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HERALD of HOLINESS

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE / FEBRUARY 15, 1985

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MY GOD WILL HEAR ME!

by General Superintendent Orville W. Jenkins

THE POWER OF PRAYER, from the human viewpoint, rests in the faith and confidence of the believer that God hears and answers prayer. The knowledge that God hears our heart cries encourages us in our life of communion with our Heavenly Father. Out of our experiences of answered prayer in times past comes assurance that what we cannot do for ourselves, God can do for us.

The key to this kind of faith was expressed centuries ago by the Old Testament prophet Micah when he said, "My God will hear me" (Micah 7:7). Here we have the certainty of God's Word, and thousands have tested and tried this promise and have found and proven it to be true. True, it is sometimes difficult to realize God hears our cry. Therefore, we need to wait and ask God to reveal His nearness and make His presence known even before and as we pray.

This assurance also reveals the wondrous grace of our God—an infinite, holy God listening to the cry of a finite soul. We have assurance that the interceding Christ, who is at the right hand of the Father, also prays for us and that He imparts the Holy Spirit who indwells us and who "maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26). If we seem to have difficulty reaching through to our Heavenly Father, they can and will!

Out of this promise concerning God's faithfulness to hear our prayers comes the challenge of our responsibility. James declared, "Ye have not, because ye ask not" (4:2), and Jesus said, "Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). Any spiritual feebleness, failure in holy living, or lack of church growth challenges us to prayer. We bear responsibility for our own souls and for our fellowmen! The fact that "my God will hear me" places a great responsibility upon me and upon you who know and serve the great, living God!

This great promise enables us to face wonderful prospects with hope. The prospect of a great future is ours: Our church alive and vibrant with God's holy presence, sinners being converted and believers being sanctified wholly, Sunday Schools increasing, great growing attendance in our Sunday morning and evening services, wonderful revival spirit upon the people. This is the church that was bought with His own precious blood, and it describes the potential of every local congregation. The human price is more prayer—intercessory, prevailing, believing prayer! If we, who are God's people, are totally obedient, then He will be free to work in us and through us! Our part is to fan the fire through prayer! ☐

DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR MERCY

by STEVE WEBER

Jim Whitmer World Relief Photo



"Because you gave. . . ." Tears of sadness are being turned into tears of joy.

THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S instructions were clear: "Do convey our thanks and the thanks of the Venda people to donors who are giving to the Nazarene Hunger and Disaster Fund Relief efforts in Africa." His instructions were clear, but somewhat difficult to carry out. After all, with the headlines crying, "Ethiopia," who would be interested in the little piece of territory called Venda? Probably not one person in a dozen has ever heard of the place.

But nonetheless, that is the purpose of this article: To say thank you to all the dedicated Nazarenes who are responding to those less fortunate people who live

in desperate need in the African Republic of Venda, as well as all of the other places where the General Budget dollar is hard at work.

I can almost hear many of the readers reacting: "Wait a minute, the Nazarene Hunger and Disaster Fund isn't part of General Budget. It's an approved special, and above and beyond General Budget." Of course they are technically correct, but they are also very wrong! Did you ever wonder how all of that food gets distributed? Who drives the food trucks, rides the donkeys, and supervises the actual giving out of these lifesaving parcels of love from concerned Nazarenes?

The answer is Nazarene missionaries and Nazarene national workers, working through the almost unbelievable "delivery system" called the Church of the Nazarene. Who financed this "delivery system" of mercy? The General Budget did. Those nameless, faceless budget dollars spring to life in the form of a Nazarene missionary and national pastor "standing in the gap," delivering food and other commodities in the name of Jesus.

"Convey our thanks . . ." This type of request comes to my office quite often. Sometimes the English is unique, because it is the third or the fourth language of the writer. But these letters express a sentiment that needs to be conveyed to the entire church. Let me quote from a recent thank-you letter that came to my office from Venda: "The Church of the Nazarene is a small building but it does a lot. Long live—long live organizers." Signed: Headman Jonathan T. Nefolovhodwe, Venda, Africa.

You have seen the headlines screaming out just as I have, "Mozambique—200,000 may have died of famine," and "Ethiopia—at least 300,000 famine deaths." In the midst of such headlines, few people will ever hear or know of Headman Jonathan Nefolovhodwe, who is alive today because of the structure of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, a structure that allows us to deliver food because someone paid their General Budget. But Dale W. Stotler knows. Dale is the Nazarene missionary working with the Nazarene District Advisory Board who is distributing the mealie meal to the people in that part of Venda. Dr. Richard Zanner knows. Dr. Zanner is the regional director who is in charge of several such feeding programs all over Africa. And now you know.

The next time you feel that twinge of guilt when the TV pictures show the starving and the hungry staring at you, let me remind you of a very important fact. If your church is paying its General Budget, you have directly participated in the financing of one of the most cost-effective and efficient feeding programs carried out by any organization in the world. Hundreds of thousands of Nazarene Hunger and Disaster dollars flow through these programs each year, and the General Budget makes it all possible.

"This happened because you gave. . . ." □

STEVE WEBER is coordinator of Compassion Ministries, World Mission Division, at International Headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene in Kansas City, Missouri.

"Because YOU GAVE..."



HERALD of HOLINESS

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Letters

Please keep your letters brief (50-150 words). Letters responding to other letters are not printed. We cannot reply personally to letters not selected for this feature. Address: LETTERS, *Herald of Holiness*, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

BEACH PORN

I have read many articles stating the areas in which we should fight the influence of pornography, such as newspapers, magazines, television, etc. However, there is an area never written about that is also pornographic yet many Christians have come to accept it. I am writing about the beaches and swimming areas. Christians frequent these areas even though pornography is openly displayed all around them by the swimwear. Why do these Christians accept this display of seminudity on the beaches yet condemn it on television or in magazines? We need to be consistent and fight pornography in all areas of our lives. Yes, many Christians may consider it a sacrifice

not to frequent these swimming areas, but is it truly a sacrifice in comparison to the sacrifice our Lord made for us!

M. J. Nolasco
Los Alamitos, California

CRIMINAL INSANITY

If the antiabortionists would cry out against the taking of life in wartime, and the antiwarriors would cry out against abortion, and they would both cry out against the carnage on our highways due to drunken drivers, we would really have something.

Unfortunately, however, these three kinds of criminal insanity will continue until Christ establishes His kingdom on this earth—unless hu-

manity can deal with them the same way it dealt with slavery, abolish it without waiting for the Parousia. But maybe that is expecting too much, given the depraved condition of human nature.

Bob Mitchell
Joshua Tree, California

ULRICH ARTICLE THRILLED

"Piercing the Iron Curtain" (Nov. 1, 1984) By Robert Ulrich was perhaps "an enlightening experience" for many who read the report.

During World War II, I was a Christian soldier in the 9th Armored Infantry. We spearheaded ahead of the regular infantry, penetrating enemy positions and setting prisoners free.

(Continued on page 20)

Friend of Mine

by WILLIAM GOODMAN



DeWys Inc

HOW MANY really true friends do I have? Some estimates say that I am fortunate if I have one friend, other estimates say most people have two or three friends.

To have a friend is a fortunate status in life. Some friendships are quickly established, while others are developed over a lifetime. Some friendships remain for a lifetime while others are broken due to misunderstanding, lack of communication, trust, or respect.

Having a friend can be costly. As youngsters we hear: "I'll let you be my friend if you will tell me your secret." "You can be my friend if you let me ride your new bicycle." Teenagers lament: "Everybody is doing it and if I can't, I won't have friends." "If you're my friend, you will join me in this." "As best friends, we can really trust each other, can't we?" As adults, we are well indoctrinated with: "Birds of a feather flock together" or "They are two of a kind."

We all have our reasons for selecting particular persons for our friends. Friends provide certain things for us that we crave and need in life. There is a common bond maintained between two people that creates friendship. We admire our friend's looks, style, mannerisms, attitudes, and outlook. We respect our friend's knowledge, talents, skills, and abilities. We overlook shortcomings and faults that others see in our friends. At times, we find ourselves defending a friend's behavior.

I stood in the doorway of a house where a man was about to take his life. With weeping voice, he stated, "I

lost my best friend, now I have no one. No one likes me, no one understands me, no one cares."

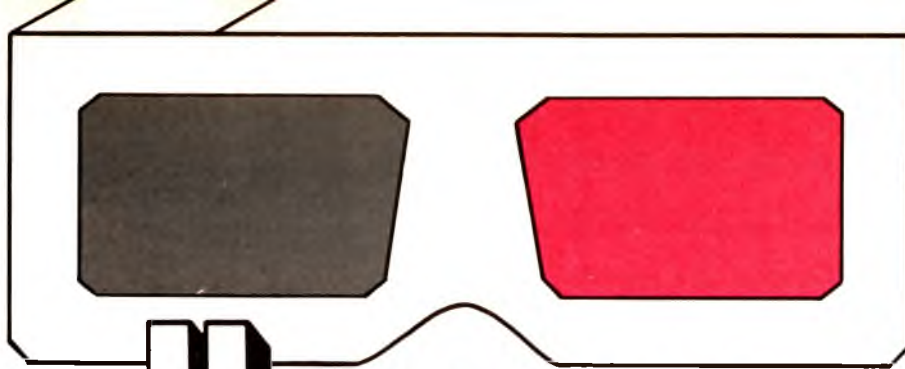
I was on the scene as a Honolulu police officer, sent on this suicide call to try to save a man's life. I found myself saying as sincerely and reassuringly as I could, "Jaime, I want to be your friend; I will be your friend; let's talk about it." He was a Filipino from a culture I didn't fully understand; I knew nothing about the man, and if I had seen him among the masses on the streets of Honolulu, I would have passed him by. The common bond that we had was our humanity, the insecurities of life, and the constant need of a friend. Jaime and I could, and did, become friends through Jesus Christ. I told Jaime about Jesus and how Jesus could and would be his friend. Jesus was with us and became a friend to Jaime.

The disciples were from diverse locations, backgrounds, and interests, yet came together bound by their mutual friend, Jesus. Jesus breaks barriers down and draws people to Him and to one another.

Jesus paid a price to be our Friend. He gave His life to win us and our affections. Just as I wanted to reach out and save Jaime from death and be his friend, Jesus reached to save us from eternal death. Those who accept Him, He calls "friends." Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:13-14).

In the bond and security of Jesus' love, we are bound together as friends in Him. As friends of Jesus, we meet together to praise, admire, and share Him. There are no cultural, language, or geographical boundaries for the friends of Jesus. He makes us one in faith, hope, and love. □

WILLIAM GOODMAN is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene and a free-lance writer. He lives in Kansas City, Missouri.



HOLINESS: A NEW DIMENSION

by JOHN W. MAY

NO EXCUSES

*Had I talent, time, and voice,
Mission work would be my choice;
But I seem so weak and slow,
Surely I could never go.*

*From the Cross I heard Christ say:
"It is better to obey."*

*Had I prestige, power, and might,
Worldwide evils I would right;
But I'm feeling mighty low
Since my neighbor wronged me so.*

*On the Cross Christ bowed His head;
"Better to forgive," He said.*

*Had I money, lands, and fame,
I would use it in His name;
But my dollars are so few
I can give but one or two.*

*From the Cross He spoke that day:
"I gave all your debt to pay."*

*Had I but ten lives to live
Each for service would I give;
But since life is so sweet to me
I can't give this one to Thee.*

*From the Cross I hear Him cry:
"Must you live, while others die?"*

*Lord, forgive excuses vain;
Speak Your will and make it plain;
Cleanse my heart from selfish sin,
Give new life and strength within.*

*'Ere another day's begun,
Help me say: "Thy will be done."*

—FLORENCE SCHUFELDT
Clay City, Indiana

BEFORE VIEWING a travelogue my wife and I were given a pair of special glasses to use. I never cease to be amazed at 3-D. Suddenly a cloud appears to be near enough to touch, or a butterfly flutters at the tip of your nose. The glasses open a whole new dimension to sight, a sensation of depth that cannot be seen with the naked eye when watching the film on the flat screen.

Holiness does that for believers without the help of 3-D glasses. Spiritual depth becomes a reality in Christian living. It is wonderful to sense this new dimension in a personal way.

Jesus talked about it in the Sermon on the Mount when He told His disciples their righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. Duty must be motivated by devotion, and the law based on love. The dry letter of the law must become a love letter of divine grace. With it Christianity and the Church become vibrantly alive.

Dr. W. T. Purkiser, in his book on the second 25 years of our church's history, separates the church universal from other institutions by saying it has a "divine dimension." It is this dimension that makes the difference between spiritual success or failure. More than special glasses, it is special grace in the sanctified life.

When Jesus commissioned the disciples in Matthew 10, He explained their mission, their method, and the miracle they would need personally. It was true they would preach, and heal, and cleanse; but He warned that He was sending them out as "sheep in the midst of wolves." Crises of human encounter and confrontation would occur, and their response would not come from a prepared brief but from the Holy Spirit. It would be the Holy Spirit that spoke in them.

Without this divine dimension in holy living we would be weak and defeated. Only as we are led by the Spirit can we successfully cope with day-to-day crises and conflicts in the world. The Holy Spirit is given in sanctification not only to deliver us *from* crises but *in* crises. This is the enabling grace that gives inner

JOHN W. MAY is superintendent of the Eastern Kentucky District and lives in Mount Sterling, Kentucky.

strength and courage. This other-worldliness in the believer helps him to conquer in life's hand-to-hand conflicts with evil and to maintain spiritual continuity. With it, he can face up to temptations, troubles, and trials.

Jesus said that His people would be witnesses unto Him to the uttermost part of the earth. He did not mean they would merely be salesmen of a new way of life but examples as well. A stumbling word is often verified by a Spirit-filled life. This makes the difference between a canned sales talk and effective witnessing.

While it is desirable that we learn the best methods of soul-winning witnessing, the miracle is when God sets fire to a common vocabulary giving it uncommon power. Arguments may be weak, phraseology may be limited, and the tongue may get in the way, but backed by the Spirit a holy witness is always effective. For example, the lisp of Uncle Bud Robinson will live forever.

