

FILE COPY

TODAY IS MEN'S DAY

- Men—the heart of our church**
- Receive power—be witnesses**
- Facing the world of the 1980's**
- My husband was jealous of Jesus**
- 20,000-mile checkup**
- I took my shoe to church**

PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

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

AUGUST 12, 1979 • TWENTY CENTS

Photos by Malcolm Dawes

Death is better?

Solomon wrote: "The day you die is better than the day you are born" (Ecclesiastes 7:1, TEV).

What an unusual line! Yet Solomon was not alone in that appraisal. Paul wrote: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). And he said his desire was "to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better" (v. 23).

Likewise John wrote: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" (Revelation 14:13).

Death is never a tragedy for the Christian. In his final illness Dwight L. Moody said: "Soon you will read in the newspapers that Moody is dead. Don't you believe it, for I shall be more alive than I am now."

That's what the Bible teaches. Death is the gateway to glory. The day of death is better than the day of one's birth.

1. *When we die, we enter a better world.* I like the words of Jesus to the dying thief: "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). We know where Christians go when they die. Heaven is a real place, and Jesus is there. Here death may be a departure; there it is arrival. Our teaching about death must be coupled with teaching about heaven.

I agree with C. S. Lewis who said that heaven is the only thing any of us have ever wanted. It is supremely beautiful. The Bible strains language to describe the wealth, happiness, love, music, and activity of heaven. You'll like it!

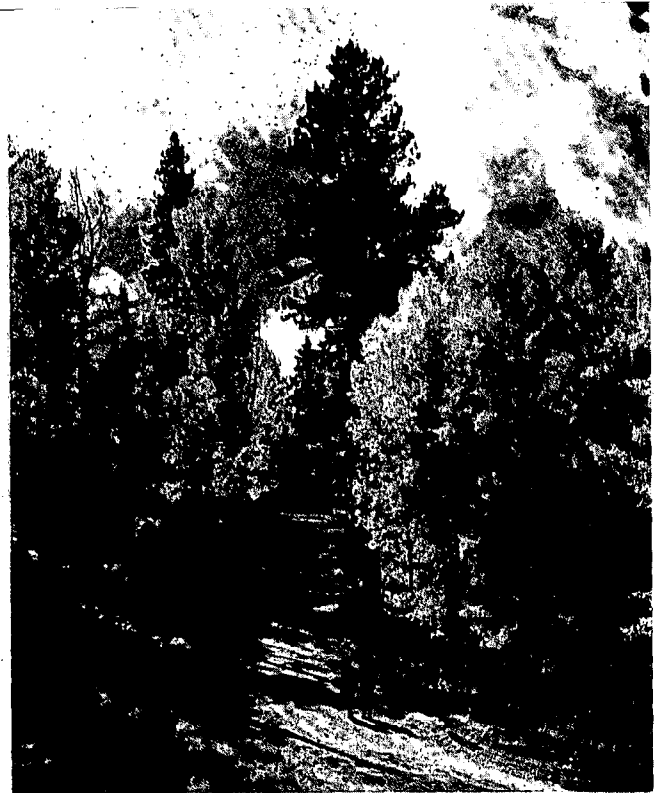
2. *When we die, we enter more fully into the life of God's family.* We will be together, and we will know and love each other more fully than ever we've experienced on earth. The best love and joy we share in this life are only hints of the happiness and fellowship of heaven. God made us for love and friendship. Nothing will ever mar the joys of heaven.

3. *When we die, we receive better bodies.* These bodies wear out, and we move out when we die. But we will not be "unclothed" or disembodied (2 Corinthians 5:4). We continue to have a solid existence. God tells us we will have a form and shape that corresponds to our present bodies—just as Samuel, Moses, Elijah, and others have. We will function better than ever, without weakness or pain.

The ultimate and final blessing will be the resurrection of our present bodies when Jesus comes again. They will be the best that God's love and wisdom and power can make. We can be sure of this, thanks to the resurrection of Jesus.

Do you have loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord and who now await your coming? Because they knew the Lord as Saviour, you can sound forth notes of praise, joy, hope, and victory in the risen and reigning Christ.

—M. P. HORBAN



Union Pacific Railroad photo

I follow on

*Upon this windswept hill we dreamed our dreams,
And here we loved and watched the flowers bloom.
How many times he bent to turn the vale
Into a carpet brown where crops could grow—
A velvet brown just as today when he gave up
His tools to hands of sun-tanned sons and strong.*

*Upon this windswept hill I sit and dream
With weeping deep inside, and eyes still dry,
Remembering the things all done and gone:
The whispering trees have sobbed before and bowed
Their heads to many a winter gale, and worn
The heavy, shivering ice on fingers frail,
Without the shielding leaves they wear today.
And yet we lived to laugh in warmth and sun.
The steeps of pasture hills were made to climb!
The shimmering heat across the blue-ridged hills
But made the water sweeter from the spring!
The problems faced were ours, not his and mine!*

*Upon this windswept hill the dreams flow on.
Within a minor key they're just as sweet.
The frame in which we moved was not the whole;
It only held and made a way to touch and move.
My love is just as real and living still
As on the day that I became his bride.*

*Upon a windswept hill in fairer lands,
Provided by a hill called Calvary,
There stands a mansion made by nail-scarred hands;
And there my loved one bides and waits for me.
There is no rancor in my heart toward Him who called.
I follow on, my love; I follow on.*

—RUBY COPELAND HARRIS

THE WHIPPOORWILL DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE

By Evangelist J. W. JEPSON

Black, threatening clouds covered the Kansas sky as my wife and I emerged from the restaurant in Ottawa. An ominous stillness enveloped us. The air felt strange, foreboding. It was an evening I shall never forget.

We got into our car, steered out onto Highway 59, and headed north toward Topeka.

We drove along for several miles without anything unusual happening. Then suddenly, about the time we turned west onto Highway 56, the sky seemed to collapse! Lightning, thunder, wind, and marble-sized hail cut loose all at once.

Remembering we were in tornado country, we scanned the horizon in all directions for signs of the dreaded twisters. I switched the car radio on just in time to hear the warning: "Tornado alert for Osage, Douglas, and Franklin counties. If you are driving, pull off the road. Get out of your car and find shelter. . . ."

Just then I looked over my left shoulder and saw it—a monstrous, menacing funnel churning its way from the ground clear up into the clouds!

Unknown to us at the moment, that tornado had just touched down at Pomona Lake, a short distance south of us.

The weather on our right looked safe enough. We knew we were not

more than 5 miles from the junction of Highway 75, where we would turn north away from the storm center; so since there was no shelter in sight, we decided to make a run for it.

No sooner had we reached the junction and turned onto Highway 75 (with a sense of relief and a prayer of thanks) than we met several emergency vehicles hurrying south toward the tornado area. What would they find? What havoc had the twisters wrought?

When we arrived at our motel in Topeka, we found out. The radio gave us the story of the tragedy. Disaster had struck a double-decker pleasure boat paddling over the waters of Pomona Lake!

Always a popular attraction, the *Whippoorwill* was crowded with passengers who had come out just to enjoy the evening. Suddenly, appearing out of nowhere, there came the funnel, *heading straight toward them!* The crew tried desperately to evade it, but too late.

The *Whippoorwill* didn't have a chance. The twister capsized the vessel, throwing dozens of terrified people into the murky waters. Sixteen were plunged to their deaths.

It all happened so quickly. Earlier they could have changed their plans. But once disaster struck, all options were closed.

So it will be at the end of this age.

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

Jesus said, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:34-36).

For believers the return of Christ is a "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). We pray as did John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

But for the person who has not accepted Christ as Saviour, His coming will bring sorrow and bitter regrets. Here are the words of our Lord, recorded in Matthew 25:10: "They that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."


Are you ready for what tomorrow may bring? Is it all a big question mark like a dark and empty room? Christ holds the future. You can trust Him with yours. Turn to Him now with all your heart, and receive Him as your Saviour. 

Photo by Grover Brinkman



'RECEIVE POWER. . . BE WITNESSES'

Before Pentecost the disciples were looking for an earthly kingdom, whereas Jesus was concerned with a spiritual kingdom. The disciples were looking for prominence (Matthew 20:21), whereas Jesus was concerned with discipleship (Luke 14:26,27,33).

Before Pentecost the disciples asked, "Wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6).

