THE CHURCH

Just before the General Rules on page 33 in the Manual is a very important statement entitled “The Church.”

This begins with a sentence concerning the Church of God. From this spiritual concept the statements move on to discuss the church as structured for the journey of and use of persons.

It is so essential that the church know itself, what it is, and what it is to do in this world. Only when operated for the fulfillment of its God-intended purpose does the church justify its existence on earth. The statement about the Church of the Nazarene is as follows:

“The Church of the Nazarene is composed of those persons who have voluntarily associated themselves together according to the doctrines and polity of said church and who seek holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.”

Seeking holy Christian fellowship is the necessary privilege of every Christian. Such a level of fellowship in every church requires the excellent and helpful response of all members. To enjoy this is to have life at its meaningful best. You as a member should be glad and ready to give that kind of fellowship to others.

The conversion of sinners must be the overriding consideration of every minister and every service. Also, entire sanctification of believers is a major concern. The front line of every minister’s evangelism must include this great experience—explained, preached, taught, and offered to all members.

These redemptive dimensions of the church become the reference point for all programs and activities of the church. They serve as a deterrent to any church turning aside to the trivial and making the secondaries first. When these are paramount in the effort of a church, then the upbuilding of members in holiness is a natural consequence through the worship, the ministry, and the fellowship of the church.

The last part of this beautiful and so-true paragraph is telling us to keep it all close to the simplicity and power of the New Testament Church. We need both simplicity and power. They seem to work well together and reach into the common man.

Let us as Nazarenes everywhere study this part of our Manual again. Let’s know afresh why we are here and pursue the purpose for which we came into existence under God.

Let us do so gladly and with determination as ministers and laymen. This will be our dignity and splendor and many will come to stay.

by General Superintendent V. H. Lewis
IT WAS A COOL, almost crisp, morning. The sun felt good on my back, but the need for additional warmth made me walk faster than normal. My lightweight suit, purchased for San Diego’s moderate climate, was no match for Kansas City’s March weather.

After a brief stop at the newly-acquired Fountain Plaza building at Nazarene Headquarters, I was walking west on 63rd toward Troost Avenue to catch a bus to the Nazarene Publishing House.

The early morning traffic was roaring past. Cars, trucks, buses sped by in an unbroken, bumper-to-bumper caravan. I was somewhat astonished at the volume of traffic. “How many cars a minute?” I thought. “How many people a day pass this spot? Is it always this busy?”

My steps accelerated as a sharp breeze caught and chilled me. I became aware of a structure to my left. My heart leaped into my throat! What a witness! What a testimony! Here on an attractive signboard was Christ’s own statement about himself. If there is a single message which the church must bring to lost men, this is it: I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE—JESUS OF NAZARETH.

Do these passersby read and understand this message? Of the thousands who pass by daily, how many will see and read? Will the truth of His claim become a reality to any of them?

As I continued my western walk, I found myself looking not at the cars and trucks, but at the people inside them. My imagination raced into action as I caught brief glimpses of drivers and passengers. By the dress of the drivers and the signs on commercial trucks, I felt I could place many into vocations. Others? How could you tell? Perhaps some were housewives on a shopping trip, or secretaries headed for an office. I didn’t think that vacationers would be using this street, but a station wagon loaded with family and luggage raised that distinct possibility. As the speeding mass of people passed in unending panorama, I tried to think of them as individuals. I wondered what heartache, what sorrow, what disillusionment moved or filled those who passed. Was this a critical day in their life? Or could it be just another routine workday like many that had preceded? Did life have meaning for them, or was it mere existence? How many knew Jesus?

I wanted to shout, “Look to your right! See the Word of our Lord and Savior. He is the Truth and the Life.”

My emotions almost got the best of me. I suddenly realized that this was my church that erected this sign with the heart of the gospel on it. I was proud and warmed. A glow seemed to fill my being.

My eye caught another shape—another sign: HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD! Here was the other burning message of our church. Separated by but a short distance were two statements which represent so clearly the message of the church.

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.

HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD.

“Yes, the message of the Church of the Nazarene is consistent with my own experience,” I reflected. Life has meaning and direction only as I am in relationship with a Person—the Lord Jesus Christ. Having found that Life, I am eternally indebted not only to the One who came, but also to the One who gave. I can never repay. I can only exalt His holy name and offer “clean hands and a pure heart.” How natural the progression!

I hurried toward the bus which would take me down Troost Avenue. As I looked at the businesses I walked by, the neighborhood, and the passersby, I prayed that the messages of the SIGNS would leap from the wood and stone where they were carved into the hearts of all who see!

The signs are the message!
THE PAYROLL MUST GO THROUGH.”

The mission leader was thinking of the several national pastors who depended on the payroll for their small salaries. They would suffer if it did not come.

“But what can we do?  The mails are slow and uncertain here. And the roads are infested with bandits. If we had a resourceful and dependable carrier—”

It came to him to send by a rather simple, but faithful man. The bearer of the money knew about the bandits. “I was impressed,” he said, “to cover the payroll with paving stones.”

Sure enough, here came the robbers. Their chief demanded, “What have you got in that basket?”

“Money!”

“Let’s have it.”

The bandit leader took the basket and stirred among the stones. Then, with a significant tap of his head and a glance at his men, he handed it back. This simpleton didn’t even know gold from gravel! “Take your money,” he said, “and get on with you.”

The payroll got through.

He had relied on the Lord and the truth to get him through.

This true story does more than show God’s help and care. It suggests that the gold of sanctified character may sometimes be hidden by the gravel of human infirmity.

As evangelist in a revival, I was calling with the pastor. We visited a man who greeted us warmly and with a significant tap of his head and a glance at his men, he handed it back. This simpleton didn’t even know gold from gravel! “Take your money,” he said, “and get on with you.”

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This true story does more than show God’s help and care. It suggests that the gold of sanctified character may sometimes be hidden by the gravel of human infirmity.

As evangelist in a revival, I was calling with the pastor. We visited a man who greeted us warmly and talked freely for a few minutes about the things of God. Then to my amazement I saw that he had fallen asleep in his chair.

I wondered what was wrong with him. He wasn’t stupid or discourteous. Later I learned that he was exhausted and seriously ill. Soon word came that he had died. The payroll of Christian hospitality was
there, but it was hidden by the paving stones of bodily weakness.

Then there was the "hypocrite"—a man whose co-worker in a church office said was "the crossest man I ever met."

Digging into this man's private life revealed the reason for his lack of cheerfulness. The cross brother had a little girl who needed repeated operations. Because of a weak heart she could not take anesthetics. Her father would have to hold the screaming child while the knife cut into her flesh. He lost much sleep, too, from staying up with his little daughter, night after night. He needed prayer and encouragement rather than criticism because of his "crossness." His tongue was sharpened not by depravity but by distress.

Gold and gravel. Even the sanctified have both. Paul called it "treasure in earthen vessels."

During the Second World War Britain sent, under the code name "Fish," a large amount of gold to Canada for safekeeping. Packed in ordinary wooden boxes, the gold bullion crossed the Atlantic by regular surface mail. It arrived without incident. Then no one cared about the boxes; but the precious metal was stored in a well-guarded place.

At the end of the way, I'll hand over to the Lord the heavy basket I have lugged so laboriously. I'll hope for a reward. What if even the Savior can find nothing but duty in it—nothing of divine deliverance and delight?

The world, of course, can be expected to dismiss my Christian testimony with a sneer and a tap of the head. Sinners see nothing but gravel and, like the bandit, miss the gold completely. But some, perhaps without my knowledge, watch me as a Christian, longing silently for the payroll of reality. Too bad if they find only the paving stones of profession!

Usually these earthen vessels of ours are a little cracked somewhere; but through those cracks may be glimpsed what is within. Do those glimpses others get of my heart reveal the beauty of the sanctifying, indwelling Christ?

We cannot escape the paving stones of humanity, but we can have the payroll of a holy heart and life too.
THERE CANNOT BE MANY, especially among the ranks of the famous, who could not tell you for certain the year of their birth. Yet that was so in the case of Adam Clarke, early Methodist preacher, gifted scholar, writer, and brilliant orientalist. He was never sure if he was born in 1760 or 1762! He did not even leave on record the date of his conversion, though he was thought to have been about 18 years of age when it happened. Few men, however, made so notable a contribution to holiness divinity as did he, and we would do well to remind ourselves of him today.

These past two centuries have done nothing to diminish the stature and eminence attained by the schoolmaster’s son from County Derry who became the friend of literati, elder statesman of British Methodism, and doyen of Bible commentators. His is still a name to be reckoned with. Yet with all his fame and acumen, Adam Clarke remained a humble and winsome preacher of the gospel and a devoted exponent of Wesley’s doctrine of holiness.

He first heard the Methodist preachers when they held meetings in barns and suchlike places. They first puzzled him, then challenged his thinking, circumscribed as it had been by Anglican formularies and the prayer book. Finally he passed through a long period of agonized conviction of sin, from which he emerged, saved and full of joy, after pros­trating himself in prayer in the middle of a field. Having joined hand and heart with the people who had pointed him to Christ, Adam soon began his first efforts as a fledgling preacher, and God used him so much in soul winning that notice of him reached the ears of Mr. Wesley himself, who called him to Bristol so that he could benefit by studying at Kingswood School.

With only a loaf of bread and a hunk of cheese for the long journey, he boarded a little schooner at Londonderry, sailed to Liverpool, and traveled right down England, partly on foot, to Bristol. John Wesley was away when he arrived and not expected back for a while, and he found a frosty welcome at the school. But Irish lads do not give up easily and Adam spent his first money—an unclaimed gold piece he dug up in the school garden!—on a Hebrew grammar. With this, he was launched on his career as a scholar.

A fortnight later the promised interview with Mr. Wesley took place. The venerable leader, now nearly 80, simply asked Adam if he wished to devote himself entirely to the work of God and received the reply, “Sir, I want to do and be what God pleases.” That was sufficient; studies could wait. “We want a preacher for Bradford-on-Avon, hold yourself in readiness to go.” With these words and a heartfelt prayer as he laid his hands in blessing on the head of the new recruit, who never received any more formal ordination, Mr. Wesley solved another pastoral problem and rode off on his next journey. Adam walked to his Wiltshire assignment.

Strange to say, the future man of letters with a seemingly inexhaustible knowledge of ancient languages and scientific lore, proved to be anything but bright as a boy. He was slow in learning the alphabet and slower still at his lessons. Finally, his master’s angry admonitions and the fear of being thought stupid so goaded him over his Latin grammar that it seemed a miracle happened; his mind cleared, his resolve to do well took over, and he gained by leaps and bounds. When salvation entered in, the Lord had found a life of very rich endowment that He could use in the ministry of the Word in pulpit and in print.

Doctor Clarke—for such he became by conferment of a doctorate in law by Aberdeen University in 1808—studied natural history, philosophy, and astronomy to the point of proficiency; was knowledgeable in medicine; and master of at least 15 languages. He was a member of several learned societies, among them the celebrated Society of Antiquaries in Lon­don, by whom he was held in high esteem, and at least one royal patron of the arts was on cordial terms with him. He was one of a number of experts who were called in to view the Rosetta Stone on its arrival in London after being taken from the French, and in a letter to his wife he described how he identi­fied its substance as basalt.

Dr. Clarke is also acclaimed as having been the means of winning to Christ and Methodism one Samuel Drew, a Cornishman who attained some note...
in his day as a metaphysician, although no modern encyclopaedia now mentions him. Of possibly greater value was his influence on the spiritual life of his brother-in-law, Joseph Butterworth, a wealthy bookseller, whom he also led to the Lord and who became one of the earliest evangelicals in the British parliament. This man was the friend and collaborator of Wilberforce in the crusade against slavery, and was one of the founders of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which was actually formed at a meeting held in his house.