It takes more than learning Roman's Royal Road by rote. Another dimension enters into it. A heart set aflame by the holy fires of heaven makes for effectiveness. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would speak in us. There can never be a cold, logical, calculating holiness; it must be a burning in the soul. Jeremiah remarked that while he was musing the fire burned.

Incidentally, Jesus prophesied that they would be

witnesses in Jerusalem (at home), in Judea and Samaria (nearby areas), and to the uttermost part of the world. Among Nazarenes this involves local, district, and worldwide interest and activity. We can always speak at home, we may need to send others to speak for us elsewhere, but witnessing goes on nevertheless.

The Lord prefaced His witnessing statement by bringing into clear light the new dimension that would make it possible. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you," He said (Acts 1:8). This is the heart of the matter. It points up the purpose, the program, and the power of Christian holiness.

This is why He "suffered without the gate." This is why the Day of Pentecost occurred; it was not merely the inauguration of the Church. This is what has been proclaimed from Nazarene and other holiness pulpits throughout the years.

This spiritual dimension is what lifts a sermon from the commonplace to the extraordinary. This is what turns an evangelistic campaign into a revival. This is the reason for altar calls to believers. More than a second trip, it is a second blessing; more than a double dip, it is a double portion.

Entire sanctification is the spiritual dimension that adds deliverance, depth, and delight to Christian living and service in practical, everyday experience. It is not viewing the world through rose-colored glasses, but a whole new dimension in life. □

NAZARENE ROOTS



Seth Cook Rees



Workers and girls at the Chicago Rest Cottage

THE MAGNITUDE OF SIN: THE POSSIBILITIES OF GRACE

"My primary object [of this book, *Miracles in the Slums*] is the honor of God by showing positively, and with emphasis, the power of Christ to save the lowest of the low, to renew the most ruined and wrecked lives, and revive and restore the most blasted hopes.

"Second, to reach the unreached, unwashed, and unchurched, and lead them to the Christ who has wrought such marvelous transformation in the lives of those whose history is given here.

"Third, to give an incentive to the faith and holy activity of good people everywhere, many of whom have never been sufficiently aroused to the sense of

the magnitude of sin, or the possibilities of grace." [From preface of Seth Cook Rees, *Miracles in the Slums*, Chicago, 1905.]

The promise of the transforming power of God's grace is the essence of the holiness message. This radical promise inspired a whole range of ministries to the world's unlovely and despised people. Seth Rees' ministry at the Chicago Rest Cottage provided an example and inspiration for similar ministries all across the nation. Many of these, including the Pilot Point Rest Cottage, became part of the Church of the Nazarene at its founding. □

STEVE COOLEY, Director of Archives

REVIVAL: HOW IT COMES

Recognition of Divine Authority

There is no point talking about revival unless we believe that God means business. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). Again He says: "If from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou shalt seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul" (Deuteronomy 4:29). A thousand other promises declare the same provision. God is for us. If we who are evil know how to give good things to our children, how much more will our Father in heaven "give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him" (Luke 11:13).

But do we really believe what He says? Obviously if there is some

ROBERT E. COLEMAN is the director of the School of World Mission and Evangelism at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois.

doubt about the integrity of His inspired Word, there is going to be little reason to measure life by it. Liberal views of Scripture, with their complimentary veneration of theological pluralism, will never produce revival.

God has sent forth His Word that unto Him every knee shall bow (Isaiah 45:23). It is not our place to dispute or minimize the message. Nor are we asked to defend what is written. The Bible is not on trial; we are. Our place is to trust and obey. Once this is settled, just as it was for Wesley, our hearts are ready for spiritual instruction.

Confession of Sin

When the Word confronts us with the holy character of God, revealed finally in Jesus Christ, our presumed righteousness is seen to be as filthy rags. The props of self-sufficiency are knocked out from under our pride. As the awful realization of sin grips our heart, we are urged to repent and throw ourselves upon the mercy of the Lord.

Any impediment to the flow of God's grace must go. Unbelief, lust, lying, ingratitude, indifference to re-

by ROBERT E. COLEMAN

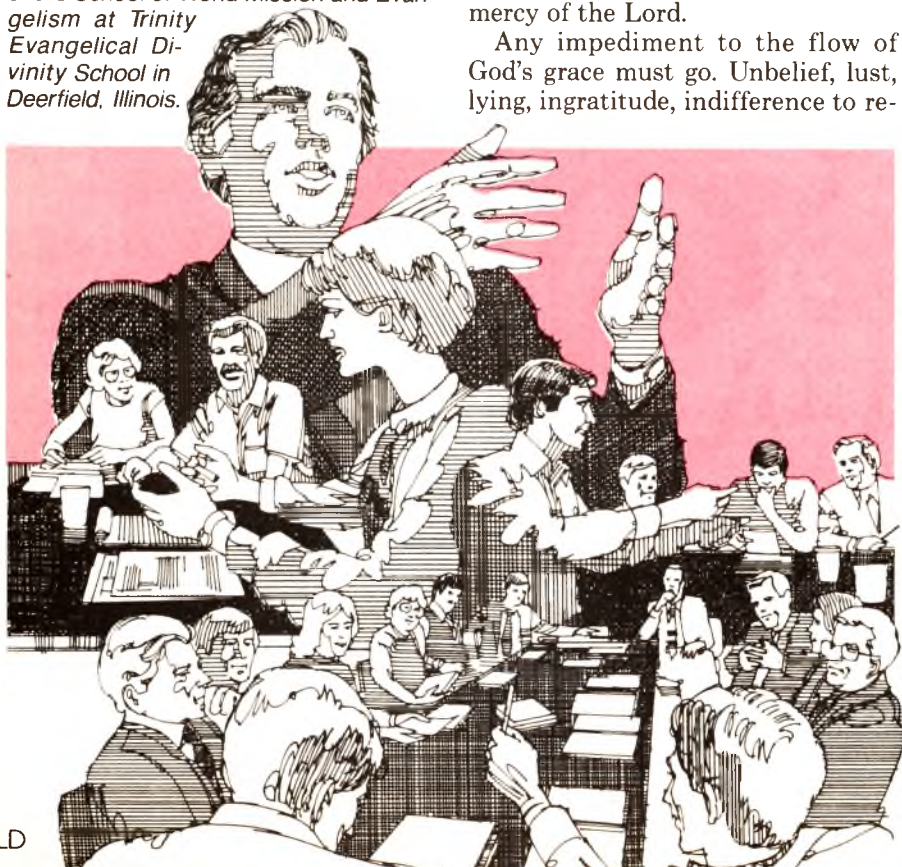
sponsibility, prayerlessness, disregard of discipline, backbiting, envy, bitterness, deceitfulness, hypocrisy—whatever it is, whether it be a deed or a disposition, if known to be contrary to the will of God, it must be confessed and forsaken. As far as we are concerned, there is a complete turning from sin. Not only must confession be made to God, but we must be willing to do all we can to make things right with those we have wronged.

Such honest heart searching applies throughout the pilgrimage of life, requiring continual correction as we grow in grace and knowledge. When our carnal self-centeredness is understood to be willful, like any other sin, it too must be left at the Cross and the cleansing blood of Christ appropriated by faith. The relentless quest for perfection, inherent especially in Methodist thought, allows no compromise with evil. Wesley, thus, exhorted his preachers to follow his example in continually emphasizing the necessity and privilege of heart holiness. "Speak and spare not, he said. For 'till you press the believers to expect full salvation now you must not look for any revival.'"¹

Prevailing Prayer

When the channel is clean, the Spirit of God can use the believing heart in true intercessory prayer. Jesus has promised: "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do . . . If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14). The "name" of Jesus, of course, is another way of expressing the character and work of the Master. To pray in His name is to pray in His Spirit, to pray in concert with His purpose and mission. When we truly take sides with heaven, and pray with Christ, there will be fruit (John 15:1-17).

Such prayer leads to ministry. We cannot expect God to pour out His



blessing unless we are willing to become involved in what He is doing. The yielding of our lives to the Spirit's direction means that we must make ourselves available for God to use in answering our prayers.

In this offering of all that we know of ourselves to do all that we know of Christ, the cross becomes a meaningful way of life. It is well enough to sing about the Cross on which the Prince of Glory died, but what is more to the point is for us to come down into the daily sufferings of this world and give our bodies in living dedication to His work of reconciliation.

A Strategy for Today

Near the close of the Conference at Leeds in 1755, Wesley was confronted with the charge that some of his preachers were not "alive" as they once were. Though the report was disturbing, the patriarch of Methodism would not let his disappointment obscure the more immediate concern. He asked:

Who of you is exemplary, so much alive to God, so as to carry fire with him wherever you go? . . . Who of you is a pattern of self-denial in little things? . . . Who of you goes through his work willingly and diligently . . . Is your heart in the work wholly?¹

Answering in the affirmative is where revival begins. The time has come to quit complaining about the faults of other people. Regardless of what our position may be in the church, and whatever may be our gifts, are the conditions of revival being fulfilled in our lives? Are we obedient to the Holy Spirit? Mere interest is not enough. The question must be asked: Is my heart, my home, my business, a witness to the long-suffering, pure, unselfish love of God?

One person aflame with holiness will ignite another. As the divine spark leaps from heart to heart, and more persons seek first the Kingdom, the cry for revival will increase.

Look around for these people. Probably such a group is waiting for direction right now in your church. They may be unorganized, perhaps not even aware of your mutual concern, but they are there, and they only need encouragement and leadership to become a mighty force for

revival. Do not worry if their numbers are few. Jesus started with just a handful, too. Any spiritual movement begins with the committed few who care.

Discover what you can do together to stimulate your faith and ministry. You do not need to break off other contacts to have this association. In fact, to give your witness an effective outlet, you should seek to enlarge your friendships in the community. But in your continuing witness through the ongoing program of the church, keep cultivating the caring minority.

One way to help this nucleus develop is to meet regularly for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. Together a discipline can be worked out in the light of your needs. In principle, this was Wesley's strategy for the formation of the little band and class meetings in early Methodism.

However, the group dare not become preoccupied with its own interests. The water of life must be kept flowing; else it will become stagnant. So as the fellowship drinks more deeply from the well-spring of salvation, find ways to share God's love to the waiting world.

With the extension of the group's ministry, new people will want to become a part. Other fellowships will emerge. Gradually the growing core of committed disciples will impact the larger congregation, and increasing numbers of people will launch out into their sphere of ministry.

Total mobilization of the total church for the total mission is the goal. When this commitment is harnessed with the yoke of Christ, the whole body becomes an instrument of revival.

Wesley's Way

I have often been asked, if Wesley were here today, what would he do? My reply is that I think he would do the same thing he did when he was within the Church of England of the 18th century. Beginning with himself, and a few kindred spirits, he would set out by the grace of God "to raise up a holy people."²

I do not see him forming a political action lobby to pressure the decadent Anglican church to change their ways. Nor do I get the impression from his writings that he would be greatly involved in trying to harass the bishops who were often bitter critics. Not that he was unmindful of problems, but that he was occupied with higher priorities. Wesley was primarily concerned with revival, real holiness revival, and he felt that by expending his energies in this cause his work would have its most enduring value.

We would do well to follow his course. Let us become indeed a revival movement, in all its dimensions, wherever it might lead. I believe, to paraphrase the words of Wesley, such a people, "who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God," though small in number, "I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven upon earth."⁴ □

1. John Wesley, *Letters*, IV, 321.

2. John Wesley, *Letters*, VI, 271.

3. John Wesley, *Minutes*, Works, 300.

4. John Wesley, *Letters*, VI, 272. In this letter written to Alexander Mather in 1777, Wesley laments "the danger of ruin to Methodism" when preachers are "not alive to God."

Reprinted, with some revision, from *Good News*.



FRUITBEARING

I look at a tree . . .

And I see . . . myself . . .

All branches . . .

Reaching out for life in myriad directions.

Then I realize . . .

My life comes through my roots . . .

My branches are for fruitbearing . . .

So I seek to root myself in Christ!

—EVA FINCH

Millington, Tennessee



MY SON, THE CAPTAIN

by ANN E. GAINES

WHAT A THRILL as I watched the big TWA plane land at Ontario, Calif., airport. A large crowd was gathered around the gate and fence. I felt like shouting to all of them that the captain of the great plane was my son.

What a beautiful landing! As it pulled up the runway and finally stopped, I wanted to tell them all how proud I was of him. Then as the passengers came down the steps, I kept watching for one special person. There he was—Captain Dan Gaines coming down the steps and walking toward us—six feet four and still just as slim and good-looking as he was in his teens.

“Say, look, folks! That tall, good-looking man is the captain! Didn’t he do a great job? Did you know he is my son?”

ANN E. GAINES is a free-lance writer and the wife of a Nazarene elder residing in Canyon Lake, California.

After restrained greetings (I wouldn’t embarrass the captain by kissing him!) he wanted us to see the plane. He took us in the cockpit and showed us what all the buttons and levers meant, how to start engines one, two, and three, and how the backup systems worked. I marveled, thinking of the gangling little boy who couldn’t remember to brush his teeth or take his sack of lunch to school and to this day can’t find anything! How could he know how to fly this great plane?

Finally the copilot and engineers came into the cockpit; and as Dan introduced his dad and me, I joked that I had never worried about the captain on a flight before. The other two officers were pleasant, and I realized how important they were. As the plane was warmed up, the copilot pulled out his checklist, and Dan responded as each procedure was checked off.

We taxied out to the runway. Then Dan told us we would have to go to our

seats. As we went through the door into first-class, everyone looked at us as if to say, “How do you rate being in the cockpit?” I wanted to tell them all that the captain was our son; but of course I just walked in and took my seat and waited to take off on my first commercial flight with my son.

Such pride filled my heart as I thought of all that my son had accomplished. I wanted to shout to the world that this is my son. When we proudly walked off the plane with him, it went through my whole being, “Son, you’ve done a great job!”

But as all this was taking place, no one knew but me that there was another parent on board who kept whispering to me, “This is the way I felt about My Son. The first time He went to the Temple, He was only 12 years old; yet He confounded the rabbis and scholars. I felt like shouting, ‘That’s my Son. See how wise He is, see how humble.’ And as He finished, I wanted

to tell Him, 'Son, You sure preached good. You confounded them all.'