Jesus replied, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses . . ." (Acts 1:8).

THE PRIORITY OF EVANGELISM

Of all the things Jesus might have said in His final instructions, He emphasized the believers' responsibility to evangelize. He made it clear they were to receive power and be witnesses.

Richard Halverson stated this truth well when he said: "If a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, his witness will not be optional or mandatory—it will be inevitable."

There were many blessings accompanying the coming of the Holy Spirit. One thing which is mentioned several times is that the early Spirit-filled believers were joyful. This, however, was not the primary purpose of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Believers were not to seek happiness as a goal. Their priority obligation was to be witnesses. Happiness was the spirit in which they could witness because of God's presence in their lives.

Jesus made it clear that the scope of evangelism was not to be local only, but global. The believers were not to settle down in Jerusalem and be content to saturate the city. They were to start there, to be sure, but they were to set as their goal the uttermost parts of the earth.

By **THOMAS F. ZIMMERMAN**
General Superintendent

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S DIRECTION

After Jesus instructed the disciples concerning the responsibility of Spirit-filled believers, He did not withdraw himself from involvement. One way in which His continuing concern has been manifested throughout church history is in guiding believers.

Sometimes guidance was supernaturally revealed. At other times it came through circumstances. But always, believers have been reminded to keep the mandate before them.

It would have been easy for the church to settle down in Jerusalem in smug complacency. They had filled the city with their doctrine. In spite of opposition from some quarters, the citizens of Jerusalem were accepting the good news. Jerusalem could have become a social center in which people gathered to seek personal happiness without being concerned about the problems of a lost world.

But in the providence of God, a bombshell of persecution fell in Jerusalem. The persecution was not pleasant. Believers were scattered abroad. Personal plans had to be revised.

But as the disciples scattered, they did not forget the mandate. They went everywhere preaching the gospel (Acts 8:4).

In time, special ministries were needed for establishing beachheads. The Lord of the church was aware of this and made adequate provision. To prayerful and dedicated disciples at Antioch He said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2).

We do not know how this message was communicated to the disciples at Antioch. All we know is that Saul and Barnabas were certain what God's will was, and the Church knew as well. There was no doubt. God provided guidance in fulfilling the man-

date to go to the uttermost parts of the world.

Later when Paul on the basis of human reasoning might have gone in one direction, the Holy Spirit directed otherwise. He who knows the end from the beginning directed Paul not to preach in Asia (Acts 16:6) but in Macedonia (vv. 9,10). By divine guidance the future course of world witness was established.

This guidance continues to be offered to the present day. It is for the Church to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leadership and to respond with enthusiasm.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ENABLEMENT

In their own strength believers never would have been able to witness from Jerusalem to the uttermost parts of the earth. We know they took advantage of every human means available to propagate the gospel. They had means of transportation. They had methods of communication. But these were not enough. They needed something more—the power of the Holy Spirit. And as they looked to God for this, He never disappointed them.

When Peter and John went to the temple at the hour of prayer, they might have participated in temple activities without being noticed and without gaining an opportunity for witnessing, if they had depended on human effort. The Lord, however, allowed a situation to develop which became the springboard for a powerful proclamation of the gospel.

A lame man was supernaturally healed (Acts 3:1-10). As a result, an audience was provided. Peter and John witnessed. Opposition developed, but people believed. The Church was strengthened. The Christian message marched on.

Philip went to Samaria where racial barriers existed. In the natural this venture should have ended in failure; but it didn't, because the



Pentecost by Briggs-Beale, H. Armstrong Roberts photo

power Christ promised was manifested. There were miracles, to be sure, but there also was power in witnessing (Acts 8:5).

Philip experienced what Jesus talked about in John 15:26,27, when He said the Holy Spirit would testify of Christ, and the disciples should also bear witness. This was powerful witnessing. It was team witnessing; the believers' testimony was simultaneous with the witness of the Holy Spirit.

In frustration and awareness of human limitations, believers can become discouraged. But when they realize that their witness is in con-

junction with that of the Holy Spirit, they cannot be pessimists. What they in human weakness lack, the Holy Spirit provides. They receive power to witness, to be effective witnesses.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S TRIUMPH

The Lord of the Church never issued a mandate with the idea that it should terminate in failure. When Jesus told His followers their witnessing should reach the uttermost parts of the earth, He intended it should be done.

In the natural the task seemed im-

possible. There was no human political power backing the mandate to witness. There were no philanthropic organizations ready to channel funds to help this cause. The responsibility for carrying out the divine mandate rested on the shoulders of committed believers who depended on God. But that was enough.

The efforts of these believers soon gained international attention. When Paul and Silas reached Thessalonica, the people already knew how the Church was growing. Some said, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also" (Acts 17:6). This description was intended to be derogatory, but actually it was a tribute to the effective testimony of these early believers. The reputation for commitment to the Great Commission was far-reaching.

Not everyone who hears the gospel today will accept Christ, but believers in this generation must determine that they will do all they can to give everyone in every place the opportunity to hear. This continues to be the mandate.

T. Watson Street in his book, *On the Growing Edge of the Church*, has a very significant paragraph. He states: "This responsibility for serving as a chosen instrument in the actualization of the dominion of Christ rests on every Christian. It is not an option. To be a Christian is to share in the mission. To be a Christian is to become a part of salvation history and to share in its plan and purpose. To be a Christian is to be a member of God's expeditionary force to prepare the way of the Lord. That preparation requires actualization of the dominion of Christ in every area of life. Every participation in Christian witness and service makes straight in the desert the highway of our God."


God provides the power. It is for us to be witnesses. 



Photo by United Nations

TRAIL TO TRIUMPH

While riding along a steep mountain trail high in the Andes of Peru, Senor Reynaldo spotted a piece of paper in the bushes. He stopped to take another look. Dismounting, he picked up the paper and began to read.

The words said something about God. Senor Reynaldo wasn't interested, but he decided to give this gospel tract to his brother Juan, who loved to read.

Juan Reynaldo was captivated by the message and read it over several times. The truth came home to his heart, and he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour.

After his conversion, Juan felt that he must share this good news with others. Joyfully he began to preach the same simple message he had found in the gospel tract. Later he bought a Bible and, for the next 4 years, faithfully shared and preached the Word as best he could.

In 1952 Juan heard about the Assemblies of God Central Bible Institute in Lima, Peru. He decided to come to our school and study God's Word. Six years later he graduated.

Juan then returned to his home in Huanuco, high in the Andes Moun-

tains, and continued to preach. On horseback and on foot he made his way along the dangerous mountain trails, going from village to village preaching the gospel.

Because many of the village people were heeding Juan's message, Satan brought hindrances to his ministry. Local priests opposed his work and managed to persuade the authorities to put Juan in jail every Saturday and Sunday.

Week after week, month after month, Juan spent his weekends in jail. His heart ached as he thought of his friends who needed to hear the gospel. Finally, in answer to much prayer, God turned the tide. Juan was released to go on preaching.

But he faced other setbacks. Once he was thrown from a mule and injured so badly he was unable to walk for 5 years.

In spite of all this, Juan raised up 12 churches which have a total of more than 600 baptized members! He helped these congregations build 6 church buildings, and he now has 25 lay ministers under his supervision. They are studying God's Word in the National Correspondence Institute of Peru.

By **LYLE THOMSON**
Missionary to Latin America

A few years ago Juan Reynaldo began to see that times are changing in his society and culture. His previous training had been beneficial, but he felt the need for more schooling.

He learned that PACE (the Program of Applied Christian Education in Latin America) was sponsoring a month-long seminar at our Advanced Ministerial Training Institute* in Lima. He decided to come.

The trip wasn't easy. He lives in the remote part of Peru where the great Andes Mountains slope toward the east and form the tremendous watershed where tributaries feed into the Amazon River.

Juan mounted his horse and started down the mountain trails. He rode for 4 days before reaching the lowlands. Then he crossed one of the main tributaries of the Amazon by canoe and arrived at the place where he was able to take a bus. For 48 continuous hours he rode the bus and finally arrived in Lima.

When the seminar began on Tuesday morning, Juan was apprehensive. After all, he had not studied in a formal situation for some 20 years. He was now 7 times a grandfather, and here he was, seated beside much younger ministers. He was afraid his work would not be comparable to theirs.

