

PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

FILE COPY

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD

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Family Week is May 6-12

Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts

On being a little child

"Except ye . . . become as little children,
ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

*If we are to become as little children,
with God as our Heavenly Father,
Then we need to gather some vital things
from our own childhood.*

*We must remember how it felt
to have someone tell us, "It's all right."*

*To feel the safety of someone's arms
When there seemed so much to fear.*

*To know someone could forgive us
when we were naughty or unkind—*

*Even when we felt so bad about it
but could not change or take it back.*

*To have someone say, "I'll take care of it,"
and know they would because they said so.*

*To be able to tell someone that
sometimes you felt angry or upset
And have them say, "I understand"—
or just listen to you without reproach.*

*To trust someone with just about anything,
being sure that it was a sacred trust
that would not be broken,*

*Knowing that they loved you very much
and wanted what was best for you.*

*If this is how a child learns about God's love—
through the relationships of adults—*

*What in the world do some of us
who never knew this kind of love*

*Base our understanding of God upon?
And further—*

*What are some of us doing to our own lambs
who are growing up in our doorway?*

—TRESSA TUDOR in *Vital Christianity*

Photo courtesy Gordon Matheny



Photo by Cliff Fairfield

When you visit older people

The problem is common. What do you talk about when you visit an elderly relative or someone in a nursing home?

I faced this problem with my parents. They live in their own apartment, but they don't go anywhere much, and they don't do much anymore. It's easy to fall into awkward, what-do-we-talk-about-now silences.

I've found that my parents like best to talk about the happy days of long ago. My mother loves to describe the house and countryside where she grew up. She may not remember what she ate for lunch, but she can recall the songs they sang when she came to the Lord some 60 years ago.

My father's eyes actually glow when he talks about his early years as an immigrant in Canada.

I try to get them to tell me about their younger days. They open up a new area of their lives to me. They are pleased that I'm interested.

They say about age groups: "Youth looks ahead; old age looks back; middle age looks worried!"

There's nothing wrong with looking back. The things you lived through, the Scriptures you memorized, the hymns that helped you should be a big part of your aging years. Talk about them.

The only problem with looking back is that you miss things up front. God expects His people to think future—to be positioned for the future. Our best days are ahead.

If your elderly relative wants to talk about death, let him. Just keep it a cheerful discussion. For the Christian, there's certainly nothing morbid about the thought of dying. On the contrary, it's getting ready to go and see your very best Friend. Good living makes good dying. God didn't make us just for this little life.

Age doesn't dull one's appetite for the Word of God. Be sure to share well-known verses of Scripture with the elderly. God says, "I will be your God through all your lifetime, yes, even when your hair is white with age" (Isaiah 46:4, *Living Bible* paraphrased).

—M. P. HORBAN

PLEASE DON'T DIE A FOOL!

One day a ferryboat was crossing San Francisco Bay when a man jumped off into the water. A deckhand noticed the man's plunge and quickly threw a rope to him. It fell almost around him, but he threw it away from him.

The boat stopped, and again the rope was thrown to the man in the water, only to be tossed aside once more. Then a lifeboat was lowered from the ship; but before it could reach the man, he dived under the ferryboat, never to come up alive.

He didn't have to die. He could have been saved by simply grasping the lifeline, but he chose death rather than life.

"How foolish!" you say.

Yet this man wasn't any more foolish than many today who reject the lifeline of salvation. They choose eternal death rather than eternal life. They prefer to die "as a fool dieth."

This is what David said concerning Abner, King Saul's ex-general, who was craftily murdered by Joab (2 Samuel 3:27). David "lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth? Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou" (2 Samuel 3:33, 34).

Abner died as a fool because he was deceived by his enemy. Satan is a great deceiver (Revelation 12:9). He is the enemy of mankind (Matthew 13:39), and he is out to ensnare your soul (1 Peter 5:8). He wants to bring you to a foolish end. Beware of his tactics!

One subtle trick of his is to get you so busy with material things that you neglect the spiritual.

The rich farmer of Luke 12 was such a man. God called him a fool! Why? Because he was wise in business affairs but a fool in spiritual matters. Gold was his idol, and God was forgotten.

This worldly-wise man reasoned, "I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years;

take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry" (v. 19).

However, this man's perspective was totally wrong. For "God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (v. 20).

This prosperous businessman had prepared amply for this life, but scantily for eternity. He died a worldly fool!

Procrastination is another tool Satan uses to trap the souls of men.

"Yes, I know I ought to be saved, and I am going to be saved—but not now," the procrastinator says. The last words of a dying young man who had put off his soul's salvation were these, "I have missed it!"

Felix the governor was one who put off his decision for Christ. He trembled as the apostle Paul "reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come." But he turned aside the conviction of the Holy Spirit and said to Paul, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25). But it appears "a convenient season" never came, and as far as we know Felix died a procrastinating fool!

If Satan can't convince you to neglect or put off your salvation; then he will tempt you to give it up once you are saved.

King Saul once knew the Lord but died a backsliding fool. Earlier he had been given "another heart" and had prophesied as "the Spirit of the Lord came upon him" (1 Samuel 10:9,10). But in the end this once victorious monarch lost out with God and confessed, "I have sinned . . . I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly" (1 Samuel 26:21).

Still another tactic of Satan is to deceive you into trusting in a false concept. You can be a sincere fool and yet be lost.

A woman boasted, "I'm going to heaven because I have always lived right, done right, and helped poor



Photo by Ray Hunold

By VIRGINIA L. SCHNEIDER

people." She was sincere but wrong. No one can be saved on those terms.

Our salvation rests in God's grace alone. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

Please don't die a fool! Don't reject the only means of salvation there is (see Acts 4:12; John 14:6). Don't forfeit your hope of eternal life! Jesus declared, "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

Be wise. "A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil; but the fool rageth, and is confident" (Proverbs 14:16). Listen to God's gracious invitation. He says to you, "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live" (Isaiah 55:3).

THE SECRET PLACE

By **GEORGE HOLMES**

Vice-president, Trinity Bible Institute

If Psalm 91 was *not* composed by Moses, its majestic and confident tones certainly sound like him. Obvious too is its similarity to Psalm 90 which is attributed to him.

From the rich legacy left us by this godly writer, surely among the sweetest and best words are: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

To embrace such a powerful and precious promise as this we should take two practical steps.

First, we should visualize the promise. This is possible through prayerful and imaginative study.

Second, we should verbalize it. As the power of God's Word intensifies through meditation, we can voice a personal affirmation of faith.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, let us proceed in this way.

