A. Leonard Griffith of City Temple, London, tells that years ago in the poor section of Aberdeen a Unitarian minister preached to an open-air congregation a message that left out the saving gospel of the Cross. A prostitute in great spiritual need listened attentively and then addressed this poignant comment to the preacher, “Your rope is not long enough for me!”

But the Good News which God has commissioned the Church to tell the whole world is that He has let down the infinitely long rope of His grace which reaches to the very depths of human misery and sin. Here is hope for the hopeless and help for the helpless. The late Nels F. S. Ferré put it this way: “The distance between God and man became so deep and profound that it had to be bridged by God, from God’s side. Christ became that incarnate bridge. But man must willingly and freely walk over that bridge and come to God” (The Finality of Faith, p. 102).

All too many are still trying to merit God’s favor by reason of their own personal goodness and are finding only frustration and failure. Jesus tells us that God is waiting to receive everyone on the same basis—a confession of need and an acceptance of grace. Ephesians 2:8-9 puts it so plainly that no one can misunderstand: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (NIV).

This sets Christianity apart from and above every other religion. Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, humanism, and even Judaism challenge man to work his way up to God. Christ alone comes down to meet men at the lowest level of their sinful despair.

The great Christian hymn “Amazing Grace” is the personal testimony of a great saint, John Newton. By his own admission he was a great sinner before the amazing grace of God reached down to him.

A young British sailor, he had gone to the very bottom in sinful debauchery. One night his ship was set upon by a terrible storm on the Atlantic Ocean. So great was the force of the tempest that water flooded the deck, and seams in the hull began to open.

Young Newton heard the captain shout, “Man the pumps, and if this doesn’t help, God have mercy on our souls!” In the darkness of that stormy night, he sensed his utter helplessness and began to call on God for mercy. Then and there the miracle took place. Grace reached down. In simple faith the young sailor received this divine gift. Peace came to his heart. The ship survived the storm and the new Christian went home to Britain to testify:

*Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

*by General Superintendent Eugene L. Stowe
THE BABY IS THE KEY
by RUTH GIBSON, Cradle Roll General Director
Kansas City, Mo.

LITTLE BABIES open big doors . . . doors to many experiences in all our lives.

I can hear some new parents say, “You are right—I mean really right—the doors to sleepless nights and worn nerves, the doors to washing diapers and fixing formula. True, there are many adjustments and sacrifices that must be made, but not every door is unpleasant.

Here are four new vistas of experience that open to us through the birth of a baby.

THE BABY IS THE KEY to the DOOR OF LOVE—for us all.

The story is told about an overheard conversation between a little girl and a visiting boy. Karen, who was five, was proudly showing off her brand-new baby sister to the eight-year-old boy.

“Isn’t she wonderful?” Karen asked him.

“Oh, she’s all right, I guess,” he admitted. “But she’s just a baby. And what good is a baby?” he asked in a smarty voice.

Karen looked at him in disbelief, hands on her hips.

“Well, if you think babies are so great, tell me—what is a baby for?” he demanded.

“What is a baby for?” Karen was indignant. “Anyone knows that! A baby is for loving!”

Karen was right. A baby—the very fruit of love—is for loving. The love of parents for children is one of the strongest emotions humans can experience. The sweet innocence of a baby extracts from each one of us the response of love.

THE BABY IS THE KEY to the DOOR OF RESPONSIBILITY—for parents. New parents think seriously about the awesome responsibility of parenting.

The baby represents the biggest investment they will make. By the time the baby is old enough to be independent, parents will have spent more on him than on anything else—home, car, recreation, health, or any other aspect of life. They do this gladly.

The emotional investment in their child is even greater than the financial costs of rearing a child at today’s prices. By the time they have struggled through the child’s learning what is right and wrong, they are apt to feel emotionally drained.

Parents are the most important persons their children will ever know. Their influence is more profound and far more lasting than even the best-paid professional consultant or specialist. Schools provide educational opportunities—but it is parents who motivate their children to learn, or to resist what the school has to offer.

Churches and Sunday schools stand officially for the religious education of children. But a child’s religious life is shaped not only by the hour he spends in Sunday school, but also by what happens in his home through the rest of the week—in every hour of his interaction with his parents. They translate the teachings of their faith into action within the family. The church and the home working together is the ideal way to show the child the path to God.

Many others contribute, but the child’s parents remain, to the end of his days, his most important influence. No wonder many young parents quake at the realization of their responsibility.

THE BABY IS THE KEY to the DOOR OF ACCOUNTABILITY—for the church.

The business world is at the door of new parents en masse. The insurance salesman calls and, more often than not, sells a policy; the young parents are given many free products for the purpose of future sales; the local bank starts a savings account in the name of the baby in the amount of one dollar; even the congressman sends a letter of congratulations and encloses a booklet on baby care. They are all aware of the needs of new parents and are there to “cash in” on this life-altering event.

The church, through the ministry of the Cradle Roll, is there to give and to minister to unchurched parents. What a difference! The church is there to give support . . . counsel . . . love . . . help in times of illness . . . and to share Christ—Christ whose strength and wisdom are so needed as young couples embark on the frightening task of parenting.

The church, through the Cradle Roll, is there to offer assistance in that most important element in the life of a child, his relationship to God. And the first step in this endeavor is to share Christ with his
parents, who must model this faith for it to be learned by the child.

In this day when the family is under stress as never before, in this day when developmental psychologists have made us aware of the tremendous influence of parents on babies, it is imperative that your church have a specialized ministry of outreach evangelism to young parents. The Cradle Roll ministry is that special instrument.

In addition to winning new parents to Christ, it is a ministry through the parents to the child. Win parents and you give the baby a spiritual environment and a 90 percent better chance of knowing Christ.

"From generation to generation" is the way the Bible says it. It's a beautiful circle if used. It's a vicious circle if neglected.

The baby is the occasion ... the opportune time to enter the door of the unchurched home with ministry and the gospel. Parents are more reachable at this time than any other—and their influence more far-reaching. For all this, the church is accountable to God.

THE BABY IS THE KEY to the DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY—for your church. The Quadrennial Cradle Roll Campaign, April 22—May 6, 1979, is designed to help your church begin or enlarge the ministry of outreach evangelism to young parents.

In the gospel of Jesus, you have a dynamic message. The Holy Spirit is ready to operate in supernatural force through your efforts. Your ministry at this special time is vital. The church has furnished you with a program with specially designed materials and all the urging it is possible to give.

Is it possible any church can leave this specialized ministry of evangelism untouched?
IT'S A RAINY Monday morning, but there is warmth in my heart because the Lord has shown me an object lesson of His love for me.

I arose early, hoping to can some beets before my nine-month-old son, Kirk, demanded his breakfast. But before I could finish, his hunger whimpers had grown into wails. Usually I mixed his cereal and sweetened it naturally with fruit, but we were all out of prepared baby fruits so I decided to offer him some baby cereal and eggs. Kirk crawled eagerly into my lap, making little grunts of expectancy and joy at the thought of slaking his hunger. However, having tasted the first bite and finding it not-so-sweet, his face began to pucker and once again a torrent of tears slid over his cheeks.

I remembered one ripe banana in the kitchen that could be mashed and added to his cereal. I sat him down for a moment to prepare it, but Kirk saw this move as the ultimate insult—rejection. He crawled behind me to the kitchen, accompanying his trek with a new gale of tears and wails. He begged at my feet and his pudgy little body crumpled over in a picture of total frustration and dejection.

A few moments later, he was on my lap savoring his banana-egg-cereal mixture with unspeakable delight. After the first few bites he looked back at me, stroked my face tenderly and smiled a beautiful banana-gilded "thank-you" smile that melted my heart. My efforts were paid in full.

Having eagerly devoured the bowl, he turned to me, put his chubby arms around my neck, placed one of his soggy, open-mouthed kisses on my cheek and fell asleep in my arms.

Tears ran freely from my eyes as the Spirit bore witness to me. Tenderly, the Lord reminded me that we are His children. He delights in giving us His love and care and spiritual nourishment. Yet there are times when we think that He is turning from us, teasing us—or is spitefully withholding good things from us, or taking from us what we love and relish most. It reminds me of a verse taken from a "Promise Box" many years ago:

.There's a lesson I am learning,
   It's clearer every day;
The Lord sends something better
   For each thing He takes away.

I thought of how frequently I have clung to my semisweet gruel when He was wanting to take it and prepare for me better, sweeter things.

Thus it was that the Spirit began to illuminate a new concept of His “Father love” to us. How patiently He bears with our complaints, frustrated antics, impatience, and shortsightedness! How lovingly He perseveres through our tears and loud demands, to give us what is best for us.

And what does He ask in return? Only our love. Just the look of adoration, the worship of our hearts, and the obedience of our lives.

And then . . . oh, what rest we find in His loving arms!
Not Gay
and
Not Right

God is self-obligated to heal the soul, if not to heal the mental or physical malady.

by C. DALE GERMAN
Fremont, Calif.

WORDS CAN play tricks on you because their meanings frequently change. Sometimes a word may actually mean the exact opposite of its earlier definition. Gay is becoming one of those words.

Gay used to mean “happy.” There were gay colors, gay moods. Gay people were “happy” people who were fun to be around.

The current popular use of gay means “homosexual.” Gays, or homosexuals, are nothing new to the human race. They are the people the apostle Paul wrote about when he said in Romans 1:26-27, “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error.”

There are two ways a person becomes a homosexual, and it is essential for the Christian to understand the difference.

1. Homosexualism is usually a learned depravity. It is taught, learned, practiced, and encouraged. Most “gays” have turned from a heterosexual preference to a homosexual preference through a process of conscious choice.

2. Homosexualism can be caused by a “freak” or nature. Some homosexuals are victims of a genetic quirk. This type of “gay” person is helpless in changing his preference. Morally he is innocent of his deformity, just as a person born without legs is not to blame for being unable to walk.

Gay people are not happy people. To their own way of thinking they may be “enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season.” But morally, they are a pathetically sad minority of socially depraved individuals.

“Gay Rights” is a phrase we hear almost daily at this time in history. We have stated that gays are not happy. Neither are they “right.” There is no such thing as “gay rights.” What homosexuals are pushing for is actually wrong. Therefore, to be stated more accurately, “gay rights” should be called “unhappy wrongs.”

It is wrong to pervert nature and practice immorality. Even when a totally humanistic-secularistic society crusades in the name of democratic freedom for the right to be perverse, the Christian must affirm that freedom necessitates restraint and responsibility.

We do not have “murderer’s rights.” No one in his right mind would crusade for “thief’s rights.” Just because a minority group exists, that existence in and of itself does not justify the philosophy of that particular minority group.