New subjects were presented which he hadn't studied: Communi-

*In the Advanced Ministerial Training Institutes (AMTI), 4-year postgraduate programs of PACE, special accelerated courses are offered involving in-depth study. A roving faculty from PACE conducts 4-week seminars in each of the six geographical areas of Latin America on a regular basis. Nearly 900 national church leaders are now enrolled in AMTI.

**Special Offerings for
FOREIGN MISSIONS**
should be sent to:
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
Division of Foreign Missions
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802



Juan Reynaldo visits with Missionary Lyle Thomson who serves as administrative secretary for PACE.

cations, Methodology of Bible Teaching, and Advanced Theology.

He came to chapel one day and confessed his fears, asking for special prayer. Students and teachers united in prayer for God to bless him.

When the 4 weeks of studies were finished, what a blessing and a thrill it was for Juan and us to learn he had done very well! His overall grade point average—85 percent—was as high as that of the majority of his

colleagues.

Juan is a short man, about 5 feet 4 inches. But in the estimation of his brethren he stands tall because of the great sacrifice he has made to establish the work of God in the mountains of Peru where travel is difficult and opposition from Satan strong.

Juan stands tall also because of the effort he exerted to make the trip to the seminar and because of his application to the studies. And now he will take back new ideas and broader concepts which he can apply to the work he has raised up.

We praise God for Juan Reynaldo and many men like him who have seen their need to better themselves in their ministry and to keep up with changing times.

The ministries of PACE are providing the necessary specialized training so that these men might be equipped to reach their generation in the framework of their own culture. "Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere" (2 Corinthians 2:14, Revised). *✍*

LATIN AMERICANS PREPARE PASTOR'S GUIDE

A pastor's guide for Latin American ministers is just off the press. This project was sponsored by PACE (Program of Applied Christian Education) with headquarters in Miami, Florida.

Twenty-three selected Latin American church leaders and experienced pastors contributed chapters. Missionary Floyd C. Woodworth edited and prepared the final manuscript.

La Brujula Para El Ministro Evangelico ("The Compass [or Guide] for the Evangelical Minister"), which will be used as a textbook, covers such topics as the minister's personal life, public relations, church administration, and pulpit ministry. The subjects are dealt with frankly and openly by the authors who show a deep understanding of their own people.

Producing this book involved 5 years of intensive editorial work. It represents a breakthrough in Latin American Ministry. Translated materials have been very helpful in evangelizing and training Latin American ministers, but for several years there has been a need for text materials originating from national cultural settings. Latin American ministers now have proved they can

supply the necessary materials. This guide will be used throughout the Assemblies of God Bible institutes in Latin America as a text for classes in pastoral theology.

The goal of PACE is to encourage more Latin American authors to write textbooks to meet national needs. PACE works in the area of training and orienting the writers.

For several years now PACE has offered ministerial training programs for laymen, Bible school teachers and administrators, na-

tional church executives and leaders, and local pastors. For Latin American Bible schools, PACE has provided a standard curriculum, administrative helps, and study materials.

Educational materials for the Latin American church are printed by Vida Publishers, also headquartered in Miami. Vida, the largest publisher worldwide in evangelical Spanish gospel literature, is committed to publishing and distributing evangelical books and training materials throughout Central and South America.

The demand for such materials is evident. Already Vida has shipped 1,000 copies of the pastor's guide to Mexico. *✍*

Left to right: David Scott and Ben Mercado of Vida Publishers present Monroe Grams and Verne Warner of PACE with an advance copy of the pastor's guide.



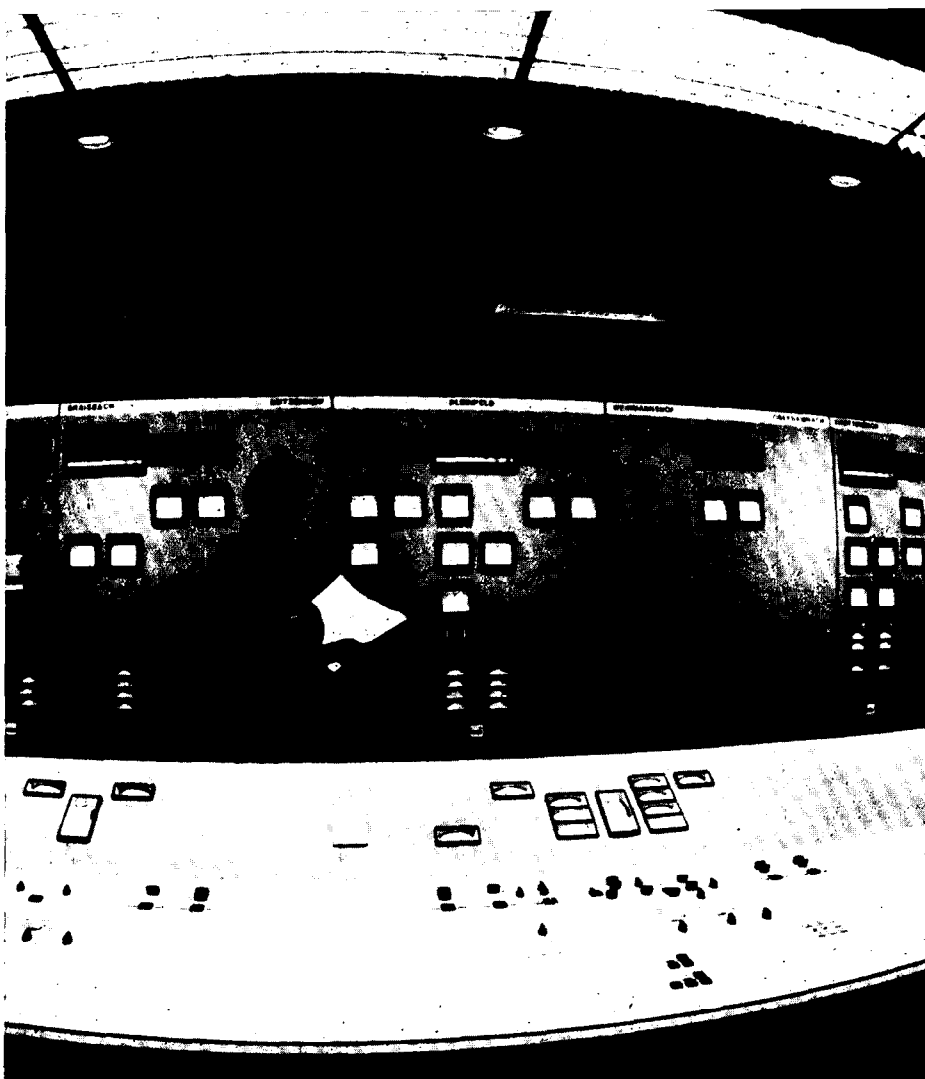


Photo by I. N.-Bild/WF-AEG-Telefunken

We must emphasize the indigenous nature of the church.

FACING THE WORLD OF THE 1980'S

We are living in a time of change and turmoil. This has left some in doubt as to the future of missions.

Colonialism has all but disappeared, and in its place have sprung up dozens of independent nations. Many thought these countries would be closed to missions. Happily this has not usually been the case. Often leaders of the national government have been educated in missions schools and were sometimes sympathetic to missionary work. And it was really a boon to the church when the missionary was no longer seen as

Melvin Hodges, veteran Assemblies of God missions leader, currently serves as associate professor of missions science at the Assemblies of God Graduate School, Springfield, Missouri.

allied with foreign political powers. Another very strong factor affecting missionary endeavor has been

Missionary work should not depend on the political atmosphere for its decisions.

the turning away from evangelism of many old-line missions. Liberal theology, with its emphasis on social and political factors, is partially responsible.

Thus one of the most discussed questions in church circles today is: What is the mission of the Church to today's world?

IN SEEKING to clarify our mission for

By MELVIN L. HODGES

the 1980's, I would say, without question, we must *emphasize the in-*

The church in any land must be able to carry on without financial assistance from abroad.

digenuous nature of the church.

As the nations of the world seek their own selfhood and as the influence of Western nations declines, the church in the Third World must learn to stand on its own feet. In fact, it is logical for the church to seek selfhood for itself since the nation has sought and received independence.

Missionary work, though influenced by political considerations, should not depend on the political atmosphere for its decisions. Rather, the founding of the indigenous church should be the goal because this is the scriptural model, and we are people of the Book.