FIRST, WE TAKE these gripping promises of verses 1 and 2 and visualize

them. Through the divine names used we are given a revelation of God's greatness: the most High, the Almighty, the Lord, my God. Consider their setting in this order.

I

Territorial ambitions have made Abram and Lot separate. The older man is now dwelling in the plain of Mamre which is in Hebron (the word means fellowship). There, at an altar, he worships God. Lot dwells in Sodom, apparently feeling quite at home there.

It is not long, however, before King Chedorlaomer with his allies attacks and sacks the two cities. Lot, stripped of all he has gained, is taken prisoner.

News of the overthrow is brought to Abram. Quickly he organizes a raiding party and surprises the victorious armies, frees the prisoners, and gets back their goods.

It is a singular triumph for Abram,

though not without subtle temptation to enrich himself with spoils of war. The situation calls for spiritual reinforcement from God. So the Lord sends a unique servant, Melchizedek—a king-priest—to meet Abram and minister to him. After serving him bread and wine, Melchizedek exclaims: "Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth" (Genesis 14:19).

Here, then, is the significance of the title, the Most High: He is Possessor of heaven and earth. *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Possessor of heaven and earth. . . .* Think that over for a while in the presence of the creative Spirit of God.

(*Selah*: pause and meditate.)

II

It is now some years later. The 99-year-old patriarch is still awaiting the birth of his promised son and heir. Thirteen years ago, in a moment of frustration and distrust, he yielded to wifely wishes and social pressures and tried to hurry the purposes of God. The result apparently was successful, for Ishmael was born of his union with Hagar, the Egyptian maid. Abram loved the lad, but much domestic turmoil was the price he was now paying. And many years had passed since he had heard from God.

So "when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Genesis 17:1). The Almighty God—*El Shaddai*—indicates the divine Nourisher, Supplier, and Satisfier. Some Hebrew scholars see *Shaddai* deriving from the word *shad* meaning breast, the source of an infant's total supply.

The shadow of the Almighty—the Nourisher, Supplier, and Satisfier of His people.

(*Selah*—pause again for reflection.)

III

"The Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress." "Lord" is the great title



Photo by Cliff Fairfield

GOD PROTECTED ME FROM AN ASSAULT



By SHARRON G. RIVOLI

meaning Jehovah, the One who is totally self-sufficient and in covenant relationship with those whom He has redeemed. He is the great I AM of both Testaments.

Ponder awhile the Jehovah titles of the Old Testament: for instance, Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord who provides. Look up others, add to them the I AM's of John's Gospel, and what a fabulous revelation you have of the One you can trust completely.

(*Selah*—pause, study, and rejoice.)

IV

“My God; in him will I trust.” The Bible's first use of this superlative name gives us the clue to its meaning: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). By this name we are brought face to face with omnipotence, the creative and governing One who holds power over the universe: “Of him, and through him, and to him, are all things” (Romans 11:36). Get the picture? The supreme Creator and Up-holder of the universe is for you. Trust Him.

Now we come to the second necessary response to these gracious promises—we verbalize them: “I will say of the Lord. . . .”

After meditating upon these wonderful names in the presence of God, your spirit becomes possessed by a serene confidence and joy. Because of God's greatness, strength, and promised care, you can now declare aloud: “He is my refuge and my fortress: my God.”

Imagine yourself to be Abram at his moment of exhaustion and temptation receiving strengthening food and fellowship. You can do this, not from the hand of Melchizedek but from Jesus Christ, your High Priest, King of righteousness and King of peace, Possessor of heaven and earth. Remember, “in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted” (Hebrews 2:18). Because you are dwelling in His secret place, you can verbalize and say: “He is ministering

It was quite dark when I got out of the evening class I was attending at the University of Louisville, but I was soon at the safety of my car. Or so I thought.

I guess “assault” was the last thing on my mind. So when a young man walked by asking directions on campus, I politely answered him. I was already inside the car. I started to shut the door, but he lunged toward me and blocked it.

I felt a gun at my head and heard him command, “Get over and don't say a word!”

Somehow, though, I wasn't afraid. The peace of the Lord came upon me.

I didn't budge from behind the

to me now. I accept His wisdom, power, and love into my spirit.”

Again, see yourself as a pilgrim en route to a promised land—sometimes lonely, sometimes fighting, but always dwelling in the secret place. Rest under the shadow of your unfailing Nourisher, Supplier, and Satisfier who says to you, “Walk before me, and be thou perfect.” There is no more hospitable lodging place for the pilgrim. Realize you are there, and declare it aloud: “I am under His shadow now.”

Then try to put yourself in Moses' shoes as he asks God, “Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?” (Exodus 3:13).

Remember that Moses' God is your God, as He replies, “I AM THAT I

steering wheel. That upset him, and he started to push me. But he pushed me just enough to position my body at an angle to kick at him.

I guess he wasn't prepared for what happened next. I called out, “In the name of Jesus! In the name of Jesus!” He slapped me in the face several times. The devil hates the name of Jesus!

Then the Spirit of the Lord urged me to begin speaking in tongues. As the Spirit spoke through me, I saw fear come upon the young man's face. All he could do was to turn and run! Praise the Lord!

Maybe you wonder if you'd freeze if you were caught in a situation like that. Well, I'm living proof that “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4). How wonderful it is to be able to trust in the Lord.

(*Endorsed by L. J. Harrison, pastor, Trinity Chapel Assembly, Louisville, Ky., who adds: “Sharron is a member of our church and an outstanding Christian.”*)

AM; . . . say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

Your earlier study and meditation will have so strengthened your spirit that you can boldly declare, “I will say of the Lord, the I AM is my refuge, and my fortress.” He is the eternally existent One, the God who is always there.

See yourself as the handiwork of the great Creator, the Eternal, the Almighty. As surely as He has made you, He loves you. His plans include you. As you dwell in His secret place and trust under His wings, remember He is for you. Verbalize, therefore, “My God; in him will I trust.”

These two verses are more than a wall motto. They are a vital truth as men of faith throughout the generations can testify.

The secret place of the Most High! Visualize it; personalize it; verbalize it. Dwell in it. Actualize it in your personal experience every day.



Living together without marriage seems to be the trend of the day

Everyone is not doing it!

But there are. Sin always has strings attached, and living together—even with someone you really love—is a sin if you are not married.

The Bible makes it clear that sex outside of marriage is wrong. Period. First Corinthians 6:18 is pretty direct: "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

There is a great deal in the Bible about personal relationships, indicating that problems in this area are nothing new. Without exception, God's standard is purity before marriage, regardless of what society accepts at any given time.

