easter Pageant involving more than 200 people from the local church. Rev. Robert L. Sumner is the pastor and Rev. Bob Bolton is the associate.

The Easter pageant included seven scenes of Christ’s final days on earth, both inside and outside the church. It is estimated that the preparation involved more than 5,000 man-hours and the production cost was $15,000. The population of Fort Mill is 5,000.

The South Carolina District had a record attendance of 12,801 on Easter Sunday. Rev. D. Moody Gunter is the district superintendent and Rev. Harry Widener is the district chairman of Christian Life and Sunday School.

SPANISH SEMINARY MOVES TO NBC

The Church of the Nazarene has closed the Spanish Nazarene Seminary in San Antonio, Tex., where, for 35 years, leaders were trained for the Spanish-speaking ministry in Central America, Mexico, and the United States.

The United States section of the seminary has been moved to Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs. Dr. Jose C. Rodriguez, the former president of the seminary, and his family have moved to Colorado Springs to head the Hispanic program of the Bible college.

Dr. Rodriguez and his wife, Lilly, have four children: a son, Joseph, teaches elementary school in San Diego; a son, Paul, is a junior at Point Loma College; a son, David, is with them at home and is in elementary school; and a daughter, Martha, has completed the pediatric nursing program in San Antonio, and is working on her M.A. degree.

Dr. Rodriguez is a graduate of Pasadena College and has done most of his doctoral work at the University of Texas. He was honored by Bethany Nazarene College in 1980 with a Doctor of Divinity Degree.

The current NBC Program of Hispanic Studies in Religion includes such courses as: Introduction to Ministry; Modern Christianity; Christian Theology I, II, III; Concepts in Philosophy and Theology; Early and Medieval Christianity; and Bible Introduction to Theology.

Part of the record attendance at the Fort Mill church

Christ carrying His cross, as portrayed in the “Live Easter Pageant”

Book Briefs

See page 17 for description.

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JUNE 1, 1982

ATKINSON, DEAN & PAT: S.W. Indiana Boys & Girls Camp. June 7-11; Fort Smith, AR (1st). June 14-20; Topeka, KS (Farirlawn), June 9-13; Dakota District Camp, June 28—July 4.

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BROOKS, GERALD & JUNE: LaCrosse, WI, June 1-6; Ona-Belle, IA, June 28—July 4.

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BROWN, ROGER: Oak Hill, WV, June 22-27.

BROOKS, GERALD & JUNE: LaCrosse, WI, June 1-6; Ona-Belle, IA, June 28—July 4.

BROOKS, GERALD & JUNE: LaCrosse, WI, June 1-6; Ona-Belle, IA, June 28—July 4.
APPLE TO HELP DIRECT SAM

With the transfer of Melvin Shrout to the Division of Church Growth, Dennis Apple will help direct Senior Adult Ministries in the interim. The NIROGAs will continue as planned and Senior Adult Ministries will continue to advance on all fronts.

Rev. Apple joined the staff of Adult Ministries in the Division of Christian Life on February 1 as general director of Single Adult Ministries. He came to Kansas City from the Indianapolis Westside Church where he was minister of Single and Senior Adult Ministries for six years. Under his direction, the senior adult work grew to over 100 participants. It included the full scope of weekly, seasonal, and annual activities enjoyed by older people, including bus trips to NIROGAs.

Dennis was involved in the development and operation of the Westside Christian Retirement Village in Indianapolis. During the interim, he will be custodian of the file of Nazarene Senior Adult Retirement Centers and those proposed. This responsibility was transferred recently by the Board of General Superintendents from Pensions to Adult Ministries.

Senior Adult Ministries will strive to fulfill the growth potential and service possibilities of this growing segment of our population.

SHROUT JOINS STAFF OF DIVISION OF CHURCH GROWTH

Rev. Melvin Shrout became program manager for the Division of Church Growth on March 1, according to Rev. Bill Sullivan, director.

The assignment caps a career of churchmanship which includes 30 years of pastoral ministry and 11 years as a headquarters administrator.

In the Division of Church Growth, he will help to develop a computer-assisted pastoral placement service, coordinate detail of the ministerial Course of Study, and assist the division in holding conferences sponsored by Church Extension Ministries, Evangelism Ministries, and Pastoral Ministries.

Ordained in 1946 after graduation from Olivet Nazarene College, Rev. Shrout served pastorates in Rossville and Columbus, Ga.; Kansas City, Mo., Grace; Huntsville, Ala., First; and Cape Girardeau, Mo., First.