This means that the church be *self-governing*; that is, it should have its own leaders and be able to run its own affairs without dependence upon foreign leadership. Missionary leadership may be necessary in the beginning, but this should be looked upon as a temporary situation.

Then this church must be *self-propagating*. It must not depend upon missionaries and other foreign workers to open up new territory and found new churches. This indigenous church must be imbued with the sense of responsibility for its own nation and its own people.

Also *self-support* is indispensable. The church in any land must be able to carry on without financial assistance from abroad. There may be op-

Missionaries often introduced American life-style and methods, and these were not always suitable for the national work.

portunities to help with outside gifts for literature and training, but the church must be established in such a way that if missions funds are withdrawn, it does not find itself so crippled that it cannot maintain its own work and progress.

Two examples from our Assemblies of God work illustrate this.

Missionaries were required to leave Burma, and the amount of help that could be given to the young church was very limited indeed because of government restrictions. However, the foundation had been laid, and God raised up a Burmese national leader to pilot the work. The

The church in a given land should develop its own style of worship.

result is that the work in Burma is stronger now than when the missionaries left.

The second example comes from Latin America. Missionaries founded the work in Guyana with its own leaders and Bible schools. Government restrictions upon foreign workers became such that the missionaries felt it best to leave. The national church had to assume the entire responsibility for organization, evangelism, and workers training. They have done this remarkably well. There are more Bible students in the country than when the missionaries left, and the work continues to grow.

A new word, *contextualization*, has crept into missionary parlance in the last few years. It is felt that missionaries often introduced American life-style and methods, and these were not always suitable for the national work. So the importance of making the gospel compatible with the people and culture comes in for special emphasis.

Some think that contextualization goes beyond the indigenous church principles in that it introduces certain concepts besides self-government, self-propagation, and

self-support. This is probably true if we limit indigenous principles to those three concepts; but if we are interested in a truly indigenous church, one that grows naturally in the cultural soil, contextualization is indispensably included.

To explain further: The Church in a given land should not depend upon foreign missionaries as leaders, but in addition it should develop its own style of worship.

Someone has said that we really do not have an indigenous church until the people produce their own hymns and music. This is a part of contextualization. This concept includes the style of church buildings and organizational procedures.

It is important, however, that contextualization not be interpreted as such an accommodation to the local culture that it would result in compromise and syncretism. The national church must remain true to the Word of God and the content of the gospel. Although methods and form will be changed to reflect the culture, the content of the gospel will remain intact.

THIS BRINGS US to the second factor which needs emphasis, and that is that *the New Testament message must be maintained.*

Here there is danger on two

We really do not have an indigenous church until the people produce their own hymns and music.

fronts. Liberal theology maintains that reason, not revelation, is the basis for action. Hence, they say, it is not necessary to be bound by the New Testament; we can attempt to understand what God is doing today by taking our agenda from the world.

This dependence on reason and consensus leads to subjectivism. Further, there is a tendency to apply salvation to corporate and national

structures rather than to individuals, so that the vertical relationship of a man to his God is changed to give emphasis to the horizontal relationship of man to man.

In Latin America the word *concietizacion*, or in English *consciousness raising*, put forward by Paul Freire, has had wide acceptance. This concept teaches that the missionary method should be focused in such a way that oppressed groups are

Dependence on reason and consensus leads to a tendency to apply salvation to corporate and national structures rather than to individuals.

taught to understand their true condition and be activated politically for revolutionary transformation.

Sometimes liberal theologians ignore the fact that there would be no Christian church if it were not for the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught in the New Testament. Further, they by-pass the fact that about 3 billion people in the world today do not have an adequate exposure to this message.

We believe the message of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as taught by the apostles is applicable today and is as necessary now as in New Testament times. This message can be preached in any culture and to any people. We cannot change the content of the gospel from spiritual transformation of the individual to a sociopolitical emphasis and still achieve success in our mission.

FINALLY the Church *must be involved with the world of man.*

The supreme question facing us is: How does God want the Church to

continued on next page

I TOOK MY SHOE TO CHURCH

Facing the world continued

face the world? From a Biblical standpoint we immediately come up with a twofold involvement: evangelism, bringing the good news of the gospel to all men; and Christian service, revealing the love of God both to Christians and non-Christians.

We are fully aware that many of the structures of society are not right. Oppressions exist. Inequalities abound. There are haves and have nots.


Someday God is going to make everything right and bring equality and justice to this world through Jesus Christ. In the meantime He has commissioned the Church to preach the gospel and live the gospel. We make no apology in stating that the gospel is the greatest factor that exists for social reform. Through it people's lives are changed, evil habits are broken, men get a vision of

forming power of the gospel. In fact, Pentecostal people have been criticized as being the people of the poor and of the masses. This is as it should be! I am satisfied that the

The gospel is the greatest factor that exists for social reform.

preaching of the gospel in its power to the poor has done more to alleviate suffering and raise living standards than all the consultations of liberal missionary efforts, with their money to help revolutionary units and their exhortations to help the poor, together with their social and political schemes to deliver the oppressed! The gospel of Jesus Christ is God's way of raising the consciousness of the people.

There are times when evangelical people have become too self-centered and cut off from the world of need. Christians should be exhorted to do good to their fellowman and to help the suffering as an expression of what Christ has done for them. There has been failure along this line, just as there has been failure among Christians in prayer and Bible reading. The answer is to teach and preach the Word of God and encourage Christian people to be truly Christian.

The challenge of the 1980s is the same challenge that has been upon the Church since Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission: Go and teach; go and preach; tell the love of Christ and serve your fellowman. This is the Christian's responsibility and will be so until the end of the age. 

The preaching of the gospel . . . has done more to alleviate suffering and raise living standards than all the consultations of liberal missionary efforts . . . with their social and political schemes.

What's so unusual about someone taking a shoe to church? Nothing, unless he hadn't worn one in 3 months due to a foot injury. That's what happened to me.

The day following Thanksgiving, 1978, I jumped over a small fence at my parents' home where we were spending the holidays. My left foot landed on what we Southern folk call a "horse apple" (actually the hard, round fruit of a bois d'arc tree). My foot rolled outward and under me. A sharp burning pain shot through my ankle and up my leg.

Later in the emergency room at the hospital in Weatherford, Texas, the injury was diagnosed as torn ligaments. I was told I would be on crutches for 2 to 3 weeks.

At the end of 3 weeks, there was not any change. The ankle was still swollen, and the entire foot was discolored. The skin was cold to the touch.

I was sent to a specialist who ran more tests and X rays. They felt that surgery was necessary to restore the ankle to normal.

The following Sunday morning I asked the men of our church to gather around and pray for me. Afterward I was some better, but I still could not take more than a few steps without crutches. The foot remained so swollen I could not wear a shoe.

During this time, I asked God for a Scripture verse to stand on. He showed me Acts 3:7,8, ". . . his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God."

I thought, *This is a lot of scripture for just an ankle injury.* But God knew I would need the entire passage before it was over.

The day surgery was scheduled, I was supposed to be at a committee meeting at the North Texas District office in Fort Worth. I was aware too that Evangelist William Caldwell was to be in the church my uncle pastored in Fort Worth the same day. So I canceled the trip to the hospital,



By LARRY THOMAS
Pastor, First Assembly
Hooks, Texas

went to the committee meeting, and then to church.

Before leaving home I went to the closet and got my left shoe. I thought, *If I'm going to be healed, why drive all the way home with just one shoe?* I fully intended to wear that shoe home.

I think I was just about the first in the prayer line that night. When Brother Caldwell prayed for me, I didn't feel anything at all, but when he told me to "go take a walk," I started off without my crutches. I could walk!

I went out to my car and got my shoe. I put it on for the first time in 3 months. My foot slipped right in! I walked back into the church and gave my testimony.

However, the symptoms didn't leave completely that night. I still had some stiffness in the ankle.

Then I began to realize why God had chosen the particular passage of Scripture He had given me the week before.

I got in my car and started for home, about a 4-hour drive. Instead of eating as I had planned, I felt impressed to fast during the drive home.

As I pulled out of the church park-

ing lot, the battle started. Doubt tried to work its way into my mind. Satan began to suggest that my foot was swelling in my shoe. He also "informed" me that when I got out of the car, I wouldn't be able to walk at all.

"Satan, I'll show you," I said in my mind. "I need some gas, so I'll stop at a self-service station and park at the pump farthest from the cashier."