Thus it is with “gay rights.” The visible and vocal and political existence of a homosexual minority does not add one iota to the justification for political pro-
tection and guarantees of equal opportunities for this unnatural and perverse philosophy, especially when the adherents of homosexuality are insistent upon espousing their perverseness in classroom settings to impressionable children.

Orthodox Christians must resist every effort to "unbias" homosexuality. Clergymen who practice homosexual activity must be recognized as contradictors of biblical standards and known for what they are, blasphemous!

But we as Christians must understand how to make the careful distinction between homosexualism and homosexuals. We must deplore the "ism" and love the homosexual!

Just as there are two ways a person may become a homosexual, so also, there are two types of homosexuals.

1. The practicing homosexual. This person actively engages in homosexual activity. He is guilty of sin. There is no way he can consider himself a born-again Christian so long as he continues to live contrary to the known law of God regarding his sexual activity.

2. The nonpracticing homosexual. This person may have crossed genes, or he may have acquired a homosexual preference. But in spite of his preference, he refrains from homosexual activity. He may be cursed with a wrong preference for the rest of his life. But if God has forgiven him of his sin and he refrains from engaging in this sin, it is absolutely certain that God can save him, and this homosexual can be a born-again Christian just as an alcoholic can by the grace of God stop drinking. He is never "cured." But he can be released!

Christians believe in a God of miracles. Just as God has physically healed people during modern days, and just as He continues to heal sin-sick souls through the miracle of free salvation, so also, God can heal the sin-sick homosexual of a perverse sexual tendency in his moral nature.

But, God does not heal every cancer patient who prays for cleansing of the blood cells. Who can say why? Neither is God obligated to heal every homosexual of the "ism" that haunts him. But He is self-obligated to heal the soul of "whosoever believeth in him."

Therefore, if God himself loves the homosexual, just as Jesus loved the woman taken in the act of adultery, we as Christians must be broad enough to allow God's love to be expressed through us, through our churches, and through our genuine love for the homosexual whose "ism" we totally reject.

DEMANDS,
DEMANDS, DEMANDS

Everybody, even those I love most,
Want something done, usually right now!
Both needs and possibilities converge
To constantly remind me
That I must:
Improve,
Develop,
Become,
Grow,
Strive,
Try,
Achieve, and
Win (at least, most of the time).
Jesus, I sometimes grow so weary.
Do you know what I mean?
"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
(Matthew 11:28-30, NIV).
Thank You, Jesus. That helps.

-JERRY D. HULL
Nampa, Ida.
MARCH 1, 1979
A mighty invasion of power, glory, and blessing from on high is one of our great needs. Call it what you will—revival, a new Pentecost, a spiritual awakening—we need it today! This writer prefers the term revival.

Revival has been described differently by different persons. One has termed it, “a new beginning of obedience to God.” Another said, “Revival is a reanimating of that which is already living, but in a state of declension.” Someone has written, “The best definition of revival is the phrase . . . ‘times of refreshing from the presence of God.’” Still another said, “Revival is God at work in the church.”

Therefore, revival is not to be used synonymously with evangelism. The latter is the church at work for God. It is true that we need to be at work for Him, but the workman must hone his tools. He who would cut down the tree must make certain his ax is sharp. If the axhead has been lost, it must be found. Before the orchestra can play the great symphony, the instruments must be tuned.

The late Dr. Hugh C. Benner warned us: “It takes but one generation, ignoring or distorting the spirit and basic issue, to change for all the future the course of any spiritual enterprise.” There are smooth voices being heard which, if we heed them, will lead us down the road away from revival. It was revival that brought the Church of the Nazarene into being. If we follow any road that leads away from revival it will end in a cold, sterile, lifeless formalism. Such a formalism will sound the death knell to our redemptive mission in the world. The history of the Church shows that no denomination that ever embarked on such a course ever recovered its initial thrust or recaptured its original mission.

It is frequently said, “The days of revival are past.” Those who say this would have us forsake altars of repentance, prayer, and dedication and turn to other methods. They tell us we must be more in tune with the times, become more sophisticated in our methods, more institutional in our objectives and more tolerant in the demands made of those who would follow Jesus. We need to be vigilant, however, least a decided change in methods reflect what is really a change in message.

All of this is nothing new, for in every age revivals have been scorned, derided, and condemned by some. Yet the truth is, in America the revivals of the 19th century made Christian liberty, Christian equality, and Christian brotherhood the passion of the land. They also gave rise to great religious and social enterprises such as home and foreign mission efforts, philanthropy, and moral reform.

But revivals also resulted in a tremendous growth of the church as a whole. It is said that at the beginning of the 19th century 1 in 16 persons was a church member; at its close 1 in every 4 belonged to evangelical Protestant churches.

If the Church is to see again such revivals and their effects, what must her position be? We must recapture something that the Old Testament prophets termed “the burden of the Lord.” Those men were aware of the circumstances around them, of the sinfulness of the people, and of the justice and wrath of God. Consequently, they were aware that the nation which departed from the truth of God would come under the judgment of God. So they were deeply burdened and, by the inspiration of God’s Holy Spirit, cried out against the sins of the people and called for true penitence toward God.

Today the Holy Spirit is calling Christians everywhere to prayer, obedience, and faith. He calls mankind to turn from the ways of wickedness and return to God, for He is merciful and ready to forgive. Let all of us join our hearts and our hands, and lift up our voices to God and pray with David: “Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?” (Psalm 85:6).
GOD ANSWERS PRAYER FOR HOLINESS

by LOREN W. GOULD
Virginia Beach, Va.

Luke’s Gospel tells us that in a certain place, when Jesus had ceased praying, one of His disciples said unto Him, “Lord teach us to pray.” Jesus responded to this request by giving to His disciples that great prayer example known as “The Lord’s Prayer.” When Jesus had concluded this model prayer, He proceeded to instruct His followers how to pray. He told them to pray earnestly and persistently if they wanted real victory. Jesus promised His followers that if they asked, it would be given them; if they sought they would find; and if they knocked it would be opened unto them. He promised definite and certain answers to prayer.

But Jesus came to the central issue of the whole discourse when He gave the illustration of an earthly father caring for his own children so much that he would withhold no good thing from them. This is just like our Heavenly Father who will withhold no good thing from us, including the Holy Spirit in sanctifying grace. Jesus climaxed His teaching with the words: “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13).

Those things which Jesus said to His disciples in that little illustration, He also is saying to you and me right now. He is saying that if any one of us will present himself to God in full consecration, and will ask God to fill him with the Holy Spirit, God will, without reservation, give to him the Holy Spirit in His fullness. God will not withhold any good thing from one of His hungry children. The sanctifying fullness of the Holy Spirit is the greatest and best gift God has for His children.

Dr. John Church once told me how he and Uncle Bud Robinson (that great pioneer preacher in the Church of the Nazarene) were holding a camp meeting together many years ago. A woman came to the altar in response to Uncle Bud’s preaching. She was desperately seeking God; she prayed and cried out so desperately for God to completely sanctify her that for a moment they had to cease with the song of invitation. Uncle Bud stepped quietly to the altar and placed a long forefinger on this woman’s forehead. She stopped her pleading with God and looked up. Then he said to her in his characteristic way, “Woman, the last time I heard from heaven, God was taking every woman he could get.”

The woman threw up both hands and said, “Praise God, that’s me; God sanctifies me right now.”

Oh, how true it is that God never disappoints His children when they earnestly seek that which He wants to give to them. God wants to send His Holy Spirit to fill and sanctify you right now.

Does your heart hunger for the cleansing, sanctifying fullness of the Holy Spirit? Is this the overwhelming passion of your heart; that you might be filled with the fullness of God? Is this what you want more than anything else right now? Then if you will present yourself to God as a “living sacrifice” and ask God for the Holy Spirit in His sanctifying fullness, the promise to you is: “How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him.”

You don’t have to beg or persuade God to sanctify you wholly. You aren’t waiting for Him; He is waiting for you—waiting for you to simply, honestly ask, trust, and receive!

REBORN

She was a fighter
Even before her eyes squinted
For the very first time;
She kicked and cried in her mother’s womb,
Punching for a little more room.
With hair awild,
For taunts, teases, and leers,
She conquered all her peers
And bloodied bullies in disgust.
But the Lord called her to a “new birth” one day—
So now, her victories are won
(to much dismay)
For someone named “Jesus.”
Her fists are folded now in prayer
And she speaks of love, and peace, and “care”
... Verily, verily, I say unto thee,
Except a man be born again,
He cannot see the kingdom of God”
(John 3:3).

-PAT ADAMS
Janesville, Wis.
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

by DOROTHY BOONE KIDNEY
Washburn, Me.

Two years ago I was in a hospital bed trying to solve a problem which seemed unsolvable. A hospital atmosphere during a convalescence was a splendid place to solve a knotty problem like mine, I rationalized, as I had nothing else to do. Everything was being done for me, leaving me plenty of time in which to think.

I was really trying to rearrange my life. While hospitalized, I had encountered a physical difficulty which tumbled my neat row of dominoes of the future, setting up a chain reaction of ifs, ands, and buts which complicated decision-making. I needed some outside help, I decided. This created a problem too. The pastor of my church had been transferred, a new pastor had not been called yet, so this left me “pastorless.”

Flipping through the yellow pages of the telephone book, I noted the phone number of a church similar to mine in doctrine, placed a call, and suggested that the pastor—a stranger to me—stop by my room on his next hospital visit, as I had a problem I needed to discuss.

The pastor and his wife came that day. They were congenial and intelligent. I found it easy to talk to them. After the preliminary introductions, the pastor asked about my problem.

Very carefully, very logically, in chronological order, and in detail, I began talking about my problem. I discussed at great length the complexities, the details, the side effects, the need for reshuffling many circumstances of my life, my attempts at solving the problem, my faith in God, my belief in prayer, etc. I talked for over an hour. It was rather like someone pulling the stopper out of a gallon jug hidden for years in the bottom of a dusty trunk.

All this time the pastor and his wife listened. Just listened. She smiled encouragingly from time to time. He simply watched me intently, with long fingers laced thoughtfully together.

After I finally ran out of words and sank exhausted against the pillow, he continued to sit silently for a while, then asked, “Now, what is the problem?” I stared at him in disbelief. I had been talking about my problem for over an hour. I had probed into it, dissected it, sorted it out piece by piece, had shredded it, in fact, to minute particles, and here he was acting as if I hadn’t said a word. Hadn’t the man been listening? Yes, I knew he had been listening.

I was too exhausted to spend another hour running the whole thing by him again. “Now, what is the problem?” he had just asked.