He came to the Kansas City headquarters in 1971 as an office manager, and in 1972 he became director of the Home Department from which Senior Adult Ministries subsequently developed.

On August 1, 1973, Senior Adult Ministries was formally announced and Rev. Shrout became its director. He attended the first NIROGA (Nazarene Invitational Retreat Of Golden Agers) at Glorieta, N.M., sponsored by Bethany, Okla., First Church.

NIROGA was recognized by the founders to need general church sponsorship and soon the word “Invitational” was changed to “International,” and Rev. Shrout became the general director of NIROGAs. He began all the NIROGA conferences, with the exception of Glorieta, leading retreats in eight new locations. A total of 34 NIROGAs have been held. He has continued to play a key role in the development of programs and publications for senior adults.

He has been associated with NICA (National Interfaith Coalition on Aging), serving as a member of the Board of Directors in 1961.

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GROWTH SEEN IN NAZARENE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

The Nazarene Supplemental Retirement Program has recorded a substantial increase in the number of participants as well as in the amount of deposits.

Deposits for 1981 totaled over $2.7 million. This is a 35 percent increase over 1980 and more than triple the amount deposited only five years ago! Total deposits since the beginning of the program in 1964 now exceed $13 million.

The number of new enrollments during 1981 was 366, which was an increase of 42 percent over the previous year. During the first quarter of 1982, new applications continued to surge in at the rate of about 35 per month! The number of accounts established since the start of the program will soon reach more than 2,700.

The federal income tax law provides special tax treatment for ministers and lay employees of church-related organizations (local churches, districts, Christian schools, and colleges). This provides an advantageous way in which participants may defer income taxes and prepare for retirement.

The Board of Pensions now offers three plans under the Nazarene Supplemental Retirement Program. They are the Nazarene Tax-Sheltered Annuity (403b) Plan, the Nazarene KEOGH (HR-10) Plan, and the new Nazarene Individual Retirement Annuity Plan (IRA). All three plans are paying 13 1/2 percent interest on deposits made during 1982.

Dean Wessels, administrator of the Board of Pensions, cites greater awareness of the need for additional retirement income as a factor in the growth of the program. Other factors include the substantial interest rate and the fact that administrative fees are not charged to the participants. A continuation of this solid growth pattern is expected as more of those eligible for the program are enrolled.

GREENLAKE '82 IN FINAL PREPARATION

Final plans are being made for the upcoming conference for college and career youth, GREENLAKE '82. The event is scheduled for August 17-22 at the American Baptist Assembly center in Green Lake, Wis. Over 1,000 career youth and college students from both Nazarene and state institutions are expected to attend.

Mike Estep, director of GREENLAKE '82, reports a good response in registrations. However, he notes, it is still not too late to register for the event. Registration brochures are available from the student government office on each Nazarene college campus, from district NYI presidents, or by writing: GREENLAKE '82, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131. Since Youth Ministries, sponsors of the event, must report an estimated number of participants to the assembly center by June 15, interested college and career youth are urged to register as soon as possible. Registrations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Local church boards or interested laymen are encouraged to sponsor college students or career youth from their church for this holiness evange-
ism conference. With the unsettled situation in financial aid for college students in the coming year, some Nazarene students may be able to attend the conference only with financial assistance from the local church. District NYI presidents and Campus/Career Youth directors are also urged to make personal contact with eligible youth (18-29) on their district, making sure they don't miss this life-changing event. Limited transportation will be available at a low cost, departing from each Nazarene campus, with details available from the student government office.


MOVING MINISTERS

ROBERT L. ANDERSON from student, Olivet Nazarene College, Kankakee, Ill., to Blue Island, Ill.

RICHARD A. BACHMAN from Bethesda, Ohio, to Chicago (Ill.) Mount Greenwood

PAUL S. BOWEN from Maynard, Mass., to Leicester, Vt.

TERRY B. BROWN from associate, Flint (Mich.) Central to associate. Kankakee (Ill.) First

WENDALL G. BUCK to Caruthersville, Mo.

CHARLES L. BUGBEE from Marllete, Mich., to Watseka, Ill.

HENRY L. COSSEL from Tell City, Ind., to Bloomington (Ind.) East Side

ROGER L. DAVIS from Calera, Ala., to Grand Bay, Ala.

G. TIMOTHY DRISKEILL to Buhl, Idaho.

ALTON L. DUNN from Yates Center, Kansas, to Harrison, Ark.