I gassed up and walked to the cashier's window, paid for my gas, and walked back to my car. I won battle number one.

But that wasn't the end. My shoe became very uncomfortable. Thoughts of infection, gangrene, amputation, and all sorts of trouble bombarded my mind as I drove on.

Suggestions of taking my shoe off to relieve the pressure kept coming to me. Finally I said out loud, "Satan, the last thing I am going to take off tonight is this shoe." I felt then, and do now, that by taking my shoe off I would have lost my healing. So I kept it on until I was ready to go to bed.

When I walked into the house late that night, my wife Shirley awoke and smiled. "You got it," she said, with no surprise in her voice.

As I slipped into bed, she touched my foot and remarked that it wasn't cold anymore.

Next morning, I put my shoe on again. I noticed the swelling was about 95 percent gone and the color and feeling were normal. It was at this time I discovered the injury had affected more than just the ankle. My foot, near the toes, hurt when I put weight on it. This was due, I learned later, to the circulation being impaired. But God had anticipated this when He gave me the promise, "His feet and ankle bones received strength. . . ." He healed my foot also.

It was interesting to see the reactions around town when all of a sudden the people saw the preacher walking. It was a joy to answer the question over and over, "What happened?"

I was disappointed, though, that there was still some soreness and stiffness. I thought I would be back

to normal at once. For a reason known only to Him, God chose a gradual process in removing the soreness and stiffness.

But again, He unfolded some more of my promise in Acts. It said, "He stood, and walked." I hadn't realized how much 3 months of inactivity would affect muscles. The muscles of my left leg had decreased, by actual measurement, 2 inches around the thigh. So my leg was not ready to run or jump; it needed time to rebuild.


Like the man at the gate, I first could walk. The running came next—only a little at first, but it came. Then came the leaping. Within a few weeks, I was able to run and jump as usual.

Also the last part of the scripture was quickened to me. That man praised God!

Since this experience I have wondered if perhaps, as the man leaped around the temple, doubt or pain tried to rob him of his miracle. But as he praised God, those doubts and fears were overcome. Whenever discouraging thoughts would try to invade my mind, I found a time of praise would dispel them.

God gave me another passage of Scripture a few days after I returned home from the meeting. This one reminded me to hold fast to the promise He had given me in the beginning: "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh" (Proverbs 4:20-22).

Healing isn't based on what we feel nor on what we see in our circumstances, but solely on the Word of God and faith in that Word.

Healings are sometimes harder to maintain than to obtain because we may lose sight of the promise. During the weeks that followed I had to go back to the Word repeatedly and, in determined faith, do as Proverbs says—keep my eyes and ears open to the promises. As I did this, God honored His Word and gave me the victory. 

Should I, a born-again Christian,
go to my unsaved husband
with my questions about the Bible?

MY HUSBAND WAS JEALOUS OF JESUS

Bob, you're not number one with me anymore," I told my husband. "I can't help it. My Lord Jesus is number one with me now!"

I felt I had to tell my husband that. He had been my god for so long! I had thought he was the most wonderful person I had ever known, and I literally had worshiped him. I'd do anything he said. But now I had a new Lord and Master.

I continued to look up to my husband and go along with him on anything that didn't go contrary to God's Word; but now his formerly meek and servile wife would say quietly, at times, "I don't think the Lord would want it this way, Bob."

My whole heart was filled with the Lord and the desire to please Him. My husband became jealous of Jesus!

Even though Bob was an agnostic, we had always gone to church together. It was a social thing for us. Bob had even taught Sunday school. As a nuclear scientist and Bible scholar, he had destroyed many a person's faith with his seemingly logical arguments.

My husband worked as engineering manager with a large company. When he was transferred to Massachusetts, we had to find a new church. We started attending a small Baptist church around the corner from our home. The building had no heat, but we were warmed by the singing and loving spirit we found there; and for the first time in our lives we heard the gospel of Christ.

Pat Hammond took me under her wing. One day she said, "Jean, do you really know Jesus as your friend and your personal Saviour?"

"Yes, I know Jesus," I answered. "I have gone to church all my life since I was in cradle roll. I've taught Sunday school. . . ."

"But do you really know Jesus?"

I looked at her, puzzled. Why was she talking this way? But I had to

admit Pat had something I would like to have.

One Sunday 6 weeks after we started attending that church I got it! After hearing how the Lord Jesus had come to earth to die and shed His precious blood for our sins, I suddenly realized I was the sinner for whom He died. When the invitation was given to receive Christ as Saviour, I walked down the aisle. Our children did too. But Bob remained in the pew.

Oh, how thrilled I was to really know Jesus! I wanted to learn more and more about Him. I attended all the services of the church and home



Jean and Bob Faid

Bible studies. Bob thought I had flipped.

His work took him out of town a lot. He would call home, and I would be at church. "Where were you?" he'd ask later.

"We were at prayer meeting tonight."

"Aren't you getting a little fanatic about religion?" he asked. "This church is too fanatic for me. I don't like the way they always try to get me to go down the aisle. It makes me uncomfortable. Why don't we try another church?"

"I love this church, honey," I answered.

The old "me" would have agreed with Bob immediately. The new

"me" loved the fellowship of Christians who knew the Lord.

I would come home from church just glowing with joy, and Bob would look at me and think, *She doesn't need me!*

He got angrier and angrier. "You've changed!" he exclaimed one Sunday. "Up until now I could do whatever you needed done. Now what's wrong that I'm not sufficient for you?"

"Bob, I love you dearly," I answered, "but now I love Jesus more."

Finally Bob insisted we try another church. I agreed to go one Sunday. "If I find Jesus there, I'll stay," I said. I hadn't found the Lord Jesus to be in most of the churches we had attended before. He wasn't at this church either.

Ever since I had come to know Jesus as my personal Saviour, I had been praying fervently for Bob; and so were all my newfound Christian friends. I told him this, and he said, "Why are you praying? I'm not lost." But I knew he was—just as lost as I had been.

Bob was so self-sufficient. Everything he ever put his hand to had succeeded. How would he ever be able to humble himself and see himself as a lost sinner?

"Bob, all these material things we have are not what counts," I told him. "You've got to be saved to go to heaven someday. Heaven won't seem like heaven to me if you're not there. I can't stand the thought of you burning in hell!"

"There is no hell or heaven," my scientist husband answered in his authoritative way.

I took a course on Christian womanhood—on how to be a good wife to a non-Christian husband and still obey the Lord. The gist of it was that you did everything you could for your husband; you were so loving and submissive that he couldn't help but see Christ in you and want the Saviour too.

I had always shown love to Bob; now I showed even more. I continued

Bob and Jean Faid attend Christian Assembly on Wade Hampton Blvd., Greenville, S.C. (Lyman B. Richardson, pastor).

By JEAN FAID
as told to MURIEL LARSON

to stand up for what I felt was pleasing to my Lord, but He helped me to do it in such a loving, submissive way that Bob wasn't offended. Every day I prayed, "Lord, show me how to deal with things today concerning my husband. I want him to be saved!"

As I deferred to Bob's judgment as much as possible, his attitude began to change and my "new religion" became more tolerable to him. The Lord also led me to do something I considered rather unusual. "Go to your husband with your questions about the Bible," He seemed to tell me.

Should I, a born-again Christian, go to an unsaved man with questions about the Bible? That's what I felt God wanted me to do, and I did it.

Bob was a Bible scholar, though an agnostic, and he was very pleased when I brought my questions to him. He went digging in the Bible for the answers.

Bob wouldn't go to the church where I came to know Jesus, so we found another church where the people seemed to know the Lord. I kept praying, "Lord, whatever it takes to bring my husband to You, I want it to happen."

It happened. Three years after I became a Christian, Bob was found to have cancerous growths in his colon. Eighteen inches of his colon were removed.

"Mrs. Faid," the doctor said after the operation, "I have to tell you very bluntly, we have found many, many more of these cancerous growths in your husband. I'm afraid he hasn't much longer to live. We're going to run tests, and in 5 days we'll know the definite answer."

The doctor said this just outside Bob's room, not realizing Bob heard every word.

I called my brother Jim in Baltimore. He had connections with some 2,000 Christians who would pray for Bob. For 5 days we all prayed.

On the fifth day I went to hear the results of the biopsy. The somewhat mystified doctor was all smiles when he told me, "The pathology was all right!"