"Then as He walked the shores of Galilee and for the first time healed the sick and made the blind to see, I wanted to shout to all the world, 'That is My Son! You're doing great. Oh, Son, that was marvelous the way You took the fishes and crumbs of bread and fed the 5,000. Keep up the good work!'"

"But finally, as He carried the heavy Cross without a murmur, I wanted to shout, 'That's My Son! Son, You're doing fine. You can be the Savior of the world.' Then as they scoffed and nailed Him to the Cross, He opened not His mouth. As I looked down at Him, pride went all through Me, and I wanted the world to know that was My Son.

"Oh, and when He cried out, 'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?' I wanted to come running and speak the word that would save Him from the anguish of the Cross. But I knew He had the biggest job to do that the world would ever see. I was waiting with arms outstretched until He finally cried with a loud voice and gave up the ghost. Then with a great rumbling earthquake I shouted to the world, 'This is My beloved Son who lived among you, who left the splendor of My home to walk as a human among you, and who gave His life that you might be saved.'

"As I welcomed Him home with all the angels rejoicing and singing, I told Him with great pride, 'Son, You did a great job. You have redeemed the world from sin. You have made it possible for all sinners to be forgiven and have a home in heaven.'"

Have you accepted God's gift of His only Son? His shout will soon be heard, and all who love and serve Him will meet Him in the air to be with Him through all eternity. I believe there will be another shout ringing through the air, "These are My beloved sons in whom I am well pleased."

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Health and vitality,

Tranquillity and joy

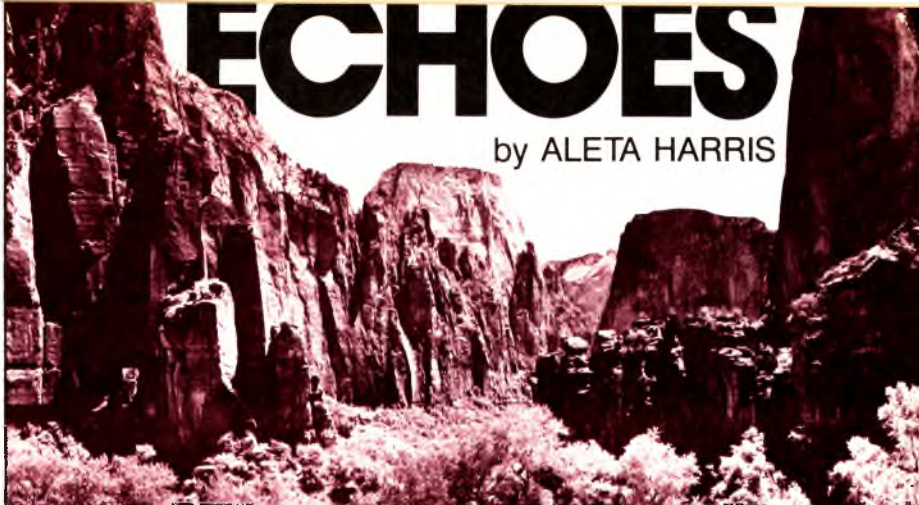
Grace the day

Of him who turns away from husks

To the plenty that is his heritage.

—BERNICE C. HEISLER

Chickasha, Oklahoma



Union Pacific Railroad Photo

REFLECTED from some canyon wall, a voice—my own—returned my greeting. "Hello." "Hello." So beautiful this place, so tranquil, that the canyon reverberated with the sound of my praise to One who had led me here.

So small my voice, so large this place, yet the sound waves directed outward were reflected from some unseen, distant object and came back to me almost as they had left. Only the range of that echo was widened. Someone else, in all probability, heard my "Hello" . . . and he surely heard my spoken praise and now knew something about me. I was glad it was something good that he had heard.

It's hard to stop an echo. Crashing from one object to another, mimicking, slowly losing power, it fades; but the memory of the echo remains. I wonder if the power of a memory fades as does the sound of an echo.

I wrote in the dirt:

The echoes of my life return

Today . . . perhaps tomorrow;

And what they say will bring to me

Contentment or deep sorrow.

There are three echo areas of living. The most obvious is our speech. Strange that a thing so small as the mouth can be the instrument of such overwhelming joy or devastating sorrow. Words spoken in haste or in hate, with concern or compassion, will come carelessly crashing or gently flowing back to where we live and work.

A pastor was angered by a pressing situation in his charge. He impulsively commented on the problem with a group of men, some of whom he was not well acquainted with. He implied that a member involved in the problem lacked intelligence. Of course the accused was not present. Someone echoed that impulsive quip and the pastor lost a little credibility among his people and his associates. His initial error was heard again and again.

The second echo area is our deeds. Deeds well done from genuine concern, or done from selfish motives and indifference, bombard our today and our tomorrows. They lift. They crush. They are a direct reflection of what lies within us, motivating our actions.

Leaving the surface world, we plunge into the third area of echo living—thought life. Just as sound waves travel and echo below the surface of the water, so thoughts go out and return in the area of our lives that is concealed from those who live about us. When we speak kind words, we hear kind echos. And words left unspoken, those passing thoughts and opinions that fill our days, cause us shame or pleasure as they echo back to us.

We have seen lives eaten away by resentment though not an unkind word was spoken. Silence has a lot to say. It chills. It calms. It comforts. It charges. Unkind thoughts echoing in a closed world reinforce an unhealthy belief that slowly destroys.

And because sound waves travel a mile every five seconds, widening their range as they return again and again, we are challenged to guard what our lives project. Our words, may they be ever kind! Our deeds, may they be ever just! Our thoughts, may they be ever pure!

ALETA HARRIS is a Nazarene missionary residing in Asunción, Paraguay.



INNER HEALING CAME

by NELDA HERRICK

RECENTLY the Lord gave me some answers that I never expected to get until I got to heaven. He gave me real victory in living with my husband Ralph's illness of multiple sclerosis—wheelchair and all.

It happened while Ralph and I were driving to Albuquerque for a weekend of rest and relaxation. I loaded Ralph into the front seat, lifted the wheelchair into the trunk, got the suitcases into the backseat, secured our seat belts, and off we went.

We began listening to some tapes from Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene. Bob Benson was preaching. He was so amusing, so humble, and he really got his point across.

Bob was telling about a friend who had a heart attack and open-heart surgery. All he could talk about was his hospital experience. Bob thought he might get him to quit, so he said, "Beau, how'd you like your heart attack?"

Hilarious laughter in the background.

"I didn't like it," bounced back the desired response.

"How'd your wife like your heart attack?" Bob continued.

Same response.

"Would you like to have another one?"

Hilarious laughter.

We just howled as we listened in the car. No one but Bob Benson would think of asking such questions, then work the story into such a meaningful lesson.

In his quiet, humble, Southern way, Bob asked, "Beau, you have been a minister for 30 years. You have told people consistently that God would be with you in the dark hours of your life. Do you know that better than you ever knew it before?" His voice was broken and you could feel the tears as he recounted Beau's answer.

"Yeah, yeah, I do."

"You and your wife, you've always worked as a team. You've always been close together. Do you think you are closer to her than you've ever been before?" A choked voice proceeded, "Now that you know that life is not forever, don't the days have a meaning they never had before? Don't you preach with a bleeding, broken heart like you've never preached before?"

"Yeah, sure."

God's presence was so near. The quiet hush in the car was penetrating.

Just as surely as Bob spoke to Beau, God spoke to me, and it

wasn't quite so funny. It wasn't funny at all.

"How do you like Ralph's multiple sclerosis? How do you like the wheelchair?" The message came directly to me.

"I don't like it. The illness, the wheelchair, the confinement, the detour in our life's work at such an early age, no, I don't like it." The reply erupted spontaneously as it had so many times before. There was nothing fun about sickness right in the prime of life. It was difficult to understand why God would call Ralph to preach, allow him to be successful for 15 years in some great churches, allow his ministry to touch so many, honor his ministry with miraculous physical healings, then call an abrupt end to it all with the incurable illness of multiple sclerosis and allow him to suffer for 15 years. Really there had been no answers to these puzzling questions. Commitment had held us steady during the difficult time. God's grace had been sufficient.

The still small voice continued, "Haven't you prayed that you would be strong in the Lord? Where do you get strength, from hard times or easy times?"

Haven't you prayed that your children would make it to heaven? Now look where I have placed them—actively involved in the church, honoring God in each of their homes."

Our hearts bubbled with praise for the faithfulness of God in helping us to raise those children with a sick father. God had more than supplied all our needs. They had witnessed answers to prayer over and over during grade school, high school, the dating years, and into

NELDA HERRICK is an elementary school counselor. The Herricks are members of Farmington, New Mexico, Church of the Nazarene.

their own marriages. God had provided the necessities and flooded our home with abundant extras.

The voice continued, "Haven't you preached for years that God's grace is sufficient for every circumstance of life? Haven't you told people consistently that God would be with them in the dark hours of their life? Do you know that better today than you ever knew it before?"

"How do you like the M.S.? How do you like the wheelchair? This is the way I have chosen for you."

The message was clear. It was from God.

And I'll never be the same again.

With that kind of enlightenment I could truly say, "Thank You, Lord, for choosing me to care for Ralph. I'm really special or You wouldn't have chosen me. You knew it all, Lord, 30 years ago when we repeated the marriage vows: 'in sickness or in health till death do us part.'"

The commitment had always been there, but now there is such joy! Caring for Ralph's physical needs is a pleasure, an honor. God chose me.

Living the life that God has chosen for us, wheelchair and all, is so exciting. It is such a joy to see God's love flow through this man of God. He says very little about it, but just lives it day after day after day. His life touches so many. And he does it all, locked in a sick body.

Healing has come. It came within. It will last throughout eternity. Physical healing is only temporary. Healing within is forever.

This is real living.

People are so interested in hearing about it. Opportunities for witnessing are multiplying. Everywhere we look we can see God.

When we start telling what the Lord is doing for us, there isn't any place to stop. He has given us answers that we never expected to get before we got to heaven. The answers are a gift from God, nothing we had sought, just the gift we needed most at the time.

"For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11). I learned it right here in Farmington, N. Mex., with multiple sclerosis, a wheelchair, my beautiful husband, and God. □

JACOB, THE SUPPLANTER (A.D. 29)

*Aye, He was scheming from the very first
To take my place and take from Father's hand
That which was rightly mine. His burning thirst
For mine grew till He could not let me stand
Before our sire on that fateful day
When my deserved reward would be bestowed.
So, coveting, He schemed awhile and lay
Aside His raiment—aye, so very bold
He was He drew on my own garb, became
Me to His Father, took what had been mine—
Then shortly after left in sordid shame.
So the days passed and as there was no sign
Of Him at all I thought Him gone for good
Until that day He came back from the grave,
Marred by the will of God, but there He stood
Before me in the flesh. Aye, man, He gave
No sign that He repented His design,
But rather told me that while heretofore
Mine own had been made His, now His was mine—
And so we lived in peace forevermore.*

—WILLIAM DAVID GEBBY

Indianapolis, Indiana



OLD FAITHFUL

by BOB MITCHELL

SO THE "OLD FAITHFUL" geyser in Yellowstone National Park is no longer faithful! The Park Rangers explain that due to either geological disturbances, or litter thrown into the throat of the

Union Pacific Railroad Photo (Continued on page 14)



OLD FAITHFUL

(Continued from page 13)

geyser, or both, "Old Faithful," which used to vent its steam in a spectacular eruption filmed and remembered by millions, is now 20 to 40 minutes off its former 65-minute schedule. "Old Faithful" is no longer as faithful as it used to be.

But how thankful we can be that in these last days of earth's history there is One who changes not, One with whom there is no variableness, no shadow of turning (James 1:17); One who is the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). God's promises are as sure as His commandments (Psalm 111:7), they stand fast forever (v. 8). We can depend on what God says, for what He says, He means—and He means what He says.

But how about you and me? How faithful are we in our Christian walk? Can God depend on us to do what we have promised to do? Habakkuk 2:4, if we read the meaning of the Hebrew word *emunah* correctly, says that the "just," that is, those who are justified, will not only live by faith, but *faithfully*.

There are a number of Bible texts that indicate that God's people are to be as faithful as He is, or as Christ was while He was here on earth.

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6).

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Revelation 3:21).

The Wycliffe Bible Commentary has a beautiful explanation of what Habakkuk 2:4 could mean to us:

If many modern evangelical preachers would give to the word "faith" the meaning which the Hebrew word "*emunah*"—"faithfulness"—bears, there would be less superficiality in the profession and practice of Christianity.

None of us want to be superficial or inconsistent in our Christian experience. Holiness unto the Lord is our heart's desire. We want to be as faithful as were all the heroes of the Bible. We want God to be able to depend on us. We want to be His true and faithful witnesses (Revelation 1:5) in this dark and lost world. And in the end we want to be among those who are blessed because they kept the "commandments [of God], that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).

By His grace we can have faith and be faithful to the very end. □

BOB MITCHELL is a Seventh-Day Adventist layman and a free-lance writer who makes his home in Joshua Tree, California.

SAVED TO TELL OTHERS

SUMMER 1983 was very hot in Ohio. Our son Rick complained a lot of headaches. We thought that the heat caused the headache he had while working on an old truck on Saturday, September 10.

On Sunday, September 11, after church and dinner, he went to the school playground to play basketball. He liked to keep in good physical shape. On Sunday evening I visited another church to hear a minister we were thinking about interviewing for our pastor, as we were without a pastor at this time.

Around 10:30 p.m. the phone rang and my husband answered. Linda, Rick's wife, sounded very upset as she said, "You had better come, there is something wrong with Rick." They lived next door and we rushed right over. When we got there Rick was on the bathroom floor vomiting, very pale and shaking. I fell to my knees right there and prayed a short prayer.

Rick's sister, Karen, is a registered nurse and Linda called her, too. Karen and my husband managed to get Rick to the living room and into a chair.

I couldn't think of a phone number for an ambulance, and I tried several times without success to reach the operator. Finally I thought of the volunteer fire department. I called them and they responded in a matter of just a few minutes. They called an ambulance and administered oxygen, doing a wonderful job at a critical time.