The fact that there is so much in the Bible on this subject suggests it must be important to the God who created man in the first place. God's laws are absolute, after all, and attempting to modify them to fit the morality of the day is ludicrous. Breaking a law doesn't change it, regardless of how many people are involved in breaking the same law.

So why are these sinners who are living together without being married getting away with it? you ask.

Who says they are? God has all time and all eternity to judge those who have sinned. No one ever really "gets away" with anything. (See Galatians 6:7.)

Unfortunately some Christians get caught up in the so-called "new morality" and all that it implies. Those who know what the Bible teaches about sex and personal relationships and choose to ignore these teachings will suffer the consequences.

James 4:17 says: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." In other words,

By CHRISTOPHER HARRIS

The star of a new TV series was discussing his upcoming marriage on a talk show recently.

"Nervous about giving up my bachelorhood?" he said in answer to a question asked by the host. "Why should I be? We're living together already! Can I say that on television?"

He could and did—and this from a man who had portrayed a minister on another popular series!

Today I read an interview of a former film star who considers it "much healthier" that young people are now able to live together openly

without benefit of marriage—"until they see if things work out."

Living together outside of wedlock is not limited to those in show business. A friend of mine casually announced that he and "Karen" were sharing an apartment. "Everyone is doing it," he told me.

Of course, everyone is *not* doing it; but those who are attempt to make it seem like the most natural and normal thing in the world.

"Why get legally tied to one person until you find out if you're compatible?" is their standard argument. "This way there are no strings attached."

Pearseall

TWO HEALED OF TERMINAL ILLNESSES

if you know what you should do and don't do it, it's sin. Obviously the reverse is also true: If you know that what you're doing is wrong and still do it, it's sin.

Many young people who live together—or are thinking of living together—use this argument: “We love each other and are planning to get married someday, so why wait? It's not like we're changing partners every night, you know!”


Because they will be faithful to each other, they think there is nothing wrong with the arrangement. The Bible doesn't see it that way. 1 Corinthians 7:2 says: “To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.” It speaks of husbands and wives, not boyfriends and girl friends.

Not only that, but Christians are instructed to “abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Living together before marriage is a very poor testimony for Christ!

If you really love that special person in your life, you will wait until you can make it legal. It may be difficult, but as 1 Corinthians 10:13 puts it: “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

Don't fall for Satan's lies. Instead, pray for God's guidance in your personal relationships, trusting Him to direct you in the way you should go. If that special person is also a Christian, as the Bible says it should be (2 Corinthians 6:14), you can work together to keep the situation under control.

In later years you'll be glad you did.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2). 

About 3 years ago my cousin, Warren Rhoads, of Benton Harbor, Mich., requested prayer for his daughter, Mrs. Ginger Morgan. She was critically ill with a stomach malignancy which had continually worsened.

Surgery had confirmed that her condition was inoperable. She was in constant extreme pain, and her weight had gone from a normal 110 to 68 pounds.

A couple of days after surgery her lung collapsed, pneumonia set in, and her temperature went up. Then we committed her to the Lord through our bedside prayer circle.

She went into a deep sleep and awoke about 8 hours later, free of all pain and ready to leave the hospital! After a complete examination the hospital staff confirmed that Jesus had performed a miracle in healing her. Praise the Lord!

I received a request from this lady about a year later to go to Benton Harbor to pray with her younger sister and husband whose 4½-month-old son Eric John had been diagnosed as critically ill.

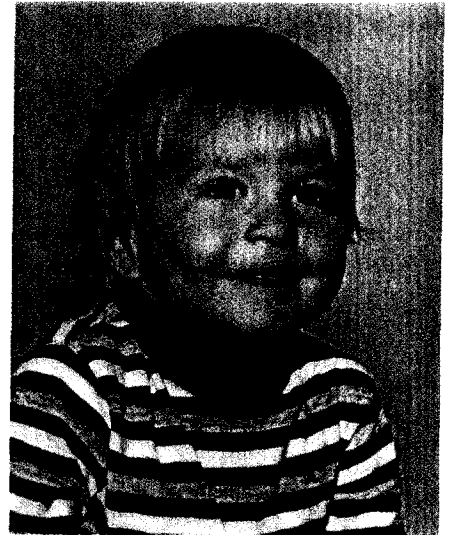
Mrs. Mulson has written me the following letter:

“My husband and I had a little girl born in 1972. When she was 3 months old, we learned she had Pompe's disease. We were told she would die by the age of 1½ years. She died at 10 months. At that time the doctors told us there was a 75 percent chance that any other children we might have would have the same sickness.

“When I became pregnant in 1975, my husband and I were very happy; but when I called the doctors, they said an abortion was the best answer. We don't believe in abortions and decided against it.

“Eric John was born February 3, 1976. We took him for tests when he was 9 days old. When we returned to Ann Arbor in May as requested, the doctors told us Eric's tests matched his sister's and he would also die before the age of 1½ years.

“You were told of our need and came to pray for Eric. My whole family decided Jesus was the only One to



Eric John Mulson


turn to. My mother wrote to several church leaders for prayer. The local churches and you and your church were also asking God to heal our son.

“Your visits gave us the extra strength to go on. Finally one day you came with your grandchildren. When we had the prayer circle, you put your hand on Eric, and Jesus came to me and told me our son would be healed. That same night my mom was crying about Eric John, and she said Jesus told her to stop crying, that he was going to be fine.

“We took him back to Ann Arbor for more tests, and the doctors couldn't believe the results. Eric John was healed! My husband and I knew God had done it. We thank Him and give Him praise. We know He lives today.—Mrs. Robert J. Mulson, Benton Harbor, Mich.”

The picture shows Eric John at 20 months. His complete healing has been confirmed by the University of Michigan Hospital staff which had given the fatal prognosis earlier.

These two direct answers to prayer have been pinnacles in my spiritual life. It has given me much pleasure to repeat these testimonials to many whom I've contacted whose faith needed strengthening.—Carl L. Rhoads, Ecorse, Mich.

(Endorsed by Pastor William Meszaros, Mamre Assembly, Melvindale, Mich.) 

AGAMA MAKES COVENANT TO EVANGELIZE ASIA

The flame of missionary vision in the Assemblies of God churches in Asia is spreading in a new and exciting way.

During September 1978 Assemblies of God church leaders and missionaries from nine countries in Asia met for the sixth Far East Asian Conference at Full Gospel Central Church in Seoul, Korea.