As a preacher, Adam Clarke was very popular and always spoke to crowded congregations. He preached entirely without notes and is said to have used little preparatory study before going into the pulpit. He had such a prodigious store of knowledge and command of words that he was doubtless safe in doing so, though it is not a practice to be emulated. Of his usefulness and spirituality, however, there is no question, and his fervent appeals brought very many to the Savior. He labored all over Britain, but islands seem to have figured prominently in his ministry. He was greatly used in pioneering work in the French-speaking Channel Islands, where he bravely faced angry mobs, and in the Shetlands off the north coast of Scotland.

Clarke's presentation of holiness tended to be a bit one-sided as he stressed the instantaneous experience almost exclusively without seeming to recognize the ongoing side to it. This was, however, a healthy corrective to the rather more progressive views of sanctification which began to prevail after Wesley's death, and in this respect, he was a true father to the holiness movement. He exemplified the doctrine by a blameless life and a warm, affectionate personality.

His fame as a writer mainly rests upon his well-known Commentary on the Bible, which occupied more than 30 years in preparation and production. Though its original eight massive volumes were rather over-stocked with antiquarian curiosities and superfluous data, the work was well received and has always been highly valued. Typical of Adam Clarke's humility and devotion was the fact that he wrote the final sentences on his knees in gratitude to God for enabling him to complete it.

His scholarly attainments did nothing to lessen his popularity with colleagues, who were mostly rather less brilliant, and he was three times elected President of the British Wesleyan Methodist Conference, which was at that time a record. He succumbed to a cholera epidemic on August 25, 1832, and was buried alongside his lifelong hero, John Wesley, in the grounds of the City Road chapel in London.

Perhaps the best memento to leave of this great man of God would be an incident which occurred in his youth. He worked for a linen draper who admonished him for measuring the material correctly and not stretching it so as to make more profit. "Sir," he replied, "I can stretch your cloth indeed, but I will not stretch my conscience." With standards like that, It is little wonder that Adam Clarke achieved so much for the kingdom of God.
The evidence shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” This is what the world expects from the church.

Give them super-special, semi-spiritual extravaganza on television and they may be entertained, but they will not be satisfied. They will want to see the evidence.

Lure them into lavish banquets or sensational conventions where there are manifestations of extraneous spiritual phenomena, and you may move them emotionally—or turn them off. They will still want to see the evidence.

Recite to them again those same time-worn cliches, and leave them empty, wondering what on earth you’re talking about.

These people want to see the unmistakable evidence that those who are trying to win their allegiance are themselves fully committed to the Christian faith. Give them the evidence down here in Everyday Street where they have to live 365 days of the year.

The evidence is love. Let us use the important principles of church growth, and the evangelistic methods that work best for us, but whatever we do, we’ll do better with love. People are tired of programs that simply entertain. They’re sick of the shallow Christianity which abounds, and are looking for a faith by which they can live. They need something which has a real depth of spirituality. Christian love is the answer.

Mankind needs to see and feel love like the love of Jesus, who looked down into the face of a young man kneeling in the dust of the street. Jesus knew all about his sin and pride, but the Bible tells us, “Jesus beholding him loved him” (Mark 10:21). Our world today needs to see the love of Jesus.

The world in the 18th century saw it in the life of John Wesley and the early Methodist people. In Dewsbury, Yorkshire, Wesley stood in the marketplace, preaching the gospel of the love of God, as dusty-faced coal miners came from their work. One burly miner pushed his way through the crowd and struck the preacher a blow on the face. Wesley looked into the eyes of the man, who couldn’t stand that look, for it was the look of love. John Wesley beholding him loved him. The miner heard the evidence as Wesley preached, but was not convinced; he saw the evidence as he looked into the eyes of the preacher, and could not rest until he yielded to the claims of God’s love.

It is important that Christians speak the truth, but they must speak the truth “in love” (Ephesians 4:15). Paul tells us, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love... I am nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:1-2). Christians need to declare their faith boldly, to denounce sin for what it is, to take their stand for Christ, but they must do it with love. If it is done harshly, in a manner that does not reveal the love of Christ, people will detect it. They know what love is, and they want to see the real thing.

The only love that will fit Christians for the task is love “out of a pure heart” (1 Timothy 1:5). John calls it “perfect love” (1 John 4:17). This is not the love with which we were born, and no one without God can love in this manner, but what no man ever did by nature can be done by the grace of God.

Frances Ridley Havergal wrote, “The love of God is not an absorbing love, but a radiating love. . . . The more we love Him, the more we will certainly love others. Some have not much natural power of loving, but the love of Christ will strengthen this. Some have the spring of love dried up, but they will find fresh springs in Jesus, and the flow of love will be purer than the old torrent could ever be.”

This perfect love which flows from a pure heart is the unmistakable evidence of the Spirit-filled life, for the love of God is “shed abroad” in the believer’s heart “by the Holy Spirit” (Romans 5:5). This way of love, according to the apostle Paul, is the “more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:31).

It helps us to live the abundant life here in this present world, for our life of love lived here is really the love of Christ being lived through us. Commis-

by HUGH GORMAN
Meifort, Saskatchewan, Canada
sioner Samuel Logan Brengle of the Salvation Army tells of the day when God baptized him with holy love: “God saw I meant to be true to death . . . He gave me such a blessing as I never dreamed a man could have this side of heaven. It was a heaven of love that came into my heart. I walked over Boston Common before breakfast, weeping for joy and praising God. Oh, how I loved! In that hour I knew Jesus, and I loved Him till it seemed my heart would  break with love. I loved the sparrows; I loved the dogs; I loved the horses; I loved the little urchins in the streets; I loved the strangers who passed me by; I loved the heathen; I loved the whole world.”

God had given Brengle the evidence in his own heart, and with it He gave him the power to show it to the world. “Perfect love casteth out fear,” John the Apostle tells us. It gives us a holy boldness. And although those who have been made perfect in love may suffer in the process of dying, death will have lost its sting, and there will be no fear of that which is beyond death. This is why Wesley said, “Methodist people die well.”

So did St. Ignatius, who was sentenced to death for his Christian faith. When he was brought to the place where he was to be burned at the stake, he asked permission to pray, and it was granted. Kneeling down in the presence of his enemies, with face looking to the skies and holy hands raised to God, he prayed, “O God, I thank Thee that Thou hast vouchsafed to honor me with perfect love to Thee and all mankind. . . .”

What a testimony! There in that moment before dying he was able to testify to the world that the God who had given him perfect love through his long life was real to him as he faced death. Before going to heaven he was able to testify that he loved God with all his heart; he loved all mankind, even those who stood looking down at him, waiting to burn him at the stake.

If only we could see more perfect love in our world, what a difference it would make. And all we need to do in order to receive it from God is to empty our hands and hearts of all that is not of God, and receive all that He has for us. By faith, receive His forgiveness, cleansing and love, as the blessed Holy Spirit comes to thrill and fill His temple.

—CURTISS S. PEARSON
Manassas, Virginia

PEN POINTS

ROOTS

In recent years there has been a tremendous interest in roots. The book Roots, by Alex Haley, was on the best seller list for several months. A TV special based on this book received very high ratings.

Along with this, more and more people have become interested in genealogy and are spending hours searching through birth certificates, marriage registrations, and other records in search of their roots.

Further, it has become common to hear of people leaving the “rat race” of the large metropolitan areas and “going back to their roots.” In most cases, this means forsaking their more complex urban existence and going back home to a simple, basic life-style.

As Christians, we should also be interested in our roots. We must first determine the nature of our roots, and then we must become firmly rooted in Christ Jesus.

First of all, the Bible teaches us that all mankind is rooted in sin. Romans 3:23 states that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

The Bible also teaches us that Christ can cleanse this root of sin from our lives and make us whole. In 1 John 1:9, we read, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Secondly, we should establish our roots firmly in Christ Jesus. “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19).

Again, in Colossians 2:6-7: “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

So what does it really matter who my great-grandfather may have been? Truly, there is nothing greater in life than having our own hearts cleansed and then establishing our roots firmly in Christ.

—CURTISS S. PEARSON
Manassas, Virginia

NOVEMBER 1, 1979
CHRIST, who presumably needed to pray so little, prayed so much; whereas we, who need to pray so much, pray so little!

We tend to pray too little, in part, because we find it difficult to visualize the extent to which our praying is so crucial to our spiritual growth.

We tend to pray too little, also, because we do not adequately visualize what a privilege it is. It has been called a princely privilege—similar to the access a country's prince has to its king.

We tend to pray too little, further, because we do not adequately conceptualize what is occurring when we pray: the two-way-ness involved, the individual attention given us by the Creator of the universe.

We tend to pray too little, also, because we do not give prayer the attention we need to in order to become proficient at it. I play table tennis and chess well in tournaments; and being expert in both, I give them a great deal of attention. It is fulfilling and satisfying to play them because I play them well. I'm not good at golf or football or anything else, actually, so I only play those games when I am socially forced into it. When we become proficient at prayer, understanding what is going on, how strategic it is, how to articulate our praise and our petitions, we will find praying satisfying—and we will more readily engage in it.

WE ADDRESS THE FATHER.

When we pray, we usually address God the Father. Since the Son and the Holy Spirit are persons of the same nature as the Father, we could pray to them and be heard. But Jesus always prayed to the Father, and He instructed us to pray to the Father in His name. All of Paul's prayers in the New Testament are addressed to the Father. In fact, all prayers in the entire Bible are addressed to the Father, except for one or two, of only four or five words, that seem to be addressed to Christ (as Stephen's prayer in Acts 7:59).

Prayer to the Father is to be made in Jesus' name, or for Jesus' sake, for in ourselves we are not worthy of approaching the Father and are not deserving of His help; but Jesus is worthy, and it is through His mediation that we hold audience with God.

The Holy Spirit's office is to prompt us to pray and guide us in what to say to the Father. Paul says, "The Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26).

PRAYING ALOUD

There's a great deal to say, too, for praying to the Father right out loud, if we are situated so that it would not disturb others. One Psalmist said, "Hear my voice" (Psalm 119:149). Another said, "I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice" (Psalm 77:1). When we pray aloud, we do better at engaging our entire being in the prayer. The words we use will probably be more articulate and more literary than when we are thinking out a prayer, and that, for many of us, makes praying more satisfying. And when we are praying aloud, with words that do respect to Deity, we are more intensely engaged, and less likely to be distracted.

POSTURE IN PRAYER

One can pray standing on his head, or on tip-toe, but these are not usual postures for prayer. One may pray while kneeling, but this is not the only desirable posture. To stand at attention as before a dignitary is often helpful, for it dramatizes for our dronish minds our belief in the greatness of God. When we lift one or both hands as we pray we observe a biblical practice. And when we lift our hands we dramatize in physical terms our belief in God's greatness.

A given posture in prayer does not win us favor with the Father. All the same, according to Scripture, posture has a purpose. It reinforces in concrete terms what we believe about God's greatness and our creatureliness.
THE INITIATIVE IS WITH GOD
We need to realize that the initiative in our praying is with God. He bids us to commune with Him. He holds out the offer of our holding audience with Him, wherever we are, whatever we are doing, whatever the time of day or night. He creates in us the desire to commune with Him. Unless He created that desire within us it would not be there, for apart from His grace, as many creeds state, we are “inclined to evil and that continually.”

OUR PRAISE PRECEDES PETITIONS
After addressing the Father, in beginning a prayer, it is good to worship Him and praise Him for His past and present helps before making any requests. And often, as a Christian matures, he will probably find that his entire prayer consists of praise to God without any petitions at all. When petitions are made, they will often be requests for His help more adequately to glorify His holy name instead of requests for a more pleasant life for ourselves. Friendship with another person would be better fostered by our showing appreciation for him, and letting him know that we are genuinely interested in him. Friendship would shrivel up and die if we were to make requests for favors from a friend just about every time we met. God is a person, with intellect, feeling, and will, and although He is infinite, the nature of His expectations in personal fellowship with us are not unlike a human person’s.