I suddenly realized that I had spent over an hour, circling the problem like an animal closing in on its prey. I had approached the problem from every possible angle, had discussed all the little problems that could be caused by the big problem, had dragged in illustrations and points to explain the background of the problem, but the main problem had become hopelessly buried under a veritable haystack of complexities, perplexities, details, and suppositions.

Now I saw what this pastor wanted me to do! He wanted me to condense the entire problem to a single sentence!

I’m sure my eyebrows flew up; my face registered surprise. I lay quietly a minute, trying to ferret the problem to its core.

A PRAYER TO THE GOD WHO LISTENS

Incline your ears unto me, O God,
In my infancy
When no one understands my cries
Or knows my hurts.

Incline your ears unto me, O God,
During my youth
When no one seems to hear my voice
Or recognize that I am there.

Incline your ears unto me, O God,
When as an adult
I talk too much
And say very little.

Incline your ears unto me, O God,
In my sunset years
As loneliness and frustration
Are my constant companions.

And in the end, O God,
As your ears have been so inclined
Throughout my life,
May I enter into your open arms.
Amen.

-T. AARON PUESCHEL
Ritzville, Wash.
problem out from the heap of words, to distill what was bothering me, to put it into one sentence. I reached down deeply into my mind, carefully selected a few words and concisely stated the complex problem in one simple sentence.

That pastor and his wife must have done some genuine praying before they came and must have continued praying silently during the long listening session, because he promptly answered my single, concise sentence summarizing my problem with a simple, concise sentence of his own. And the answer to my problem was so obviously there in his single sentence—revealed so clearly, so simply, so precisely in that one direct sentence reply—that it shocked me to my heels.

The answer was astonishingly reasonable and obvious. The answer was so plain it almost seemed to be written all over the white plastered ceiling of the hospital room.

I believe prayer is like that. We often go to the Lord with a long list of details bordering on the problem but in our prayer we never quite get around to pinpointing the real trouble itself. True, the Lord has urged us to cast all our care upon Him for He cares for us. But sometimes, mixed in among the cares, there is one specific problem causing all the cares! And occasionally, I feel, God waits patiently through a long prayer for us to describe our cares in minute detail, and after one hour-long recital. He asks us lovingly, “Now, what is the problem?” It’s a case of not being able to see the forest for the trees.

Help us today, Lord, to zero in on the real problems in our lives and to call them by real names—whether they are greed, jealousy, dishonesty, or whatever, for no matter how humiliating or painful they may be, we know that the real problem may be producing side-effect problems and cares! Amen.

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Focusing on the Present

by LYLE P. FLINNER
Bethany, Okla.

The focus of much present-day applied psychology is on the concept of "being." This is somewhat of a swing of the pendulum from the old emphasis on the past.

Basically, "being" is a way of behaving that is linked to the experience of the "here and now." While it recognizes the formative influence of the past, it emphasizes how we handle life today. And while it supports future goals and plans as important to an adequate "present" attitude, it is opposed to preoccupation with future goals. The concept of "being" is related to the "experiencing" person—a person who has keen awareness of his world and the people in it—today.

We all know that yesterday is past and cannot be retrieved, and that tomorrow is not yet ours, so what we are today is most important. Many of us are still bound by the fetters of our yesterdays, by choices and decisions which we would gladly change if we only could. But we must learn to release yesterday—for living is today.

Someone has said: "Yesterday is a cancelled check, tomorrow is a promissory note, today is ready cash, spend it wisely."

The big question is not, What was I yesterday? or What may I be in the future? but, What is the quality of my life today? The testimony of our yesterdays must be real in our life both then and now.

After every consideration of people and circumstances in your life, the most important consideration is the quality of life you live where you are.

Christ ministered to a few, under most adverse circumstances, and the depth and quality of His life still influences millions.

Christianity is vitally concerned with "being," with maintaining a vibrant quality of spiritual life which makes the present a viable, dynamic experience.

Paul mirrored this concern in the living experience today when he wrote: "You are living a brand new kind of life that is continually learning more and more of what is right, and trying constantly to be more and more like Christ who created this new life within you" (Colossians 3:10, TLB).

POINT TO PONDER: Have I let the worries of yesterday and the dreams of tomorrow cloud the importance of today?
PIERRE RENOIR'S knuckles were so badly swollen from arthritis that he was encouraged to quit painting. Instead, the famous French impressionist asked to be assisted almost daily to his drawing board. As his career ended, he held brushes between his thumb and index finger. Painting became a matter of wrist and arm motion since he no longer possessed skill or deftness in his fingers.

A contemporary, Henri Matisse, was nearby one day when Renoir dropped a brush. Feeling pity for the artist, Matisse asked, "Why do you go on torturing yourself like this? Surely you have already achieved success." Summoning an unquenchable flame of nobility deep within his soul, the great master replied, "The pain passes, Matisse, but the beauty remains."

How can any good come from our suffering? Is there any beauty in the pain we must bear?

One of the difficulties of suffering is that a sense of helplessness overshadows hope. The feeling of not knowing what to do or to whom to turn creates loneliness within the sufferer. But some good begins to come through our pain if we sense that God himself offers a presence in the void pain has created. At this point, the "good" is largely for our benefit.

Whether the pain is that of loneliness because we feel isolated from God, or whether it is emotional or mental or physical, there is comfort in believing that the Father cares for His creation. Initially, the goodness of God is toward us so that we may know He is caring about our suffering as well as our success. He is always available!

He does not know it but a friend of mine who lost a member of his family by accidentally causing the death, enabled me to better understand God's comforting ability. Through tears he remarked, "God has grace that He does not give you until you need it." To me, that means that God is there not only when I need Him, but He is there in a much greater way than I ever dreamed!

While medical science can ease much of our anguish, the uniqueness of the Father is that He is with us as we suffer. He is the great Presence. He has a special kind of love for us since we were made in His image. If He understood the loneliness of His Son upon the Cross, then He surely understands the times when I feel isolated from Him too. In fact, He has promised never to leave me or forsake me! And in the suffering we experience, nothing fills the darkest night like His companionship.

Not only does God's presence become a source of healing during trial, but we ourselves may be a source of comfort to others through our pain. Now the good, the beauty that remains, may become other-directed. Our pain may be the open door to creating a bond of love. Others around us may long for an opportunity
to share their burdens. If they sense that we have suffered, they may feel we are able to understand their need!

“Misery loves company” has carried a negative tone, since this adage implies that those who suffer like to be around others who suffer. But in a sense, a feeling of companionship in trial may have its own healing virtue. No doubt, Paul and Silas comforted one another in jail! If you have a problem similar to mine, you know what I am going through. And I understand you a little better too! So our suffering may enable us to comfort others who suffer, just because we have walked a similar road before them.

The suffering you may now be enduring might help to heal another because you will be able to relate how you are coming along. Others may be encouraged by your own ministry of telling how you were able to “get through” with the Lord’s help. The power of resiliency deep within you may be the root of hope from which a friend draws strength. Thousands live in wheelchairs. But one young woman, Joni Eareckson, types and draws messages of confidence with an instrument held in her teeth. Her assurance simply is: “If I have hope, you can have hope!”

Suffering, then, is like a surface storm which cannot trouble the deep calm. At times the pain may hide any peace, and when you hurt badly enough, hurting is all you feel. But even with pain, we are the property, the responsibility of the Father. And in one way or another He wants to get His beauty in us to the surface. The barrenness of brown winter sod is broken, of all things, by the beauty of a fragile flower. It has been beneath the surface all along, just waiting for the “winter pain” to pass.

Down within you and your suffering is a beauty that you may not see or feel. Possibly you cannot imagine that any good exists because of your pain. But when those who suffer sense that God is with them, and that He is greater than either their pain or themselves, then the good has begun to blossom. The avenue of helping through hurting is open. While pain is surely a great trial, it is not our master! Waves of pain may pitch upon the surface, but the Presence dwells within the deep.

Rev. Pat Shaughnessy, of Phoenix, found this perspective in his life. He was blown 30 feet into the air from a bomb explosion at Los Angeles International Airport in 1974. It cost him his right leg. That has to be pain!

He remarked in an interview with Copley News Service recently, “There are four things we can do with our hurts: nurse them, curse them, rehearse them, or reverse them.” He said he wanted to reverse his. That has to be beauty.

I want to try to reverse my hurts too. It will make my life more beautiful.

**Book Briefs**

Reviewed by M. HAROLD DANIELS Littleton, Colo.

**LIVING PORTRAITS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**

In these 15 portraits, Dr. Paul T. Culbertson has done far more than offer thumbnail biographies: he has brought into focus the outstanding characteristics of each person.

The 15 subjects form a contrasting group of prominent as well as rather obscure Bible characters: Solomon, Jonah, Miriam, Daniel, Isaac, Jephthah, Belshazzar, Naaman’s wife’s maid, Hezekiah, Jacob, Eli, Lot, Nehemiah, Ezra, Zerubbabel.

In these portraits one gets a glimpse of how God uses individuals, some of them otherwise inconspicuous and ordinary, to shape the destinies of nations or to further His purposes for His chosen people.

These are in-depth studies probing the drives, the motivations, the backgrounds of these 13 men and 2 women whose lives contributed to the history of their times.

Here is not what might be called heavy reading, yet it is far from superficial. Each chapter is an insightful analysis of the moral strength, the discipline, the fortitude which combines to form character.

Time spent in reading this 192-page book will be not only a pleasant exercise but a learning experience. A separate study guide is also available so that it may be used in home study groups.

by Paul T. Culbertson Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City to order, see page 23
THE BABIES OF TODAY

If I were an unborn baby, I'd defer my entrance into society as long as possible. This is a lousy world, much darker and less safe than a mother's womb. And yet . . .

I can understand the reluctance of many young couples to have children. The little bundle of warm, smiling, gurgling joy—who knows what he will become?

The baby may grow up to become an alcoholic, unable to cope with life's pressures, and curling up in a fetal position within a whiskey bottle.

Or he may become a criminal, shoving a gun into some terrified oldster's face, ransacking a home for items of value that can be fenced to support a drug habit.

He may even become an atheistic communist, the stupid tool of scheming, power-mad politicians, betraying to its sworn enemies secrets vital to the nation's security.

And if he never becomes anything really bad, that baby may grow up to become the tragic victim of those who are. This is not an easy time to have children. And yet . . .

Where are the scientists and doctors who will discover a cure for cancer? They are the babies of today.

Where are the engineers and technicians who will discover sources and methods of energy which can be used without polluting and ravaging the earth and sky? They are the babies of today.

Where are the educators who will inspire youth to learn, and to press that learning into service to human needs? They are the babies of today.