A tremendous anointing of the Holy Spirit in each of the conference sessions caused the delegates to have a new sense of urgency and partnership in missions. As a result these nine Asian nations formed a new organization—the Assemblies of God Asian Mission Association (AGAMA). They also drew up an agreement, in the form of a covenant, which stated their united concern to evangelize the lost in Asia.

The tone of the conference was set early when Bob Houlihan, missionary to Japan and area representative for the Far East, presented a scholarly paper challenging the Asian churches and missionaries to meet the need of Asian missions. Following his presentation there was a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

As the conference progressed throughout the week, inspirational messages complemented the entire thrust of the sovereign move of the Spirit. The ministry of the Word each evening, in keeping with the theme, "Preach the Word," seemed to build an ever-increasing burden for and excitement about what God is doing in Asia and what is immediately forthcoming.

Several times the needs of the mil-

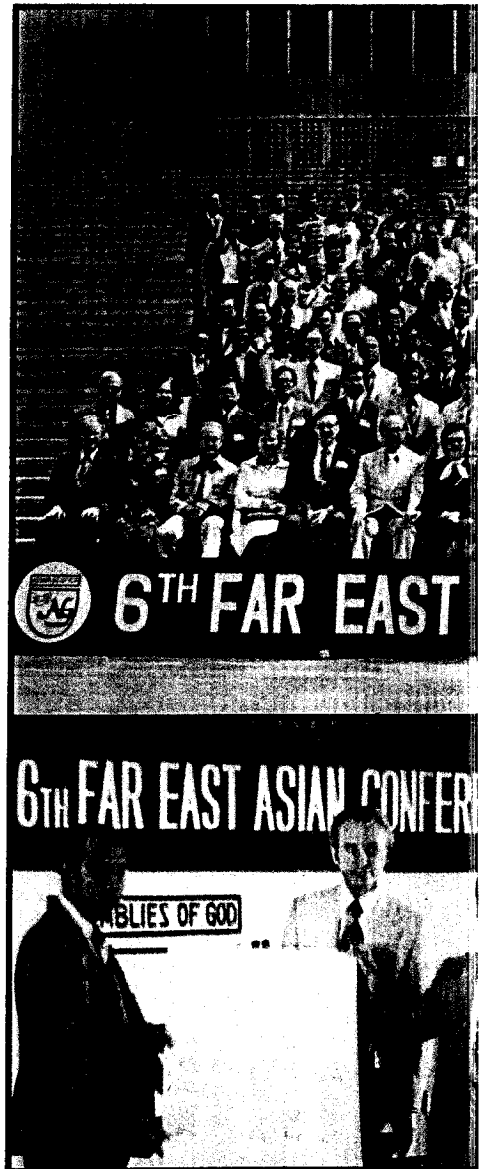
lions of people in Asia were presented and deep concern for prayer was expressed.

On Saturday, the fifth day of the conference, delegates visited prayer groups meeting all over Seoul and later went up to Prayer Mountain. Koreans come regularly to this mountain to fast and pray for the salvation of their country and its people.

That evening a special meal was prepared by the elders of Full Gospel Central Church. Eleazer Javier, superintendent of the Assemblies of God of the Philippines, then read the first results of the group discussion on missions.

Committee assignments had been written up in the form of a covenant. It stated the delegates' desire to work with God and each other toward the evangelization of Asia. Everyone present indicated a desire for positive action toward the needy mission fields represented in the conference as well as the needs of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and mainland China.

Later a large parchment was prepared containing the covenant. It was formally presented by Akiei Ito,



Above: Left to right: Eleazer Javier, Bob Houlihan, and Akiei Ito present the AGAMA covenant, signed by all participants at the conference. Below: Pastor Cho Yonggi and his mother-in-law, Ja Shil Choi, associate pastor at Full Gospel Central Church, welcome conference delegates. Elders of the church hosted the delegates at a special evening meal.





Missionaries and national leaders from nine countries in Asia met in September 1978 for the sixth Far East Asian Conference. Full Gospel Central Church in Seoul, Korea, hosted the meeting.

superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Japan, who, deeply moved of the Spirit, read it aloud. Afterward he invited all who wished to participate in fulfilling this covenant—evangelizing Asia—to stand. The response was unanimous. Delegates came forward to sign the covenant. This had not been planned but was born in the hearts of all who gathered for the conference.

During the signing, a missionary testified that the Lord had dealt with him and his wife about giving an offering for the proposed missions association. They began with a faith promise of \$1,000. Immediately others joined them. The executive brethren of the Japan delegation made a faith promise of one million yen (\$5,000).

An offering receptacle was placed beside the table where the covenant was being signed. When all delegates had signed and the offering and faith promises had been counted, there

was a total of \$14,554 from the nine Asian countries represented at the conference.

Next, AGAMA leaders announced that a missionary target would be selected. All participants had agreed that even during this year of planning, a project should be in focus. Quickly the delegates suggested Thailand. Only the night before the spiritual needs of Thailand had been highlighted by Wirichai Kowae, general superintendent of the Thailand Assemblies of God. Brother Nigorn, principal of the Bible school in Thailand, had presented the needs of the school and also reported that less than 1 percent of Thailand's population is even nominally Christian. A great burden of prayer and concern had gripped the hearts of the delegates.

After everyone agreed that Thailand should be the target project, Full Gospel Central Church contributed \$5,000 toward a crusade that was held in Thailand three months later. Also they pledged \$10,000 for the development of a Bible school near Bangkok.

At the closing session of the conference Wesley Hurst, field director for the Far East, spoke on the topic, "We Be Brethren." Communion was served to the delegates by the general superintendents of Asia.

"As we left the conference," commented Brother Hurst, "each of us carried a great consciousness of wonderful fellowship and the blessing of God's presence. The Holy Spirit had charted a course of positive spiritual action for the Assemblies of God churches in Asia. This conference and the signing of the covenant appear to be only the beginning of unprecedented events in the Far East." EB



Above: J. Philip Hogan leads in prayer as delegates seek God for guidance in furthering the gospel in Asia. Left: Far East Field Director Wesley Hurst, his wife June, and Missionary Jim Hance, Fiji, sign the AGAMA covenant.



SCOPE IN GUATEMALA

By Dr. ELIEZER OYOLA / Associate

Last December during Christmas break I was privileged to accompany an Evangel College SCOPE (Student Corps of Pentecostal Endeavor) team of nine students to Guatemala. We left Springfield, Missouri, on December 19 for our 3-week evangelism effort.