WE PRAY TO A PERSON
As we pray, we need to understand that God is a person. He is not simply an abstract idea of the Good, as for the ancient Plato. We correctly say that God is good, or God is love, or God is truth. Some people, who do not understand that He is a person, turn those statements around incorrectly and say “Goodness is God,” or “Love is God,” or “Truth is God.” If those abstract ideas or ideals are God, then God is not a person. And if He is not a person, He cannot hear and respond to our prayers.

These, then, are a few of the thoughts that have come to me, as I have considered the privilege of prayer that is open—so open—to all of us who are Christ’s.

WORDLESS PRAYER
Oh-h-h-h-h, God—
This lingering sigh
Begins deep within,
Silent and inaudible,
Somber and mournful,
Twinged with sadness, uncertainty,
And shrinking fear,
Almost a heart-rending wail,
An inward groan,
That expresses utter helplessness,
A finite futility
Of human frailty.
Oh-h-h-h-h, God.

—JOHN T. BENSON, JR.
Nashville, Tennessee
Some years ago I was faced with an anxiety-producing situation, as we all are from time to time. I had finished my junior year at college and was spending the summer in our camp, deep in the heart of the Maine Allagash woods, far from cities, roads, pressure, and problems.

The mail plane dropped off mail at Nugent’s Sporting Camps, eight miles down the lake. We went after it weekly in our small boat.

One day when we picked up the mail, even the sight of the return address on an envelope filled me with fear. In the fall I was to begin a six-month period of student teaching in a public school in a college town under constant supervision by professional teachers as part of a teacher-training program. And in that envelope was the name of the teacher under whom I would be student-teaching.

JUST BETWEEN US

With nervous fingers I ripped open the envelope. The staff had assigned me to the toughest teacher of student-rookies in the whole lot! An excellent teacher herself, she demanded the highest performance possible from novice teachers placed under her supervision and was widely known for her reluctance to pass out A’s. Only a spectacular performance could earn an A from her. She had awarded only two A’s in her entire career of supervising student teachers!

My heart sank. Close to tears I climbed out of the boat with the letter in my pocket and headed for the solitude of woods which stretch for hundreds of miles around our camp.

Buried in the shadowy recesses of my soul is a very active inferiority complex. I dislike being constantly evaluated. I fall apart under close scrutiny by professional superiors. I nearly drop dead if my employer walks into my room.

“No way,” I miserably decided. “I just can’t go through six months of student teaching. I’ll simply not return to college this fall even though this is my senior year.”

I walked the forest paths and prayed and fought fear. I knew that it was fear that was holding me helplessly in its grip—fear of failure, fear of evaluation, fear of check sheets listing my weaknesses and strengths methodically checked off by the supervisor, and fear of standing daily in a classroom with 30 pairs of eyes riveted on me.

I withdrew my small New Testament from my pocket and I read: “And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine” (Matthew 25:25).

I realized, walking in the woods that day, that I was carrying two things with me: fear and a talent. Like the man in the parable, I could bury my talent in the ground. I realized that the talent in the Bible referred to money, but it could be applied to personal talent, too—in my case, the ability to teach, the potential of developing into a fine teacher. I could bury that talent, refusing to student-teach and failing to finish my final year at college, because of fear. I could be saddled by this foolish, but very real, fear the rest of my life. Yes, I could bury the talent.

On the other hand, I could bury the fear and use the talent. Whichever I did would affect my life forever. Talent would be difficult to develop. But fear could cripple my efforts for the rest of my life if I let it. It was an important moment for me. I was standing at a crossroads.

Alone in the woods, unseen by anyone except the Lord, I went to the toolshed and picked up a shovel.
Romans 5:2 reads, "For because of our faith, he has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to actually becoming all that God has in mind for us to be" (TLB).

This modern translation fits precisely into what we have been saying these many weeks. God has a plan for us which we can reach by His grace, through faith.

The progressive phrases of this verse are rich with meaning. "Because of our faith . . ." We need to firmly establish the fact that our total progress on the way to Christian maturity is based on our faith in God and not on our self-efficacy. Notice that faith, according to this verse, establishes a relationship with God, who then brings "us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand."

We all stand, of course, in a different place. Each of us is in his own particular spot on his journey. Some have gone farther than others in the same span of time, but each of us has made his own progress according to his faith.

Various factors have affected our different degrees of progress toward wholeness: our personal experiences; circumstances; light from God; inspiration from books, sermons, and people; interpersonal relationships; personal choices and responses and reactions. I am not responsible for competing with anyone else. I am only responsible for striving to reach my own potential.

"We confidently and joyfully look forward . . ." The Christian life is a life of vibrant faith. There need be no ultimate despair or discouragement or defeat. The end is victorious and we face it with faith and confidence.

"Becoming all that God has had in mind for us to be." What higher goal can any man have than that? What a sense of fulfillment one would have in knowing that he fully measures up to God's expectations. How glorious to hear the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord"!

POINT TO PONDER: Am I exercising the kind of faith that lifts my soul toward God's expectations for me?

Becoming a Whole Person

I found a spot under the tall trees where the soil was soft.

With the shovel in my hand I looked up at the sky and said, "Lord, I must bury something this day—the talent or the fear. I cannot manage with these two things warring against each other. You see me with this shovel in these deep woods and I'm doing my best."

I pushed the shovel into the soft earth and began digging a deep hole. When the hole was deep, I looked up at the sky again and said, "I'm ready to bury something, Lord. Help me."

Then with a quick, decisive motion of my hand I dumped the whole invisible load of fear into that hole and covered it up with shovelful after shovelful of soft dirt. I smoothed the loose dirt over it and stood back looking at the freshly made grave that held my fear. I knew the Lord had witnessed my unusual grave-digging, and then I walked away carrying in my closed hand just one thing—my talent, undeveloped though it was.

For the next six months I used my God-given talent for teaching to the best of my ability. When I was tempted to fear those grueling periods of evaluation, or to become fearful over my inexperienced efforts to teach, I vividly recalled the burial in that faraway forest. I kept on doggedly using the talent which I had carried away in my hand that day in the woods.

I had just enough room in my life now for perfecting and polishing whatever talent I had. Using my talent with careful, prayerful planning was taking all of my time.

At the end of the semester, I had learned many techniques in teaching; and when the ranks were posted, the supervising teacher had given me an A.

A choice to make—to bury the talent and use the fear? Or to bury the fear and use the talent? I am glad I made the right choice. Using the fear would have fatigued me and in time would have destroyed me.

I would have looked very funny out there in the woods that day with my shovel and mound of earth, burying something I couldn't see (if anyone had been watching), but it was a tangible, realistic act shared by the Lord and me, which served later in times of recollection as a needed courage-builder, as a strong faith-booster.

We must bury our talent and use our fear, or bury our fear and use our talent. In praise of someone who buried the fear and used his talent, the Lord said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21).

I learned that day that it is important to bury the right thing!
Discouragement is a prevalent disease. Few people reach middle-age without being attacked by it. Even if they have such a fine temperament and spiritual health that they have not been prostrated by the disease, they have certainly known its presence. Martin Luther knew the valleys of despair as well as the mountain peaks of joy.

Discouragement can bring serious results. It has been called the devil’s most dangerous weapon.

The discouraged man finds all his skies vary between dark grey and black. He is gloomy. His will is broken; his energies have evaporated; his hopes have been smashed. He is tired of working. His heart is heavy. He has little to say except to complain how unfairly people have treated him.

Even so, discouragements need not be total loss. Used creatively they can be transmuted into blessing. Failures that bring discouragement can be met by greater efforts that result not only in success, but also in a job well done. That satisfies.

Frank Laubach’s ambition was to become president of Union College and Union Theological Seminary in Manila. He lost that appointment by one vote. Greatly discouraged, he felt he could not face another audience. The disappointment weighed so heavily upon him that his health began to suffer.

He returned as a missionary to Lanao, then a backward area inhabited by semiprimitive Muslims called Moros. They snubbed him and refused to help him in his work.

After a month of this treatment, Laubach admitted he was discouraged. Following rapidly on his college disappointment, this failure brought him black despair. “Where have I gone wrong?” he wondered.

He had always been a praying man. Now he prayed with the deepest intensity and humility of his life. He climbed Signal Hill, a knoll behind his cottage that commanded a view of mountains and lakes, and poured out all his disappointment to God.

He got his answer. He discovered the simple method of learning to read that could remove ignorance and poverty from three-fifths of the human race. This discovery is among the momentous events of modern times. It stemmed directly from his prayer, the most important prayer in his life, Laubach believed.

Sir Walter Scott, the British novelist, had worked hard and built a splendid home at Abbotsford. Then his publishers failed. The creditors could suffer heavy losses. He voluntarily undertook to pay them off. He had to sell his home and give up all his life savings. How discouraging!

He then wrote: “I feel neither dishonoured nor broken down by the news I have received. I have walked my last in the domain I have planted, sat for the last time in the halls I have built; but death would have taken them from me if misfortune had spared me.” He concluded the letter by saying that discouragement was to him a tonic and a bracer.

At 55, that great writer started on a marvelous series of books. The profits enabled him to buy back Abbotsford and pay off all his creditors. They also created for him a deathless name in literature.

If our discouragement comes from unanswered prayer, we con-
continue to pray because we believe that God's delay in answering our prayer is not His denial. It could be that God has a better solution to our problem than we have. Possibly, He is waiting for the best time to grant us the blessing we crave. Or He could be waiting for us to be better fitted to receive it. How much that could teach us about God and His goodness to us!

To overcome discouragement we need the resources of One who is greater than we are.

King David went back to his home in Ziklag, physically exhausted by his exertions caused by Saul's persecuting him. He found his enemies had taken full advantage of his absence. They had set fire to the city and carried off the people to slavery. David and his followers were so discouraged that they continued to weep until no more tears would come. To add to his discouragement, his followers criticized him. They became so angry with him that they threatened to kill him.

In his distress David "encouraged himself in the Lord his God" (1 Samuel 30:6). Certainly he had no other way to gain encouragement. Yet that was sufficient. In the ordeal he sought the divine strength. Receiving it enabled him to bear the discouragement.

David looked to the Lord for His help. When we pray, the situation is changed, even if it looks the same. We are no longer relying on our limited resources, but are engaging the wisdom, knowledge, and power of God.

What David wanted above all was God's counsel and guidance. With this, his life would take a better turn; discouragement would go.

All Christians have to travel through the dark passages. Yet ours is the assurance that God will not keep us in the tunnel for the rest of life. Dr. James Stewart comments: "God does not mock His children with a night that has no ending; and to every man who stands resolute while the darkness lasts, there comes at length the vindication of faith and the breaking of the day."

When he received guidance and help from the Lord, David used these resources to turn discouragement into success. He pursued, attacked, and routed his enemies.

Discouragements need not knock us flat or spoil our lives. Rightly handled they can bring us benefits we could not have had without them. They can bring us closer to God. They will advance our spiritual maturity when the lead of discouragement is changed into the gold of humility of character and a tough trust in God.

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**Helps to HOLY Living**

by LOREN W. GOULD

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Christian friend, are you really concerned about heart cleansing and inward sanctification? Have you been questioning the validity of such an experience in the Christian's heart and life? If so, let me call your attention to 1 Thessalonians 4:3 where God spoke through His servant Paul, saying, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." This is not the voice of some preacher or writer, but it is the voice of God; it is a divine imperative.

May I remind you that when the will of God is so definitely expressed concerning our personal sanctification, it becomes our sacred obligation to obey the call of God to attain this work of grace in our hearts. Surely, where God has so emphatically spoken concerning His will, every Christian should give earnest and immediate attention to seeing the will of God fulfilled within himself.