Where are the scholars and preachers who will saturate the world with the message of the Scriptures, and spearhead a mighty harvest of souls for Christ? They are the babies of today.

Without our babies we have no future. What are you doing in your church to minister to babies and their parents? "Baby Day" is coming up. What are you going to do about it? Nothing is more important in the church's mission!

THE LIGHT SHINES

"No age since the founding and forming of the Christian Church was ever like, in open avowed atheism, blasphemies, and heresies, to the age we now live in." With these dismal words Daniel Defoe assessed the early 18th century.

I wonder what he would say if he could observe our times!

"Open avowed atheism" has increased as Communism has expanded. Viet Nam has been gobbled up. Cambodia has been savagely devoured. Taiwan is now being thrown to the wolves. Korea may be abandoned to a fate worse than death. Millions are murdered wherever Communists take over, as ruthless politicians desperately attempt to expunge religion from ancient cultures.

"Blasphemies" multiply in the "free world," as satanic cults ensnare the witless by thousands, and moral standards are jettisoned in orgies of permissiveness.

Within the churches, "heresies" have been rampant. Theologians have denied the authority of Scripture, the deity of Jesus Christ, the atoning significance of His crucifixion, and the reality of His resurrection.

Yes, Defoe's sad verdict upon an earlier age is even truer of our own.

But in Defoe's own day and nation, God raised up John Wesley and visited England with mighty revival. When things looked darkest the light of the gospel flamed forth brilliantly. Revival and reform altered the course of history.

God can do it again. His people must not yield to despair. The daily news may be bad, but the good news of Jesus Christ is still "the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

Where I formerly pastored, thieves broke into our building, stealing and destroying. Atop my desk they placed a communion cup on an outspread, bloodstained rag in defiant mockery of the gospel. But the following Sunday the Cross was proclaimed and a number of persons were saved.

"The light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5, RSV)—and never will! □
The daily news may be bad, but the good news of Jesus Christ is still "the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

JUSTICE FOR THE POOR

In his book The Letter and the Spirit, Rabbi Robert Kahn tells this story: A certain mystic always remained alone in the synagogue after the other worshipers had gone home. He would read his prayer book by candlelight, and at midnight he would commune with God, hoping to hear the divine voice replying to his human voice. One night it happened. God spoke: "I have heard your prayers, my son. What is it that you wish? Ask, and you shall be answered."

The mystic wept and said, "I want nothing at all, except the bliss of Thy presence."

And God thundered: "Is there no one you know who is hungry?"

The God of the Bible is concerned for the poor. He sanctions no brand of holiness that ignores the hungry and the hurting of earth. His people are expected to reflect this concern, to pray, work, and give in order to lift the burdens of poverty.

The Hebrew language has no word for what we understand as "charity." I first heard that from my Hebrew professor, and have read it many times since. Care of the poor was a matter of justice, not of charity. The obligation to help the poor rested upon the rights of the needy, not the impulses of the advantaged.

Under this concept of justice, a deterrent to oppression existed. Further, the dignity and personhood of the poor were protected. Charity can be administered in ways that demean its recipients. No man is reduced or shamed by receiving justice.

Christianity inherited the Hebrew viewpoint. Our God announces himself the champion of the underprivileged, the enemy of the selfish. The love that serves human need, if it is godlike love, does not victimize the beneficiary in order to bolster the ego of the benefactor. Rather, it recognizes the fact that we all belong to God and to one another, and we owe to Him and to ourselves the justice which rescues people from poverty.

EARLY BEATS LATE

Some people are nearly always late. I know some who will probably be late for their own funerals.

Some people like to be on time exactly. They arrive at airports when their plane is already boarding. They come to meetings just as the chairman raises the gavel to call it to order. They slip into a pew just as the organist plays the first note.

Some people are almost always early. I'm in this group. I dislike being late so intensely that I usually get to appointments with plenty of margin. I allow time for getting lost, since my sense of direction wouldn't do credit to a blind hog. I allow time for traffic delays and for all kinds of unforeseen circumstances.

Being habitually late is bad. Trying to hit it on the nose is risky. For the sake of all concerned in my activities, I prefer to be early. "Time on my hands" is never a problem. Being early has given me countless opportunities for reading, for writing, for praying, for conversation, and for reflection. It has also facilitated an educative hobby—people watching.

There are many advantages to being early, but I don't know of any for being late—unless a person wants attention.

Every person involved in worship services should be early. If they were, pastors, choir directors, and head ushers would have longer and healthier lives!

Tardiness may not be a sin, but it sure is a nuisance. And chronic tardiness is inexcusable, the mark of an undisciplined and disorganized mind.

Cooperation is a quality with real virtue. It calls for unselfishness. It requires discipline. It demands patience. And cooperation makes being on time a necessity.

Learning to employ time well when you are early has an immense fringe benefit. It enables you to employ time well, also, when the other party is late.

I have time to write this because I am early for a luncheon engagement. Doris told me I could reach the restaurant in 15 minutes. I thought I would need 45. She was right.
We discussed the first designation for Christians to appear in 3 John—"beloved." The second designation is "brethren," found in verses 3, 5, and 10.

Where "beloved" is more expressive of personal feeling, "brethren" is a relational term. It does imply love, certainly, and in John's thinking love for the brethren was an evidence of the new birth: "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14, RSV).

Primarily, however, it denotes the relationship in which Christians stand to one another. As William Barclay put it, "The Church is meant to be a band of brothers." "Brethren" is not merely a horizontal relationship, though. Believers are not brothers because they agree on certain doctrines or pursue mutual goals. They are brothers because they have the same Father—"the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). The vertical relationship determines the horizontal one. Even Roman Catholicism has come to see this—witness their term (somewhat patronizing) for non-Catholic Christians—"separated brethren."

This brotherhood is based on regeneration, not creation. All men are brothers in the limited sense of having a common Creator. But Christians are brothers because they have a common Redeemer. The Christian brotherhood belongs to the new creation, not the old creation.

The three places where "brethren" occurs in 3 John are instructive. In them we see brotherhood both demonstrated and denied.

1. Brotherhood demonstrated (vv. 3, 5, RSV).

   John writes, "I greatly rejoiced when some of the brethren arrived and testified to the truth of your life ..." (v. 3). Here brotherhood is expressed in honest praise.

   Christians should recognize and encourage one another's integrity. Love, as Paul reminds us, "rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6). What you say about a brother in his absence is a test of whether you are really a brother to him.

   In v. 5 John says, "It is a loyal thing you do when you render any service to the brethren" (RSV). Here brotherhood is exhibited in caring support.

   The service Gaius rendered was hospitality to itinerant missionaries. He opened his heart and home, sharing with them his material goods. Verse 6 makes it clear that this was done out of love. Sharing goods is a test of love's genuineness (1 John 3:17-18).

2. Brotherhood denied (v. 10).

   Diotrephes denied brotherhood by acting directly opposite to Gaius and the missionaries.

   He denied it by slander: "... prating against me with evil words" (RSV). The NIV reads, "gossiping maliciously about us." Diotrephes wanted "to put himself first" (v. 9). The self-centered and carnally ambitious always perceive others as a threat, and often seek to remove the threat by discreditting the others.

   He denied brotherhood, also, by inhospitality. He would neither "welcome the brethren" nor allow others to do so. As Adam Clarke put it, "He had the complete dog in the manger principle: he would neither do, nor let do; and when good was done that he did not approve, he endeavoured to undo it."

   Are you a true brother (or sister)? Do you praise or slander? Do you share or hoard?

**HOW CAN IT BE?**

_As easily and lovingly as we might_  
_Blow a kiss to a loved one,_  
_So God breathed the world into being—_  
_Then gave it to man._

"Have dominion, be fruitful and multiply,"  
He said,

"For the earth is a paradise for you to enjoy."  
Instead, man despoiled and polluted the world

_With the disease of sin,_  
_Bringing death and decay._

_But God so desired fellowship with man,_  
_And God so loved,_  

_That once more, He gave—_  
_This time, His Son—His only Son—_  
_That man might once again experience_  
_A life of holiness and communion with God here,_  
_And eternal paradise hereafter._

_And can you believe that mankind goes on_  
_Mocking, ignoring, and rejecting_  
_This great gift?_  
_How incredible!_  

—MABEL P. ADAMSON  
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Easter April 15

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**AW-17**

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**AW-5522**

**AW-5527**

**GI-3119**

**GI-2W**

**GI-690**

**GI-966**

**AW-17**

**GI-3119**

**GI-690**

**GI-966**

**AW-17**

Rev. Williams received his first license to preach in 1916 from Dr. Walker, general superintendent, at Minot, N.D. He then moved to Nampa, Ida., and served as field representative for the Samaritan Hospital for 10 years. He also served Olivet Nazarene College 4 years and Northwest Nazarene College 2 years.

In 1942, Rev. Williams moved to Chula Vista, Calif., and started a church there. He also pastored churches at Costa Mesa and Ocean-side, Calif. From 1964 to 1975 Rev. Williams worked with some 14 churches on the Southern California District as interim pastor. The Rialto church was the last of these churches. He and his wife, Leah, make their home in Rialto.

Several USAAF bases are situated in this area. Since it is now possible for service personnel to request their venue of overseas service, Nazarenes who will be serving abroad are encouraged to choose this area where they could be part of a home mission thrust. USAAF bases are located at Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Alconbury, and Bentwaters.

Dr. Art Horwood, head of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at Northwest Nazarene College, has been elected president of the Idaho Association of HPER educators (AHPER).

Dr. Horwood is in his 10th year at NNC. Prior to that he taught at Michigan State, Indiana State, William and Mary, Taylor University, and Roberts Wesleyan College. He did his undergraduate work at Roberts Wesleyan and received his master's and doctorate from Michigan State.

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Bethel Church, located 22 miles from Johnson, Kans., purchased a 15-passenger van a few months ago to use in outreach ministry. Pictured are a recent Sunday's riders, not including the driver. One-way mileage to pick up this group was 48 miles. Pastor E. R. Houston reports that since this photo, an entire family of 5 has been won and have joined the church. It all began when two children started riding the van to Sunday school. This family is now bringing others and the mother has been instrumental in starting a ladies' Bible study group.

WILLOWS CALIFORNIA MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

Pastor Byron Ford and his wife, Nancy, recently conducted a marriage enrichment weekend with six couples. Byron pastors the Willows, Calif., church. He and Nancy attended their first marriage enrichment retreat last year, facilitated by Betty and Ken Rice.