Bob was impressed with what had happened. He began to acknowledge that maybe there is a personal God after all.

While he was recuperating, my Christian friends brought him piles of Christian books, and he read every one.

Some men of the church invited him to a monthly prayer breakfast for men, and he went. When he came home, he was all excited.

"I heard a real man of God speak today, honey," he exclaimed happily. He had been impressed by the man's testimony.

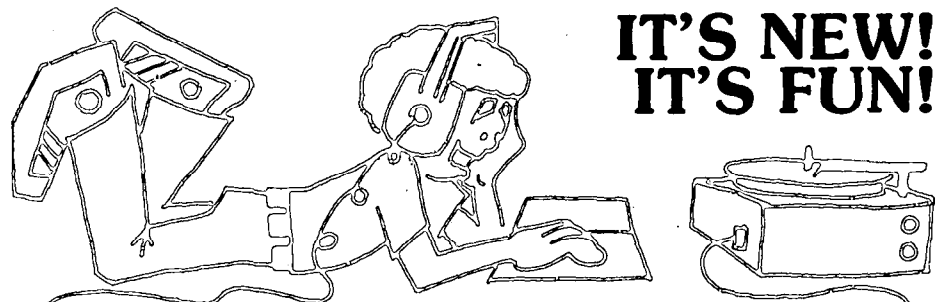
The following Sunday Bob was to meet us at the church, since he could sit through only one meeting as yet. But he never made it to church. As he was walking out the door of our family room, the Lord stopped him.

When I came home, I found him grinning from ear to ear, aglow with joy. "Everything is going to be all right, Jean!" he exclaimed. "We don't have to worry about anything. No matter what happens, we have peace and joy with the Lord in this house!"

"Well, praise the Lord!" I exclaimed. I found something tremendous had happened. That morning my husband had seen himself as the lost sinner for whom Christ had died, and there at home he had come to know Jesus as his personal Saviour.

The Lord Jesus thus became number one for Bob too; and He has been that for both of us ever since. Now my keenly intelligent husband is using all his wonderful, God-given abilities to help people have faith in Christ and the Bible.

IT'S NEW! IT'S FUN!

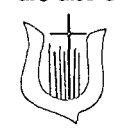



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Alaska District Superintendent William A. Leisy (left) chats with men at the district Men's Ministries retreat in March. Many districts provide similar fellowship and inspirational activities for their men.

MEN'S MINISTRIES ARE IMPORTANT

By **SILAS L. GAITHER**
National Director
Division of Church Ministries

The Men's Ministries Department is an important and vital part of the Division of Church Ministries. The department offers training, direction, and projects for men and boys in our more than 9,000 churches.

On the national level its activities are coordinated with those of other departments in the division—Sunday School, Youth, Music, and Women's Ministries.

Throughout the country the men of our churches are regrouping, training, and participating in a wide variety of ministries.

They are gaining confidence in personal witnessing through Action Crusades.

Competent leaders are emerging through the training emphasis for our boys program, Royal Rangers. These leaders are out to reach, teach, and keep boys for Jesus Christ—and they are succeeding.

Through Evangelism Literature for America and Light-for-the-Lost, Assemblies of God men support aggressive and successful literature programs at home and overseas.

The Men's Ministries Department has also developed training helps for such diverse practical ministries as ushering, hospital visitation, prison ministry, benevolences, and even for serving as deacons. By using these helps, men with a variety of talents

and interests find places of ministry and involvement in the local church.

An increasing number of local men's groups meet regularly for "Men's Come Together." These gatherings give opportunity for fellowship and for coordinating the thrust of Men's Ministries with other activities in the local church.

Committed and capable men are vital to the advancement of the local assembly. Therefore, it seems imperative that every church organize its men for maximum ministry. I urge pastors and churches to take advantage of the many helps available through the Men's Ministries Department to organize practical projects and implement outreach efforts.

As the Holy Spirit leads and anoints the men of the church, He will use them to accomplish His purposes.

Some very exciting things are happening wherever the men of our churches come together for Christian fellowship and work together in dedicated service.

MEN— THE HEART OF OUR CHURCH

By **MICHAEL E. TULLOS**
Pastor, Whitehaven Assembly
Memphis, Tennessee

Many people ask me what makes a successful church. *What programs are working for you? They want to know. What is the key?*

For us at Whitehaven Assembly, it is not "What is the key?" but "Who?"

Four years ago we began to reorganize our Men's Ministries. The plan initially started with a monthly prayer meeting called "Disciples Unanimous." This wasn't a social event. It was only sharing, praising, and earnest praying.

In order to expose new men to our fellowship, Men's Ministries began a monthly breakfast. Also the men began to sponsor and to promote the Royal Rangers.

Our greatest move came in 1976 when we began construction of a new church building. The men provided more than \$40,000 worth of labor. They worked day and night to see a dream come true. This new plant was another step toward our long-range goal of providing a complete gymnasium for boys and girls.

In the middle of our construction program, God spoke to me about missions. He gave direction to construct a church in Mexico.

We questioned: How can we raise the money and build that church

Men of the Whitehaven Assembly in Memphis, Tenn., prepare food for monthly breakfast.



when we need so much ourselves?

But we obeyed God, and that was the turning point. Our men went to Mexico to build a church and they were never again the same. There were many similar trips to follow.

As we gave to others, God worked miracle after miracle, enabling us to finish what seemed an impossible task in a time of growing inflation. But men with vision can do anything!

The same men who built a humble brick church in Mexico returned home excited about finishing our own church. Money had to be raised to finish our new gymnasium and kitchen. A gym floor and equipment had to be purchased, and new athletic equipment bought for the boys. Thousands of dollars were raised, and the men never stopped giving.

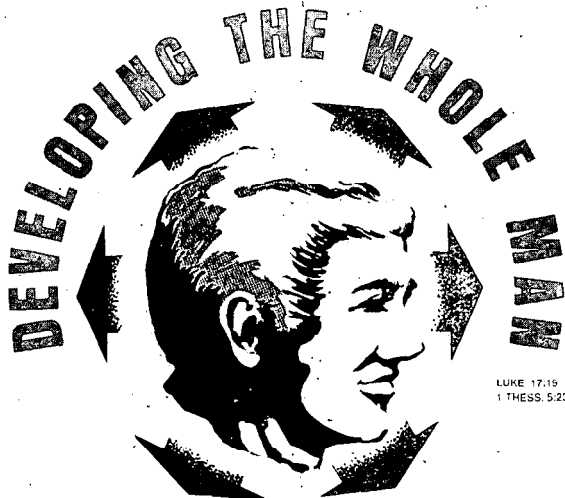
Men make up the heart of our church. They greet newcomers at the



Some of the men at Whitehaven Assembly, Memphis, Tenn. The pastor says that men like these help make the church a growing church.

door. They coach basketball and baseball teams. They teach Sunday school classes, conduct jail services, teach at fire stations, minister in nursing homes, usher, and help make up a church with a heart—"a church which loves people." They are the "who" that make ours a growing church.

Would you say it's true...



- ... that men are assuming their places of leadership in the home, church, and community?
- ... that a team effort of laity and clergy is important to building the Lord's kingdom?
- ... that laymen, when properly trained, become more valuable to God and the church?

These are goals toward which we are working in Men's Ministries. Your offering on Men's Day will help us enlist and train men for their places of ministry.

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With just a handful it can be done—

SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

Our church has been applying the principles of sowing and reaping by using Evangelism Literature for America (ELA) materials.

For the past 5 years the pastors have led the congregation at least once or twice a year in leaving some type of literature at virtually every home around our church. And for 3 consecutive years our church was recognized as Nebraska's fastest growing Sunday school.

We are thoroughly convinced that much of this growth has come through adherence to the principles of seed sowing and harvest.

Success in our "Jerusalem" of nearly 10,000 homes motivated efforts to reach the suburbs and communities surrounding Omaha. Thus "Judea" has also felt the throb of evangelism literature.

In 1978 the greatest venture to date began as our "Samaria"—

Omaha itself—became the target of this gospel seed sowing.

We have a projected goal of reaching 150,000 homes!

On launch day the church platform was buried with literature to be distributed. The entire congregation joined in a special prayer and commissioning service.

Four pieces of literature were left at each home. Each piece conveyed a different message, yet the main thrust of each emphasized our personal concern for the individual and the church's desire to introduce them to the One who is the Answer to all life's problems.