KENDALL W. DUTTON, Sr., from Richmond, Me., to Yarmouth, Me.

BRADLEY E. EDBERT from student, Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, Idaho, to associate. Fairbanks (Alaska) First

JAMES A. FARBER from Watseka, Ill., to Paoli, Ind.

DAVID P. FLACK from associate, Kansas City Southwood to associate. Painesville, Ohio

ROBERT HERRING from Strong, Me., to East Millinocket, Me.

DANNY L. HIVELEY from Ozark, Ala., to Birmingham (Ala.) Westhaven

DARYL E. HODGE from Albany (Ky.) First to Lancaster, Ky.

HAROLD W. HOFFMAN from Hamilton, Ont., Canada, to Rimbey, Alta., Canada

THOMAS HOPPE from Mount Gilead, Ohio, to Colonel (Oklahoma) First

GARY E. JOHNSON from associate, Ontario, Ore., to Boise (Ida.) Five Mile

STANFORD W. LARKIN from Menominee, Mich., to Kelso, Minn.

DONALD L. LEMING from Kelso, Minn., to Buffalo Lake, Minn.

DWAYNE E. MEAD from student, Olivet Nazarene College, Kankakee, Ill., to Braidwood, Ill.

RONALD L. MEYERS from Pablo, Mont., to John Day, Ore.

ROONEY J. MILLER from student, Olivet Nazarene College, Kankakee, Ill., to Potomac, Mont.

DAVID A. MURRAY from associate, Regina (Sask., Canada) Parkdale to Saskatoon, Sask.

WILLIAM E. NALL, Sr., to Marianna, Fla.

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GLEN E. PACK from Perry, Okla., to El Reno, Okla.

JOHN R. PACKARD from Erskine, Scotland, England, to Bolton (England) First

DAVID S. PAYNE from Colorado Springs Black Forest to Birmingham (Ala.) Forestdale

RICHARD R. REESE to Beaver Falls, Pa.

ALBERT L. RIGGLE from Buffalo Lake, Minn., to Dawson, Minn.

JAMES L. RUNYON from Ozark (Mo.) Chapel to

S. JEFFREY SPARKS from Lakeland (Fla.) First

DENNIS M. SCOTT from Fulton, N.Y., to North Central Ohio District (DA)

DONALD E. SIDES from Carlsbad (N.M.) Church

REV. W. Parsons (313-585-5551) or Mrs. H. Stout (313-545-1427), 226 N. Gainsborough.

The Mercer, Wis., church will celebrate its 50th anniversary July 30—August 1. Special anniversary services are scheduled August 1 at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. with District Superintendent J. Ted Holstein as guest speaker. A fellowship dinner is scheduled at noon.

Port Arthur, Tex., Grace Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary with special services on July 25. Dr. James Hester, former pastor and superintendent of the Joplin District, and Rev. W. M. Lynch, former pastor and superintendent of the Dallas District, will be the special speakers.

All former pastors, members, and friends are cordially invited to come and join in the celebration. For further information, contact Rev. K. L. Stinson, pastor (713-727-7790); 4601 Rice Farm Rd., Port Arthur, TX 77640.

Announcements should reach us three months prior to the date of the event announced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I am pleased to recommend REV. FRED BROWN, a dynamic young man from the district and a graduate of the seminary, who is entering

ANNUAL GATHERING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Madison Heights, Mich., St. Paul Church (formerly Ferndale Nazarene) will celebrate its 50th anniversary with special services on July 16, 1982. Dr. Don Gibson, district superintendent, will celebrate his 50th anniversary July 30—August 1. Special anniversary services are scheduled August 1 at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. with District Superintendent J. Ted Holstein as guest speaker. A fellowship dinner is scheduled at noon.

ROY HENCK, Cape Verde, Furlough address: Apartado Postal 3977, San Jose, Costa Rica

TOM SPALDING, Panama, Furlough address: 908 S. 6th St., Richmond, IN 47374

WILLIS ZUMWALT, Taiwan, Furlough address: 1341 W. State St., Columbus, OH 43222

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PARENTAL UNFITNESS TEST ROUGHENED BY HIGH COURT. States may not permanently remove children from their natural parents without first demonstrating “clear and convincing” evidence of permanent neglect, a divided U.S. Supreme Court has ruled. In a 5-4 decision, the high court held that a New York law requiring state officials to demonstrate permanent neglect by only a “fair preponderance” of evidence violates the due process rights of natural parents.