We worked in conjunction with the Ernest Bowmans, Assemblies of God missionaries in Coban, Guatemala. Their daughter Debbie, a freshman at Evangel College, was a member of the team. About half the team members were fluent in Spanish.

Our first assignment was in a small village called Purulah where a new work had been started a few months earlier.

God gave us a burden for that village.

Hermano Joel, the local pastor, told us that when God called him there, he was the only evangelical Christian in the village. He began to pray and fast and preach the Word all by himself.

Later through the efforts of Brother and Sister Bowman, the congregation was able to purchase a small lot with a humble building on it. It is a tiny wooden hut with a dirt floor, tin roof, and handmade benches. In some cases boards are placed over two cement blocks to serve as pews.

But the presence of God was there! Although the little church can count only 15 believers in the whole town, attendance increased to 100 and even more as our revival progressed.

I remember the second night of the meetings. The tiny sanctuary was packed. We opened the door and the only window so that those standing

outside could hear the message of salvation.

I could not believe my eyes. People outside strained their necks to get a glimpse of the preacher and hear what he had to say. It was a pleasure to minister to such an audience.

We also ministered in Coban, San Juan Chamelco, Tac Tic, Caki-Guar (a mountain church), and Carchac. In some churches we had to speak through interpreters, as many of the people speak only Kekchi.

A typical day consisted of door-to-door witnessing and literature distribution, an outdoor service at

ONE WAY TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

We are an average American family in the Midwest, yet we have been able to be a Christian witness to people from Finland, Iran, Austria, Costa Rica, and Belgium.

How? Through the American Foreign Student Exchange Program (AFS). Many foreign students are flocking to the USA, yet this Christian ministry to them is often overlooked.

We were introduced to AFS through our local high school. Our son was friendly and helpful to AFS students. When Jarmo, a student from Finland, became unhappy in his American home, we were asked to consider becoming his American family. We felt we should provide him the experience of living in a Christian home.

We knew we would have to make adjustments if we took a stranger from another country and culture into our home. Financially it would be a strain because there is no remuneration. Jarmo was a senior, as was one of our sons. That meant graduation expenses.

But we decided to take a step of faith. We became Jarmo's host fam-



Top: Church service in Purulah, a small village where a new church had just been started. Above: Children's service in the plaza in Coban. Missionary Joye Bowman standing by Yogi Bear.



Above: Evangel College students prepare for an outdoor service in Coban. Below: Plaza service in Purulah. Hermano Joel, local pastor, is in the foreground at right.



Professor of Spanish, Evangel College

the plaza, more door-to-door witnessing, and the evening church service.

We took advantage of the personal encounter and street service to invite the people to the evening service. The response was overwhelming. Those people are hungry for God.


During the 3-week period we held 33 services and worked with eight different churches. We also visited hospitals and prisons. A total of 50 persons accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

People heard the gospel and responded to God's call, giving their



Eliezer Oyola preaching at a plaza service in Tac Tic. Catholic church is in the background.

hearts to the Lord right in their own homes, in the street, and at the prison. Christians recommitted their lives to Jesus Christ. Indeed God continues to add to His church "such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

The SCOPE team believed the Lord's powerful word when He said: "I will build my church." Two of the team members are Spanish majors who are looking toward missionary service in Latin America. Others are leaning that way. All were visibly touched by their experience and thrilled to have a part in helping to build the Church in Guatemala. 

'We became Jarmo's host family. Our lives have never been the same.'



By WILMA MOODY

ily. Our lives have never been the same.

We learned that one AFS student attracts other AFS students. They come from many countries in a group to the USA and try to stay in contact with each other.

We kept a student from Austria on a short-term exchange. His visit to our church was his first opportunity to attend a Protestant church, and he liked it. Later we met missionaries



Jarmo (above), an AFS student from Finland, and the Victor Moodys (left), host family.

who were starting an Assemblies of God work in his hometown, and we told them about him.

A girl from Costa Rica attended our church a few times. She remembered attending a Pentecostal revival as a child, and her interest was renewed. A Muslim boy attended his first Christian service in our church.

AFS students are requested to attend the church of their host family. For Jarmo, this meant quite a change. In Finland he had attended a formal church about twice a year. When he became a member of our family, he started attending church two or three times a week.

At first he didn't understand our type of worship, but gradually he entered into our services.


We had many discussions with him about the Bible, religion, evolution, and life in general. We found him to be very intelligent, and his thirst for knowledge inspired our family. We tried to show him Christian love, and this had an impact on his life. He became a happier person. His teachers noticed and commented about it.

Jarmo is now back in his homeland. Before he left, a reporter asked him what he would remember about the USA. He said he would remember "ticks, and the people's friendliness." But he also talked of the Christian way of life here in America. He told the reporter he owed the people of our town a lot because he had changed for the better.

We hear from him often. We believe his life will never be the same.

We are still reaching out to foreign students.

You can too. You don't have to be a host family to invite a student into your home. Although they have a busy schedule, many would like an opportunity to visit you and your church and its activities.

These students, many of whom will become leaders in their countries, are here to learn from America. What is the most important thing we have to offer? Jesus Christ! Let's share Him, not in a pushy way, but through Christian love. It's one way to help change our world. 

EVANGEL NEWS DIGEST

FROM EVANGELICAL PRESS NEWS SERVICE, CORRESPONDENCE, PERIODICALS, PRESS REPORTS
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SPEAKERS NAMED FOR PENTECOSTAL WORLD CONFERENCE

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Speakers from several continents will minister at the 12th Pentecostal World Conference to be held here October 2-7.

Representing the "Third World" will be Samuel Odunaiké of Yaba, Nigeria, an African church leader and administrator; and John Thannickal, a native of Bangalore, India, president of a college and a representative of 3,200 local churches of India.

Javier Vasquez of Santiago, Chile, will be another conference speaker. He is the general superintendent of the largest Pentecostal denomination in Chile and pastor of a church in Santiago with more than 80,000 members.

European speakers will include Pastor Bertil Olingdahl of the 4,000-member Smyrna church of Vaastra Frolunda, Sweden; Eric Dando of Newport, Wales, editor-elect of

World Pentecost magazine; and Percy S. Brewster, general secretary of the conference.

North American speakers will include Dennis Bennett, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Seattle, and a leader in the charismatic renewal; Dan Beller, pastor of Evangelistic Temple (Pentecostal Holiness) in Tulsa, Okla.; Paul L. Walker, pastor of Mount Paran Church of God, Atlanta, Ga.; and Thos. F. Zimmerman, general su-

perintendent of the Assemblies of God, USA, and conference chairman.