Rick's left side was shaking convulsively and I thought he was having a stroke. He was able to answer questions, but he had a great deal of pain in his head and numbness in his right side. His two children, Melissa, eight, and Isaac, four, were awake by this time and very upset. It seemed like hours before the ambulance arrived. I called the church prayer chain, asking for prayer.

At the hospital, after waiting for over an hour, we were told that Rick had suffered a major brain hemorrhage. We were all in a state of shock.

At this point I called my best friend, Judy, who later told me that she stayed up all night praying. My husband called a prayer group. Anyone that we could think of, we called for prayer. This included the pastor who

SUE REYNOLDS resides in Lisbon, Ohio, and is a member of West Point, Ohio, church.



by SUE REYNOLDS

had left our church only weeks before. He and Rick were the best of friends, and this was a great shock to him. Another pastor and family were called, and they and their church began to pray.

Later a number of pastors from neighboring churches, along with friends and family, visited with us in the Intensive Care waiting room, trying to encourage us. What a blessing they were!

Our family doctor came to the hospital and stayed the rest of the night. Rick's condition was very critical, but the doctor said that it was in our favor that he lived to get to the hospital and that he had been handled very carefully. Our doctor was in touch with a neurosurgeon and reported to him by phone every few minutes during the night.

An arteriogram was essential but could not be performed until the next day. Monday afternoon the neurosurgeon came, performed the arteriogram, and agreed that a major hemorrhage had taken place, and every cavity of the brain had blood in it. He said there was no aneurism but a blood vessel had ruptured somewhere in the brain; he didn't know where. Nothing mechanical could be done at this time.

When Rick failed to improve after several days, we requested another opinion. He contacted another neurosurgeon who came, examined him, and agreed with the first neurosurgeon.

Rick was conscious all this time. He told us that he was not going to die, because the Lord told him on the way to the hospital that he wouldn't. He had believed that he was dying and had told the Lord, "If you want me, You can have me." Jesus replied, "No, not now. I have things for you to do."

We got special permission for some of Rick's friends to visit him. He wanted to talk to them about their

spiritual condition. Linda said that maybe this was the work Rick was to do, and maybe after talking to these fellows he would die. Some days he was in unbearable pain, having to receive more and more medication. Seeing this, our faith sometimes really hit bottom.

On the 11th day, Rick was in even more pain than usual. That evening the doctor was called and, upon examining him, said that Rick's neck was getting stiff, which indicated that the bleeding had started again. He decided to have Rick transferred immediately to another hospital.

The neurosurgeon who was to handle Rick's case at the second hospital took one look at the arteriogram from the previous hospital and saw that the problem was an aneurism.

The next day, Rick had brain surgery that lasted for eight long agonizing hours. The aneurism was so large that two clamps were required to clamp 90% of it.

On the way back to Intensive Care after surgery, we met Rick as he was being wheeled down the hall. He had a big white bandage on his head. We started talking to him, and when he started to reply, Linda said, "Shh—don't talk." The nurse said, "He can talk now." It was so good to have Rick alive!

Through this whole ordeal my husband had more faith than any of us that our son would make it.

The location of the aneurism made possible paralysis a real threat, but Rick's only problem is a partial numbness on the right side.

After surgery he progressed so well that therapy wasn't necessary.

Rick has had three arteriograms, and will continue to have them periodically, but we know that the God we serve has restored Rick to health, and this testimony is given to bring glory to His name. □

STRONG-WILLED WIFE

by MARY ANN HOWARD



THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT hasn't affected me. Or has it? The teachings of this movement encourage women to stand up for their rights. They say, "Don't be submissive or responsive; do what you want."

After my husband and I saw James Dobson's "Family Film Series," he suggested laughingly, "Why don't you write a sequel to James Dobson's book *The Strong-willed Child* and call it, *The Strong-willed Wife*?" He went on to chide me, "You could write it out of your experiences."

He laughed, but I sensed he was serious. I began to think about it.

The following morning, on my way to teach a Bible study on the Christian home, I was uneasy. The lesson was based on Ephesians 5:22-24, which admonishes, "You wives must learn to adapt yourselves to your husbands, as you submit yourselves to the Lord, for the husband is the 'head' of the wife in the same way that Christ is head of the Church and saviour of the Body" (Phillips).

These verses came to life as I spoke to the young mothers: "God speaks to Christian women in a direct manner about allowing the husband to be the head of the wife." I had *known* that for a long time, but I hadn't *lived* it.

As we continued to study this passage, my thoughts were disturbed. My husband's words echoed in my ears. I realized that my attitudes in certain areas of my marriage were strong-willed and selfish. On my way home, I prayed

out loud, "Search me, God, and show me my problem spots. Help me to be the best wife possible for my husband."

Gradually I was able to let loose of some of my selfishness. I started listening to my husband with an open mind. Instead of being negative, I became positive to his suggestions. As time passed I was happier and our marriage relationship deepened.

After experiencing some of the benefits of being a submissive wife, I developed an eagerness to serve my husband instead of myself. God doesn't call us to be doormats for our husbands, but helpmates. Now I could bask in my new role as helpmate. I loved the security of the ultimate decision being my husband's.

Today I have a keen awareness of women's attitudes toward their husbands. I know how strong-willed and manipulative we women can be. I often ask myself if my husband sees me as an immovable object or a flexible and pliable person. Am I truly a responsive wife?

Last year, a dynamic Christian couple from the Midwest came to visit us in Phoenix. They had visited the area many times before and loved the city. He was offered a job in Phoenix. It was the opportunity of a lifetime. He and his wife discussed the possibility of making the move. He wanted to try it. His wife said, "No, I could never leave my relatives and friends." As I discussed this with her and pointed out that our role as wives is to be flexible and open to our husband's desires, she said she absolutely would not move to Arizona.

How do you explain to someone that she is missing a great blessing and hindering God's will for herself and her husband?

My mind flashed back to the days of old when God told Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldees and go to the land of Canaan. What if Sarah had refused to go because of her family and friends?

Friends of ours invited us to their home to meet a Christian couple who were recovering from marital problems. The man had recently been fired from his job. The couple seemed to be eager to please each other and the Lord.

"I am willing to sacrifice, so he can take any job he can find," she said. They had visited a small town 100 miles from home and loved the small town atmosphere. He was excited at the prospect of living in a small town instead of the big city. As I was telling them good-bye, I said, "I will pray for a job for you in the small town, if you want me to." He was delighted. She smiled but didn't speak. Following me to the door, she whispered, "Pray for a job, but not in that town. I could never leave my relatives and friends." I wanted to shake her and say, "Wake up! God says to be submissive, Strong-willed Wife. Do you want to miss God's best for you?" Then I remembered it took me years to see I was a disobedient, strong-willed wife. God didn't give up on me. He kept working on me until I was ready.

Eight months ago my husband and I decided we should move from our home of 16 years to a smaller home. We found just the perfect patio home for us. Before we could make an offer, the owner took it off the market. My husband found a smaller, two-bedroom home and wanted to buy it. I wasn't happy with the size of the home and told him so. Knowing I should be submissive to him, I gave in reluctantly, and we purchased the home.

Instead of blessing, I encountered upheaval and unrest about the decision. I began to hate that house, and we hadn't moved into it yet! I longed for the larger patio

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home that wasn't available. My earnest desire, I thought, was for God's will. Why was I so upset?

I called four of my friends for help. I asked them to pray for me. If it was God's will for us to move into the smaller home, I wanted to find peace. If it was God's will for us to have the larger home, He would provide it. By the next day it didn't matter anymore which house I lived in.

Four days later our home of 16 years was sold. The next morning my husband called the man who owned my dream house to see if he might have decided to sell. Guess what? When he heard my husband's voice he said, "I was just looking for your telephone number to call and tell you I decided last night to sell my house." We made an appointment with him and were purchasing the house within two hours.

There are many conflicts in the marriage relationship. Husbands sometimes refuse to assume the role of leadership. Some husbands are tyrants; some beat their wives.

It is difficult to respect and submit to a husband who doesn't fulfill his God-given role.

Our responsibility as wives is to check our own behavior. Are we being strong-willed wives, or are we supporting our husband's attempts to be the leaders?

Nations and families operate best under one leader or head. The key to a strong nation or family is the leadership and the cooperation of its members. These same ingredients make a strong marriage relationship.

Jesus said, "A city or home divided against itself cannot stand" (Matthew 12:25, TLB).

God works in mysterious ways. He has plans for us greater than our highest dreams. He wants our marriages to be the best. He only asks us to serve Him and not the world system in all things, and that includes the marriage relationship. □

TWO SANCTUARIES

*I used to know a quiet place
where cattle roamed on sun-bathed hills.
Citrus groves adorned its face
and peace prevailed beside its rills.*

*But now it's pierced with long, black poles
and bound up tight with steel and wires.
They've scarred its face with lines and holes
and torn out nature's living spires.*

*In place of grass, or shrub, or tree,
a net of blacktop and cement
entwined with beads of foul debris
is now its dress of gloomy tint.*

*Around its head rise ghostly curls
of smoke released from sooted stacks—
a shroud of deadly scented swirls,
for every breath, the levied tax.*

*But I've another place of rest
where God and peace have always been,
a temple nothing can molest—
the hidden, quiet place within.*

—MARILYN BLACK PHEMISTER
Pawnee Rock, Kansas

Book Brief

BEWARE THE LITTLE ANIMALS



JANE BREWINGTON
author



THE STRANGE TITLE of this funny and powerful inspirational book is drawn from the first anecdote related in typical Brewington style. The setting: a mountain clinic in Swaziland; the cast: an elderly African with a leg ulcer; other patients looking on; and the missionary nurse, who is patiently trying to explain the concept of germs.

Smaller than "sons of fleas" germs are. After listening to the long, careful explanation about germs that cause infection, the patient blandly states, "No little animals got into my leg."

Little animals have a way of causing "a mess of trouble" in lives as well as legs! The book is written to point out the variety of little animals ready to get in and mess up our close walk with God. Each warning is introduced by a captivating story, followed by a significant spiritual lesson.

For example, after explaining that the "porcelain complexion" of British lasses came from "a little arsenic in the morning right between those bacon and eggs" (they made such beautiful corpses), she comments, "Being the creative people we are, we've become real good at coping with that one."

"Premise: Sin gets you death.

"Complication: You are fond of your sins.

"Resolution: If sin gets you death, don't call it sin."

Jane Brewington, a missionary and evangelist, is not afraid to point out blind spots in our Christian living. ("God doesn't demand that you be brilliant, but He does expect you to wise up!") We tend to leave the gate open to temptation as she did when a hundred head of cattle and four donkeys thundered into her yard. This city girl kept yelling, "Please leave, Mr. Cow!" And her conclusion was, "When you see the cattle coming, you really ought to close the gate."

Fun, profitable reading! □

—Evelyn A. Stenbock

Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City
106 pages. Paper. To order, see page 23

the editor's STANDPOINT

THE TIMES DEMAND OUR BEST

We are living in perilous times.

Nations are waging vicious wars against one another. Those not at war are busily preparing for armed conflict. A failure to achieve peace is a conspicuous feature of the United Nations, for which the United States picks up the check, and from which it receives continuous insults.

The cost of maintaining a strong defense and of supporting a wasteful and often corrupt government keeps tax levels at a burdensome point. Halls of education have sometimes been seedbeds of anarchy and riot, and halls of legislation have been rocked by financial and moral scandals. Crime is relentless and people live in constant fear of assaults upon their lives and property.

The total picture is deeply distressing.

To make bad matters worse, the institutional church reflects the social, political, and cultural degeneracy. The Bible is disregarded as authoritative revelation. Jesus Christ is viewed as a first century preacher of an

irrelevant kingdom. Ethics based upon the law of God are discarded for a new morality governed by human opinion. A desire for monolithic unity at any cost to doctrinal purity has prompted mergers engineered by ecclesiastical leaders who openly ridicule the time-honored, Bible-based, evangelical faith of the fathers. The church, eager to be relevant, has often compromised itself intellectually, socially, and morally. It has grown worldly only to earn the world's disdain.

The world is ripe for the antichrist and the church is ripe for the false prophet.

But this is no time for God's people to despair. It is no time to slacken our efforts to spread the gospel. God intends to make these perilous times also a harvest period. He will save all who call upon the name of Jesus Christ. Our business is to make known everywhere that saving name.

Jesus Christ alone is the answer to mankind's plight. He is a Christ for our crises. Let us faithfully serve Him and joyfully await Him. In the worst of times let us give Him the best of lives! ☐

A SURE GUIDE

In 1983 members of a Moslem family died at sea in a needless tragedy. A 16-year-old girl had a strange dream. With her family, she was to make a miraculous journey to Karbala, a Shia Moslem holy place in Iraq. Prompted by her dream, which she interpreted as a divine call, Nasim Fatima organized the journey for her family.

They sold their property in Pakistan, trekked 700 miles to the Arabian Sea, and launched out in huge tin boxes, which they had purchased en route to the coast. Thirty-eight people were in the group. Seventeen survived. The makeshift boats smashed on rocks about 15 miles from where they were launched. Nasim was not among the survivors.

The Bible plainly teaches that God has sometimes guided people through the medium of dreams. Too many dreams, however, have been attributed to God that had their origin in the fevered imagination of the dreamers. Visions, dreams, and "signs" are never safe bases for decision and action unsupported by other factors.

We need a sure guide to the holiest place of all, to heaven. God has provided that guide in the Bible, His inspired and authoritative Word. No other source of instruction and guidance is to be accepted and trusted unless it squares with the clear teaching of a carefully interpreted Bible. If we will trust in Jesus Christ, and in the Bible, which bears witness to Him, we will make the journey in safety. "The wayfaring man, though a fool, will not err therein."

To forsake the teaching of the Bible for patches of human wisdom is to invite shipwreck. You are safer on the ocean in a tin box than you are headed for eternity without Christ and the Bible. You are safer in a trackless desert without map or compass than you are in life without the Word of God. You are safer stumbling in total darkness along a mountain precipice than you are going through your days without the light of Scripture. Don't trust any impression, dream, or idea that will not bear the scrutiny of the Bible's teaching. ☐

We need a sure guide to the holiest place of all, to heaven. God has provided that guide in the Bible, His inspired and authoritative Word. No other source of instruction and guidance is to be accepted and trusted unless it squares with the clear teaching of a carefully interpreted Bible.