In an opinion written by Justice Harry A. Blackmun, the narrow majority cited the Supreme Court’s “historical recognition that freedom of personal choice in matters of family life is a fundamental liberty interest protected by the Fourteenth Amendment.” The tougher standard of proof required by the high court’s ruling lessens the possibility of wrongful termination of the parent-child relationship. It “strikes a fair balance between the rights of the natural parents and the state’s legitimate concerns,” the justices declared. Until the state proves parental unfitness, the court held, “the child and his parents share a vital interest in preventing erroneous termination of their natural relationship.”

Justice William H. Rehnquist, in a dissent joined by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Justices Byron R. White and Sandra Day O’Connor, charged that the ruling will invite “further federal court intrusion into every facet of state family law.” The dissent agreed with the majority that the interest of parents in relationship to their children is sufficient to warrant Fourteenth Amendment protection, but insisted that the New York statute already provides parents with “fundamental fairness” mandated by the Constitution.

HOUSE REAFFIRMS RIGHT TO MAINTAIN CHAPLAIN. The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously agreed to a resolution reaffirming its right to have a chaplain and to open its daily sessions with a prayer.

That practice is being challenged in a lawsuit pending before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia brought by Madalyn Murray O’Hair and her son, Jon Garth Murray. Their suit contends that payments of chaplains from the U.S. Treasury violates the First Amendment’s ban on establishment of religion.

The 388-0 vote by the House came less than a month after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia reinstated the lawsuit dismissed last year by District Court Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer.

Expressing the determination of the House to control “its internal affairs,” the resolution declares that the establishment of a House chaplain is “an appropriate constitutional exercise of exclusively conferred powers.” Introducing the resolution, Democratic majority whip Thomas S. Foley of Washington declared that the House practice of maintaining a chaplain is “beyond any court’s right of interference.”
to GREG AND PAM COMBS, Springfield, Ohio, a girl, Emily Jo, Mar. 29

to DOUG AND LaDORA (ELDER) GRANT, Grand Saline, Tex., a boy, Jonathan Douglas, Apr. 13


to STEVE AND LESLIE (ANDREW) HIGGINBOTTOM, Tucson, Ariz., a boy, Timothy Andrew, Dec. 2

to DAN AND VICKI (HUFFMAN) HOLOM, Little Rock, Ark., a boy, Heidi Rebecca, Jan. 30

to ROBERT AND DONNA (REED) McARTHUR, Wichita, Kan., a girl, Jonathan Douglas, Apr. 13

to STEVE AND DOTTIE MORGAN, Wichita, Kan., a girl, Sarah Rhea, Apr. 13

to ED AND BILLIE (WHITE) PATTERSON, Enon, Ohio, a girl, Katie Diane, March 13

to STEVE AND DIAN SATTERLEE, Bartlesville, Okla., a boy, Courtney Danielle, Feb. 2, 1979, in Acapulco, Mexico.

ANNIVERSARIES

OSEE P. AND MYRTLE ALICE (EVANS) WAGNER celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a buffet reception at the Sacramento, Calif. North Church on February 14, 1982. The reception was hosted by their children and attended by 200 friends and relatives.

The Wagners have 7 children: Mrs. Robert (Anna) Olea of Sacramento; Mrs. Al (Rose) Foster, North Highlands; Calif.; Mrs. Ray (Ruth) Smith, Manteca, Calif.; Paul, Sacramento; Mrs. Eugene (Ora) Gregory, Fairfield, Calif.; Mrs. Fred (Doris) Hall, El Monte, Calif.; and John, Sacramento. Two children are deceased. Helen Scott and James. They also have 25 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

DIRECTORIES


GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS EMERITUS:

This question arose in our Sunday School class: Paul says it is not wrong to eat meat sacrificed to idols, providing it does not cause a weak brother to fall (1 Corinthians 8:4-8). Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols because, as the “Beacon Bible Commentary” says, “to partake of food dedicated to the pagan gods of Babylon would constitute a breach of faith with Jehovah” (Daniel 1:8). What is the difference in these situations?

The difference is several hundred years and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Daniel and his friends were eager to obey the Mosaic laws pertaining to clean and unclean foods. They also wanted to preserve Jewish distinctiveness in a Gentile environment, so that a generation of Jews growing up in captivity would not forfeit the traditions, values, and laws of their own nation. The health of their bodies, spirits and influence, they felt, demanded the rejection of certain pagan foods. They honored God by strict maintenance of Jew-Gentile differences.