Meetings of the conference will be in the Pacific Coliseum and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. More than 10,000 delegates from 80 countries are expected to attend, according to R. W. Taitinger, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and chairman of the host committee for the conference.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF PENTECOSTAL WOMEN TO BE HOSTED BY PFNA AUXILIARY

SPRINGFIELD, MO.—The Pentecostal Fellowship of North America Women's Auxiliary will host the first international Pentecostal women's fellowship meeting in Vancouver, B.C., on the afternoon of October 4.

Mrs. Elva Hoover, secretary of the Assemblies of God Women's Ministries Department and chairman of the PFNA

Women's Auxiliary, said the meeting will be in the Grand Ballroom of the Vancouver Hilton Hotel.

The program will include speakers, music, and special features in addition to the fellowship tea. It will be one of many activities in connection with the Pentecostal World Conference which meets in Vancouver October 2-7.

Women from 80 nations are expected to be present at the conference. "The PFNA Women's Auxiliary counts it a high privilege to invite Pentecostal women attending the conference from around the world to join for . . . vital interaction," Mrs. Hoover said.

Mrs. Elma Scratch, director of Women's Ministries for the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, Toronto, is coordinating local arrangements for the gathering.

BROTHER AND SISTER HONORED BY MISSIONETTES AND ROYAL RANGERS

A teenage brother and sister from Idaho were both honored

last year for their accomplishments in the programs of the Missionettes and the Royal Rangers.

Diane Hokanson was crowned an Honor Star in Missionettes, the highest level of accomplishment a girl can achieve in the program of the Stairway to the Stars.

Her brother, Ray, Jr., was presented the Gold Medal of Achievement for his work in Royal Rangers, the highest level of accomplishment in that program.

Parents of the young people are Raymond and Jane Hokanson, pastors of the Assembly of God in Aberdeen, Idaho. Both parents are leaders in Missionettes and Royal Rangers ministries locally and in their section of southern Idaho, a part of the Northwest District.

Diane and Ray Hokanson



Oil bush grown in the Negev

BEER SHEBA, ISRAEL—Oil fields are sprouting in the Negev though there are no derricks in the area. The oil is being grown in the form of the jojoba plant (pronounced ho-ho-ba), a drab shrub that has acorn-sized beans.

A yellow oil that is extracted from the beans is unlike any other vegetable oil. It resembles sperm whale oil; and since the sperm whale is a protected species and the U.S. Congress has banned importation of its oil, the jojoba is a welcome substitute. It is a fine grade industrial lubricant with a myriad of commercial applications.

Meir Forti, director of the Division of Plant Introduction at the Ben-Gurion University Research and Development Authority, is the person principally responsible for the development of jojoba in Israel. He has been testing and improving the plant since the early 1960s when, as a member of the former Negev Institute for Arid Zone Research, he transplanted jojoba seeds from their native habitat in the deserts of the American southwest to Negev sites.

Last year the Delek Oil Company and a group of American investors formed a partnership to underwrite the jojoba project. Some 1,200 acres of jojoba will be planted during the next 4 years.

The Bible now published in 1,660 languages

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Statistics released here by the American Bible Society (ABS) show that at least one book of the Bible had been published in 1,660 languages and dialects by the end of 1978, an increase of 29 languages over the 1977 count.

Other figures reported in the annual ABS Scripture count show that the complete Bible has been published in 268 languages, the New Testament in 453, and portions in 939.

Africa ranks as the region with the largest number of languages in which at least one book of the Bible has been translated (482), followed by Asia with 428 languages, and Latin America with 269.

British Pentecostals plan European thrust

SUSSEX, ENGLAND—The Assemblies of God and Elim churches of Great Britain have announced plans to become more involved in evangelism in continental Europe. A joint committee has been formed under the leadership of John Wildrienne, former director of the now disbanded European Evangelistic Society, with representatives from both the Assemblies and Elim fellowships.

The Elim churches are calling their program "Eurovision." It will work with existing Pentecostal churches in Eastern

Europe as well as in other parts of the continent, supporting them with Bibles and literature and aiding in other projects, according to Brian Edwards who will head the ministry. Elim youth plan to send "Euro-teams" for short-term evangelistic ministry.

The Assemblies of God of Great Britain intends to use literature, radio, seminars, and other forms of evangelism in its program, "Action Europe." Many countries in Europe are finding new freedom of religion as the power of state churches has declined.

Swedish Church votes to keep state ties

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN—By a vote of 54-42, the Assembly of the (Lutheran) Church of Sweden has rejected proposals to change the relationship between the Church and the Swedish government.

While the expression "separation of church and state" was avoided in the discussions, things would have moved that way if the plan had been accepted.

The proposal would have eliminated mandated civil functions such as maintaining population records, now carried out by the church, and would have rescinded the right of parishes to levy taxes in favor of payments collected by the government and turned over to the church as a whole. Separate church membership and citizenship rolls would have been established.

Jewish theological seminary to open

HEIDELBERG, WEST GERMANY—Germany will soon have its first Jewish theological seminary since the end of World War II. Authorized to grant degrees, the school will be the fulfillment of the vision of an American, a German-born Jew who is now Chief Rabbi of the German region of Baden.

"Die Juedische Theologische Hochschule" is expected to open to 20 students about October 1.

Before the Hitler period, Germany had three Jewish

theological schools. They were gradually closed.

Nathan Peter Levinson, a native of Berlin who returned to Germany in 1958 as an American Air Force Chaplain, stayed on to help minister to West Germany's 35,000 Jews. Rabbi Levinson had been a student in 1941 at the last Jewish seminary on German soil, the school in Berlin.

There are only 10 rabbis in West Germany. Two are in West Berlin, two in Frankfurt, and six scattered elsewhere.

PENTECOST AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRIA—The first East/West Pentecostal Church Leaders Conference was held in Vienna, March 12-15. Organized by the European Pentecostal Fellowship, ministers meetings were held by day and evangelistic services by night. Speakers for the evening services were from the east European countries.

USA—"Joy in the Spirit" is the Assemblies of God theme for Pentecost Sunday, June 3. The theme text is Romans 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is . . . joy in the Holy Ghost," and the emphasis in sermons and special music on that day will be on the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the joyous, Spirit-filled life.