The Fords have made application to the Department of Adult Ministries for additional leader couple training. More Nazarene couples are encouraged to make application, especially those who have experienced either a marriage enrichment or marriage encounter weekend. □

—J. Paul Turner, reporter

The Arnold, Neb., church honored Mrs. Ruth Yanken and Mrs. Nancy Gill January 7 with a special surprise award ceremony for perfect Sunday school attendance for 25 years. Rev. Walter Laman (r.), superintendent of the Nebraska District, presented the "Twenty-fifth Year" bars to the ladies as Pastor Milford Simonds (l.) looks on.
RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS CONVENE IN D.C.

Among the well-known Christian leaders attending the Thirty-sixth Annual Convention of National Religious Broadcasters in Washington, D.C., January 21-24, were Bishop Festo Kivengere, Ugandan evangelist in exile, who is known worldwide as the winner of the 1977 International Freedom Prize; Col. James Irwin, former astronaut; Rev. Robert H. Schuller, speaker on “The Hour of Power” television broadcast; and pollster George Gallup, Jr. The convention was held at the Washington Hilton hotel.

One of the highlights of the convention was the Tuesday morning Congressional Breakfast when more than 100 senators, congressmen, and federal officials joined the broadcasters in an inspiring session in which Col. James Irwin, president of the High Flight Foundation, gave an impressive address entitled “From Outer to Inner Space,” sharing his personal testimony and his reason for living.

The theme of the convention was “Declare His Glory,” from 1 Chronicles 16:24; the presidential address by Abe C. Van Der Puy centered on this theme as capturing the essential purpose of those who are part of Christian radio and television. Dr. Van Der Puy is also president of radio station HCJB in Quito, Ecuador.

One of the most important issues of the broadcast industry was presented in a panel discussion, “The New Revision of the Communications Act.” Several congressmen and federal officials—including Senator Harrison Schmitt of New Mexico, Federal Communications Commissioner James Quello, and Glen O. Roberts—participated in the key sessions concerning the revision, and the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference.

Featured in a lively panel discussion Wednesday afternoon were D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fla.; Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ; and pollster George Gallup, Jr.

National Religious Broadcasters is an association of more than 800 member organizations, of which Nazarene Communications is a member. The organizations produce radio and television programs and operate religious stations. National Religious Broadcasters members are responsible for more than 70 percent of the nation’s religious radio and television.

Paul Skiles, executive director of Nazarene Communications, was reelected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors.

David Hofer, owner of Christian radio station KRDU in Dinuba, Calif., was elected as the new president of NRB. Others elected were: first vice-president, reelected, E. Brandt Gustavson of Moody Radio Network; second vice-president, Richard P. Bott of KCCV/KQCV, Independence, Mo.; secretary, Dr. E. R. Bertermann, Lutheran Bible Translators, Orange, Calif.; and treasurer, reelected, Dr. Robert Andrews of “Light and Life Hour,” Winona Lake, Ind.

Elected to the Hall of Fame was Dr. Herman W. Gockel of Lutheran Television. He was honored at the final banquet; Dr. J. Vernon McGee, one of the grand masters of religious broadcasting and originator of the Thru the Bible broadcasts, was the speaker. Other NRB Awards were:

Program Award: “Day of Discovery” television broadcast, viewed by close

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MARCH 1, 1979
21
MISSIONARIES APPOINTED, 1979

In the Monday night session, January 15, the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene appointed 25 new missionaries:

Rev. Dana Harding of Kansas City, to Swaziland; Rev. and Mrs. Michael Shalley of Kansas City, to Trans South Africa; Miss Veora Tressler of Kansas City, general appointment; Rev. and Mrs. Steve Langford, Olathe, Kans., to Latin America; Rev. and Mrs. Wesley Harris, Mena, Ark., general appointment; Rev. and Mrs. Doug Perkins of Portland, Ore., general appointment; Rev. and Mrs. Bill Selvidge, West Lafayette, Ind., to Hong Kong; Rev. and Mrs. Charles Gates, Alloway, N.J., to the Republic of South Africa North; Rev. and Mrs. Timothy Mercer, Cuba, Ill., to Korea; Mr. and Mrs. Warren Neal, Kansas City, to Papua New Guinea; Rev. and Mrs. Lindell Browning of Anderson, Ind., to Arabic language study; and Dr. and Mrs. David Falk of St. Paul, Alberta, Canada, general appointment.

Dr. and Mrs. Bienvenido Nacionales and Dr. Norma Bajoyo were recommended for career missionary status. —NCN

—NCN
7 million viewers each Sunday:

Station Award: KHEP, Phoenix, Ariz., which for 21 years has been an outstanding gospel station;

Distinguished Service Award to Dr. U. M. Ward, the speaker on “Revival-time” from 1953 to 1978. Dr. Ward was one of the youthful pioneers of religious radio, starting his broadcast career in 1926.

More than 2,000 broadcasters attended the four days of workshops, lectures, and plenary sessions, according to executive director of NRB, Dr. Ben Armstrong.

—NCN

The General NWMS Council, meeting in January in Kansas City, voted to observe 1979 as a special year of Prayer, Fasting, and Self-denial. This officially begins March 2, World Day of Prayer. The council, pictured (l. to r.): Dr. Jerry Johnson, executive director of the Department of World Mission; Mrs. Maxine Hamlin, North Central Zone; Mrs. Nina Gunter, Southeast Zone; Mrs. Lela Jackson, Northwest Zone; Mrs. Kay Hermon, South Central Zone; Mrs. Doris Carnahan, Eastern Zone; Mrs. Bea Oliver, general president; Mrs. Wanda Knox, executive director; Mrs. Elizabeth Grace, Intercontinental Zone I; Mrs. Wilma Shaw, Southwest Zone; Mrs. Ruth Hightower, Canadian Zone; Dr. Evelyn Witthoff, Central Zone; Rev. Mrs. Andres Valenzuela, Intercontinental Zone II; Dr. Paul Gamertsfelder, East Central Zone; and Rev. Joseph Murugan, Intercontinental Zone III.

AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN DISTRICT NYI CAMP, CHRISTMAS '78

One hundred twenty young people from all over Australia met at Mount Evelyn near Melbourne, December 26-31, for the NYI District Camp. Mark Stone, NYI president (3rd from 1., back row), led the camp.

Cricket, basketball, volleyball, and swimming were balanced with studies and discussion featuring the Design for Disciple Making (Hal Perkins) series. God’s Spirit was evident throughout the entire time under the ministry of Rev. John Kerr and especially during the Sunday morning service when Rev. Jay E. Hunton, district superintendent, spoke to the camp.

Visitors and guests at the camp included Dr. and Mrs. James E. Hunton, district superintendent of Illinois District, and Living Water, a singing group from the Capalaba Church in Queensland.

—Sam Hancock, reporter

Dr. L. Guy Nees, president of Mount Vernon Nazarene College, is making a presentation on behalf of the Council on Education to Dr. and Mrs. Edward S. Mann on the occasion of Mann’s retirement as executive director of the Department of Education and the Ministry. This was done at the annual meeting of the Council on Education at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, in November. The gifts included a coat for Cora Mann, a sweater for Ed Mann, and a check for over $500.

Book Briefs ORDER COUPON

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BALLARD, DON: Newport News, VA (First). Mar. 6-11; Chesapeake, OH (First). Mar. 13-18; Reserved, Mar. 20-25.

BEARDEN, LESLIE: Charleston, WV (South Hills). Mar. 11; Greenfield, OH (First) Mar. 20-25; Fairmont, WV. Mar. 27—Apr. 1.

BECKETT, FRANK: Mansfield, AR (First). Mar. 11; Clarksville, AR (First). Mar. 27—Apr. 1.

BELL, JAMES & JEAN: Fairview Heights, IL (Glenview). Feb. 27-Mar. 4; Griffith, IN (Gary First). Mar. 6-11; Hammond, IN (Woodlawn). Mar. 6-11; Muncie, IN, Mar. 20-25; Muscatine, IA. Mar. 27—Apr. 1.


BOHI, JIM: Ministers' Slates. As reported to Vitalis An Department. Nazarene Publishing House. P.O. Box 127, Kansas City, Mo. 64141

RENEWING THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL


CROFTON, DON: Lima, OH (First). Mar. 4; Bradford, PA, Mar. 11; Greenwood, NY (Genesee West). Mar. 18; Jamestown, NY. Mar. 24-25.


DENNISON, MARVIN: Sheridan, WY (First). Mar. 16-18; Mountain Home, AR (First). Mar. 9-18.


DODGE, KENNETH L.: Cambridge, MA (First). Mar. 27—Apr. 1.

DOROUGH, JAMES D.: Tomball, TX. Mar. 27—Apr. 1.

DOROUGH, JAMES D.: Tomball, TX. Mar. 27—Apr. 1.

ELLINGSON, LEE: Burlington, WA. Mar. 27—Apr. 1.


FELTNER, JASON: Bigfork, MT. Mar. 6-11; Delaware, OH. Mar. 20-25; Warehouse, WV. Mar. 27—Apr. 1.


GRIMES, BILLY: Mesquite, TX. Mar. 6-11; Midwest City, OK.(Bixer). Mar. 13-18; Gilmer, TX, Mar. 20-25.


HILLSBORO, IN (Trinity). Mar. 23-Apr. 1.


WHEELER, RAY: Old Town, PA. Mar. 6-11, Beaver Falls, PA (College Hill), Mar. 20-25, St. Petersburg, PA (First). Mar. 27-Apr. 1.


WINEGARD, ROBERT: Moravia, IA. Mar. 6-11, Apr. 1.


NOTE: The evangelists' slates are printed in the Herald monthly. The full directory is published quarterly in the Preacher's Magazine.
Oak Lawn, Ill.: The Chicago Central Church held a revival with Evangelists Richard Strickland and Song Evangelist Paul Qualls. Both of these evangelists were used of the Holy Spirit in a beautiful way. The Word was preached with compassion, and people responded. The altar was lined nearly every service; some were saved for the first time.

—Harold L. Frye, pastor

New Castle, Pa.: A spirit of revival prevails at First Church following special revival emphasis with Evangelist George Stevenson. A spiritual breakthrough began on Friday evening with the altar lined with seekers. The Sunday services were especially blessed by the Holy Spirit, as several dozen responded to the leading of God.

—Louis W. Staubs, pastor

Beebe, Ark.: The Sprague Evangelistic Family relates well with other families. Their music is excellent and Rev. Sprague is a very good preacher. We had 16 visitors in one service. One man told the evangelist that this was the first time he had been to church for 50 years. He was saved on Sunday morning. We now have some new people who will eventually become members here.

—Don R. Reed, pastor

Albuquerque, N.M.: Southside church has just completed a wonderful revival with Revs. Gerald and June Brooks and Rev. H. E. (Gene) Chambers, local minister of music, as song evangelist. There were five teens saved, four sanctified, four reclaimed, and many others received spiritual help. In Rev. June Brooks’s children’s ministry, three testified to being saved and several others are yet seeking.