KINDNESS, A LOT OF LITTLE THINGS

A simple text of Scripture reads, “Be kind one to another.” In that elementary language is an important message. Immeasurable heartbreak and tragedy have occurred because this injunction was not practiced.

Marriages have failed because kindness was not an ingredient in them. Children have been alienated from parents because those parents did not show kindness to them. Parents have gone to their graves in sorrow because children were unkind. Countless jobs are filled with tension, countless workers toil depressed, because unkindness poisons the atmosphere of plant or office. Churches are torn by strife and rendered helpless to achieve their mission because kindness was not practiced by pastors and members to one another.

Kindness is often a lot of little things. It's the tone of voice you employ when you disagree. It's the thoughtful courtesies shown to a tired or sick companion. It's the words of encouragement spoken to someone bearing a heavy load of anxiety or grief. It's small favors done, not because duty demands them, but because

love prompts them. It's helping someone who is overloaded with work. It's quiet, sincere apologies tendered when we realize we have been unkind. There are unlimited ways to show kindness to people—a note, a meal, a flower, a smile, a ride, a few dollars, a brief visit, a patient forgiveness.

Kindness is the cement that holds together fragile human relationships. It binds husband and wife together in a marriage, parents and children together in a home, workers together on a job, members together in a church, neighbors together in a community.

Most of us, probably all of us, have been recipients of kindness. We are debtors to someone's expressed love. An Asian proverb declares that borrowed gold can be repaid, “but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind.”

There is so much needless hurt in the world! If we set out to be kinder to everyone, we could put into motion a blessed revolution. □

ON A TACK

Some years ago I was in Fort Worth for a revival meeting. In front of a restaurant I spotted a sign that read, “A man who sits on a tack is better off.”

It's easy to agree with that sentiment! Sitting on a tack, even a small one, is uncomfortable. No, it's downright painful. Surely a man is better off when he is not suffering pain.

Or is he? Paul had “a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet” him. Scholars have disagreed for centuries about the precise nature of that “thorn.” Guesses have ranged from eye trouble to a mother-in-law. Whatever it was, it hurt.

Sure that he would be better off with the thorn removed and the pain relieved, Paul prayed for God to take it away. Three times he implored God for relief. And God refused his request! The thorn served a good purpose—it kept Paul reminded of his weakness and dependence upon God's power. In this awareness he found a new strength for service. He was better off with the thorn than without it.

If we pray, and if we are patient, we can learn the same

lessons. The irritations and frustrations of life, the stabs and pains we suffer, can minister to our highest spiritual welfare. Lessons of dependence upon God, lessons of sympathy for other people, lessons of patient endurance of trials—these are not learned along smooth paths. They are learned on rugged obstacle courses.

David said, “Before I was afflicted I went astray.” To keep a foolish sheep from straying to its death, the shepherd sometimes broke one of its forelegs. Until healing was complete the limping animal was forced to stay close to the shepherd in order to survive. By the time the leg was whole again, a habit of closeness was established. The Lord's sheep must often learn this same hard way.

A man who sits on a tack may be in the right place to benefit from divine grace, grace that might elude him in easier circumstances. This is not a plea for suffering for its own sake. We should not look for tacks to park on! But when life is tough and painful, we should learn to trust God and receive help. □

Therefore, I was especially thrilled with this article by a fellow pastor who offers "a prayer of thanksgiving" for "our native free America."

As a Veteran and Purple Heart holder, Ulrich's gratitude reveals that I did not suffer in vain for our freedom nor did thousands die in vain, as some pacifists declare!

The Apostle Paul warned evil-doers that the sword is not borne in vain (Romans 13:4). Some of the disciples carried swords (Luke 22:35-38).

As a citizen of two kingdoms (Matthew 22:21), sometimes Christians are obligated to bear arms to enforce law and order and keep our nation free.

Our gospel heritage and freedom are precious, blood-bought privileges never to be taken for granted!

Leslie Wooten
Decatur, Illinois

FIRST SHEPHERD

Have you ever wondered why shepherds were the first to hear the glad tidings of the birth of Christ? I have, and it was only recently that I received an answer that fully satisfies.

As I began reading my Bible through for the 63rd time, I asked the Lord for something *new* from it. As I read the story of Abel, I received the answer. Abel was the first man to die on this earth. He was the first martyr for the right way of worship.

In Matthew 23:55, Jesus declares Abel to be a righteous man. John says his works were righteous (1 John 3:12). The writer of the Hebrews tells us it was by faith that Abel offered unto God. It was because of his faith that Abel lost his life (Hebrews 11:4). And *Abel was the first shepherd*. Is it any wonder that the greatest of all announcements should first be made to shepherds?

My heart is truly blessed as I meditate upon it. God never forgets. Some 4,000 years had passed, but God still remembered Abel. And every Christmas should be a reminder to you and me that He will never forget us.

Florence Munroe
Mitcham, Victoria, Australia

GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

by ANNIE LEE JONES

THE 24-MEMBER TEEN CHOIR of our Southside Church of the Nazarene, along with nine adults, boarded a plane on June 18, 1984, for a week of concerts and witnessing in the Dominican Republic. The teens had all worked hard for weeks to earn their own fares. Now they were thrilled to be on their way.

Everything went well for the first four or five days except for a few minor problems. They gave nine concerts and most churches were filled, with large numbers standing on the outside. There were glorious victories around the altar as many sought and found God. Some of our own group, after seeing firsthand the dire poverty and spiritual needs of the people, committed themselves to missionary work, while others dedicated themselves to serve wherever the Lord should lead them. It had been a marvelous week.

But on Saturday, one of the teens, David, had an attack of hyperventilation, which triggered his already asthmatic condition. He was treated at a local clinic and released. The same thing occurred the following day, resulting in a short hospital stay.

On Monday the group was to leave for home. While they were making preparations for departure, David suffered a severe attack and was admitted to the hospital. The doctor felt that it would be risky to release him for the trip home.

Helen remained with her son, of course. The youth minister, Tim Taylor, feeling he could not leave them

alone under such circumstances, volunteered to stay also. The others caught the scheduled flight for home.

That night was long for the three who were stranded, as well as for the folks back home, and there were many unanswered questions. Why had God permitted this to happen? Did He really have a purpose in allowing such a traumatic experience? Tim spent the night with missionaries Elmer and Dorothy Nelson while Helen stayed in the hospital, where no one on the evening shift spoke English.

The next day the doctor was still reluctant to release David, but the three of them felt a sense of urgency to leave for home, so they committed it all into God's hands and left. Everything went fine until they were in the Atlanta, Ga., airport, where David had another attack and needed immediate attention. They rushed him to an Atlanta hospital.

While they were in the emergency room, a voice on the intercom said a minister was needed right away. Tim responded and was directed to the room of an ill man who was calling for a minister to pray with him. In just a short time the man had genuinely repented and had found the peace of God he so badly needed. A real victory! Tim then called the pastor of the East Point Church of the Nazarene as a follow-up contact.

By that time the next flight for Richmond was only about 20 minutes away, but they made it and arrived home in the early morning. They were rejoicing because their questions were answered. They had been used to carry out God's purpose!

There was a desperate man in the Atlanta hospital, and God, with perfect timing, had Tim there at the very hour he was needed. A coincidence? Yes, to be sure, but it was a God-planned coincidence! Praise God! Romans 8:28 is so true. □

ANNIE LEE JONES resides in Richmond, Virginia, and is a member of Richmond Southside Church.

**"By ALL MEANS...
Save Some"**

IN THE NEWS

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Elmore Vail, Northwest Nazarene College athletic director, joined a select group of men and women this fall when he was inducted into the NAIA District II Coaches Hall of Fame in ceremonies held in Salem, Ore.

Vail, a longtime baseball and basketball coach at NNC, was one of three men inducted this fall and became the second NNC coach to be so honored. Orrin Hills, former NNC men's basketball coach, was inducted in 1974. Only 29 people have been so honored by the Idaho and Oregon region of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Vail coached basketball at College High from 1949-53, was an assistant to Hills from 1959-74, serving as head basketball coach in 1965, and was the head baseball coach from 1959-74. He served as basketball coach and athletic director at Trevecca Nazarene College from 1974-78 before returning in 1979 to NNC as associate dean of students. He became athletic director in 1982.



Louise W. Mansfield, of the Seattle Aurora Church, was chosen from nominees nationwide to receive the Heart Association's highest honor for volunteer service, the 1984 Gold Heart Award.

Mrs. Mansfield is a graduate of Samaritan School of Nursing at Northwest Nazarene College, and she was a major in the U.S. Army during World War II.

She is professor emeritus, Department of Physiological Nursing at the University of Washington School of Nursing, and was a board member at the Heart Association's Washington Affiliate for 10 years. Nationally, she has served on the Nursing Education Committee, the Executive Committee, the Committee on Nursing Research, and the Scientific Council on Cardiovascular Nursing.

Mrs. Mansfield's citation for the Gold Heart reads: "As teacher, researcher and, most important, an extraordinary nurse, Louise Mansfield has made a vital contribution to the field of cardiovascular nursing. She helped conduct some of the earliest research on the role of nursing in cardiac rehabilitation. . . . In addition to 10 years of outstanding leadership for the Heart Association in Washington, Mrs. Mansfield was chairman of the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and editor of its scientific publication, *Cardiovascular Nursing*. She is a continuing inspiration to nursing students everywhere."



Harold M. Brake of West Palm Beach, Fla., has been awarded the doctor of education degree by Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla.

Dr. Brake is a 1954 graduate of Eastern Nazarene College and holds graduate degrees from Boston University and Temple University. He is currently employed by the School Board of Palm Beach County as director of Instructional Personnel Administration and Operations.

Dr. Brake and his wife, Marie (Yoder), are members of the West Palm Beach Church, where he serves on the church board. He is also a member of the District Ways and Means Committee, the Lake Worth Towers Board of Directors, and Gideons International.

The Brakes have two children: Donna, a graduate of Point Loma Nazarene College, who teaches and resides in San Diego; and Daniel, a senior majoring in engineering at the University of Florida.



The General Board Organizational Commission recently met in Kansas City in preparation for its report to the General Board and subsequently to General Assembly. The commission met in the NPH Board Room with the Communication Division. Pictured (l. to r.) are Dr. Bennett Dudney, Publication Services; W. E. McCumber, editor, *Herald of Holiness*; Dr. Millard Reed, chairman of the commission; other commission members, Dr. T. C. Sanders; Dr. Clarence Kinzler; Dr. Jack Morris; Paul Skiles, Media Services; and M. A. (Bud) Lunn, manager, Nazarene Publishing House. Members of the commission who were unable to attend are Dr. Gerald Decker and Willis Brown.



A Six-week Challenge for the Highest Sunday School Enrollment in the 76-Year History of the Church of the Nazarene.

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YOUNG PEOPLE MINISTER TO NAZARENES IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The outreach ministry of Richmond, Va., Southside Church continued this summer as a group of 24 young people traveled to the Dominican Republic to minister in word and song. The members of the Southside group, "Highest Purpose," sold 6,000 doughnuts and about 2,000 multicolored Easter eggs to help raise the \$13,000 necessary for the week-long trip to the Caribbean island. It was their first trip abroad.

"The Dominican Republic is our church's focal point," said Southside youth minister Tim Taylor, who traveled with the choir and preached. "Many of these kids' relatives had already visited the country as members of witness teams that built churches." Four of the churches in which the group ministered had been built by Work and Witness teams sponsored by Southside.

The young people (ages 14-18) were amazed at the love of the Dominicans for others, despite their material pov-



"Highest Purpose," the Richmond, Va., Southside Church teen choir, during one of nine concerts in the Dominican Republic.

erty. "They didn't have anything, but it seemed like they had more than we did," said choir member Leslie Rosequist.

The young missionaries learned Dominicans often work 72 hours per week in the sugarcane fields for about nine cents an hour. With this in mind, they

were amazed to see their enthusiasm for church—held every night except Monday and Wednesday. "Some people walk 5 or 10 miles in all types of weather just to get to church each night," said choir member Joseph Traina.

The choir members and their chap-erones said the visit left a lasting impact on their lives, with two teens receiving a call to full-time mission work.

Rev. Charles Thompson is pastor of Richmond Southside Church and has been largely responsible for motivating his congregation toward mission work. In the past 18 months, more than 100 members of the Southside Church have been involved in Work and Witness ministry. □

—NN

CORRECTION

In the January 15 issue, a news item headed, "Reedy Appointed NYI Program Director," should have read "Reedy Appointed NYI Program Editor." Gary Sivewright is NYI Program Director; Bud Reedy is NYI Program Editor.


KANSAS CITY RESCUE MISSION THREATENED BY REDEVELOPMENT

The Kansas City Rescue Mission, a ministry of Nazarenes for almost 30 years, will close its doors next year at its present location. The mission is located in the City Market area, which is being redeveloped as offices and stores.

Director of the mission, Rev. Tim Kilby, says the redevelopment corporation has offered \$45,000 for the old mission site, but he adds that money is not the problem.

"Our real problem is finding a new home. We could have \$150,000, but it won't do us any good if there are no buildings available, and right now

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there are just none to be had in this area.

"This may mean that we will begin serving family units rather than individual street people, but we are definitely committed to continuing this kind of ministry to the less fortunate."

Pastor Kilby says no timetable has been set for when the mission will have to move from its present location at 523 Walnut Street. He believes they will be able to stay throughout the winter.

"We are not opposed to the river-front redevelopment in this area," added Rev. Kilby. "But we are very opposed to a plan for redevelopment that fails to take the human element into consideration."

The Kansas City Rescue Mission currently provides a worship service, hot meal, and a bed for about three dozen persons every night. It was started by former Nazarene evangelist and district superintendent Jarrette E. Aycock in 1953, who was himself saved at such a mission in Los Angeles.