HUNGARY—Bibles, songbooks, and other religious literature are in plentiful supply in Hungary. The Bible bookstore at the Pentecostal headquarters is well stocked with Bibles and devotional and doctrinal books, and these are readily available to anyone who wishes to purchase them, according to Stefan Gulyas, missionary-evangelist.

USA—Missionettes of the Assemblies of God in the U.S. assisted the Hillcrest Children's Home in Hot Springs, Ark., by raising \$7,064 toward equipment for the new activities building there.

INDIA—Presently throughout West Bengal there are 43 satellite churches of the Calcutta Mission of Mercy. Twenty-eight groups worship in buildings, the others in open-air facilities. One of his goals for 1979 is to construct buildings for those yet needing them, says Missionary Mark Buntain.

ABS PUBLISHES LARGE PRINT NEW TESTAMENT SELECTIONS

NEW YORK—As part of its ongoing ministry to the handicapped, the American Bible Society has prepared three Scripture selections especially for the visually impaired.

The illustrations, typeface, and paper were all carefully chosen in accordance with the specifications of the National Association for the Visually Handicapped, said spokesman John A. Duguid.

The selections have been set in large (18 point) type. The use of bold, black type on nonglossy white paper provides strong

contrast. A wide black rule divides left and right pages and serves as a signal to go down to the next line rather than across to the next page.

The three selections are titled "How to Be Right with God" (Romans 3:21-31); "How to Find Peace" (Romans 5:1-11); and "How to Find Life" (John 3:1-21). They are prepared for use in nursing homes, hospitals, and other areas of a church's outreach.

Duguid said the selections from the American Bible Society cost 5¢ each.



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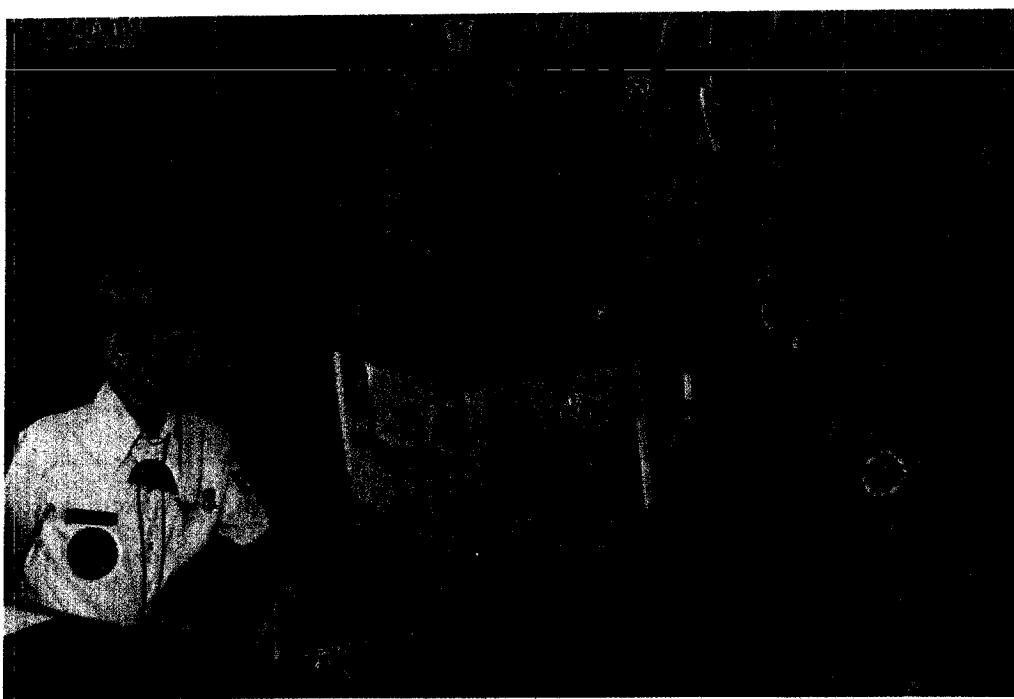
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Brian, Rita, Marvin, and Billy Christie—a Royal Rangers family.

ROYAL RANGERS—FOR US, IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

When my two sons and my husband Marvin became Royal Rangers, I didn't realize I would end up becoming one too!

Anyway, *almost* a Ranger.

I can recite the Ranger's code and mottoes from hearing Billy and Brian coach each other all through the house.

And when Marvin and the boys return from one of their Ranger camp trips, I often feel as if I'm out in the wilds—stepping over and around all the backpacks and equipment piled on the floor waiting to be put away.

And I think I admire Johnnie Barnes, the national commander, almost as much as my boys do. I'm glad Jesus put it in this man's heart to give us a program that has meant so much to my family and has helped my husband and my two sons grow spiritually.

My experience with the Royal Rangers began when Billy joined Pioneer Outpost #5 at First Assembly in Lakeland, Florida. Within a few weeks my husband had begun to get involved because he believed

By RITA CHRISTIE

working with the boys at that age could be a real ministry for him.

When Brian got old enough, there was no question about his becoming a Straight Arrow.

Now Marvin is a commander of an outpost of Trail Rangers. We are all proud of him. It probably makes things a lot easier on me when it comes time to get ready for camping trips. Marvin runs down the checklist for them all: "Flashlight? Knife? Bedroll? Canteen?"

Billy, now 11, has begun to realize just how much work can be involved in those camping trips. Still, by the time they're packed and ready to go, he's usually ready to have fun.

For a long time it was the tragedy of Brian's life that he wasn't old enough to go along—and he was thrilled when he got chosen to go to the Everglades as the mascot.

While my Rangers are away, it gets awfully quiet at our house. I'm glad for the time to do some extra Bible study or go visiting friends or shopping. And I enjoy taking a little more time to prepare an extra nice meal for them to eat when they come home. (Not that it always gets eaten! I sometimes discover they were just

too hungry and decided to stop at McDonald's on the way home!)

Of course, it takes at least 3 hours to hear everything that happened while they were away!


I remember how Billy marveled while telling of his first footwashing service out in the wilds in an open creek. I could tell he had been impressed by the spiritual lesson.

Things like that have helped me finally to understand that all those tree limbs, beads, and animal skins they bring home may be very special keepsakes. And since I've learned these mementos may mean something spiritual to a Ranger, I'm careful to ask before vacuuming up a twig or wild berry!

When they share the significance of their little treasures, it helps make all the other aggravations worth it. There's not enough room to store all the camping equipment in the house! The washing machine just about dies trying to remove the grubbier and less spiritual memories from their clothes!

I've seen the lives of my boys and my husband and other boys changed through Royal Rangers. Boys who came in acting unruly and uncaring end up learning a discipline and a sense of pride that will have eternal value for them. The boys do grow, and I like my husband to be able to have a part in that.