It is reasonable to assume that if any Christian is living in an unsanctified state, he cannot be fully pleasing to the Lord; he cannot enjoy the highest blessings of God; he cannot know the richest fellowship with the Holy Spirit; and he is failing God in Christian service. Furthermore, if any Christian neglects to pursue the will of God concerning his life, and does not seek to be sanctified, how can he call himself a follower of Christ who prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Nevertheless, not what I will, but what thou wilt"? It seems to me that every true disciple of Jesus must follow Him with this same plea, "Not what I will, but what thou wilt."

When Paul wrote, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification," he was speaking of an experience which is not only a practical possibility but an absolute necessity if we are to be "preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Jesus also made clear the critical nature of full obedience to the will of God when He said, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). It is indelibly clear from God's Word that He has provided a means of divine grace by which every believer can be cleansed and sanctified wholly. Furthermore, God has given a divine directive that every believer is to seek this state of grace until it becomes a reality in his heart and life.

Dr. F. B. Meyer testified to going through a long struggle concerning total submission to God's will. Finally he prayed, "Lord I am willing to be made willing, I give up myself to Thee—body, soul, and spirit—to be made willing in sorrow or in joy, in darkness or in light, in life or in death, to be wholly Thine only forever." God answered his prayer and made him willing, and the glorious victory was his.

When we, as Christians, recognize that it is truly the will of our Heavenly Father for us to be inwardly cleansed and wholly sanctified, there will undoubtedly be a struggle in bringing ourselves to the point of full surrender. But, oh, the joy and peace when the struggle is ended and God's full will is realized in sanctifying grace!
WHERE ARE YOUR KEYS?

Several weeks ago I heard pastor Roy Kanhai tell this story: It was his custom, before going to his study, to pause at the altar and commune with God. One morning he laid his keys there as he prayed. When he left the study, he approached the altar to retrieve his keys. As he did, the Lord spoke to him, saying, “Roy, that is just where the keys to all of your life belong—on the altar.” He did not leave until he had faced the question, “Are all the keys on the altar? Is your life, in all its relationships, fully committed to My will?” and could answer joyfully, “Yes, Lord, they are!”

It is a good question for us all to face. Are we fully consecrated to God? Does He have all the keys on the ring? Our families, our homes, our churches, our jobs, our cars, our deposit boxes, our checkbooks—are these on the altar? Confronting every aspect of our lives, every person and thing in our lives, can we say and mean, “Thy will, and not my will, be done”?

In The Powers That Be, a study of the growth in power of certain news media, David Halbertstam shows how news was not simply reported, it was invented, managed, interpreted, and omitted. The determining factor was not truth but ratings and profit. Everyone and everything was evaluated by this criterion; how will it affect ratings and profits? Personal careers and national interests were sacrificed to Mammon.

For the serious Christian, there is one criterion by which all things must be judged—the will of God. Anything which opposes and contradicts the will of God is evil, for God is holy; is foolish, for God is wise; is destructive, for God is life. No price is too great to pay for the alignment of all life to the will of God. No prize is worth the deflection of life from God’s will.

Where are your keys? Is your total life on the altar? Is Jesus the Lord in fact as well as name? Does He possess and control your whole life with your glad consent? Consecration is itself the key to joy and peace and power in Christian living.

PEOPLE I NEVER MET

I’ve met all kinds of people in all kinds of places under all kinds of circumstances. But there are two kinds of people I’ve never met. I don’t think they exist.

I’ve never met a person that God didn’t love and Jesus couldn’t save.

Such is the love of God, so deep and wide and long, that the worst of sinners cannot escape its boundaries. People have been saved from every form and degree of sin under the sun. Whatever the nature and duration of their sins, when they repented and trusted in Christ, they were forgiven immediately and completely.

You may sink so low that friends desert you. At times even parents give up on wicked children. But no man or woman ever got so bad that God quit loving them and would not save them. The “whosoever will” of gospel invitation is the most democratic statement in the world. Every sinner can be saved by the same simple condition, “repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

It is a thrilling experience to preach the gospel to a huge crowd, knowing that God does love and Jesus can save every person under the sound of your voice!

I’ve never met a person from whom I could not learn.

Whoever they are, whatever they do in life, they have something of value that they can teach me. I have learned important lessons from people who had never gone to school. I have learned from men who were hoboes and beggars, as well as from teachers and “successes.”

When I was a boy the best advice my father ever gave me was this: “Always hang around with people smarter than yourself. It’ll make you feel awful dumb at times, but it’ll give you a chance to learn a lot.” I can testify that it has not been hard to follow his advice! And I have learned from all with whom I have companied along life’s journey.

I have taught some. But even when I was a teacher by profession, I was learning from students when they didn’t seem to be learning from me. The open mind will never lack instructors.
For the serious Christian, there is one criterion by which all things must be judged—the will of God.

GOD'S WITNESSES

In October it was my privilege to be in Banff, Alberta, as the speaker for the Canada West District pastors' and wives' conference. Here is found some of the most magnificent scenery on this continent. Everywhere I turned I saw towering mountains whose awesome, craggy peaks stood in bold contrast to their green timbered slopes.

From my room one morning I viewed a spectacular sunrise. The clouds above the mountains were rose-hued as the sun gradually climbed above one isolated majestic peak. I thought I could hear thousands of angels singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty!" It was breathtaking beauty and it stirred deep springs of worship in my spirit.

Later that day I happened to read A. M. Hunter's study, "The Books Jesus Read." One of these books was "the Book of Nature," and the teachings of Jesus are filled with illustrations drawn from nature. In his study Hunter quotes a remark by Nancy Mitford to an agnostic, "How can you say we know literally nothing of Somebody among whose works we live?"

There in Banff, however, I saw even mightier and more beautiful works of God than the Canadian Rockies. I fellowshipped with a marvelous group of men and women whose lives had been redeemed from sin by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Now those lives were committed to the task of ministry to people’s deepest needs. Those pastors and wives reflected in their words, deeds, prayers, and testimonies the beauty of the Redeemer, even as the mountains mirrored the grandeur of the Creator. I looked upon them and listened to them, and my heart sang, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to ransom men to God!"

These are two powerful witnesses to the glory and grace of our God, the mountains which He has made and the lives which He has remade. He is indeed blind who can live in the midst of such wonders and not acknowledge the presence and power of God in our world.

THE LAW OF MISPLACED WISDOM

Why is it that the job for which a person is eminently qualified is the one somebody else is doing?

When I was a pastor I discovered that those who knew perfectly what a pastor should do, and how he should do it, were laymen.

Nine years on campus convinced me that the ideal school administrators were not the presidents, deans, or business managers but the classroom teachers. And those who knew best how a professor should teach were trustees, some of whom had never been to college.

The most confident and knowledgeable critics of Christianity are men who hang around in bars, avoid the church like the plague, and attempt no moral struggles against popular evils.

The real experts on rearing children are those who have none.

Having never been a district superintendent, I can tell you exactly how one should handle all the responsibilities and problems of that office. I am the Encyclopedia Britannica of district superintendency.

A priest once asked me, "Mr. McCumber, do you have a family?"

"Yes," I confessed, "I have one wife and five children."

"Five children!" he exclaimed.

"Yes," I said, "and just think, they call you Father and me Mister!" Of course I was just teasing, but I do think it’s an incongruous situation.

There seems to be a lot of misplaced wisdom operating in the world. That law is, "The less involved you are in a specific task, the more expert you become about it."

Ezekiel tells how the strong hand of the Lord placed him among the captive Jews at Telabib. "I sat where they sat," he reported, "and remained there astonished among them seven days." Seven days in the other fellow’s place is just a crash course in sympathy, but that might stifle our impulses to make noises like experts about jobs we never held. At least it will temper our criticism and foster our apologies.
A YOUNG WOMAN who was defending her continual attendance at doubtful places of amusement said, “I think a Christian can go anywhere.”

“Certainly she can,” rejoined her friend, “but I am reminded of a little incident which happened last summer when I went with a party of friends to explore a coal mine. One of the young women appeared dressed in a dainty, white gown. When her friends remonstrated with her she appealed to the old miner who was to act as guide to the party.”

“Can’t I wear a white dress into the mine?” she asked petulantly.

“Yes, mum,” returned the old man, “there’s nothing to keep you from wearing a white frock down there, but there will be considerable to keep you from wearing one back.”

The late Dr. Samuel Shoemaker often said, “We need a good worldly sense.” He meant that we need a sense of how people think and feel, of their problems as they live out their lives in home and neighborhood (or hovel or ghetto), in factory and marketplace. In this sense of awareness, we are not “worldly” enough. But in the sense of things which grip our attention and gain our loyalties, we are far too worldly.

Worldliness as condemned in the Scriptures has to do with the world of sin around us. Some call it “the sinful world.” Christians should make themselves very clear at this point. There are many good, clean, and wholesome things in the world that the very best saints can enjoy. This is not the world that is condemned in the Bible. It is the world of sin and sinfulness owned and operated by Satan that is condemned in the Bible.

Paul wrote to the Christian church in Corinth, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God” (1 Corinthians 2:12).

J. B. Phillips translates Romans 12:2 like this: “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within.”

It is worldly to be full of pride (carnal, selfish pride). It is worldly to be covetous and greedy or mean and contemptible. It is worldly to be resentful and spiteful and hold a grudge. It is worldly to have an unforgiving attitude toward anyone. It is worldly to be deceitful and underhanded and crooked. It is worldly to be jealous and envious. It is worldly to be lustful and to destroy your own body. It is worldly to plan another’s downfall. It is worldly to beat your neighbor out of what is rightfully his. It is worldly to rob God and His church. It is worldly to kill and lie and cheat and defraud. This is the way the world lives. This is the result of the spirit of the world in action in the hearts of people. This is not the way Christians live! This is the way the world lives!

Worldliness can be cured. The only permanent cure is “the Blood cure.” “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

The American naturalist-philosopher Thoreau, in defending some of his oddities, said, “If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer.”

The Spirit-filled Christian may well repeat this. If he does not march along with the world, it is because he hears another drumbeat. His ears are attuned to music others cannot hear. He is drawn not by terrestrial magnetism, but by celestial magnetism. Heaven exerts more pull on him than does earth. He belongs to God.

Many things may be quite consistent for a worldly man to do which a believer could not touch at all, simply because he is a Christian. The question is, “Can I do this to the glory of God? Can I connect the name of the Lord with it?” If not, we must not touch it. In a word, the standard test for everything is this: Is it consistent with the Word of God and with my testimony for Christ?
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Baby Jesus

Little Lamb
STOWE DEDICATES NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

General Superintendent Dr. Eugene L. Stowe recently brought the main address at the new Kirn Junior High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

On June 3, Dr. Stowe had dedicated the new sanctuary of Council Bluffs, First Church, where Rev. A. D. Foster is pastor. Among the guests attending was Superintendent of Schools Dr. Raj Chopra. Dr. Chopra recommended to the school board that Dr. Stowe be invited to give the main address at the dedication of the new school building.

A factor in this was that Dr. Stowe attended the Council Bluffs public schools until he moved to California with his family at age 16. He attended old Abraham Lincoln High School. It was later changed to a junior high school and renamed Kirn Junior High School. In October of 1976, the old Kirn building burned.

The new junior high school building is named after Gerald W. Kirn, who was principal of Abraham Lincoln High School when Dr. Stowe attended there in his youth. Mr. Kirn, also former superintendent of the Council Bluffs Community Schools, was one of the special guests at the dedication. Over 2,000 people attended.

Subject areas were: building self and other esteem; responsible styles of communication; creative use of conflict; and the importance of Jesus Christ being Lord of the marriage relationship.

The leader couples reported that “in the final session there was such a melting and mingling of sweet spirits that none of us could be dry-eyed. It was a precious moment—we hated to break up.”

Churches on the Southeast Zone interested in having a Marriage Enrichment event may contact Bill and Edna Dickson of Camarillo, Calif. (805) 484-9458. Bill and Edna represent the zone as contact couple for Nazarene Marriage Enrichment.