The four pieces we chose included the tract, "Who Cares?" a colorful, eye-catching piece with pictures, provided by ELA; a small booklet, "The Real Purpose of Life," giving the plan of salvation; "Hi Neighbor, We've Been Looking for You," con-

By SAM MAYO — Pastor, Bellevue As-

veying some of the exciting things happening at our church; "Up Close and Personal," offering a free *Living New Testament* and a Bible correspondence course.

We aimed at continuous action. Every day, Monday through Friday, someone would be going out from the church to distribute these literature packets from 10 a.m. to noon, from 2 to 4 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m. So regardless of a person's schedule, the chances were good we would have a group going out that he or she could join.

We visited approximately 60,000 homes in 1978. However, the number of workers going out at any one time was usually not more than half a dozen!

Many people participated because they weren't pressured to talk to anyone—they could simply leave the literature at the door and keep going.

There were some disappoint-

From 5 to
40 in 6 months!

ROYAL RANGERS ARE GROWING!

From five—two men and three boys—to 40 Royal Rangers in 6 months—that is the story of what's happened here at First Assembly.

The growth began when I invited the two men and three newly interested men with me to a Royal Rangers training seminar conducted by Richard Nelson, Arkansas District Royal Rangers commander and a certified trainer. The training climaxed with a campout.

When we returned home, our

By HAROLD W. WALLS
Pastor, First Assembly
Little Rock, Arkansas

Men's Ministries Department officers appointed members for an outpost council and helped reorganize our Royal Rangers program. Max Brown was named senior commander.

We set up two outposts with two age groups in each—Straight Arrows and Buckaroos, and Pioneers and Trailblazers. All our trained men were used.

Then the men and boys began working to recruit new boys. Now 35 boys are enrolled in the two outposts—and we will soon need to divide these outposts.

One Sunday last May our church observed a "Royal Rangers Day." Our purpose was to recognize and honor the leaders and boys of one of the newest and fastest growing Rangers groups in Arkansas.

Immediately following the morning service, the congregation was invited to visit the unique campsite constructed by the Rangers in a wooded setting at the back of our church property. There parents could see firsthand an authentic Royal Rangers camp.



ments, of course, but we have already seen some victories.

Many threw the literature away. But many didn't. Many cursed but others praised the Lord for what we were doing.

In 1978 our Sunday school attendance averaged 215 more than in 1977. God honored His law of sowing and reaping, even though our harvest did not always come where we had sown. The Lord of the harvest still gives the increase, and He knows the extent of our labors in sowing.

Our greatest reward was the inward assurance of the Spirit that we were making a sincere effort to get the message of salvation into every home in Omaha. Rather than simply talking about it, we were getting on with the job, following a simple, hard-work formula.

There have been specific victories we can point to.

We can tell about the elderly couple who hadn't been to church in years. They read the literature, came to church, and walked down the aisle to accept Christ.

We can tell of the man, come upon hard times, who found our literature in the gutter. He thought we were lying when we said we cared, but he called anyway. Our janitor and bus mechanic went to his aid in the middle of the day, pointing the way to Christ.

We can tell of Charles who enrolled in our Bible correspondence course. Later he called to express surprise. He had discovered there was more to spirituality than being sprinkled in water as a child.

We can tell of those who filled out visitors cards at the church indicating they had come as a result of the literature.

I can tell of the good things done in

the lives of our workers, of the lasting imprint this has made on their lives.

I can tell of increased attendance averages, for which only God knows all the reasons.

But more important than the measurable results of the harvest is our church's obedience to the Great Commission in the area we could reach.

Evangelism Literature for America helped to provide the seed. Our church people gave their time and energies to do the sowing. Our assistant pastor, Tom Compton, coordinated the program and was a sparkplug throughout.

My heart overflows with gratitude for all who helped. I can testify that with a handful of people great things can be done. If Bellevue Assembly can do it with just a few persons, any church can do it!

About 75 percent of our Rangers are from unchurched families. Thus this special emphasis exposed a number of unsaved parents to the worship and atmosphere of our church. It was indeed gratifying to hear several make such comments as, "We appreciate what you are doing for our boy," and, "My boy thinks there is nothing like Royal Rangers!"

One unsaved father said, "Royal Rangers is one of the finest boys programs I know of."

We believe that through prayer and patient teaching we shall win not only boys but their families also.

How my heart was thrilled when, at the close of a regular Wednesday night meeting, seven boys accepted Christ as their Saviour!

More men are now interested in becoming leaders. Plans for their training are being made by our district Royal Rangers training coordinator.

Behind this growing ministry at First Assembly are several important factors:

We have a concerned and involved

Men's Ministries group. They actively support the Rangers with encouraging words and finances.

We have a fired-up Outpost Council composed of five dedicated laymen who serve with me. They closely monitor the program and offer both guidance and assistance.

Leaders must be thoroughly trained if we are to see maximum results. I have found that an excellent way to challenge men to take training was for me, the pastor, to take it with them. An added benefit to this is that I can intelligently promote the boys ministry because of my personal experience in it.

There is a ready harvest among the boys of our communities. And when the men of our churches willingly dedicate themselves to this challenging ministry, there is no limit to what can be done for the Lord!

Right: The Royal Rangers campsite displayed skills for church members to see. Above: Pastor Walls (second from right, standing) with some of the Royal Rangers.



PARTICIPATION IN LIGHT-FOR-THE-LOST BRINGS GOD'S BLESSINGS TO OKLAHOMA CHURCH



General Superintendent T. F. Zimmerman (left) presents the second place award for LFTL Church of the Year to Pastor Ervin A. Donaldson, Parkview Assembly, Bethany, Okla. The presentation was made at the 1979 LFTL Convention in Springfield, Mo.

JONES: How long have you known about Light-for-the-Lost (LFTL)?

DONALDSON: Approximately 6 or 7 years.

JONES: How do you encourage your men to become involved in LFTL and Men's Ministries?

DONALDSON: I personally support the LFTL banquets, rallies, Men's Come Together's, and missions. I find that when I encourage our men to become LFTL Councilmen, or to participate in Royal Rangers and other Men's Ministries, they develop a purpose and attitude for God to use them.

JONES: Your church is much involved in LFTL, giving over \$25,000 last year. What effect has this had on your Men's Ministries?

DONALDSON: When men feel they are accomplishing something, they become excited and more willing to be involved. LFTL has become a rally-

ing point for our men in their relationship to the church, and to one another. The result has been a quickening in their spiritual lives. LFTL is a God-inspired program of literature distribution to reach multitudes of precious souls. Our men believe in it. Thus they are willing to give of their finances, time, talent, and of themselves.

JONES: You are in a church building program of almost a million dollars, yet your LFTL and missionary giving continue to increase. What effect has this phenomenal missions commitment had on your building budget?

DONALDSON: I have been pastor of Parkview Assembly for 3½ years. Even before I became pastor, much concern had been given to relocating and building a new church plant. But

the church decided that, even in the face of spiraling building costs, they would not cut back on missionary giving.

I encourage my men to give to missions, even though we have a heavy load in building our own church.

Now we are finishing our building, and our missions giving continues to grow. Our total giving to World Ministries was \$37,000 last year, and we have an attendance of only 150 in the church.

JONES: Do you believe in financial miracles?

DONALDSON: Absolutely! I could share many.

For example, one man had to borrow money to make payments on his farm. He made a \$2,000 pledge to Light-for-the-Lost and borrowed money to pay that. Then he struck oil and gas on his property! He has already made commitments to give thousands to LFTL in the future.

As our men give liberally of their finances, there comes a liberal spirit. This leads to freedom of worship and a deeper prayer life.

As men take the leadership, it encourages the whole church. The men's program expands, Royal Rangers grows, and time is given to the work of God. Our men respond with volunteer labor on our new building even during hot weather.

JONES: Everywhere I go, I find men are getting involved in Light-for-the-Lost. There seems to be a growing, intense burden for souls and evangelism both at home and abroad. Would you comment on this?

DONALDSON: I believe that "men who know the heartbeat of God will give to missions." Light-for-the-Lost has been a rallying point for our men. It is their program, and they are thrilled with it. That makes the church blossom. It sets examples for boys and other members of the church.