—Frederick E. Kellner, pastor

hamilton, Ohio: First Church had a revival with Evangelist Ed Irwin. Many received spiritual help; several prayed in their homes; one man was converted in the hospital; and a Catholic lady was saved.

—Newman Sheldon, pastor

Three Rivers, Mich.: First Church had a revival with Evangelists L. Thurl and Mary Kay Mann. Blessings of growth, sanctification, and reclamations were witnessed nightly. The week of spiritual growth started as members and families of the Church Board, Missionary Council, Youth Council, and Christian Life Board met in a special service for church leadership. This time of preparation, establishment of heart, dedication and commitment to their trust resulted in spiritual enrichment.

—Franklin Garton, pastor

Waco, Tex.: Trinity Heights Church had a revival with Evangelist Robert V. Harrison and Song Evangelist Dan Flynn. The services were anointed with the presence of God’s Spirit as many people found a place of prayer for spiritual needs. Several young adults found Jesus as their personal Savior, and 14 people experienced a

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recommitment. Four sought and experienced entire sanctification. □

—Dan Wright, pastor

Cedar Rapids, Ia.: Oakland Church had a revival with Evangelist Bob Hoots and Song Evangelist Wally Laxson. The services were blessed with crowded altars. We thank God for this outstanding team of workers. We praise Him for the teenagers, couples, and adults that found spiritual help. □

—R. L. Atkinson, pastor

Little Rock, Ark.: First Church had a revival with Evangelist Chuck Millhuff and Song Evangelists David and Dana Blue. Without people standing or musical invitation, 26 people knelt at the altar at the conclusion of the first service! In an unplanned expression of love, the Sunday night congregation gave over $600 to the Blues. We have heard the church in a way that several members who had been backslidden, became involved again.

While Ron was here he saw some needs for structural change that would make the appearance of the church much enhanced. He made a drawing, and it was placed in the narthex, and the people got excited about going ahead with the work. On Sunday morning a special offering was taken along with pledges to make some building improvements which amounted to $4,100. This was the type of meeting that was really needed in this church.

—Howard W. Armstrong, pastor

Baraboo, Wis.: The church had revival during which an altar service followed almost every sermon Evangelist Harold Fodge preached. We have received 10 new people into the membership as a result of this revival; 2 complete families were among this number.

—Mack Armstrong, pastor

Craigsville, W. Va.: The church had a revival with Evangelist Billy Crane and family. After weeks of prayer and preparation, the church experienced the greatest revival in its 20-year history. We are grateful to a denomination such as ours which has some of the finest God-called evangelists, and for this wonderful family who shared their talents in the field of music. □

—Burl S. Lemon II, pastor

Kankakee, Ill.: First Church had a revival with Evangelists Calvin and Marjorie Jantz, and daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Pickering. God gave renewal and blessing entering 1979. In spite of sub-zero weather, ice and snow, people came. We had 15 definite testimonies of entire sanctification. Many seekers found definite help. New people attended, and were reached. An emphasis was placed on the family drew many of our people closer to God. People were healed. Nearly 700 heard the Word on Sunday morning. □

—John Hancock, pastor

Fairborn, Ohio: First Church had a revival with Evangelist Stephen Manley. His preaching was dynamic and with conviction. People of all ages grew spiritually in numerous small-group meetings with the evangelist. Children learned the meaning...
Like every other aspect of church finances, the Pensions and Benevolence Budget is an indication of your concern for meeting the needs of people. In this case, those people are ministers and their families—people who have served all of us in the church so faithfully and sacrificially.

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Show your pastor that you care—pay your Pensions and Benevolence Budget in full this year.

NOTE

A colloquy is a highbrow discussion about an important issue. The columns express the views of the writer, and they reflect some of the viewpoints of the church but not a complete way.

Indianapolis: First Church had a revival with Evangelist Lenny Wiese-hart and Song Evangelists David and Dana Blue. Both evangelists communicated not only the message of revival but also the spirit of revival to the church. The services were saturated with prayer from people hungry to see results. God answered by giving a spirit of obedience. In a brief three-day youth revival, 70-75 seekers of all ages knelt to be saved, sanctified, or reclaimed.

—William Griffin, pastor

Dover, Del.: Calvary Church had a revival with Evangelist Gary Haines. The Sunday to Wednesday revival meeting was the best attended ever. Each night the attendance was greater than the night before. There were never less than 10 people moving forward to respond positively to God’s Word.

—Dale Sparks, pastor

Arenzville, Ill.: Bethel had a revival with Evangelist C. D. Holley, and the people responded to God’s messenger. Many were saved and sanctified, attitudes changed, and a new vision exists for the church.

—James Lester, pastor

The Melbourne, Australia, Mount Waverly Church, Southern District, has been experiencing revival. The church is filled Sunday by Sunday and new facilities are needed. Recently $20,000 was raised toward a new building, to be paid by July 1979. Between the months of February and October, 21 new members were received by profession of faith. A Personal Evangelism and Discipling Clinic was recently held with Dr. Don Gibson and Rev. Dwight Neuenschwander of the Department of Evangelism. Pictured is Pastor John Kerr welcoming in five new members, with Dr. Gibson waiting to give his congratulations.

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ANDREW CUMMINS from Charleston, Ind., to Evansville (Ind.) Victory Chapel

DELBERT R. FORD from Davis, Calif., to Christian school administrator, South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

JIM GEDDINGS from Salvation Army to Orangeburg (S.C.) Southwest Terrace

MARTHA LAMBERT from evangelism to Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

LEO KINNETT from Alva, Okla., to Seymour (Ind.) Peter's Southwest

ALTER PEMLE from Kinnear (Wyo.) Sunnywood to Goodwill (Wyo.) Arbor-Vita

LARRY PHELPS to associate, Sterling, Ill.

LEO KINNETT from Alva, Okla., to Seymour, Ind.

ANDREW CUMMINS from Charleston, Ind., to Evansville (Ind.) Victory Chapel

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DELLA BOGGS Swaziland, furlough address: c/o Seminario Nazareno Centroamericano, Apartado 3977, San Jose, Costa Rica, Central America

CLARIFICATION

John and.fasta Porter are still active in the field of evangelism as commissioned evangelists. They can be contacted through the Nazarene Publishing House.

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DELLA BOGGS Swaziland, furlough address: 1715 Conowingo Road, Bel Air, Md. 21014

NOELLE GERSONT, Argentina, furlough address: 1132 E. Prairie Ottawa, KS 66061 (913) 782-0818

VITAL STATISTICS

DEATHS

PAUL ALBERT CLIPPINGER, 79, died Jan. 19 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Albert Clepper and Rev. Jim Bond. His ministry was mainly in the Midwest. He is survived by his wife Eileen; a daughter, Mrs. William V. Van Meter; and two granddaughters, Sarah and Cynthia

MRS. LOTTIE CORNELIISON, 89, died Jan. 7 in Bethany, Okla. Memorial services were in Dallas, Tex., by Dr. W. M. Lynch, district superintendent and Rev. J. P. Jernigan. She is survived by two daughters, Lena Solomon and Aileen Miller; two sons, Paul and Rev. E. L. Cornelison; 10 grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren.

CLARENCE S. FICK, 76, died in Butler, Pa., Nov. 22. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Robert Rapalje. Survivors include his wife, Minnie; two daughters, Mrs. Grant (Madeline) Walborn and Mrs. Arthur (Lois) Woodward; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

ORVILLE GREENE, 70, died Jan. 14 in Seymour, Ind. Funeral services were conducted by Dr. B. G. Wiggs, district superintendent, and Rev. Gerald Green. He is survived by his wife.

REV. EVERETT L. JEFFERSON, 58, pastor of the Coshocton, Ohio, church, died Dec. 25, while vacationing in Florida. Funeral services were conducted by D. E. Clay, district superintendent and Rev. Gerald Green. He is survived by his wife.

MRS. TINEY BELLE MARTIN, 98, died Jan. 8 in Jasper, Ala. She was a charter member of the Nazarene church in the Steubenville, Ohio, church, died Dec. 25, while vacationing in Florida. Funeral services were conducted by D. E. Clay, district superintendent and Rev. Gerald Green. He is survived by his wife.

REV. I. F. RODEFFER, 90, died Jan. 6 in Cheyenne, Wyo. Funeral services were conducted by Revs. J. W. McClung, R. L. Spinks, Noble Hathaway, and W. M. Lynch. He is survived by his wife, Penny; two sons, Robert and Eddie; and a great-grandson,

REV. R. M. PARKS, 90, died Jan. 19 in Garfield, Tex. He had served as district superintendent in Western Oklahoma, and pastored churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington. Funeral services were conducted by Revs. J. W. McClung, R. L. Spinks, Noble Hathaway, and W. M. Lynch. He is survived by his wife, Penny; two sons, Robert and Eddie; and a great-grandson.

LOIS E. MILLER, 68, died Dec. 12 in Lakeview, Calif. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. Mel Anderson. Interment was held in La Porte, Ind. Surviving are 2 sons, Rev. Edward E. and James, 2 daughters, Linda Gibson and Susan Taylor; 11 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; 2 brothers; and 1 sister.

BURIL PHILLIPS died Aug. 20 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. John K. Warrick. Survivors include his wife, Anna Hicks; one son, Brent Lawrence; one daughter, Dawn Elaine; his parents; a brother, and one sister.

REV. LUTHER L. PIERCE, 62, died Dec. 30 in State College Pa. He pastored on the Pittsburgh and Washington districts for 35 years. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Dr. E. Carnehan. Rev. Ellis Horton and Rev. Richard Difffenberger were interment in Monongahela, Pa. He is survived by his wife, Laura; one son, Paul A.; three grandchildren, Mrs. Robert (Sandra Jean

SOLOMON, Lu Ann, and Loren Sue; four grandchildren; two brothers; and seven sisters.

REV. I. F RODEFFER, 90, died Jan. 6 in Cheyenne, Wyo. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Lorin A. Madsen. He pastored churches in Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wyoming. Surviving are a daughter, Dorothy; two grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

ENGRAM PECKY RYALS, 86, died Jan. 17 in New Orleans, La. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. C. E. Bordon and Rev. William S. Mercer. Survivors include his wife, Penny; two sons, Edward Lewis and Percy Jr.; three daughters, Mrs. Madeleine Leonard, Mrs. Louise Phurrough, and Mrs. Clara Ravencraft; and several grandchildren.

ROBERT ARNOLD SISSON, 80, died Dec. 13 in Bluefield, W.Va. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. E. Stearns. He is survived by his wife, Pearl; two sons, Robert and Eddie; and three grandchildren.