SOUTH FLORIDA HEIGHTS SAILED SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SEAS

Pastor John M. Gardner, staff, and Christian Life Board of Lakeland, Fla., South Florida Heights Church formulated a plan for summer growth.

The objective of the summer emphasis was to see 10 percent growth in Sunday school attendance, church attendance, finances, and membership.

A couple was recruited to be the visitation coordinators. They tabulated prospects and absentees on information cards. These cards were mailed on Monday to 50 volunteer visitors. The visitors then either phoned or personally called on the assigned families and noted the results of the contacts on the assignment cards which were returned to the coordinators the following Sunday.

There was a foyer display of a three-masted schooner, one mast for each of the three months. Thirteen sails were placed on three masts to represent the 13 weeks of the summer quarter. On each sail was placed the attendance for a 1978 Sunday and then each week’s achievement was recorded.

There was one special emphasis each month with some extra motivators from time to time. An example of a “special” would be a Christian Family Life Seminar. An example of a “motivator” would be “Susan B. Anthony” Silver Dollar Day. The ship and sea theme was maintained by awarding everyone who attended 10 of the 13 weeks an excursion boat trip on Tampa Bay.

The program and promotion produced results. The Sunday school increased 17 percent, or 40 per week. Church attendance increased 18 percent or 54 per week, and finances increased $11,500. Membership increases averaged 1 new member per week.

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA FIRST CHURCH MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT EVENT

Eleven couples met recently for a five-session Marriage Enrichment retreat led by Bill and Edna Dickson of Camarillo, Calif., and Galen and Gwen Wilcox of San Jose.

Pastor Tom Floyd reports, “It was more than we expected—one of those beautiful times that affects lives forever.”

The retreat format included couple interaction within the context of the group as well as private dialogue.
Pictured (l. to r.) are Pastor Hunter of Detroit Grace Church with the Inner-city Team, Roxanne Gittings, Patrice Bickerstaff, Kim Rice, and Greg Brown.

SUMMER MINISTRIES INNER CITY UPDATE—DETROIT

Today is Saturday, August 18. Tomorrow is the last Sunday we will share the fellowship at Detroit Grace Church. Monday morning will be the time for our last good-byes. The four of us have been looking forward to going home, but I think each of us will leave a part of ourselves in this city that has been our home for the past two months.

This summer began with letters of acceptance from the Department of Youth Ministries, Youth in Mission Program in Kansas City. The four of us (Greg Brown, Patrice Bickerstaff, Roxanne Gittings, and Kim Rice) were selected from a group of Nazarene college students to minister in Detroit. On June 16, we gathered at Golden Bell Ranch in Colorado where Youth in Mission training camp was held.

There we met Rev. Robert E. Hunter, our pastor for the summer. Together with him we made plans for the next eight weeks. He explained the situation of the church, and we gave input as to what we’d like to see accomplished.

One of our major goals for the summer was to build the attendance to 100. That goal was reached two Sundays ago! In some churches that might not seem like a very big accomplishment, but in ours (which had an attendance of only 30 on the Sunday we arrived) it was cause for great rejoicing and praising the Lord.

This goal was reached through much prayer and footwork. Many afternoons were spent in knocking on doors and handing out flyers about the church. We called this outreach “surveying” because we were looking for people who weren’t involved in other churches and who might be interested in ours. There were times when almost no one showed any interest and we went home discouraged. At other times, however, we would excitedly share with each other about
Why not plan a special program this Thanksgiving season from the recitations, songs, readings, drama, and other material in these two booklets? It is graded for nursery through adult and suited for PTA and school programs as well as the church. You will need three copies: one for the director and two to clip.

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Improved attitudes toward church and growing interest in spiritual things haven't only been seen in children, however. Teenagers are not easily won to Christ, but some have shown much hope. By way of four concerts, a car wash, a trip to an amusement park, and the church choir, good progress has been made in increasing teen participation in the church.

Wednesday night Bible studies and the adult Sunday school class have been highlights for the many new Christians in that age-group. They are eager to learn and are finding that the Bible is a great source of strength, encouragement, and truth. It has been especially exciting to see the growth of these adults. Many of them have just become Christians since we arrived, and already they are filling places of responsibility as choir and board members, Sunday school teachers, and ushers. When we leave, they will also be taking over our responsibilities.

In all aspects of our ministry this summer, we have seen God's hand at work. We have been learning that we should not limit God. Far too often we have found ourselves underestimating the power of God's love. He really does hear and answer prayer. Miracles are nothing new to us anymore. As Rev. Hunter would say, it has truly been a "GLORIOUS" summer.

—reported by Kim Rice, Team Coordinator
SWAZILAND FIELD CHURCH GROWTH AND EVANGELISM COUNCIL MEETS

The fourth annual meeting of the Church Growth and Evangelism Council of the Swaziland field was held in Manzini September 21-22.

The council is involved in the work of the two districts in Swaziland, and also in Bible college, radio broadcasts, and the production of literature in the isiSwati and Zulu languages for use in both Swaziland and the Republic of South Africa. Four radio programs are broadcast in African languages and one in Indian English over Trans World Radio in Swaziland in addition to the regular Showers of Blessing program and a Portuguese language program. All these are coordinated through the council in cooperation with other fields.

The report of the mission director reflected growth on the two districts in the past year. The new district in the southern part of Swaziland has four organized churches, with two more soon to be organized. The membership increased from 107 in 1978 to 129 in 1979 and the total giving increased by more than 200 percent. □

—reported by D. H. Spencer

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EASTERN NAZARENE COLLEGE GETS GOVERNMENT GRANT

Eastern Nazarene College has received a grant of $200,000 from Title III to support activities at the campus in Career Counseling and Placement, development of new majors in Physical Education and Computer Science, and to launch new programs in developmental studies and continuing edu-
ACTS 29—SUMMER REPORT

"I have begun an important area of discipline in scripture memorization, prayer, encouragement and moderation in my life. Some of the priorities of my life have been rearranged into an order more suited to God’s will for me."

"ACTS 29 is a living ministry . . . we lived the WORD daily to over 100 people where we worked. We made an impact on their lives."

"ACTS 29 came at the right time in my life."

"I learned what it really means to be ‘the church.'"

These are a few of the written comments received from the 12 students selected as participants in a unique training program sponsored by the Department of Youth Ministries as a part of its Youth in Mission Summer Ministry program.

The location of this Christian Discipling Community was Colorado Springs. Known as ACTS 29 (the continuing story of the church in action), this program focuses on leadership training through the principles of Christian discipleship. Not only are the students challenged to develop their own personal ministry skills but also they receive training in "equipping others."

The ACTS 29 program demands the exercise of Christian discipline and commitment. Students involved are engaged in formal training activity, but in addition work 40 hours a week at a secular job endorsing over their paychecks to ACTS 29, thereby earning their own support.

ACTS 29 is another indication of the Department of Youth Ministries’ commitment to "channel the energy of youth into the evangelistic mission of the church."

—Reported by Norm Shoemaker, Program Director

(Not pictured are Betty Cogan—Mount Vernon Nazarene College; and Group Leaders Mike and Darlene Brooks, director of Youth Ministries, Kankakee, Ill., College Church.)

Missouri District Superintendent HOSPITALIZED

Rev. Arthur Mottram, superintendent of the Missouri District, was hospitalized in mid-September with chest pains. However, doctors said it was not a heart attack but rather over-acidity in his system which caused an electronic palpitation of the heart, resulting in an irregular heartbeat.

There was no damage to his heart, but rest and limited activity are required.

—NCN

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ATTIG, WALTER: Argentina, IL. Nov. 7-18: Baraboo, WI. Nov. 27-Dec. 2.

BAKER, RICHARD: Peterstown, WV. Nov. 6-11: Pineville, WV. Nov. 13-18. SETH. WV. Nov. 21-Dec. 2.

BALLARD, DON: Tuscola, IL. Nov. 6-11: Cowan, TN. Nov. 13-18.

BEARDEN, LESLIE: Loveland, OH. (First). Nov. 6-11: Charleson, WV (First). Nov. 21-Dec. 2.


BROOKS, GERALD & JUNE: Dodge City, KS. (First). Nov. 6-11: Hereford, TX (First). Nov. 13-18: Amarillo, TX (First). Nov. 21-Dec. 2.


PFEIFFER, DON: Cincinnati, OH (Prague). Nov. 6-11: Ashland, KY (First). Nov. 13-18; Marseilles, IL. Nov. 27-Dec 2.
POINTER, LLOYD: Ely, NV. Nov. 11-18.
QUALLS, PAUL: Woodbridge, VA (First). Nov 6-11: Hernandez FL (First). Nov 13-18; Rawurna, OH (First). Nov 20-25.
ROTHWELL, MEL-THOMAS: Waukefe, NE (Eden Moss). Nov 4-11.
SCARLETT, DON, SR.: Punta Gorda Fl. Nov 25-Dec 2
SCHMIDT, GEORGE: Glendale, CA (First). Nov 6-11; Reserved. Nov. 13-18; Plano, KS. Nov 27-Dec 2.
SMITH, CHARLES HASTINGS: Pasadena, TX (First). Nov 7-11; Austin, TX (Grace). Nov 14-18; Beaumont, TX (First). Nov 20-25; DeRidder, LA (First). Nov 28-Dec 2.
STARK, EDDIE & MARGARET: Duncan, OK (Oak Ave.). Nov 6-11; Fargo, OK. Nov 13-18; George, OK. Nov 25.
STEIGEL, DAVID: Tyler, TX (Calvary). Nov 6-11.
STEVENS, GEORGE: Great Falls, OH. Nov 6-11; Calcutta, OH. Nov 13-18; Kittanning, PA (First). Nov 20-25; Cape Elizabeth, ME. Nov 27-Dec 2.
STREET, DAVID: Murray, KY. Oct 30-Nov 4; Salem, OR. Nov 5-11.
SWANSON, ROBERT: Sandwich, IL. Nov 6-11.
TAYLOR, EMNITT E.: Eagle, ID. Nov 6-11; Kuna, ID. Nov 13-18; Robeline, LA (Friendship). Nov 27-Dec 2.
TAYLOR, ROBERT: Richmond, IN (St. Paul). Nov 6-11.
WADE, E. BRUCE: Dallas, TX. Nov 27-Dec 2.
WINSTON, MARVIN: Lafayette CA (Oct 30-Reserved Nov 20-25.
ZELL, R. E. & MRS.: Cheynne, WY (First). Nov 6-11; Forrestburg, TX (Praire Point). Nov 27-Dec 2.

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CHURCH PLANTERS SEMINAR HELD

One hundred ninety-four district superintendents, pastors, and laymen attended the opening session of the Church Planters Seminar, August 21-23, in Eugene, Ore. Dr. Raymond W. Hurn, executive director of Nazarene Home Missions, applauded the efforts of the 26 Oregon pioneer church planters as a return to the spontaneous church planting of the early Nazarenes.

Much of the seminar spoke to the technical aspects of the plan—research, biblical imperatives, creating a climate for growth, leadership, support systems, master planning, etc. But two highlights of the seminar came when the church planters told of their experiences and later when the seminar participants responded to the “new direction” of the Oregon experience.

Rev. Marselle Knight, superintendent of the largely rural Kansas District, said: “This seminar has done wonders for me. It has built my faith.”

The Kansas District is observing its 70th anniversary year and Rev. Knight commented that the spontaneous growth envisioned in church planting “could be the greatest thing that has ever happened to us.”

Rev. Wilbur Brannon, pastor of the 550-member Sacramento Liberty Towers Church, voiced the feelings of several pastors when he commented, “The end result will be growth for everyone.”

Superintendent Ken Vogt of the Washington Pacific District, noting that the church planting project was launched without the need for advance money for property or salaries, said: “No longer can we hide behind the fact that we do not have enough money; local churches can no longer hide behind the idea that they are not large enough to sponsor a church.”