Paul, however, wrote to the Church, which is neither Jew nor Gentile, but a new, redeemed humanity comprised of all who believe on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Mosaic laws did not apply to them, but Christ’s law of love did.

Recognizing that idols were nothing, nonexistent as real gods, mere organized hunks of wood, stone, or metal, Paul knew that animals offered to these idols could be eaten, in a context other than worship, with no resulting harm to an enlightened, mature believer. But if weak, immature Christians regarded this as idolatry, Paul would protect their conscience by abstinence from those meals.

“Strong” Jews, under the Old Covenant, were those who observed the law’s taboos. “Strong” Christians, under the New Covenant, were those who realized that such dietary taboos were not applicable, except by the choice of love in situations where the weak must be protected from stumbling. Paul’s very letter to the Church shows that weak consciences are to be enlightened, not merely protected, however.

In the “New International Version” of the New Testament, I have found several things which are not right.

When Peter asks how often he should forgive, the answer of Jesus in the KJV is “Until seventy times seven.” But the NIV reads “Seventy-seven times.”

I think Jesus wanted to specially impress His disciples that there should be no limit to their forgiving.

Comment, please.

The NIV translators sincerely believed that “seventy-seven” was more accurate than “seventy times seven.” Back of the Greek text of Matthew 18:22 is the Greek translation of Genesis 4:24, where Lamech vows to avenge himself 77 times upon anyone who injures him. The words of Jesus are intended to directly oppose and erase this concept. When Christians are sinned against, instead of 77-fold revenge they are to offer 77-fold forgiveness.

Your conclusion about what our Lord wanted to impress on His disciples is correct, and in the light of this intention there is no problem with either the KJV or the NIV rendering. Both numbers, taken literally, do impose a limit on forgiveness. 490 is a limited number as surely as 77 is—it’s merely a larger one. But whether Jesus said 77 or 490, the meaning is the same and not based upon a literal, wooden understanding—don’t limit your forgiveness.
The Newberg, Ore., church, under Pastor Bill O'Conner, has opened a Christian counseling center in its facilities, called Helping Associates. The center is under the direction of Dr. Neil C. Roth, an elder in the Church of the Nazarene, a professor of psychology at George Fox College and adjunct professor of pastoral psychology at Western Evangelical Seminary. Associated with Dr. Roth is Dr. Roger Crabbs, a professor of business at George Fox College and adjunct professor of nursing administration at the University of Portland Graduate School of Nursing.

The Newberg church has placed Dr. Roth on staff as an associate pastor, and he will direct the center as part of the church's outreach to the community. The center will provide professional counseling for premarital, marital, and family problems; personal and social adjustment; career and vocational assistance; suicide prevention; personality disorders; alcohol and drug problems. Help will also be available for the vision and hearing impaired.

In a special service and reception on Sunday, January 31, 1982, Tampa, Fla., First Church celebrated the golden wedding anniversaries of three outstanding couples: Evans and Edith Coe, married 50 years; Floyd and Hazel Burdette, married 51 years; and Forrest and Mattie Lou Jameson, married 52 years.

Their many rich ministries formed a long, unbroken span across the years. Evans Coe was a board member for 41 years and his wife Edith was NWMS president for 10 years. Floyd served as Sunday School superintendent for 32 years. All except Forrest have taught Sunday School classes. Forrest built a special, big porch addition to his house to handle the youth activities in their home. They opened their hearts and their kitchen to many a soldier boy during the war years. The present pastor, Rev. Clifton B. Nixon, was one of those boys.

Nearly 40 singles gathered together at the Celina, Ohio, church for a weekend retreat on the Northwestern Ohio District. Miss Mary Reed of Olivet Nazarene College conducted special seminars on singleness and knowing God's will. Rev. Brad Seaman, district director of Singles Ministry, reported positive results from a number of the singles who attended.

Shown (l. to r.) are Pastor Charles Martin of the Smithville, Tenn., church, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Claudie Roberts and Mr. Roberts. Some time ago, Mr. Roberts noted the church needed some pulpit furniture. He cut out a picture of a pulpit, platform chairs, Communion table, and two flower tables from a catalog and drew plans. The furniture Mr. Roberts built is pictured, completing the project in time for the community Easter service.
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  - 7½% on amounts up to $10,000 on three- to five-year notes
  - 8% on $10,000 or more on three- to five-year notes
  - 7½% and 8% notes adjusted to 7% on early withdrawal

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  - 6% on £50 or more on notes up to three years
  - 7½% on amounts up to £1,000 on three-year notes
  - 8% on £1,000 or more on three-year notes
MISSIONARIES TO INDIA INVITE VISITORS TO CONTACT THEM

Dr. L. Guy Nees, director of the World Mission Division, reports that Rev. John Anderson, missionary in the World Mission Division, reports that he and the pastors of the district would be delighted to share the Olympic games in Delhi to contact him. He and the pastors of the district would be delighted to share fellowship with them.