The mission operates on a budget of \$39,000 annually, which comes from donations of Nazarenes and Assembly of God churches. ☐

—NN

1985 SERVICEMEN'S RETREATS

At the retreat at Berchtesgaden, October 14-17, Dr. Jerald D. Johnson, general superintendent, will be preaching the evening messages; Dr. Tom Findley will present a Bible study in



Korea

the mornings; Dr. and Mrs. Walter Crow will lead marriage enrichment seminars, and Alice Johnson and Doris Bowers will speak to the women about higher Christian living. There will also be a youth and children's program for the young people attending. Organized tours will also be offered to Salzburg, Austria, and other interesting mountain areas around Berchtesgaden.

During the weekend in Seoul, Korea, October 4-6, at the Eighth Army Retreat Center, Dr. Donald Owens will speak from his experience as the Asia Region director. The music and spirit of the missionaries will enhance the fellowship. It is an opportunity to meet old friends and make many new ones among the Nazarene family. For those stationed in Seoul with their families there will be teaching and activities for children and young people. The retreat will culminate in a banquet and communion service. Shopping and scenic tours of Seoul are also available.

These retreats are to equip service personnel spiritually and emotionally in their Christian lives. Home churches are encouraged to send or subsidize their service members who are stationed in the Far East or Europe to as-




Berchtesgaden

sist them in their expenses. Someday your service personnel will return to your church. Make them proud to return because of your continual ministry to them while they were away. ☐

ETHNIC LUNCHEON ANNOUNCED FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Ethnic groups from North America plan an Ethnic Fellowship Luncheon in the Hilton Hotel in Anaheim, Calif., at 12:30 P.M. Sunday, June 23, 1985, following the communion service at the opening of the General Assembly. Any interested parties should write to Church Extension Ministries, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.



Book Briefs

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NEW IRS RULES FOR MINISTERS' TRAVEL EXPENSES

Most ministers and church employees have been aware of the need to keep business and travel expense records to substantiate deductions upon IRS audit. However, the recent Tax Reform Act makes these records a matter of law in regard to the business use of automobiles.

For most applications, the new law is effective for all travel after December 31, 1984, and requires that a contemporaneous record be maintained by the employee. This record is to be in the form of a daily log or diary documenting the miles driven, time, place, and business purpose of the travel. The new law also requires tax preparers to require their clients to sign a statement indicating that the contemporaneous records have been kept and are in their client's possession. The tax preparer cannot complete and sign a tax return claiming business travel deductions without the statement.

NOTICE

In the January 15 issue of the *Herald of Holiness* there was a listing of the districts that paid or overpaid their 1984 general budgets. The Southwest Indiana district, which paid 100.01%, was inadvertently omitted. Dr. B. G. Wiggs is the district superintendent. The Southwest Indiana District has paid its general budgets in full for 36 consecutive years.

Failure to keep the records as specified by the law will result in an automatic loss of the claimed expenses upon audit. Any underpayment of taxes due to unsubstantiated expenses will result in a 5 percent negligence penalty plus any unpaid taxes. Claiming a deduction or a credit without the support of the records can potentially result in a charge of fraud.

The new law also denies any use of special credits or depreciation for the vehicle used for business travel if the

SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS CORRECTED

In the January 1 issue, 4 of the 26 largest Sunday Schools in average attendance (under-roof) for 1983-84 were incorrectly reported, due to a misinterpretation of country codes on the computer, as being in Guyana. They are, in fact, Guatemalan churches. The corrected list follows:

26 LARGEST SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE (UNDER-ROOF)

Bethany First (Okla.)	1,689
Denver First (Colo.)	1,624
Salem First (Oreg.)	1,366
Pasadena First (Calif.)	1,318
Olathe College (Kans.)	1,291
San Juan Chamelco (Guatemala)	1,230
Steenburg (South Africa)	1,098
Long Beach First (Calif.)	1,030
Cochan (Peru)	960
Nashville First (Tenn.)	870
Nampa First (Idaho)	834
Wichita First (Kans.)	831
Bonteheuvel (South Africa)	800
Merebank (South Africa)	748
Mount Vernon First (Ohio)	719
Chobal (Guatemala)	676
Nampa College (Idaho)	675
El Estor, Izabel Iera (Guatemala)	669
Oskaloosa (Iowa)	661
Park-wood (South Africa)	660
San Miguel (Guatemala)	650
Bel-Air (Haiti)	650
Richmond Southside (Va.)	619
Portland First (Oreg.)	613
Chatsworth (South Africa)	600
New Orleans (South Africa)	600

business use is less than 50 percent of all use. To substantiate 50 percent use, the same contemporaneous records must be kept.

Additional information can be secured by writing Dr. Dean Wessels, Pensions and Benefits Services, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131. □



Like many of the buildings built by Alabaster dollars, the title frame for the slide set was constructed out of concrete.

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As a part of Alabaster giving, this year through the local church, one can reach around the world. □

BOARD OF PENSIONS HOLDS DECEMBER MEETING

The Board of Pensions held a second midyear meeting December 6, 1984. Dr. Dean Wessels, administrator for the Board of Pensions, reported the following highlights:

The board took action to amend the "Basic" Pension Plan Document to provide for an early retirement pension. This option would become effective July 1, 1985, and would allow for a participant to apply for retirement benefits at or after age 62 with a percentage reduction in benefit for each month that the retirement precedes the participant's 65th birthday.

After reviewing the Nazarene Supplemental Group Term Life Insurance



Pictured at the 1984 San Antonio district assembly (front row, l. to r.) are ordinands and wives, Rev. and Mrs. Willis Stemen, Rev. and Mrs. John Bubbico, and Rev. and Mrs. David Beeson; (back row, l. to r.) are General Superintendent Orville W. Jenkins and District Superintendent James Blankenship.

Program, the board voted to approve a reopening of enrollment from June 23, 1985, through October 1, 1985. During that period, no proof of insurability will be required for the purchase of coverage within the reopening limits.

The improved plan calls for the possible reduction of premiums for nearly all age brackets. The eligible spouse of a participant will be able to qualify for up to \$50,000 of coverage instead of the previous \$10,000 amount. Final details are to be announced later.

In further action, the board voted to amend the Plan Document of the Nazarene Health and Hospitalization Program to improve the dependent coverage for widowed spouses. Under the amendment, such dependent's coverage could be continued for up to 24 months following the death of the participant. The board determined to continue the development of further amendments to the NHHP Plan Document to implement cost containment incentives in the program. □



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Encouragement

LAYMEN'S TAPE CLUB

March
Selections

Side One:

Bible Reading: Romans 12:1-8—*John Corrigan*
Bible Study: Psalm 130, Forgiveness
—*Don W. Dunnington*
Missions: Venezuela—*L. Guy Nees*
Devotional Nuggets

Side Two:

Pause of Spiritual Refreshment—*Mendell Taylor*
Adult Bible Stories: Abigail—*Karen Dean*
"Someone to Care"—*David and Dana Blue*
Sunday School Reflections—*Gene Van Note*

-----Mail today-----

Date _____

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FOR THE RECORD

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

V. H. LEWIS

Sacramento	April 12-13
Central California	April 19-20
Philadelphia	May 1-2
North Florida	May 9-10
Southern Florida	May 15-16
Canada Pacific	May 31—June 1
Canada West	June 6-7

EUGENE L. STOWE

Hawaii Pacific	April 11-12
Western Latin American	April 17-18
Louisiana	April 24-25
Alabama North	May 2-3
New Mexico	May 8-9
Intermountain	May 16-17
Upstate New York	May 30-31
Northeast Oklahoma	June 5-6

ORVILLE W. JENKINS

Mississippi	April 11
Alabama South	April 17-18
San Antonio	May 3-4

New England
Canada Central
Canada Quebec
Maine

CHARLES H. STRICKLAND

Central Latin American
West Texas
Southern California
Northern California
Alaska
North American Indian

WILLIAM M. GREATHOUSE

Washington Pacific
Northwest
Oregon Pacific
Los Angeles
Kentucky
Canada Atlantic
Nebraska

JERALD D. JOHNSON

Washington
Eastern Latin American
New York
Central Florida
South Arkansas
Arizona
Rocky Mountain
Northwestern Ohio

General Conventions

General Assembly

May 16-17
May 31—June 1
June 3
June 5-6

April 18-19
April 25-26
May 9-10
May 16-17
May 23-24
June 6

April 11-12
April 19-20
April 26-27
May 3-4
May 21-22
May 24
June 6-7

April 10-11
April 13
April 26-27
May 7-8
May 16-17
May 23-24
May 30-31
June 7

June 20-22

June 23-28



Pictured at the 1984 Tennessee district assembly (l. to r.) are District Superintendent Talmadge and Genell Johnson; ordinands and wives, Leland and Alice Woolery, Abner and Margaret Koehn. Dr. William M. Greathouse, general superintendent, presided.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

HAWAII PACIFIC—April 11-12. Honolulu First Church, 408 N. Judd St., Honolulu, HI 96817. Host Pastor: Larry D. Coen. General Superintendent: Dr. Eugene L. Stowe.

MOVING MINISTERS

JERALD O. BATTERBEE from West Branch, Mich., to Colling (Unionville, Mich.)
LAWRENCE O. BLIGHT from associate, Puyallup, Wash., to Ewa Beach, Hawaii
JAMES R. BLOOM from Ironwood, Mich., to Norwalk, Ohio
JAMES D. BROWNING from Oklahoma City Portland Avenue to Nady (Tichnor, Ark.)
KENNETH R. CARNEY from Columbus (Ohio) Linden to Ironton (Ohio) First
R. LEE ELLINGSON from Pearl River, La., to Bethany (Okla.) Jernigan Memorial
HEYWARD M. EVANS from Ashwood (Sumter, S.C.) to Charleston (S.C.) First
KEITH EVANS from student, Nazarene Bible College, Colorado Springs, Colo., to Paris, Ky.
HUGH R. GRIMM from Cooperdale (Dresden, Ohio) to Sunbury, Ohio
A. BRUCE HALTOM to Plano (Tex.) First
STEVEN L. JAMES to Buffalo (N.Y.) Riverside
TROY D. NEFF from Houma, La., to Friendship (Robeline, La.)
RALPH L. PARROW from Simcoe (Ont., Canada) to Toronto (Ont., Canada) Grace
DAVID G. ROBERTS from Kingsport (Tenn.) First to Myrtle Beach, S.C.
WILLIAM S. RUSSELL from St. Charles City (Waldorf, Md.) to Hershey, Pa.
JOHN H. SHANK from Roxana, Ill., to Rochester (N.Y.) Calvary
DONALD E. SIDES from Burkburnett, Tex., to Greenville (Tex.) First
MICHAEL C. TRAVIS from associate, Roxana, Ill., to West Frankfort, Ill.
CLAUDE D. WILSON from Terre Haute (Ind.) Eastside to Bedford (Ind.) Davis Memorial
W. DAN WRIGHT from Cleburne, Tex., to Monroe (La.) First

MOVING MISSIONARIES

MISS LOIS DRAKE, Swaziland, Furlough address: Greenhills—Apt. 800, 1010 East Lawn, Midland, MI 48640
REV. VICTOR and BERYL EDWARDS, Spain, Field address: Paseo Manuel Girona 60, 2nd Floor, Apt. 3, 08034 Barcelona, Spain
REV. RONNIE and DIANNA GILBERT, Southern Africa, South, Field address: P.O. Box 261, Amanzimtoti, 4125, Republic of South Africa
REV. FRANK and HEATHER HOWIE, Mozambique and Mines, Furlough address: c/o Mrs. Grime, 1 Mill Lane, Elloughton, North Humberside HU15 1JL, England
REV. WILFREDO and LOURDES MANAOIS, Nigeria, Furlough address: 4109 N. Beaver, Apt. 2, Bethany, OK 73008

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MISS MARY McKINLAY, Swaziland, retired, Home address: 59c Walker Avenue, Brassie, Troon, Scotland KA10 6RZ

MISS JUANITA PATE, Southern Africa, North, Field address: P.O. Box 75, Klaserie 1381, Republic of South Africa

REV. CLAUDE and SANDRA SISLER, Chile, Furlough address: 9430 Cleveland, Apt. 122, Kansas City, MO 64132

REV. KENNETH and CAROLYN WADE, Southern Africa, North, Field address: P.O. Box 15, Acornhoek 1360, E. TVL, Republic of South Africa

REV. TED and MARJORIE ZUERCHER, Africa Communications Council, Furlough address: 33 Mansfield Ave., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shawnee, Okla., First Church will celebrate its 75th anniversary February 24, 1985. All friends and former members of the church are cordially welcomed and urged to attend the all-day service with dinner on the grounds. For further information, contact the church at P.O. Box 855, Shawnee, OK 74801, (405) 275-1255.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

HOPE MARTS is entering the field of song evangelism. I recommend her life and talents and believe that she can be of spiritual blessing to any church in revival and evangelistic ministries. She is currently a member of the Newark, Del. church and active in the local program. She may be contacted at A-2 Allandale Drive, Newark, DE 19713.—*Roy E. Carnahan, Washington district superintendent.*

This is to recommend MR. AND MRS. ARLIN TYLER as song evangelists. Both Arlin and his wife, Jeannie, are gifted singers and she plays the organ and piano. God has used them in a wonderful way. They have also had experience as ministers of youth and music. They feel a definite call to this ministry. Their address is: 204 Tanglewood Dr., Yukon, OK 73099, (405) 354-8290.—*M. Bert Daniels, Southwest Oklahoma district superintendent.*

Evangelists may be reached at Evangelism Ministries' toll-free number, 800-821-2154.

VITAL STATISTICS

FORMER HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR DIES

Rev. Nelson Ammons died October 25, 1984, in Porterville, Calif. He graduated from Northwest Nazarene College. He was administrator of the Samaritan Hospital at Nampa, Idaho, for 11 years.

He is survived by his wife, Faye, of Porterville, Calif.; a daughter, Luanna Stickney of Porterville; and a son, Nelson Ammons, Jr., of Vancouver, Wash.; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

VETERAN PASTOR AND TEACHER DIES

Rev. Ira Emert Bray, 93, died January 2, 1985, in Topeka, Kans. He taught at Bethany Nazarene College and pastored churches in Bradleyville, Goodhope, and Dogwood, Mo.

He was predeceased in death by his first wife, Lucille, in 1957, and his second wife, Martha, in 1984.