The 26 church planters were recruited to plant churches by District Superintendent Carl Clendenen without promise of salary or a place to preach. Only communities of unchurched people and a plan for staged church planting caught the imagination of the dedicated young couples who were first introduced to the Oregon Pacific District at the district assembly in May, 1979.

The district provided housing, food, and tactical support of the pioneer church planters as they set to work. Most of the new churches are attempt ed as home Bible studies. The trained pastors, however, move as quickly as possible into regular worship services on Sunday.

“Even ‘unchurched people’ seem to know that church is supposed to be on Sunday,” said Rev. Clendenen, and “seem to mistrust a church that doesn’t have at least some sort of worship service.”

Door-to-door canvassing is the primary means by which the church planters have introduced their new church to the community. Approximately 40 doors knocked upon results in one prospect.

One of the wives said, “I have a new appreciation for what the Bible means when it says that Christ was ‘despised and rejected of men’ after being rejected time after time at the front door.”

But just when things looked blackest, the church planters often discovered a special blessing. For example, one woman greeted them with joy. She had confessed her faith in Christ and become a Christian while watching a television program. She was just waiting for someone to talk to about it. She will be baptized when the infant church holds its first baptismal service in a few weeks.

On another occasion, one of the young church pastors was counseling with a woman who had been seeking help from God. She was uncertain about how to “talk to” God.

“What do you call Him?” she asked.

“What do you mean?” asked the pastor.

“When you talk to Him, what do you call Him?” she repeated.

Understanding, the pastor responded, “Sometimes we say, ‘Our Heavenly Father’; sometimes we call Him ‘Lord’; at other times, ‘God.’”

“I see,” she replied. “I knew He must have a name but I didn’t know what it was, so I called Him Ralph.”

The astonished pastor assured her that God heard her prayer even when addressed as “Ralph,” but that it was church etiquette to call Him God.

One resident refused to open the screen door, but as the church planter talked about the family-oriented nature of the Church of the Nazarene, she invited him in. She accepted the Lord and wants to be baptized. She also has asked that the plan of salvation be presented to her three children.

Attendance has been erratic but on the whole very encouraging.

The Sheldon church, which meets at Cal Young Junior High School, started with a Sunday morning attendance of 36. Since then it has registered a high of 41, a low of 19.

Pastor Earl Hinkle teaches an adult Sunday school class emphasizing methods of Bible study; his wife, Marilyn, teaches a children’s class in the
hallway. The faculty lounge becomes the nursery.

Worship is held in the gym surrounded by junior high school track records. An overhead projector is used in place of hymnals. Choruses and special songs are used along with the traditional hymns.

Each Thursday the church planters meet to share experiences and to receive training from the sponsoring agency.

Each new church is under the sponsorship of a sponsoring agency, usually another local church. In the case of Eugene, Ore., a consortium of local churches sponsors the total church planting project known as the Eugene-Springfield project.

Dr. Paul Schwada, retired college administrator from Olivet Nazarene College, acts as project coordinator. His son, Ron, is the research specialist helping to provide support for the new church planting activities. Mark Byer is the church growth consultant, employed by the district to assist the young churches in planning their future.

Dr. Paul Schwada, coordinator of the Eugene-Springfield Project, gives details of the support system.

Key to the church planting process is the idea of staged growth.

The first stage is some form of home Bible study. When the group has sufficient self-identity to declare its intention of becoming a fully organized church, it is deemed a preaching point. The district then helps formulate a master plan for development based on the needs and desires of the group.

When the master plan is approved, the group is known as a chapel until it becomes self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating. Then it is organized by the district as a new church.

Rev. Kent Anderson, pastor of Eugene, Ore., First Church, tells how the idea was conceived to impact the Eugene-Springfield area for Christ.

The Oregon church planters and their locations are: Albert and Pauline Bachus, Estacada; Larry and Sheryl Castor, Springfield; David and Debbie Chulak, Springfield; Leroy and Karen Coast, Eugene; Curtis and Judy Coombs, Wilsonville; Tom and Judy Culp, Central Point; David and Linda Halverson, Eugene; Bob and Phyllis Heneghan, Redmond; Earl and Marilyn Hinkle, Eugene; Gary and Linda Lewallen, West Linn; David and Katie Livingston, Florence; Maynard and Karen Mahlen, Central Point; David and Lee McGuire, Veneta; Horace and Virginia McPherson, Drain; Martin and Mary Micale, Junction City; Bob and Arlene Mitchell, Eugene; Ron and Melva Newton, Forest Grove; James and Louise Raum, Lakeview; Hollis and Linda Runge, Springfield; David and Trudy Scharff, Eugene; Bob and Edna Scheifers, Sandy; John and Marilyn Spohn, Eugene; Duane and June Tipton, Eugene; Randy and Janet Tipton, Springfield; Les and Gloria Wilhelm, Reedsport; and Leonard and Linda Sundvall, Sisters.

Rev. Kent Anderson, pastor of Eugene, Ore., First Church, is chairman of the Oregon Pacific District Church Growth Committee. He and Rev. Clendenen act as spokesmen for the plan at most regional meetings where people ask about the plan.

Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Ardrey, district superintendent of the Canada West District, visit with Mrs. Rhoda Olsen, longtime general president of the Nazarene World Missionary Society and member of the General Board. Mrs. Olsen is a member of the Eugene First Church and served for many years on the general Department of Home Missions.

Rev. and Mrs. Alexander Ardrey, district superintendent of the Canada West District, visit with Mrs. Rhoda Olsen, longtime general president of the Nazarene World Missionary Society and member of the General Board. Mrs. Olsen is a member of the Eugene First Church and served for many years on the general Department of Home Missions.

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DISTRICT ASSEMBLY REPORTS

MISSOURI
The 69th annual assembly of the Missouri District met at Cape Girardeau, Mo. District Superintendent Arthur E. Mottram, completing the second year of an extended term, reported the organization of the Malden Heritage Church. Presiding General Superintendent Eugene L. Stoword ordained William J. Patton, Jan D. Sailors, Donald V. Wells, J. Kenneth Williams, and Randall G. Wright. Elders Douglas Clem, Chester Kneir, and Harol D. Wright, and laymen Al Bain, Don Cork, and Jack Whaley were elected to the Advisory Board.

Mrs. Arthur E. Mottram was reelected NWMS president; Rev. Frank Whittaker, chairman of the Board of Christian Life, were reelected to their respective positions.

SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA
The 28th annual assembly of the Southeast Oklahoma district convened in Henryetta, Okla. District Superintendent Wendell O. Paris, completing the second year of an extended term, reported.

Dr. William M. Greathouse, presiding general superintendent, ordained Kirby Hughes and Jerome J. Johnson.

Elected to the Advisory Board were elders James M. Stewart and Clifford Joines and laymen Bob Ketchum and Lenard Stubbs.

Presiding General Superintendent Wendell O. Paris, completing the second year of an extended term, reported.

Dr. William M. Greathouse, presiding general superintendent, ordained Kirby Hughes and Jerome J. Johnson.

Elected to the Advisory Board were elders James M. Stewart and Clifford Joines and laymen Bob Ketchum and Lenard Stubbs.

LAWRENCE TAYLOR from evangelism, Coloma, Wis.

REV. PHILIP DOYLE has pastored the Birdsboro, Pa. church for the past few years and is now entering the field of evangelism. He is a capable evangelist, having spent many of his years of ministry in the evangelistic field. Over 25 summers were spent in camp meetings for various denominations. You will find him particularly refreshing. He is well liked and well respected on the Philadelphia District and I recommend him to you and your church. He can be contacted at Rte. 2, Box 136 B, Walnutport, PA 18086 —Paul D. Mangum, Philadelphia district superintendent.

MOVING MISSIONARIES:
ED BOWADY, Papua New Guinea. Field Address: P.O. Box 456, Mount Hagen, W.H.P., Papua New Guinea.

REV. THOMAS BLAXTON, who organized the Keystone Church of the Nazarene in Oknawa, would like to hear from anyone who united with that church in 1962 or 1963, or who attended its services prior to the date of organization. September 16, 1962. He can be contacted at 403 E. Spruce Dr., Yukon, OK 73099.

RECOMMENDATIONS
REV. PHILIP DOYLE has pastored the Birdsboro, Pa. church for the past few years and is now entering the field of evangelism. He is a capable evangelist, having spent many of his years of ministry in the evangelistic field. Over 25 summers were spent in camp meetings for various denominations. You will find him particularly refreshing. He is well liked and well respected on the Philadelphia District and I recommend him to you and your church. He can be contacted at Rte. 2, Box 136 B, Walnutport, PA 18086 —Paul D. Mangum, Philadelphia district superintendent.

FOR THE RECORD

MOVING MINISTERS:
FRED W. BATES IV from Atlantic (Va.) First to Westland (Mich.) First
A. MICHAEL BROWN from associate, Tipp City, Ohio, to First to Livonia, Mich.

REV. THOMAS BLAXTON, who organized the Keystone Church of the Nazarene in Oknawa, would like to hear from anyone who united with that church in 1962 or 1963, or who attended its services prior to the date of organization. September 16, 1962. He can be contacted at 403 E. Spruce Dr., Yukon, OK 73099.

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I am happy to state that REV. L. J. CHAPMAN has entered the field of evangelism. I would recommend him as a capable evangelist. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 44 Bethany, OK 73008. —M. Bert Daniels, Southwest Oklahoma district superintendent.

REV. CARL BUNCH, 4413 Edison, Houston, TX 77009, is available for weekend or longer revivals. A strong preacher with many years' experience as a successful pastor, he will be a help to any size church.—D. W. Thaxton, Houston district superintendent.

It is our pleasure to recommend JIM and EVA DAVID LINDA to the field of song evangelism. This talented couple enters the field following successful years in local church music ministry. Write Jim Callihan, 13 California Ave, St. Louis, MO 63139; telephone 935-820-108. —J. V. Morsch, Central Florida district superintendent.

I heartily recommend EVANGELIST J. O. FULLER to all Nazarene churches everywhere. Rev. Fuller has wide experience in conducting revivals in several holiness denominations. He is a commissioned evangelist on the Georgia District Assembly. I am happy to recommend him to serve as evangelist in any of our churches. His past experience as pastor and evangelist qualify him to be of great blessing and help to the churches and people to whom he will minister. He may be contacted at 9880 Avondale Ln, Traverse City, MI 49684. —Harry T. Stanley, Michigan district superintendent.

It is a privilege to recommend REV. BARRY WHETSTONE to the field of evangelism. He is a gifted preacher and an effective soul winner. He may be contacted at 926 Brookfield St., Youngstown, OH 44512.—James E. Hunton, Illinois district superintendent.

REV. GARNETT MITCHELL has served fruitfully for a number of years on the Illinois District. He is known as a man of prayer and as a good preacher. He has entered the field of evangelism. You may contact him at Box 97–A, Jonesboro, IL 62952.—James E. Hunton, Illinois district superintendent.

Evangelists may be reached through the Department of Evangelism's toll-free number, 800-821-2154.

VITAL STATISTICS

BONEITA MARQUART, EDUCATOR, DIES

Boneita Marquart, 70, Bourbonnais, Ill., died August 30 while in Indianapolis. She was born Dec. 11, 1908, in East Liverpool, Ohio, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Yule. She attended Eastern Nazarene College, Wollaston, Mass. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1932. She taught English and music in East Liverpool from 1932 to 1935. She was married to Linford A. Marquart, July 25, 1935, and they moved to Wollaston, Mass. Professor and Mrs. Marquart moved to Bourbonnais in 1940 when he became head of the Social Science Department at Olivet Nazarene College. The couple had no children.

Mrs. Marquart had taught in the Bradley, Ill., school system for 20 years. She earned a Masters of Education degree from the University of Illinois in 1957 and began teaching at Olivet Nazarene College the same year. She was the organizer of the Curriculum Center at Olivet Nazarene College. The center offers a complete curriculum of primary and elementary school books for groups of teachers and college students. Mrs. Marquart had written and illustrated many Christmas programs which have been published. She has prepared and illustrated lectures with film slides and posters.