NAZARENE LAYMAN ADDRESSES NATIONAL BUSINESS WRITERS’ GROUP

Richard Jones, Nazarene layman from Burr Ridge, Ill., was the featured speaker May 6 at a meeting of the Society of American Business & Economic Writers in Kansas City. Jones is vice-chairman and chief financial officer for Sears, Roebuck & Co.

According to the Kansas City Star, Jones reported: The decisions by Sears last year to acquire the brokerage firm of Dean Witter, Reynolds and Coldwell Banker & Co., the nation's largest independent real estate broker, were major steps toward the retailer's goal of becoming the nation's largest consumer-oriented entity.

Jones is a member of the Nazarene Publishing House Board. He is an Olivet Nazarene College alumnus.

REPORT FROM ARGENTINA

As of this writing, missionaries to Argentina, Rev. and Mrs. Norman Howerton and Rev. and Mrs. Doug Perkins, have been unable to leave that country.

Dr. L. Guy Nees, director of the World Mission Division, reports that the missionaries are working with the U.S. Embassy to secure clearance to leave. In recent days difficulties have arisen relating to documents needed for passage; however they do hope to be able to obtain the required papers and leave Buenos Aires as soon as possible.

Further word regarding this situation indicates that an embargo of U.S. mail into Argentina requires that all mail to Argentine missionaries be directed to Mission Director Rev. John Sluyter, Juan Manual Perez 5942, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Continue to pray and dial the Nazarene Tele-News line for up-to-date reports.

WESTERN LATIN AMERICAN DISTRICT ELECTS NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Raymundo Lopez, pastor of Los Angeles Belvedere Church of the Nazarene, was elected district superintendent of the Western Latin American District on April 29. He succeeds Rev. Juan Madrid who has served as superintendent since 1964. Elected on the fifth ballot, Rev. Lopez has accepted the position and was installed by the District Assembly held at the Boyle Heights Church of the Nazarene, Los Angeles, Calif.

Ordained in 1961, Rev. Lopez has previously served in pastorates in Mexico and Upland, Calif. He has been pastor at the Belvedere Church since 1962.

NAZARENE SEMINARY UNDERWAY IN MEXICO

Dr. H. T. Reza, newly appointed president of the Nazarene seminary in Mexico, reports that substantial progress has been made in the continuing development of the new educational institution for Mexico's seven districts.

Preliminary architectural plans are in progress for the seminary which is scheduled to open in 1983 on a newly acquired property located 36 kilometers south of Mexico City.

Since the closing of the Spanish-language seminary in San Antonio, Tex., and the transfer of the library to Mexico, students are being educated on three satellite campuses: Mexico City, D.F., under the leadership of Howard Conrad; Guadalajara, Jal., under the leadership of Jose Rodriguez; and Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chis., under the leadership of Alejandro Sandoval.

Dr. Reza commented recently: "Because the seminary is called to prepare preachers, no student who wants to study will be refused. We have established a three-year preparatory course for those students who have not completed their pre-seminary studies."

The three-year theological curriculum will be coordinated with the curricula of the seminaries in other districts.

The headquarters Planning and Budget Council voted in its April meeting to reassign responsibilities for Nazarene News Services from the office of Media Services to the Office of the General Secretary, Dr. B. Edgar Johnson. The transfer became effective the first week of May.

The assignment will foster coordination of news service with public, church, and community relations, which historically have been part of the general secretary's responsibilities as "official information officer" of the church.

Duties in this area include cultivation of good relations between the Church of the Nazarene and the various services of the public press and religious press, release of news of special denominational interest to church leaders, dissemination of Nazarene News to Nazarene publications, provision of late news release through Tele-News service (816-333-8270) and the Herald of Holiness, and advance publicity for church assemblies, conferences, and conventions.

The general secretary has named Melodye Jones from his staff as Nazarene News editor.

Persons having or becoming aware of newsworthy items of interest to the Nazarene constituency should contact the General Secretary’s Office, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131 — or call (816) 333-7000, Ext. 368.
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