MARCH 1, 1979
FORREST E. WATSON died Dec. 1 in the Kettering Medical Center, Dayton, Ohio. Funeral services were in St. Paul's, Ohio, conducted by Rev. L. B. Miller. He is survived by his wife, Mamie; two sons, Herbert and Forrest R.; two daughters, Mrs. Leroy (Mary) Collins and Mrs. Jim (Caroline) Andujar.

BIRTHS

to REV. STEVE AND DEBBIE (NELSON) BAKER, Dayton, Ohio, a boy, Kevin Lee, Jan. 15

to MIKE AND CAROL (LOEBER) BENEDICK, Caldwell, Idaho, a boy, Daniel Michael, Dec. 21

to RICK AND DEBBIE BLODGETT, Stockton, Ill., a boy, Jason Phillip, Dec. 30

to REV. GARY AND JANICE CARR, New Lenox, Ill., a girl, Gretta Renee, Jan. 20

to REV. BILL AND GENEVA (COFFMAN) CARTE, Quincy, Ky., a boy, Matthew Aaron, Jan. 11

to REV. DAVID AND NANCY (SMITH) DENSON, South Daytona, Fla., a boy, Jonathan Wesley, Jan. 14

to JEFF AND DEBI DYER, Bethalto, Ill., a boy, Mark O'Neal Nov. 6

to RON AND ANITA FARRIS, Kansas City, Mo., a girl, Megan Elizabeth, Jan. 22

to DAVID AND CAROLYN (FISHER) GARDLAND, Huntsville, Ala., a boy, Wilton Scott, Dec. 27

to RON AND BOZENA GARRISON, Lanesing, Mich., a boy, Karol, Jan. 3

to LYLE AND JAN (OLSON) GIBBENS, Olathe, Kan., a girl, Amy Michelle, Dec. 13

to RUSSELL AND MARTHA (DUELL) LOGAN, Ordway, Colo., a boy, Brien Arthur, Oct. 5

to GILBERT AND JANE (ANDREWS) MCCUNG, Jacksonville, Fla., a boy, Michael Raymond, Dec. 18

to DAN AND CINDA (WILLS) MCGHARGE, Redlands, Calif., a girl, Jennifer Cristy, Jan. 4

to LES AND LYNDA MOORE, Kansas City, Mo., a boy, Hedrick Christian, Jan. 28

to REV. RONALD AND PATRICIA (NELSON) PARKER, Fawn Grove, Pa., a girl, Bethany Lynne, July 2

to DAVID AND SIE (OLSON) PRUJT, Stan­ton, Calif., a boy, Nathan David, Dec. 23

to JERRY AND JALENE (DICKSON) RUSSELL, Phoenix, Ariz., a boy, Gerald David, Sept. 28

to STEPHEN AND KAREN (BYRD) SHOMO, Nashville, Tenn., a girl, Jennifer Lynne, Dec. 11

to ROSS, JR., AND CANDY (ZACHARY) STADLER, Carol Stream, Ill., a girl, Amanda Dawn, Jan. 18

to REV. ROSCOE AND MARSHA (PRICE) STRUNK, Casey, Ill., a girl, Amy Kathleen, Nov. 22

to ARLIN AND JEANNIE (WILSON) TYLER, Bonner Springs, Kan., a girl, Jodi Lea, Jan. 25

to RICK AND CAROLE (AEGE) UNRUH, Barnwell, S.C., a girl, Courtney Ricole, Jan. 18

"Showers of Blessing" PROGRAM SCHEDULE

March 11
"The Defiled Springs" by W. E. McCumber

March 18
"Jesus Does All Things Well" by W. E. McCumber

COURT AVOIDS NEW DEBATE OVER RELIGION IN SCHOOLS.

By a 7-2 vote, the Supreme Court refused to reopen the debate over the role of religion in public schools.

Over the dissents of justices William J. Brennan, Jr., and Thurgood Marshall, the high court declined to hear a case challenging Florida's law requiring school teachers to "inculcate . . . the practice of every Christian virtue." Also at issue in the case was a challenge to the distribution of Bibles on school premises by the Gideons.

The controversy began in August, 1970, when the Orange County (Orlando) Board of Public Instruction adopted a resolution requiring every school to conduct a five to seven-minute period of meditation at the beginning of each school day. The resolution specifically called for the inclusion of Bible reading and prayer to be presented by individual school officials, teachers, students, or by groups and organizations. At the same meeting, a representative of the Gideon organization asked for, and received, permission to distribute Bibles in the county's schools.

FREE CHURCHES' MEMBERSHIP DOWN; METHODISTS CITE MAJOR LOSS.

A major drop of 53,771 in overall membership of Britain's leading Free Churches is reported in the 1979 Directory of the Free Church Federal Council, just published in London. It follows a trend which has existed for several years. The directory says the total membership of the Churches in 1978 was 1,129,526, as compared to 1,183,297 in 1977. In 1967, the total was 1,203,085.

The biggest loss was reported by the Methodist Church, which is England's largest Free Church. Its membership last year was 516,798, as against 557,249 in 1977. But figures for this denomination are misleading in that they refer only to committed members; there are many other Methodists who do not sign committal forms.

JEWISH YOUNG PEOPLE HELD SUSCEPTIBLE TO CULTS.

A social worker specializing in work among former cult members told a B'Nai B'rith meeting in West Hartford, Conn., that Jewish youths are especially susceptible to cult recruitment.

William Goldberg, director of social and rehabilitation services for Rockland County, N.Y., said he estimates that as many as 40 percent of Unification Church members and 50 percent of Hare Krishna members are Jewish. He said his estimates are based on his counseling of cultists, and his work as head of the Freedom of Thought Foundation Trust, an anti-cult group.

A high proportion of Jewish students attend college, where much of the cult recruitment is conducted. Mr. Goldberg said, adding that Jewish students are raised to be "liberal and free thinkers," who feel obligated to consider unusual political and theological ideas.

STEPP POSTAL HIKES IN AUSTRALIA THREATEN RELIGIOUS PUBLISHERS.

A steep postal increase in Sydney has alarmed publishers of religious periodicals throughout Australia. Many editors fear their readership will be eroded. Some believe the existence of their journals will be threatened by inability to bear heavier distribution costs.

The Australian Religious Press Association has sent a strongly worded complaint to the prime minister and postal authorities. There are about 100 religious newspapers, magazines, and periodicals published in Australia. They have a combined readership of about one million. The increase mainly affects bulk mailing. A parcel containing eight copies of the Catholic Leader, published in Brisbane, was sent as a "test" case. The parcel weighed 850 grams and cost 31 cents at the old rate. The same parcel costs $2.25—an increase of 625 percent at the new rate, which was effective January 1, 1979.
We read in Acts 1:25 that “Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” Where did his soul go? Is there some explanation of “his own place” meaning hell or heaven?

First of all, some learned and devout men argue that “his own place” refers to Matthias and not Judas. This interpretation is possible, but not too probable.

Most commentators relate “his own place” to the destiny of Judas after death. Was it heaven or hell? Perhaps dogmatism on this point is unwarranted. If (as Adam Clarke, for example, believed but did not insist upon) the repentance of Judas was sincere (see Matthew 27:3-8), he could have been forgiven, even though his emotional and physical distress drove him on to suicide. But if (as Charles Carter, for example, believes but does not insist upon) the repentance of Judas was an unavailing remorse, his suicide was the prelude to a plunge into hell.

Scripture gives little ground for hope in Judas’ case. Satan entered into and used him (John 13:27). He rejected the mercy implicit in Christ’s offer of friendship (John 13:30; Matthew 26:50). Though he returned the price of his infamy, he destroyed himself in apparent despair (Matthew 27:5). Most damaging of all evidence is the fact that Judas, unlike the other disciples, never called Jesus “Lord.” It is most probable, it seems to me, that “his own place” means hell, the place for which he prepared himself by his own wicked choices. At any rate, he is in the hands of a righteous Judge who knows perfectly what we know only partially and obscurely.

A lesson for the junior high Sunday school class states, “From the Garden of Eden to the call of Abraham was a period of 2,000 years.” I have always understood we didn’t know how long a period of time this was.

If the 2,000 years is true, that makes Adam and Eve a scant 6,000 years ago. How can we reconcile this with scientific dating of human bones at a much earlier date?

Please comment.

I do not want to quarrel with those who are doing so well in the enormous, difficult task of producing Sunday school literature. Most of them are much smarter than I am (some exceptions).

But even staunchly conservative scholars, such as R. K. Harrison, acknowledge the impossibility of “an internally coherent scheme of chronology” for the period from Adam to Abraham. The primary source materials are not abundant, and those which exist are so differently interpreted that we cannot be certain.

James Ussher’s celebrated chronology, which has been printed in the margins of some KJV Bibles, posited 4004 B.C. as the date of creation. However, Ussher’s calculations were based on some gratuitous assumptions, and have “no warrant for being there other than tradition,” as Harrison puts it.

We don’t know what anniversary Adam and Eve would be celebrating in ’79 if they were still with us.

As for “scientific dating of human bones,” the validity and conclusions of this activity are as controversial as biblical chronology.
The Tyler, Tex., Lakeview Church had a double mortgage-burning. The notes on the fellowship hall and parsonage have been paid. Participating in the ceremony were Dr. W. M. Lynch, district superintendent of the Dallas District; Dan Matthews, church treasurer; "Strick" Burton; and Pastor Jay Bybee. On that same day, a new record was set in giving for World Missions—$5,000.

On Sunday, January 7, the Laurel, Del., church presented round-trip airplane tickets to Pastor and Mrs. E. M. Fox for a two weeks’ vacation in Hawaii. Rev. Fox is serving in his fourth year as pastor of the Laurel church. The vacation follows the completion of a new 36 ft. by 62 ft. two-level multipurpose building.

The Sayre, Okla., church building was completely destroyed by fire Thursday night, January 11. Damage is estimated at $30,000 and was covered by insurance.

The cause of the fire was arson. Pastor Charles R. Ferguson said the church has been invited to worship in the Baptist Student Union Building on the campus of Sayre University.