She was a member of the Kankakee College Church, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the Association of Childhood Education.

She was also a member of the International Reading Association, Business and Professional Women, the Chicago Area ACE, the Illinois Education Association and National Education Association. Phi Delta Lambda Honor Society, and the Kankakee Christian Women's Club.

Survivors include her husband; 1 son, L. Selden Marquart; Kankakee County Chief probation officer and director of alumni, Olivet Nazarene College; 1 grandchild; and 2 sisters, Florence Tackett and Eleanor Bennett, both of East Liverpool, Ohio. Her parents and one brother are deceased.

The funeral was September 4 at the Kanka­kee, Ill., College Church, with Rev. E. Wayne Speakman, Rev. Jay Baynun, and Dr. Leslie Parratt officiating. Burial was in Mound Grove Gardens.

DEATHS

MRS. FLORENCE CHAMBERS, 84, died Sept. 1 in Langdale, Ala. Funeral services were conducted at the Fairfax, Ala., church by Rev. Leroy Shipley. She is survived by 3 sons, Samuel, Raymond, and Leon, 1 daughter, Mary Hamby; 8 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great-grandchildren. LLOYD A CRACKER, 85, died Aug. 19 in Baldwin Park, Calif. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Vernon Kutz. Surviving are his wife, Maude, one son, Richard, one daughter, Jean Kimble; and four grandchildren.

MRS. JEWELL FERRIS, 56, died Sept. 17 in Redwood City, Calif. Funeral services were conducted by District Superintendent Robert Scott, her brother; Rev. Paul Benefiel, district superintendent of Los Angeles District; and Pastor J. D. Wadley. She is survived by her husband, Robert; three daughters, Pamela Potter, Bobette Selig, and Jodi Saline; and her brother, GEORGE GRAWBURG, SR. 89, died Aug. 10 in Ontario, Calif. Funeral services were conducted by Dr. Robert F. Dennis. He is survived by his wife, Loretta, three children, Rev. George, Jr., Osella Walker, and Russell; five grand­children; and five great-grandchildren.

HATTIE PEARL HUGHES, 87, died Aug. 30 in Hattiesburg, Miss., Emmanuel Church by Rev. Richard Boone. Survivors include 4 sons, James, William, Hardy, and Silas; 3 daughters, Ruth Dau­benschpeck, Pearl Newell, and Geneva Ward; 16 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; 2 sis­ters; and 2 brothers.

MRS. BELLE MEADOWS, 81, died Aug. 7 in Lawrenceville, Ill. Funeral services were con­ducted by Rev. Edward Eichenberger. She is survived by one son, Harold; one daughter, Lorene; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

ANNA ESTHER SCHLENZ, 84, died Sept. 9 in Whittier, Calif. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Charles W. Ogden. She is sur­vived by her husband, Earnest; one daughter, Esther Brown; and 4 sons, Roy, Paul, Walter, and John.

FRAK HERNSTREICH, 82, died Aug. 20 in Boise, Idaho. British Columbia district funeral services were conducted by Rev. Roy G. Hall. Survivors include his wife, Lou; one brother; and two sisters.

EDWIN W. WOLFE, 45, died Aug. 28 in Bur­bank, Calif. Funeral services were conducted by Revs. Earl Lee, Robert Griffith, and John Dixon. He is survived by his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Peter J. Wolfe. four brothers; and one sister.

BIRTHS

to REV. A TIMOTHY AND MARDELLE (YOUNG) BESS, Morgantown, W.Va., a girl, Erin Joy, Aug. 15 to PAUL AND WYNELL (MORTIMEYER) CAR­RUTHERS, Eagle River, Alaska, a boy, Marc Andrew, Sept. 14 to MIKE AND MITSY (WOOD) COLLINS, Nashville, Tenn., a boy, Scott Michael, July 14 to JEFFREY AND JOYCE (COLLINS) COPEN­HAVER, Dayton, Ohio, a boy, Douglas Jay, Aug. 15 to DAVID AND EDA (KILFOIL) CORRIGAN, Oklahoma City, Okla., a boy, Joshua Mark, Aug. 2 to REV. ROBERT AND TERRI (DONAHAY) DODD, Xenia, Ohio, a girl, Jennifer Elizabeth, Aug. 15 to DAVID AND YOVA (MOORE) DUNCAN, Columbus, Ohio, a boy, Brent Scott, Aug. 15

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USE SPECIAL ORDER COUPON ON PAGE 20

NOVEMBER 1, 1979 29
POLLS REVEALS LIBERAL BELIEFS. According to a recent Christianity Today report, a poll of 10,000 Protestant clergymen conducted by sociologist Jeffrey Hadden brought 7,441 replies.

Asked if they accepted Jesus' physical resurrection as a fact, 51 percent Methodists, 35 percent United Presbyterians, 30 percent Episcopalians, 33 percent American Baptists, 13 percent American Lutherans, and 7 percent Missouri Synod Lutherans said, "No."

Asked if they believed in the virgin birth of Jesus, 60 percent Methodists, 44 percent Episcopalians, 49 percent Presbyterians, 34 percent Baptists, 19 percent American Lutherans, and 5 percent Missouri Synod Lutherans said, "No."

Asked if they believed in evil demon power in the world today, 62 percent Methodists, 37 percent Episcopalians, 47 percent Presbyterians, 33 percent Baptists, 14 percent American Lutherans, and 9 percent Missouri Synod Lutherans said, "No."

Asked if they believed that the Scriptures are the inspired and inherent Word of God in faith, history, and secular matters, 87 percent Methodists, 95 percent Episcopalians, 82 percent Presbyterians, 67 percent American Baptists, 77 percent American Lutherans, and 24 percent Missouri Synod Lutherans said, "No."

An example of permissiveness in the pulpit is Dr. Joseph C. Weber, professor of biblical theology at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., who suggested "there may be cases in which sexuality can occur outside of marriage." When the admonition to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind" was quoted to Dr. Weber, he replied, "You cannot command anyone to love. That is not any kind of commandment God would make."

CANADIAN RELIGIOUS PICTURE SEEN AS "RADICALLY ALTERED." Over one half of Canada's population has no vital connection with any church, according to Dr. Dennis Oliver, retiring director of Canadian Church Growth Centre. He predicted that "increasing numbers of Canadians will become European-style secularists, for whom theistically-oriented beliefs and behavior have become irrelevant."

Although only six percent of Canadians indicated in the 1971 census that they had no religious affiliation, Dr. Oliver contends that reliable research indicates that the actual figure is much larger. The Presbyterian minister, who is now a Toronto church growth coordinator for his denomination, maintains that the new reality should convey a sobering message to the country's church leaders.

Secular indifference to organized religion is not only the accepted "faith option" of most Canadians," he stated. "It might well be the most rapidly growing." Any realistic evangelistic strategy and church growth programmes must recognize the fact, he said.

Oliver further pointed out that "heterodox sects," such as Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses, probably have a total national weekly attendance of 386,500 (1.6 percent of the population). The Jehovah's Witnesses alone, he added, had a total weekly attendance which exceeded that of Canadian Lutherans, Reformed churches (Presbyterian and Christian Reformed), Mennonites, or non-Pentecostal holiness bodies. The Jehovah's Witnesses' average weekly attendance figure, he contended, was 93 percent of the reported Anglican weekly attendance. The Anglican Church is the second largest Protestant denomination in Canada.
RENEE V'ANNE SMITH and TERRY WAYNE BULLOCK at Pueblo, Colo., Sept 1

ANNIVERSARIES

MR. AND MRS. CLIFFORD CLEGG of the Rotan, Tex., church observed their 50th anniversary September 16. A reception was held in their honor at the community center. They have three daughters, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

MR. AND MRS. FORD HAMILTON celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, June 2, at the Christian Activities Building of the Louisville, Ky., Fairdale Church, where they are members. The celebration was hosted by the ladies of the senior adult group of their church. Mr. Hamilton is SAM director for the Kentucky District. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

DR. AND MRS. WILLIAM N. HARRINGTON of Gainesville, Fla., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, August 12. A program and reception in Gainesville First Church was given in their honor by their children: Mrs. Russel (Jean) Smith of Arlington, Tex.; Bill Harrington of Hollywood, Fla.; Earl Harrington of Arlington, Tex.; and Ray Harrington of Bakersfield, Calif. The Harringtons have 10 grandchildren. They served pastors in Jackman, Me.; Derry, N.H.; Melrose, Mass.; Greensboro, N.C.; Gainesville First and Archer, Fla. For 11 years he served in the field of evangelism and was active as a visiting chaplain at Florida State Prison. For 11 years she served in the field of evangelism and was active as a visiting chaplain at Florida State Prison. MR. AND MRS. KURT JOHNSON of Beaverton, Ore., celebrated their 50th anniversary August 25, at the Portland Rose City Church, where they are members. The reception was hosted by their daughter, Mrs. Joseph (Daralene) Valon of Beaverton.

The Johnsons began attending the Church of the Nazarene 40 years ago at Kadama, Wash. They have been custodians of the Rose City Church for a number of years.

MR. AND MRS. JACK WHITSETT of Tulsa, Okla., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, September 2, at the Central Church. In the morning worship service the Whitsetts, charter members of Central Church, were presented a framed copy of the church's certificate of incorporation.

An afternoon reception was held in their honor, hosted by their children and grandchildren. They are Don, Eleanor, John, and Jeff Whitsett of Bethany, Okla., and Tom, Pat, James, and Brad Whitsett of Oklahoma City.

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CONVERSATION

CONVERSATION

The Answer

Would you please help with the answer to this question: If Adam and Eve had never sinned in the Garden of Eden, would they have lived forever? What scriptures support your answer?

I believe they would have lived forever had they not sinned. Romans 5:12 says that "through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned" (NASB). Here death is plainly stated to be the consequence of sin. The inference is, no sin, no death. See also Romans 6:23; James 1:15.

Do you think that people who are married on earth will be married in heaven, or will we all be as brothers and sisters?

No, I don't think the husband-wife relationship will continue in heaven. I base my understanding on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 22:23-32. Those who have been long and happily married may find it hard to accept, but we may rest assured that God's plans for us in heaven will perfectly satisfy.

Please answer this question in the "Herald of Holiness" as soon as possible: Who was Cain's wife? (Genesis 4:17). Or should we not interpret the opening chapters of Genesis (1—11) quite as literally as we were once accustomed to?

I do not see the connection between your two questions, but I will try to answer both as best I can.

Cain evidently married one of his sisters (see Genesis 5:4). Depending on the age at which he married he could even have married a niece, but sister is more likely.

As for how literally we should interpret the early chapters of Genesis, I recommend one of the old rules of interpretation: "When the plain sense of a passage makes good sense, seek no other sense." Where an account is rendered in figurative language we must avoid being too literal. Much of Genesis 1—11, it seems to me, makes good sense as straightforward narrative.

Will you explain something to me, please? Just how are we expected to "praise the Lord"? I am sure it goes deeper than an occasional "Praise the Lord" or "Glory Hallelujah."

This seems like a very childish question but I would really like to know.

According to the Bible we can praise God with words (Psalms 106:48), in songs (Psalms 9:2; 43:4), and upon musical instruments (Psalms 150:3-5). Israel also praised Him 'in the dance' (Psalms 149:3; 150:4) but our church has taken a dim view of that.

God is to be praised with the mouth (Psalms 63:3; 145:21; Hebrews 13:15), with the heart (Psalms 111:1; 119:7), and with the life (Isaiah 43:21).

Praise is often associated in Scripture with thanksgiving, and there are more references to praising God in song than in any other way.

If someone in the church is engaged in a sin against which the Bible speaks many times, and a person brings it to the attention of the pastor, not in order to cast the offender out but to have the pastor deal with them, should the informant be rebuked for not minding his own business?