He leaves a son, Floyd, of Jefferson, Wis.; a daughter, Ruth Sagerser, of Springfield, Mo.; one stepdaughter, Cecile; 9 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Services were held in Goodhope Church, Ava, Mo., directed by Rev. Dean Baldwin and Rev. Bob Halstead.

FORMER BNC CHAPLAIN DIES

Rev. James R. (Jim) Martin, 49, died December 15, 1984, at his home in Oklahoma City. He was chaplain of Bethany Nazarene College for seven years and pastored churches in Idaho, Oregon, and Missouri.

At the time of his death, he was a family counselor at Presbyterian Hospital. He received the A.B. degree from Northwest Nazarene College, an M.A. from the College of Idaho, and the B.D. degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary. He was completing his doctoral program at Oklahoma State University.

He is survived by his wife, Claudetta; a daughter,

Lori, at home; one son, James R. (Rick), Jr., of Norman, Okla.; his parents, Dr. and Mrs. T. E. (Ted) Martin of Hiwassee, Ark.; a sister, Judith Martin, of Japan; and a brother, Ted Martin, Jr., of Mt. Juliet, Tenn. Funeral services were held in Bethany, Okla., First Church, conducted by Dr. Ponder Gilliland and Dr. John A. Knight. Interment was in Chapel Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City.

FATHER OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE DIRECTOR DIES

M. Frank Turner, Sr., 86, layman, died December 23 in Bonner Springs, Kans. Mr. Turner served the Kansas City District as treasurer and Advisory Board member for 39 years.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma; five sons: M. Frank, Jr.; Gordon; Kenneth; J. Paul; and Keith; two daughters: Helen Ridgway and Shirley Scudday. Also surviving are 23 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; one brother; and one sister.

DEATHS

SCOTT DAVID CHILDRESS, 13, Dec. 24, Simi Valley, Calif. Accidental. Survivors: Parents Rev. Ken and Deborah Childress; brothers Steven and Matthew; grandparents.

FAITH E. CLARK, 75, Nov. 25, Cincinnati, Ohio. Survivors: son Rev. Robert O.; two granddaughters; one sister; one brother.

EUGENE (GENE) THOMAS DANIELS, 56, Dec. 29, Wellington, Tex. Interment: Shamrock, Tex. Survivors: wife Mary (Holt); daughter Kathy Tarpley; son John; two brothers; four sisters.

PHILIP LAWRENCE FACH, 77, Dec. 6, Calgary, Alta., Canada. Survivors: wife Mary; sons Ron and Kenneth; daughter Janice Ricketts; eight grandchildren; one great-grandson; four sisters; three brothers.

MILDRED GUNDY, 76, Dec. 20, Bloomington, Ill.

Survivors: brother John Morris Gundy; sisters Mary Ann Ireland, Dorothy Foster, Helena Johnson, Pauline "Peggy" Swanson, and Lina Godbey.

HERMAN A. HICKLER, 80, Aug. 26, Litchfield, Minn. Survivors: wife Kathryn; daughters Beverly Carlson, Maxine Nickerson, and Sharon Durham; son Duane; 12 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild.

BERNEICE (COIL) HUNTER, 74, Dec. 25, Carbon, Ind. Interment: near Brazil, Ind. Survivors: husband William H.; son William R.; daughters Mrs. Beverly Montgomery, Mrs. Margaret Mullenix, Mrs. Roberta Hale, and Mrs. Sandra Smith; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; 3 brothers; 3 sisters.

MAE ADAMS KIRK, 86, Jan. 1, Oklahoma City, Okla. Interment: Davenport, Okla. Survivors: sons Charles Ray, Bill, and Jim; daughter Wilma Isaacs; one brother.

MRS. EFFIE GOOZEE MARTIN, Dec. 24, Winchester, Mass. Interment: Red Deer, Alta., Canada. Survivors: three stepchildren; one sister; one brother.

BIRTHS

to KEVIN AND TAMMY (DODD) BEATTY, Springfield, Ill., a boy, Mark Allen, Aug. 14

to STEVE AND CINDY (TEDMAN) deWEBER,

Bartlesville, Okla., a girl, Amy Lorelaine, Jan. 7

to CHUCK AND DEBBIE HARRIS, Fort Ogle-

thorpe, Ga., a boy, Justin Taylor, Dec. 22

to DANA LEE AND JUDY (SWEENEY) JETT, Poca,

W.Va., a boy, Jonathan Wesley, Dec. 17

to RON AND SHARON (CLARK) JOHNSON, Lew-

iston, Idaho, a girl, Sarah Lynne, Dec. 18

to REV. PAT AND VICKIE MERRILL, Ft. Ogle-

thorpe, Ga., a boy, Charles Seth, Dec. 31

to DON AND CINDI (WATERS) MILLIRON, Rich-

mond, Va., a girl, Brittany Rachelle, Dec. 22

to JUAN AND DEBBIE MORA, Oxnard, Calif., a

girl, Rebecca Joy, Dec. 15



When should you plan your will?



(choose any 4)



☐ After the birth of your first grandchild.

☐ When one of the "old gang" expires suddenly.

☐ During your pastor's next sermon on heaven.

☐ Other _____

Any of the above may serve to remind us that time is still marching—and today is a very good time to prepare your will, so that your heirs won't be at loose ends "tomorrow."

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Attn: Robert D. Hempel

In Canada:
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Executive Board
Box 30080, Station B
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2M 4N7

Rev. _____
Mr. _____
Mrs. _____
Miss _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Birth Date _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Birth Date of Spouse _____

to MARK AND KIM MORELAND, Parkersburg, W.Va., a boy, Brad Allen, Dec. 20
to GARY AND CATHY MORGAN, Oxnard, Calif., a girl, April Cherie, Dec. 5
to REV. BRUCE AND PEGGY (JENKINS) OLDHAM, Birmingham, Ala., a boy, Scott Andrew, Dec. 17
to REV. DAVID AND RUTH PENN, Racine, Wis., a boy, David Joseph II, Mar. 30
to DAVID AND KAY (ANIBAL) ROSE, Indianapolis, Ind., a boy, Sean David, Nov. 16
to REV. MARC AND MARCEIL (GIESELMAN) ROYER, Winamac, Ind., a boy, Mitchell James, Dec. 18

to MARC AND KATHRYN (THOMASSON) SHARPBACK, Kansas City, Mo., a boy, Marc Andrew, Dec. 13

to REV. NICK AND CINDY (KEYES) STAVROPOULOS, Toronto, Ont., Canada, a girl, Amy Carolyn, Dec. 25

to ED AND LYNETTE (REAGAN) STEVENS, Des Moines, Iowa, a girl, Julia Brittni, Nov. 12
to AL AND PEGGY (McKERLIE) STRAUSS, Bradenton, Fla., a girl, Debra Margaret Virginia, Nov. 16

MARRIAGES

KIMBERLY R. JONES and ERIC A. FORSETH at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Dec. 15

DONNA SUE SUTTLES and STEPHEN ROBERT RICHEY at Bangkok, Thailand, Dec. 21

ANNIVERSARIES

WILLIAM J. D. GRESSER AND OLA WARD GRESSER celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary December 16, 1984. They were married at the First Church of the Nazarene, Evansville, Ind., December 15, 1924. In 1941, their family of eight was asked to assist in the building of a new Church of the Nazarene on the west side of Evansville. The church was begun with 15 members.

The celebration was held in the new (1984) Grace Church fellowship hall annex. Their six children, Martha E. Niswender, Ralph F. Gresser, Phyllis E. Welden, Naomi R. Austrew, David L. Gresser, and Gilbert L. Gresser, all reside in Indiana. Friends and relatives joined the celebration with a carry-in dinner following the morning worship service with son, Rev. David Gresser, pastor of South Haven, Ind., church, as guest speaker.

REV. AND MRS. HAROLD C. PAUL of Portland, Oreg., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary November 24, 1984. A reception was given in their honor at Portland Central Church December 29, 1984, by their children and grandchildren.

The Pauls have a daughter and a son, Lorraine Caver of Springfield, Va., and CDR H. Wayne Paul of Papillion, Nebr. Rev. Paul has pastored seven churches, all on the Northwest District: Dixie, Cannell, Milton Freewater, Troy, Harrington, Naches, and Lewiston Orchards. The Pauls also managed the Northwest District Camp, Pinedow, Wash., for five years. Pastor Paul is currently on the staff at Portland Central Church.

DONALD AND LILLIAN SILLS of Ottawa, Ont., Canada, Trinity Church, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary October 13, 1984.

A group of friends from Trinity Church gathered to



February 24
"Bronze for Gold"

March 3
"The Challenging Voice"

by W. E. McCumber, speaker

HIGH COURT TO DETERMINE IF CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS SILENCE. For the first time in 20 years, the U.S. Supreme Court has returned to the emotionally charged subject of prayer in public schools. The Court heard oral arguments December 4, 1984, on an Alabama statute that authorizes public school teachers to begin the school day with a moment of silence, during which the students may meditate or pray. The court's decision in this case will affect 24 other states with some form of silent meditation or prayer law on their books.

At issue is an Alabama law enacted in 1981, which reads: "At the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades in all public schools, the teacher in charge of the room in which such is held may announce that a period of silence not to exceed one minute in duration shall be observed for meditation or voluntary prayer, and during any such period no other activities shall be engaged in."

The controversial law restates a 1978 statute, modifying it only by a specific reference to voluntary prayer. The changed wording is challenged by a group of Mobile, Ala., parents, headed by Ishmael Jaffree, attorney and father of three schoolchildren.

U.S. District Judge Brevard Hand upheld the law last year. Hand drew national attention when he ruled that the Supreme Court had erred in its 1962 and 1963 decisions barring mandatory prayer and Bible reading in schoolrooms. Hand reasoned that states were not bound by the First Amendment, and therefore could conduct religious activities.

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals later reversed Hand's decision, ruling that the 14th Amendment's guarantee of "equal protection" makes elements of the federal Constitution applicable to states. The Supreme Court upheld a portion of that decision, which banned teacher-led prayer, but agreed to review the portion of the statute providing for silent prayer. □

YOUTH EVANGELISM TO BE HIGHLIGHTED IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

Evangelism and reconciliation will be highlighted this year across Northern Ireland in the ministry of International Youth Bridge. The lay agency is recruiting Christian young people to be involved in evangelistic outreach and Christian service in 1985, which has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Youth.

International Youth Bridge's activities and the International Year of Youth were launched January 1, 1985, with a rally in Belfast's Assembly Hall. The climax of the year for the young volunteers will come in August when the final three weeks will be devoted to an extensive program of evangelism and Christian service. □

SALE OF HANDWRITTEN BIBLE BRINGS WORLD RECORD \$825,000.

The recent sale of a handwritten 14th century Bible for \$825,000 represents a world-record price for the sale of historical material relating to Judaism.

Sotheby's spokesman Batya Monder said, "There isn't anything that's even come close to it."

The Bible was part of the collection of David Solomon Sassoon. Sassoon collected more than 1,000 volumes of Hebrew manuscripts before his death in 1942, and is said to have committed the Bible to memory before he was 18.

The volume was purchased by an anonymous European collector. □

ABORTION TOLL MOUNTS. Sixteen million children's lives have been taken by abortion since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized it in 1973.

The figure represents the present population of 11 states—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. □

celebrate the occasion. The Sills were charter members of Grace Nazarene Chapel, since merged with Trinity.

MR. AND MRS. LOWELL H. SPARKS of Huntsville, Ala., were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary December 23, 1984, at the Huntsville, Ala., First Church Family Life Center.

A reception was given by their children: Mr. and Mrs. Glenn K. Sparks of Ashland, Ky.; Mr. and Mrs. James L. Sparks of Greenville, S.C.; and Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Sparks of Ashtabula, Ohio; and their grandchildren. About 150 relatives and friends attended.

The Rawlins, Wyo., church honored MR. AND

MRS. JUSTUS STRIMPLE on their 50th wedding anniversary December 23, 1984. Justus Strimple married Naomi Harrell December 24, 1934, in Coffeyville, Kans. Naomi's parents, Rev. and Mrs. N. B. Herrell, were both ordained elders in the Church of the Nazarene and both officiated in the ceremony.

Justus Strimple was employed by the Sinclair Refining Co. from 1942 until his retirement March 1, 1976. The Strimples have two children, James of Indiana and Joyce Dale of Rawlins; and five grandchildren.

MR. AND MRS. S. E. VAN NOTE celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary December 28, 1984, at

the home of their son, Marvin, of Escondido, Calif. Present at the gathering were their three children: Marvin; Gene, of Kansas City; and their daughter, Virgilene Brown, of Concord, Calif. They have 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. The Van Notes live in Alpine, Calif.

DIRECTORIES

BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS—Office: 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131. Jerald D. Johnson, Chairman; Charles H. Strickland, Vice-Chairman; William M. Greathouse, Secretary; Orville W. Jenkins, V. H. Lewis, Eugene L. Stowe.

THE ANSWER

CORNER

Conducted
by W. E.
McCumber,
Editor

We welcome questions on biblical and doctrinal matters. The editor is not able to send replies to questions not selected for publication. Address: ANSWER CORNER, *Herald of Holiness*, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

I'm stumped. As I look at my *Manual* I see only two levels of membership—full and probationary members. One church I know of limits those who vote to only full members whose relationship with God is "up-to-date." How can this be? Does this nullify their elections?

Members should have up-to-date relationships with God, but any church where all do would be most unusual, and that's an understatement.

Any full member at least 15 years old and present in a church meeting can vote, according to the *Manual*. □

1 John 5:16 says, "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death" (KJV). I understand that the original Greek used here for "life" signifies spiritual or eternal life. That being understood, I need to know what John means by "his brother."

The only other similar scripture in the Bible is found in Job 42:7-8, where it says, "My wrath is kindled against thee . . . offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly" (KJV).

By "brother" is meant fellow Christian. John assures us, in verses 14 and 15, that God hears and answers us when we pray "according to his will." Now, in verse 16, he cites an example of praying in the will of God, namely, interceding for a fellow Christian who has fallen into sin. God will answer prayer, restoring the sinning brother before his sinning has resulted in death.

Life, in verse 16, does mean eternal life, and "death," as its opposite, refers to spiritual, not physical, death.