November 19, 1978, the Hillsboro, Ohio, church dedicated their new church with Dr. Dallas Baggett, district superintendent of the Southwestern Ohio District, as the special speaker. The new building is valued at over $200,000, but was constructed at a cost of $140,000. The sanctuary has a seating capacity of 300, with Sunday school facilities for 200 in attendance. The new church is located on a nine-acre tract, purchased for the church’s relocation in 1968 for $5,000. It is now valued over $60,000. Pastor Paul D. Sydenstricker has served the congregation since March 15, 1973.
The new sanctuary and facilities of the Hayward, Calif., church were recently dedicated by Rev. Grady Cantrell, Northern California district superintendent. The sanctuary seats 550, has a large baptismal pool, intercom system, carpet, padded pews, and is air conditioned. It includes a 14 ft. by 114 ft. foyer, rest rooms, sound room, pastor's study, secretary and work room, and two dressing rooms for baptismal services. The cost of the project was $300,000, bringing the value of the properties to over $1 million. Dr. Gene Brantley is pastor.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE IS SIXTH IN NATIONAL COVERAGE

The Church of the Nazarene ranks sixth among the major denominations in national coverage, according to research released late in 1978 by the Glenmary Research Associates of Washington, D.C.

The study was based on 1971 statistics so there is a high probability that more recent statistics would show an even higher ranking.

According to the survey, the Church of the Nazarene has organized churches in 56 percent of the counties of the United States.

Ranking above the Church of the Nazarene were the following denominations:

- United Methodist (96%)
- Catholic (92%)
- Southern Baptist (72%)
- Episcopal (66%)
- United Presbyterian U.S.A. (60%)

The study noted that “the Nazarenes have broad geographic coverage,” but “are not a salient cultural factor in any one region.”

By comparing the extent of the church in 1952 and 1971, the study concluded that “the Nazarenes are very likely an emerging national denomination.”

The study confirmed the wisdom of church leaders in 1908 when they came together in Pilot Point, Tex., to create a unified national holiness denomination out of separate groups formed independently in the East, the West, and the South.

When the church was organized it was organized with the deliberate intention of saturating the nation with a vigorous holiness witness.

Donald Brickley, in his biography of founder Dr. Phineas F. Bresee, Man of the Morning, shows how Dr. Bresee himself functioned as what we would now call a catalytic church planter. “Dr. Bresee followed the usual pattern of going by invitation to a nearby town and conducting a ten-day meeting. He would then organize a Church of the Nazarene with those people who were interested. He appointed the first pastor, whose responsibility it was to report to the general superintendent and to the General Assembly annually. . . . After the initial appointment the pastor was elected each successive year by the congregation” (pp. 222-23).

This was in the very infancy of the church.

Within 10 years the church had not only grown on its own base to “super

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MARCH 1, 1979 33
church” status—attendance of 2,500 on dedication day at Sixth and Wall Streets in Los Angeles—but had also spread to nearby towns and even distant cities in a headlong rush to national stature.

Underlying this drive for national impact were three key purposes as emphasized again and again in the published papers of the church:

1. A desire to minister, especially to the poor;

2. A crusading spirit against liquor (social concerns);

3. A call to Christianize Christianity through doctrinal emphasis on Christian perfection as taught by John Wesley.

by LOLA M. WILLIAMS
St. David, Ill.

IT HAPPENED IN INTENSIVE CARE

Idella and Earl Robertson eagerly awaited the birth of their baby. Due to complications in an earlier pregnancy which had resulted in miscarriage, Idella’s doctor referred her to a specialist. Things were not going well this time either. Just three days before Christmas she was admitted to the hospital. She was passing out, experiencing severe headaches, vomiting, and could not walk.

Earl was not a Christian, and attended church only once in a while with Idella. He respected his wife for her Christian witness, but did not seem at all interested in getting saved himself. None of his family were Christians, and he didn’t feel the need to be one either. When their young pastor, Mike Williams, called on them, Earl was courteous but disinterested.

On Monday, January 9, Mike and Kenna Williams made the two-hour drive to the hospital in St. Louis on their way to the Evangelism Conference. When they arrived, they were met by Idella’s and Earl’s fathers, but neither of the men would talk about how Idella felt.

Mike feared the worst, but was soon met by a beaming Earl, who announced, “I’m a daddy! We had a baby boy.” The baby had started to come three months early, and because of Idella’s delicate health, the doctor had decided to take it by Caesarean the night before. The baby weighed only two pounds, eight and one-half ounces, but the doctor said if he lasted the first 24 hours he had a good chance to live. On a scale of 1 to 10 the doctor gave the baby a 7 in his fight for life, which was very good for a premature baby.

Mike and Kenna rejoiced with them, and assured them of their prayers. Mike told them where he could be reached in an emergency, then they left for Oklahoma City.

Tuesday night Idella almost died. Her heart stopped, but the doctor just happened to be there. He immediately began to massage her heart until she was able to breathe on her own. Upon closer examination, the doctor discovered a brain tumor. They scheduled her for surgery on Thursday morning.

The family was finally able to reach Mike on Wednesday afternoon. He started back within the hour, praying as he traveled.

Wednesday night, before Idella’s surgery, Earl went by himself to the hospital chapel. There he opened a Bible at random and put his finger on the first scripture he saw. It was Psalm 119:145-146: “I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord: I will keep thy statutes. I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.” Right then Earl made up his mind to get saved, but he wanted his pastor there to pray with him.

He went back to his wife’s room and told her of his decision to become a Christian. She sat straight up in bed and threw her arms around his neck.

Mike arrived at 5:30 Thursday morning and Earl filled him in on the details. Earl had arranged for them both to go into the intensive care ward at 6:30 a.m. to talk with Idella. Her surgery was scheduled for 11 a.m. When they got there, they talked a few minutes, then Idella asked, “Earl, did you tell Mike yet?”

He put his head down and tears came into his eyes. “No, I haven’t. You tell him.”

Idella said, “Earl wants to get saved.” Without waiting any longer, they turned that intensive care ward into an altar, and Earl prayed through on the spot. Throughout the day, he gathered the family and his pastor together for prayer.

Idella’s surgery lasted eight and a half hours. She is back home now and progressing nicely. At this writing, the baby, Kyle, is fairly stable, but is still in the hospital in St. Louis. He is still very tiny and has to be watched around the clock.

It seems like a lot of things “just happened,” such as the doctor being in her room when Idella’s heart stopped and Earl finding those verses that spoke to his heart so well, but we know things do not happen by chance. God has a master plan. These circumstances were God’s way of getting one man, Earl Robertson, to bow to Him in repentance.
HOMER ADAMS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF TREVECCA

Dr. Homer J. Adams of Atlanta, Ga., was elected president of Trevecca Nazarene College, Nashville, on the second ballot, Friday, February 9. He has accepted the presidency on March 19. Dr. Mark Moore expects to be in his office at Kansas City by March 1.

Dr. Adams is a former professor and dean of the college (1954-67). At present he is vice-president at DeKalb Community College, Clarkston, Ga. He holds his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville. He is a graduate of Trevecca Nazarene College.

Dr. Adams is a member of Atlanta First Church, and a member of the denomination’s General Board, serving as its first vice-president. He is a member of the Department of Education and the Ministry, and the Department of Pensions and Benevolence.

He is the author of various articles in the Herald of Holiness and other church periodicals.

HAROLD IVAN SMITH APPOINTED SINGLES DIRECTOR

Mr. Harold Ivan Smith, associate director of Admissions at Point Loma College, has been appointed general director of Single Adult Ministries for the Church of the Nazarene. This is a new staff position in the Adult Department, created by the General Board during its January meeting. Dr. Kenneth Rice, executive director of the Adult Department, announced that Mr. Smith, now living in San Diego, will move to Kansas City and assume his new duties May 1, 1979.

Prior to joining the staff at Point Loma College about two years ago, Mr. Smith was the associate dean of Brevard College, Brevard, N.C. He has also spent several years as a public school teacher.

A native of Louisville, Ky., he is a member of Nashville First Church. He took his undergraduate work at Trevecca Nazarene College and has earned graduate degrees from Scarritt College and Peabody College in Nashville.

Harold Ivan Smith presently has two books in print: Warm Reflections and Jason Loves Jane but They Got a Divorce. Both are written under the pen name Jason Towner. Two additional books on understanding and ministering to single adults are nearly complete. He has also written for many national magazines and is active as a retreat and convention speaker.

Rev. Gene Van Note, currently responsible for single adult programming at the Nazarene Headquarters, will continue in the Adult Department as editor of Probe and the Dialog Series. Sunday school elective materials, and Emphasis, the resource-commentary magazine for the Enduring Word Series.

BRITISH LEADER DIES

Dr. George Frame, 75, longtime leader of the Church of the Nazarene in Britain, died February 8.

He served for many years as district superintendent in the British Isles. He was a member of the General Board 32 years. He had preached widely in churches in the United States, Canada, and the British Isles.

Dr. Frame is survived by his wife, Dr. Mary (Tanner), and a son, Cyril, of Edinburgh.

Funeral services were held February 12, in the Sharpe Memorial Church of Glasgow, Scotland.

PROPERTY SOLD IN KOREA—AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

The Nazarene Theological College in Seoul, Korea, engulfed by a rapidly expanding city, has been faced with the necessity of selling its large campus and relocating in order to gain opportunity for unrestricted growth, with proper accreditation. The campus was purchased 20 years ago for $5,000.

Because a new law was soon to be enacted prohibiting the sale of such a large tract of land, there was much prayer. On January 15, the campus was sold for $4,700,000. The college has 60 days in which to purchase a new site in an unrestricted location for the college and to locate homes for the missionaries and college professors.

By moving to another area, the college hopefully can provide an ample campus and buildings. Also, 15 percent of the sale price will be allotted to each of the two Korean districts to erect desperately needed chapels in several cities.

The missionaries request prayer that they will find the proper site and homes for the staff within the 60 days required; also, that accreditation will be given soon.

BNC TO LAUNCH NURSING PROGRAM

Bethany Nazarene College has received approval by the Oklahoma State Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education to initiate a new four-year baccalaureate program in nursing next fall.

Following several years of study by the faculty, the Board of Trustees authorized the program at its annual meeting last October. According to Academic Dean Don Beaver, “This is the largest single program the college has launched in the last 10 years.”

Hospitals and health care centers in the Oklahoma City area are supportive and will provide a variety of clinical experiences for the students.

The nursing program will complement the premedical education already established at BNC.

The faculty of the new college nursing program now being assembled, will consist of nurses with master’s degrees. The first graduating class will be in May of 1982.

GERMAN SUPERINTENDENT INJURED IN AUTO Mishap

Rev. Richard F. Zanner, district superintendent of the Middle European district and a member of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, was in a serious car accident Sunday morning, February 4, while on his way to Kaiserslautern, West Germany. His car rolled over several times when he swerved to avoid another car which had cut in front of him; fortunately, he was wearing a seat belt.

Zanner has a broken back and other injuries and must be in bed for eight weeks or longer. Doctors say there is no paralysis. He was taken to the hospital at Ludwigshafen but was transferred by helicopter Thursday, February 8, to the hospital in Frankfurt.

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