There are even times when I've been able to have a direct contribution toward their Rangers activities. I'd like all to know that *everyone* in the Christie household pitched in to help make that Ranger flag that won third place in the National Camporama in Idaho.

So, thank you Royal Rangers. And thank You, Jesus, for giving this opportunity to the three people I love most on this earth. The growth in their lives as Christian men is why I am so proud to be a Royal Ranger mother and wife. 

A MODEL PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

Jesus taught His disciples a model prayer that is amazingly relevant for our times. It is very well known—but do we pause before we speak it and realize all it means?

“Our Father,” it begins, “which art in heaven” (Matthew 6:9). Do we remember that He is *our* Father, the Father of all who trust in Him, whether they be red or yellow, black or white, rich or poor, cultured or illiterate? All born-again Christians are brothers for they have the same Father.

“Hallowed be thy name.” People take His name in vain today. Often it is a curse word. It is invoked in causes He never would approve. We live in an increasingly profane society that hallows neither the name of God nor the things which are sacred to Him.

“Thy kingdom come.” Ours is a revolutionary age when long-held views are changing rapidly. What the world needs is a spiritual revolution that will exalt truth and righteousness consistent with the kingdom of Christ.

“Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” It is the will of the people, supposedly, that prevails in a

democratic society. This is not synonymous with the will of God. The majority is not necessarily right, for people can be misled and misinformed; but things will not go wrong for the person who sincerely prays that God’s will shall be done.

“Give us this day our daily bread.” In modern parlance, “bread” means money; but there are other things more important than money, and a little adversity may strengthen our spiritual lives more than great prosperity. The Lord knows what our real needs are. Wise is the man who prays, “Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain” (Proverbs 30:9).

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” Another word for “debts” is trespasses, or faults. All of us offend in one way or another. If we recognize our faults, we can overcome them; and if we admit our shortcomings to the people we live with, they can tolerate us. What is intolerable is a rigid self-

righteousness that raises walls of pride between people. Pride builds communication gaps but humility builds bridges. “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another” (James 5:16). Healing power is released when we humble ourselves before others.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” Some translate this, “Do not bring us to the test, but save us from the evil one.” They associate this verse with Revelation 3:10 where Jesus said, “I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world.”

Probably we are nearer to that “hour of temptation” (testing) than most of us realize. The crisis times of the present may be the prelude to that time when the Man of Sin shall exercise his temporary rule over the world. “Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world” (Matthew 24:21).

God will save His people from that time if they watch and pray that they may “be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” when He comes (Luke 21:36).

—R. C. C.

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. . . the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God.

. . . there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

. . . in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years.

. . . in the Blessed Hope—the rapture of the Church at Christ’s coming.

. . . the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

. . . regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

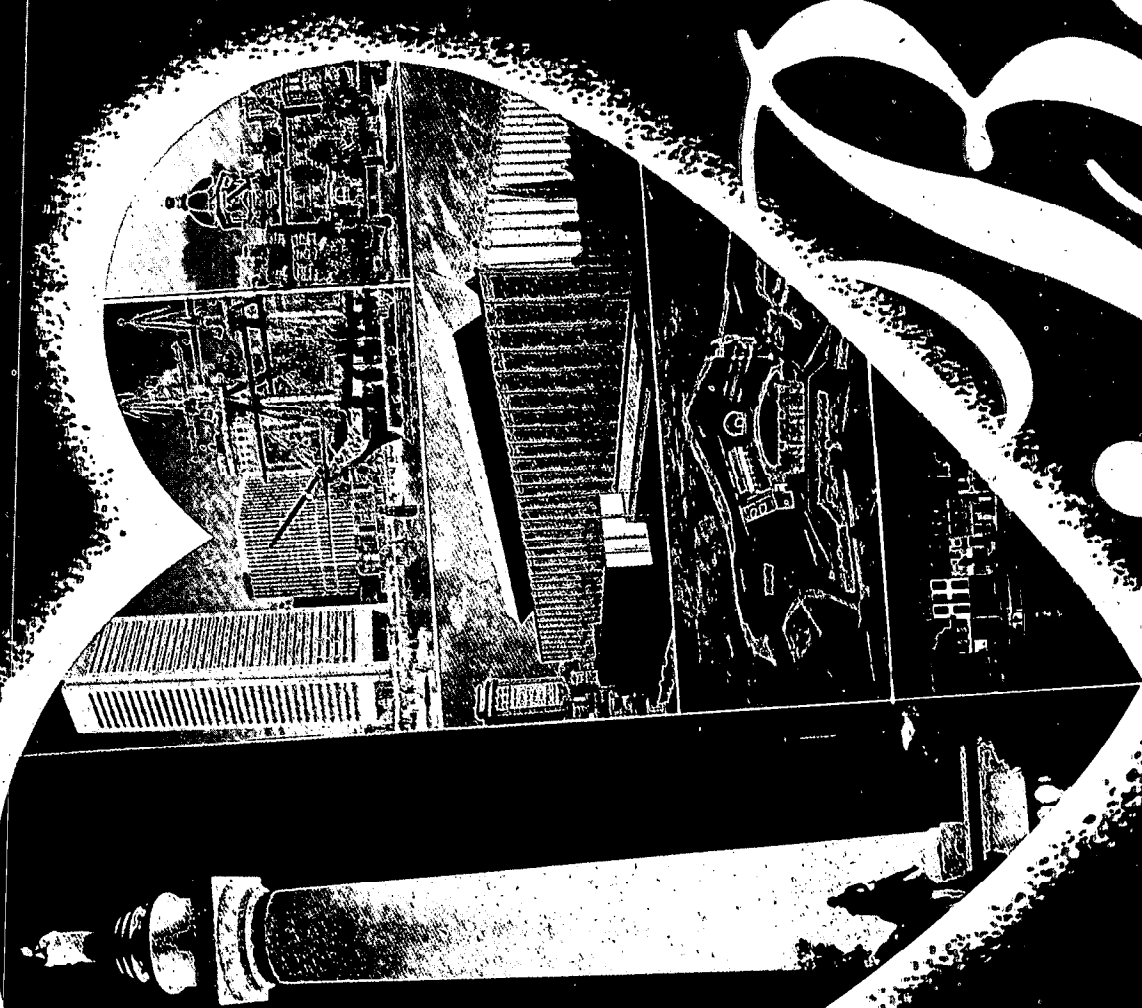
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. . . the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.

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