If so, how is 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 to be explained? Aren't we to be concerned, or are we to keep quiet and go along with whatever wrong is going on?

The passage in 1 Corinthians calls for the discipline of a wicked person by withholding fellowship from him. Certainly, if a flagrant sin is being indulged by a church member, the pastor should be informed. Concern for the purity and integrity of congregational life is commendable. An informant, of course, should be sure he is relating facts and not conveying rumor or gossip.

NOVEMBER 1, 1979
Amelia, Ohio: The church had a revival with Evangelists Jerry and Mady Cline. There were seekers at the altar every night. On the last Sunday night, both the altar and front seats were filled with seekers. On the following Sunday, District Superintendent Dallas Baggett and Pastor Roy Wells received 14 new members into the church. Thirteen of these were by profession of faith, the largest number ever to be received at one time. All except one of these were young adults.
—Roy Wells, pastor

Lewistown, Mont.: Bonanza Hills had a revival with Evangelist A. A. Miller and family. One young rancher was converted. A family that had decided to move away for a job that paid more than double what they were getting, decided God wanted them here and unpacked. Another family that left the church six months ago returned and old hurts were healed. The Sunday following the revival, the pastor received 10 new members into the church. Nine were by profession of faith.
—Pat Wisenbaker, pastor

Hot Springs, Ark.: First Church had one of the best revivals in years with Evangelists Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Brooks. Eight people were saved and 15 were sanctified. Many other seekers found definite victory over various problems. There were seekers in every service.
—Fred Ferraez, pastor

THE CHURCH SCENE

NEW LIFE FOR THE TALIHINA CHURCH

The Talihina, Okla., church had experienced an exodus of members through the years until six members were actively involved, the church building was broken down, and the property was unsightly. The city refused to leave gas and electricity connected. I went to Talihina to officially close the church.

On the way, the Lord seemed to change my mind and plans. In meeting with the church members, we asked for the privilege of trying to get a place to meet and find a pastor. That
night as we tore down an ugly Nazar­
rene Church sign and closed the door,
God began to work. We got permission
to use the new Talihina Community
Building every Sunday. It had an
air-conditioned room and heat in win­
ter, supplied for $10.00 per Sunday.

After a visit to Colorado Springs and
the Bible college, we met Rev. and
Mrs. Paul Clifford, graduates of NBC.
I presented the situation to them. I
left thinking they would not come, but
a week passed by and Rev. Clifford, a
young man of 25, called and said God
wanted him to take the Talihina
church. He would receive less than
$100 a week to live on, and a parson­
age.

A friend 200 miles away, with a rela­
tive in the church, told us he wanted
to help get a church in Talihina. He
promised $10,000 and up to this writ­
ing, he has contributed over $20,000.
Six local churches have joined in the
efforts to start a resurrection and have
supplied money for a decent salary
and care of the parsonage family.

God began to work in Talihina six
years ago when the district superin­
tendent drove through the city to find
a likely place to build. A fine site of
three acres was discovered on a main
highway, surrounded by beautiful
homes. All utilities were on the prop­
erty which had good access and was
just across from the owner’s modern
ranch home.

When we approached him, he said,
“I don’t want to sell now. My sister
owns half and she doesn’t want to
sell.”

But when we needed the land, God
went to work again.

At first, the sister was not interest­
ed. After a trip to her home in Tulsa
and an emphatic NO, the district
superintendent wrote a letter to both
parties. Something in those letters
turned them around, and in one
month we owned that beautiful site.

Though the property was appraised
at $10,000 and could have been sold
for $15,000, this Methodist family
only asked $3,000, what they had paid
20 years ago.

We sold the small lots where the
former church building stood for $3,000
and the old building was sold for $500.
God had graciously given everything
we needed and the very best.

“Men for Missions” work team
came with Mr. Sam Johnson, a con­
tactor, donating time and labor to
build the new building along with the
pastor and the district superintendent.
Additional money was furnished by
Nazarene friends, Mr. and Mrs. Paul
Williams. One hundred and nine men
came to build the church in one day!

At the close of the day, the superstruc­
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Relatives can select
just what they
want most . . .

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Some of the 109 workers who came to Talihina, Okla., to build a church in one day.

This crew of ladies cooked meals for the
109 men who built the church at Tali­
hina.
Laura Jane was dying. An insidious malignancy was rapidly deteriorating her body. Weakening day by day, her life was nearly over. The doctors said it was just a matter of time; others said she had a date with destiny. The Bible puts it like this: "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

She was raised in a family that didn't attend church. She worked, and had a home to keep spotless for a hardworking husband and two active boys. Sundays were spent visiting with friends, going to see relatives, or just staying close to home. The years passed quickly, but at 41 Laura Jane was a young woman with years to look forward to. So it seemed until that January day the doctor shook his head sadly.

The news filtered down to the rest of the family. Laura Jane was dying. The nagging thought surfaced over and over; Laura Jane didn't know the Lord as her personal Savior.

Days and weeks flew by. Each Saturday I would survey the work piling up around the house and put off until the next week a visit to Laura Jane. I, too, was a working mother and knew how easy it was to delay doing important things. My own mother in her personal Savior.

The burden was not lifted from my heart. One Saturday in June, putting thought into action, I prepared to go to Peoria, a 40-mile drive. Oddly enough, trouble dogged my path. I almost backed into a car in a parking lot, then on my way out of town I felt there was something wrong with my tires. The station attendant who checked them found the left front tire had double the amount of air needed. Was God's hand on my shoulder telling me not to go?

"Why, Lord?" I wondered, as I drove back home. If I wasn't to make the trip, someone must talk to her and pray with her. I called our pastor. Yes, he had a friend who would visit her in St. Frances Hospital.

I heard no more about that visit. July was rapidly approaching. Our reservations for Cumberland Falls State Park had been made some months before. I spoke to Laura Jane concerning the trip; she and Bill, her husband, urged me to go on with our plans. She was so weak that holding the phone and talking was an effort.

My husband, our two daughters, and I returned from vacation one week later to learn that Thursday afternoon Laura Jane had been laid to rest in a quiet country churchyard. I asked few questions, but my agony was real, my burden not lifted. Had I done my best to win her for Christ? I spoke of my fears to no one as I cried.

Months passed. In October my own beloved mother was buried on that same hillside. Mother had gone to be with the Lord, but what of Laura Jane? One of the bouquets from the profusion of Mother's flowers we placed on Laura's grave, the raw red earth mute evidence of its newness.

At a kitchen table talking to Kay, Laura's sister-in-law and my niece, I heard the news I hungered for. "I called Laura Jane several times," Kay said. "In one of our talks she said to me, 'Guess what I've found?' I thought it must be something great. To my surprise, Laura Jane said, 'I found Jesus.'"

My heart was filled. I could have sung an anthem of praise. Praise God! The news had not reached me in time to rejoice with Laura Jane, but on some brighter dawn we will rejoice together.

Later, Bill told of that visit in St. Frances Hospital. Jack Braundmeir prayed with her; Jesus met her soul's need; the work was done. Laura Jane would keep her appointment with death, and she was ready for the judgment.

More than one servant of the Lord had been obedient to help a soul into His kingdom. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither is he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

Praise God for His loving-kindness and mercy. □

By ALL MEANS... Save Some
FORMER "HERALD" EDITOR HOSPITALIZED

Dr. L. T. Corlett, former president of the Nazarene Theological Seminary, advised that his brother, Dr. D. Shelby Corlett, who served as editor of the Herald of Holiness, 1936-1948, sustained a heart attack and was hospitalized September 22 in St. Luke’s Hospital, Pasadena, Calif.

Dr. Corlett, who is 85 years of age, is now under the convalescent care of his son-in-law, Dr. Paul Chapman. He is reported to be making good progress in his recovery and is in excellent spirits.

—NCN

NAZARENE LAYMEN HONORED

Nazarene laymen are making news; one in Canada has been promoted, one in Texas recognized by a national advisory position in California; and one in Pennsylvania appointed to an advisory position in Pennsylvania. The Mercer family were members of the Nazarene Board of Visitors in the UCLA Graduate School of Management.

The board, which serves as the principal outside advisory group to the dean and the school, is a select group of distinguished financial and institutional leaders whose strong executive management perspective enables them to counsel and assist the dean in the development and direction of the Graduate School of Management. Schubert’s addition to the board brings the membership to 44.

Mr. Schubert, a Nazarene layman, is active in the local church, and in district and general activities as well.

Charles K. (Chuck) Watson, an American Airlines employee and Dallas/Fort Worth Nazarene, has been named one of the 10 Outstanding Young Men of America for 1979 by the U.S. Jaycees.

Watson received his B.S. degree from Olivet Nazarene College. Last year he participated in the Laymen’s Convention of the Church of the Nazarene in San Diego.

He has made 16 trips carrying food and medical supplies to remote parts of Haiti, visited doctors in Korea, and spent time in Peru helping to build a village church.

—NCN

DR. LAWRENCE UNDERGOES HEART SURGERY

Dr. Robert Lawrence, vice president for Academic Affairs at Mount Vernon Nazarene College, Mount Vernon, Ohio, had open heart surgery with five bypasses, October 5.

President Dr. L. Guy Nees reports that Dr. Lawrence is making normal post-surgery recovery at the Riverside Methodist hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

—NCN

NAZARENE COLLEGES’ ENROLLMENT UP

Nazarene institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada enjoy a total enrollment of 11,845 according to a report from the Department of Education and the Ministry. This is a net gain of 76 over the 1978-79 school year. Many observers had predicted a loss in college enrollments.

Olivet Nazarene College at Kankakee, Ill., led the list with an enrollment of 2,002.

Point Loma College, San Diego, was second with 1,776.

Mid-America Nazarene College, Olathe, Kans., had the largest increase—a net gain of 171.

Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, Idaho, with a net gain of 98, came close to equaling Bethany Nazarene College of Bethany, Okla.; they reported 1,332 to BNC’s 1,339.

All of the Nazarene liberal arts colleges in the United States showed increases.

—NCN

THOMAS REPLACES KRATZER ON NBC BOARD

By a mail vote the General Board elected Rev. Hoyle Thomas, district superintendent of the Intermountain District, to represent the Northwest zone on the Board of Trustees of Nazarene Bible College, Colorado Springs.

He replaced Dr. Raymond Kratzer, former district superintendent of the Northwest district, who retired last summer.

—NCN

TREVECCA CAMPAIGN NEARS GOAL

Dr. Homer Adams, president of Trevecca Nazarene College, announced that the “Wipe Out the Debt” campaign was within $79,000 of its million dollar goal. On September 27 the college paid in full its debt of $470,000 to a local bank.

Dr. Adams says that the success of the campaign means that the college is free of a major drain on its financial strength, which was heightened by high interest rates. It satisfies the demand of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which declared Trevecca’s debt a major crisis.

Increased enrollment of this fall indicates the wholehearted support of the people of the Southeast Zone for their college.

—NCN

ZAMBA DISTRICT ASSEMBLY REPORT

The fourth annual assembly of the Zambia District met at the Lusaka, Zambia, Chilenje Church. District Superintendent Nicholas Chirwa was reappointed.

Presiding Mission Director Rev. R. E. Willard was present as the district was divided into the North Zambia District and the South Zambia District. This was done under the approval of Dr. Eugene L. Stowe, general superintendent in jurisdiction.

Elected to the Advisory Board were elders John Zulu and Lamuel Banda, and laymen Stephen Shiri and Malauzi Nkhoma.

Mrs. Sheila Mwenda was elected NYI chairperson. Stephen Phiri was elected NYI chairman. A committee of three were elected to the Board of Christian Life: Peter Sakala, Bernard Musongwa, and Mrs. Phiri.
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From Foreword by HOWARD H. HAMLIN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

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*Dr. Day, nationally known for his pioneering the first coronary unit, is director of the cardiology department at Bethany Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas.

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