1 John 2:1-2 affirms the remedy for sin. The brother who sins, by hastening to Christ with penitent confession, can find forgiveness and cleansing, which prevents death.

Since "all unrighteousness is sin" (verse 17), any sin can lead to death. "Sin unto death" is sin that persists when one refuses to repent and denies the propitiating blood of Christ. Such sin can be

"seen"; it is obvious in the life, not hidden in the heart.

Can we be sure that death has ensued in any specific instance? Probably not, but God will not prompt us to pray for one who is thus guilty. In such a situation we could not pray "according to his will," and, therefore, with an assurance of being heard.

God directed Job to pray for his friends, but God also commanded Jeremiah *not* to pray for his countrymen (Jeremiah 7:16; 14:11). A good practice for us to adopt, then, is to pray for our sinning brothers unless God forbids it. □

One of the commandments of God, found in Deuteronomy 23:15, says that "Thou shalt not deliver . . . the servant which is escaped from his master unto thee."

Was Paul, in any way, violating that commandment in his treatment of Onesimus, Philemon's slave?

The "law of Moses" did forbid the extradition of foreign slaves who had fled to Israel for asylum. And this merciful provision must have been appreciated by a nation founded upon the Exodus—a flight to freedom by a band of slaves.

However, Paul, Onesimus, and Philemon were under Roman law in this situation. Paul's letter to Philemon shows that he is certainly preserving the *intent* of the Mosaic law—that the fugitive slave be treated humanely.

The apostles could not set aside civil law. Where it clashed with God's will they could only disobey Caesar's law and take the consequences. But they could and did legislate for the church. Here Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, perceived it as right and best for Onesimus to return and make restitution, and for Philemon to receive him as a brother-in-Christ, forgoing the brutal punishment usually given the returned slave.

This certainly boded well for the future release from slavery of those whose masters were Christians. You cannot long regard as your slave a man you accept as your brother.

Onesimus did not flee to Israel for refuge. Israel, itself, was dominated by Rome at the time. The ancient Jewish law could not be applied in this situation.

One more thought: The letter infers that Onesimus is returning uncoerced. He must have regarded a return to Philemon as the right course of action for him to take. □



Rev. Tommy Loving, district CL/SS chairman, and Rev. Harold Brown, Adult Ministries director for the Northeast Oklahoma District, brought a group to Kansas City to tour the publishing house and other general church institutions as part of a senior adult district project. The group, pictured above, came for information, education, and fellowship.

NEWS OF EVANGELISM



REVIVAL PREPARATION REAPS SUCCESS

Rev. George Stevenson came to Little Rock, Ark., Westwood Church for a six-day revival effort that had two months of prayer and preparation. In those days of preparation, the praying members waged a battle against the

forces of evil, felt in every effort made toward revival. But they pressed on with thorough preparation in prayer, publicity, planning, special emphases, training altar workers, and planning follow-through.

The altar was filled by seekers in every service following Brother Stevenson's Spirit-filled messages.

On the first night a father for whom the church had prayed for two years, estranged from his wife and two small children, was reclaimed and reunited with his family.

Another young man in his late 20s was saved from a life of sin. He had been attending the church's services for two weeks before the revival.

On the first Sunday morning, the Holy Spirit came on the service and a former board member was reclaimed. On Sunday night a couple in their 70s found victory, another board member responded to new light, two teens were reclaimed, and many others responded. Pastor David Brantley says, "We expect the revival fires to continue to burn and spread." ☐



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REVIVAL BRINGS SPRINGS OF JOY

Two people were saved as a result of concentrated prayer and the faithful preaching of Rick Eastman during a six-day revival effort at Campbellsville, Ky., where Rev. Randy T. Hodges pastors.

A spirit of freedom and praise pervaded the services. The church members were revived. God's presence was felt and manifested in free expression of joy and praise in all the services.

God used Rev. Eastman's preaching and singing. One person aptly stated that when the altar call was given, it was as if the hand of God was pulling him to the aisle and down to the altar. When he left his burden at the altar, he was so full of joy he said, "No news could be so bad as to spoil the feeling of freedom and communion I now have in the Lord!" ☐

EVANGELISTS FIND CHURCH "PREPARED IN PRAYER"

"Our evangelists were encouraged to find a congregation prepared in prayer," says Rev. Francis D. Ketner, Jr., senior pastor of Roanoke, Va., First Church

As a result, the church recently experienced "another old-fashioned holiness revival" with Rev. Nelson Perdue as evangelist and Larry and Pat Neff as song evangelists.

Rev. Ketner says the congregation is

rejoicing for the "fresh revival fires and glorious outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the services."

One hundred people found spiritual victory at the altar of prayer, Rev. Ketner says. These spiritual victories included new people finding God in saving grace, believers being sanctified wholly, saints refreshed, and the reviving power and presence of the Holy Spirit for all.

One inactive member was reclaimed who, according to Rev. Ketner, had contemplated suicide. The man's wife prayed for him and encouraged him to give God another chance to help.

"His testimony was a source of spiritual blessing to everyone," says Rev. Ketner. □

THE CHURCH SCENE



The Columbus, Ohio, Shepherd Church dedicated a new carillon on Sunday morning, November 25. It was made possible through the gifts of family and friends in loving memory of John Ritzman, who passed away in April 1984. John Ritzman was a lifelong member of the Church of the Nazarene. His life was a radiant testimony for his Lord as a successful businessman, a faithful husband and father, and as a committed churchman.

The carillon was installed in time for

the Advent season so the community could benefit from its beautiful Christmas music. Pastor Newell Smith led the dedication service. □



Pictured is a joyful New York District supporter, Rev. Walter MacPherson, for whom a conference room, "Brother Mac," was named at a dedication service at the August camp meeting. He is known for his godly enthusiasm. Rev. MacPherson, a retired minister, is now a member in the Gaithersburg, Md., church.



Dedication services were held September 30, 1984, at Batesville, Ark., for the new fellowship hall. The building was constructed by the Campbell Construction Co. of Batesville, at a cost of \$80,000. The building, including a new parking lot, is valued at over \$100,000, with an indebtedness of \$60,000. Pictured (l. to r., front row) are Mary Amos; Bert Trumble, Sr.; Elmer Cochran, Sr., chairman of the Building Committee; (l. to r., second row) Coy Crafton; Mrs. Thomas Cox; Mrs. Shirley Mobley; Rev. Orville Mobley, pastor; (l. to r., back row) Jim Sherill, mayor of Batesville; and Rev. Thomas Cox, superintendent of the North Arkansas District.



The Danville, Ill., Cedar Grove Church dedicated their new sanctuary September 23, 1984. District Superintendent E. Keith Bottles brought the dedicatory message. Valued at \$185,000, and occupying 4,160 sq. ft. of floor space, with an indebtedness of \$130,000, the building is fuel efficient and is fully equipped for convenience of the handicapped. The new building complements the 2,100 sq. ft. all-purpose building built recently, and the three-bedroom, remodeled parsonage. The Cedar Grove Church received the Great Commission Award at the District Assembly of 1984. Don Williams has been pastor since 1972.

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DR. STOWE PARTICIPATES IN ABS MEETING



Dr. Eugene L. Stowe, general superintendent, was among the country's top Christian leaders who met recently with officials of the American Bible Society to discuss means by which a deepening world hunger for the Word of God may be satisfied.

The occasion was the society's National Advisory Council in New Jersey, the first such gathering in four years. Delegates were presented with an "open challenge" to devise more effective ways of sharing the Word.

Delegates for the two-day session came from 31 denominations and Christian agencies.

Among the plans discussed was a program designed to reach young people around the world with scriptures in their own language. The program has been given approval by the Executive Committee of the global United Bible Societies partnership.

The youth campaign, scheduled to begin in 1986, was made the subject of a special resolution passed by the delegates at the ABS meeting. The resolution urges implementation among the delegates' own constituents in the United States.

The American Bible Society, founded in 1816, is the chief provider of Scriptures without doctrinal note or comment, and without profit, among denominations and Christian agencies.

—NN

MASSACHUSETTS CHURCH LEADS IN BATTLE AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

Lowell, Mass., First Church, has joined forces with a Catholic church and others in their community to fight the peddling of pornography. First Church pastor, Rev. Jon K. Gray, reports that two full-page, two-color ads were recently placed in the Lowell *Sun* newspaper, calling on persons in the community to rise up against this problem.

The ad included a "Declaration of War" against obscenity as well as a petition calling on the city officials to ban establishments that traffic in such

trade. The ad also called on citizens to join in a city-wide candlelight prayer vigil at city hall to bring attention to the blemish on society caused by pornography.

Rev. Gray reports that the campaign is having results. The city council narrowly defeated a move last month that would have created a special zone for "adult" bookstores. He adds that four "massage" parlors have been forced to close their doors due to citizen outrage about obscenity in the community. □

—NN

THANKSGIVING OFFERING TOPS \$8.25 MILLION

The Thanksgiving Offering for World Evangelism had reached \$8,254,557 as of January 18, according to figures released by the General Treasurer's Office.

This is just \$311,722 short of the record-setting 1983 Thanksgiving Offering, which was almost \$1 million greater than the previous record set in 1982. □

—NN

NYI SETS FULL SLATE FOR YOUTH AT ANAHEIM

Young people won't be able to complain that "There was nothing to do!" at the upcoming General Assembly in Anaheim, Calif. Youth Ministries Director Larry Leonard and his staff have planned a full itinerary for youth who come to this summer's 21st General Assembly.

Special events include a "mass invasion" of teenagers on Southern California to minister to church and community needs, Saturday, June 22. At 10 p.m. Friday, June 21, they can spend an evening listening to contemporary Christian music and to the wit and wisdom of Christian humorists Hicks and Cohagan as NYI presents a "Stay Out Late with Hicks, Cohagan, and Friends" concert.

Those with greater stamina may find the early morning "Bread Fun Runs" (June 20, 21, and 22) to their liking (if they can wake up to run one to three miles at 6:00 in the morning).

Others may find the massive "If You Like to Sing" teen choir on Thursday evening, June 20, or perhaps the "All Day Get-Together" at Disneyland, Monday, June 24, just what they were looking for.

The NYI Convention officially begins Thursday, June 20, and runs through Saturday, June 22. □

—NN

DOORS OPEN WIDE FOR AFRICA FEEDING

Rodney Adkins, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries associate, recently returned from Moçambique with signed agreements authorizing additional feeding and medical response by the Church of the Nazarene. The agreements were signed by the Honorable Job Mabanani Chambal, Minister of Justice. At the same time, the Moçambique government is also inviting expatriates back into the country to help administer relief programs.

Nazarene Hunger and Disaster funds for the purchase of 30 tons of food were immediately released by Dr. Steve Weber, coordinator of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. Rev. Salomao Macie, district superintendent of Maputo (the capital of Moçambique), will oversee the food distribution. Rev. Macie is also the president of the Christian Council of Churches in Moçambique, a nongovernmental private organization actively involved in food distribution throughout the country with the full approval of the government.

In Kenya, missionary Harmon Schmelzenbach and a camera crew from Dr. Richard Zanner's regional office have been invited to accompany relief workers into famine areas in the northern provinces near Ethiopia. This is an area where Nazarene Hunger and Disaster dollars are helping to feed thousands of drought victims.

Doors have just opened in Ethiopia for \$25,000 in additional Nazarene contributions to go directly into food and medical supplies for famine victims. This assistance will be administered for the Church of the Nazarene by Christian organizations formally authorized to provide relief in that country. □

—NN

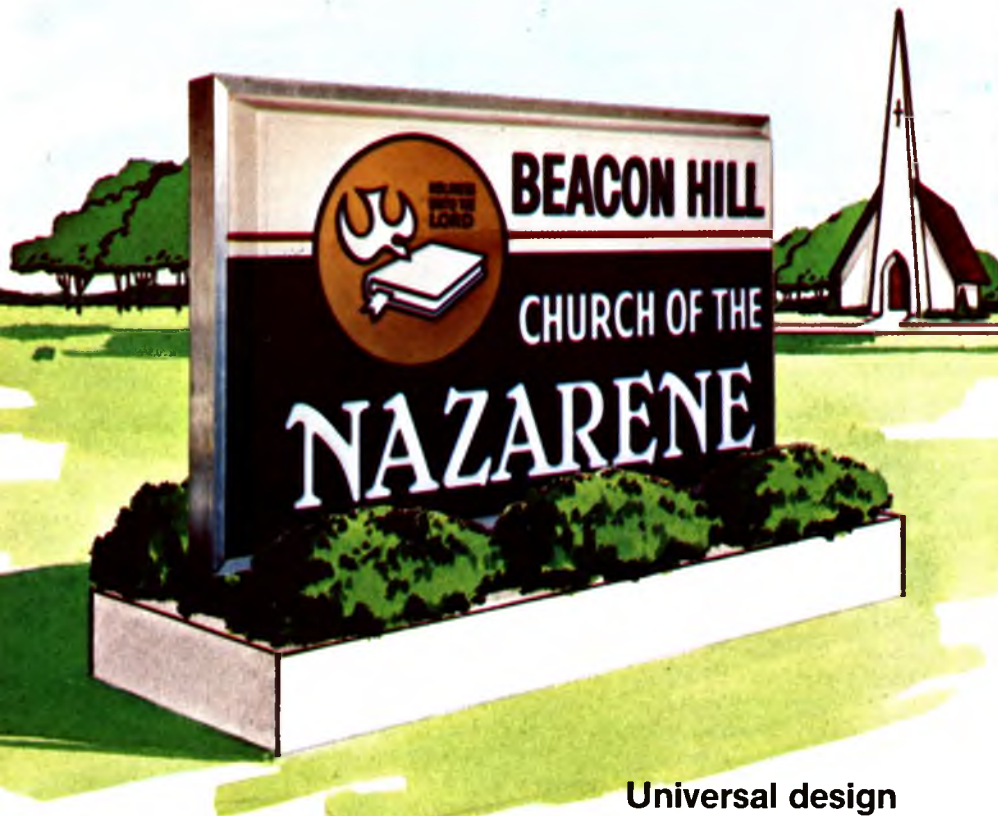


Children being assisted by the Nazarene Hunger and Disaster Fund.

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