Brother Jones, let me give one more example of God's blessings on

By **TIMOTHY L. THOMAS**
Pastor, Assembly of God
Fredonia, Kansas

ACTION CRUSADES TRANSFORMED OUR CHURCH

After pastoring in Fredonia for nearly a year, I was not satisfied that our church and I were fulfilling our commission to spread the gospel. I knew that evangelism must have top priority, but we just didn't have the direction we needed to get the job done.

I began to pray earnestly for God's direction. One day I picked up an issue of *Advance* magazine and read Wildon Colbaugh's interview with Bob Johnson, pastor of the Assembly of God in Grandview, Missouri. That article spoke to me. I could see our own situation being spelled out. Then at the end of the article I noticed a small note about the National Action Crusades Council to meet in Dallas.

Somehow I felt this was where God wanted us to go. I began to pray specifically that God would give me four laymen besides our assistant pastor and me to attend the National Action Crusades Council. I wrote a letter to every man in the church asking him to consider going, even at a sacrifice.

My assistant pastor couldn't go, but God gave me five laymen to make the trip to Dallas with me.

When we walked into that small room at the Holiday Inn on Monday morning, I wondered if we had made a mistake.

We hadn't! From that morning until the Thursday afternoon when we left, the Holy Spirit did a work in our lives that not only transformed us, but also turned our church on to a new excitement for soul winning.

We have now committed ourselves to reaching our city and our county of more than 10,000 persons for Jesus Christ. The laymen have also com-


mitted themselves to do whatever they can for the church.

One man said, "I have been attending this church for years. I think it's time I started doing something for God."

Others are actively involved in witnessing, in tract ministry, and in instructing others in personal evangelism. Our youth group especially is turned on to witnessing to friends and classmates.

We held our own Action Crusade just 2 weeks after we returned from the National Action Crusades Council. More than a third of our congregation responded every night. The excitement was tremendous!

If I have ever done anything right in my ministry, I did it when I took five laymen to the National Action Crusades Council. All of them are planning to attend next spring's council and take others with them. We are also planning another local Action Crusade in September, Action Crusades Month.

Learning how to witness effectively for Christ and share with others what He has done for us has sparked new life in our church. With God's help we don't intend ever again to let our light grow dim! 

Blind eye restored

I DISCOVERED on January 25, 1978; that I was not seeing anything with one eye.

That evening Evangelist William Caldwell laid his hands on my eyes while the church people prayed and praised the Lord. Then he took his hand away from the blind eye, and immediately I could see.

I praise God for healing me.—Lucie Toups, Houma, La.

(Endorsed by Pastor Charles Percy, First Assembly, Houma, La.)

Kidney stones disappear


ON FRIDAY, October 14, 1977, I was admitted to the hospital where I was X-rayed and told I had kidney stones.

My pastor came in on Sunday afternoon and prayed for me. The next day Brother Downs, a close friend of the family, came and prayed for me also.

I had further X rays on Monday. When the doctor read them, he told me the stones were gone and I could go home.

I give Jesus all the praise for my healing.—Mrs. Eugene Lowdermilk, Morganton, N.C.

(Endorsed by Pastor James Galloway, Calvary Assembly, Morganton, N.C.)

our church. Our people are not wealthy in the sense of being in a high income bracket. But in a few weeks we will move into new facilities valued at nearly a million dollars. And we will owe less than \$150,000—at a very low interest rate. God has indeed blessed us, and I feel it is in proportion to our involvement in Light-for-the-Lost and missions! 

Plan now to attend . . .

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JUNE 12-14, 1980

TENNESSEE MEN BLESSED THROUGH MAPS PROJECT

On December 17, 1977, the All Tribes Indian Assembly of Fort Worth, Tex., had a groundbreaking service for a new fellowship hall. North Texas District Superintendent and Mrs. E. R. Anderson participated in that groundbreaking.

Afterward Lamar Headley, Mobilization and Placement Service (MAPS) representative for the Assemblies of God, began talking to me about needing a crew to build this fellowship hall. He said all the materials would be ready and the floor poured before the construction men arrived.

Men of our congregation had built churches in Haiti and Honduras. Several times they had worked on local church properties, but never had they worked on a home missions project.

We began to put together a crew experienced and skilled in construction, with men unskilled in such work to aid them. One unskilled in construction was an insurance representative; another was a security engineer for a major truck line.

As the weeks went by, George D. Warren, pastor of the Indian church in Fort Worth, gave me progress reports. After several months, when all was ready for the Raleigh men, Tom Trumbo, building superintendent, with some of the men, went to

Fort Worth for a week of donated labor.

Work on the fellowship hall began early in the morning and continued until late in the evening, and rapid progress was made.

The Tennesseans had opportunity to attend church at the host assembly. They were privileged also to attend a North American Indian ceremony. Soon they will forget the heavy blocks they handled and the roof they constructed, but they will not forget their spiritual experiences during those days of unselfishly giving of themselves in the interest of their Indian brothers and sisters in the Lord.

From experience, we know men will take a stronger interest in their local church when they have shared their talents and faith with Christians of sister churches. Tom Trumbo expressed it this way: "It is wonderful what such service for others does to believers!"

A few days after our part of the project was finished—after the hall had been made ready for trim work and for use on Sunday—we received a letter from Pastor Warren:

"This congregation has gained by the time and work given by Raleigh's Christians. Association with them has meant much to the people.

"In other churches there are men with such talents as your men displayed. God could use them too. There are other home missions churches that could use help. Let us pray that there will be further mobilization of men and their ener-



By J. D. MIDDLEBROOK
Pastor, Raleigh Assembly
Memphis, Tennessee

gies to get the job done for God."

PASTOR WARREN has provided further information concerning the completed structure. It reveals that other men also were blessed with an unselfish spirit:

"The plumbing for the 24- by 60-foot structure, which houses kitchen, rest rooms, and a baptistry, was donated by William Sanders, former pastor of the Godley Assembly of God. James and Billy Jackson gave their time to the sheetrocking, taping, and acoustical work. Dan Wright provided the electrical work. Plumbing fixtures were given by the Malone Hardware Company of Weatherford.

"One of the local church women provided the baptistry in memory of her husband. A Baptist layman furnished machine and labor for digging ditches with his backhoe. Associate Pastor Amos Russell, a Creek Indian, gave himself unstintingly

Below: Pastor George D. Warren, All Tribes Indian Assembly, is pictured with some of the Kiowa Indian men of the church. Above right: Some of the children of the All Tribes Indian Assembly in Fort Worth, Tex.



**Special Offerings for
HOME MISSIONS**
should be sent to
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
Division of Home Missions
1445 Boonville Ave.
Springfield, Mo. 65802.

Some of the MAPS workers of Raleigh Assembly, Memphis, Tenn., where J. D. Middlebrook is pastor. Standing left to right are: Tom Trumbo, building superintendent; Jack Dennis, and Lee Harmon. Seated: George Luzader and Bob Gray.



through the months to the work.

"Members of the congregation furnished the hall, paved the parking lot, and purchased songbooks, folding tables, and stacking chairs.

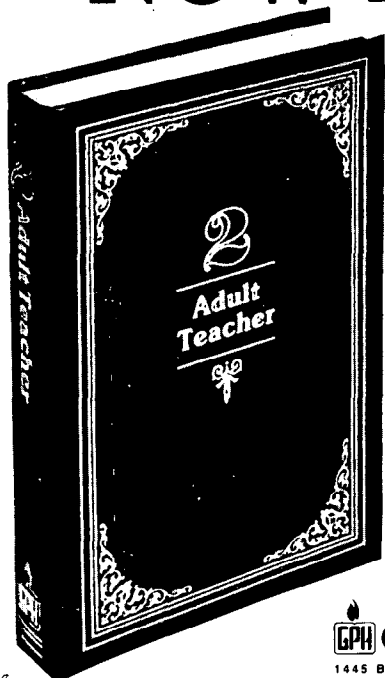
"Oakwood Christian Assembly, Arlington, Tex. (Franklin C. Peugh, pastor) provided a new church sign.

"Dedication service on November 26 was attended by 300. T. E. Gannon, national director of the Division of Home Missions, and E. R. Anderson, district superintendent, were speakers.

"Now in 1979, with 10 families added to the church through better facilities, we look back to 1973. Then there was no church and no congregation; now there is a lovely congregation. Last year the facilities were added which cost \$20,000 but were valued at \$60,000. We can only say: 'To God be the glory; great things He has done.' "

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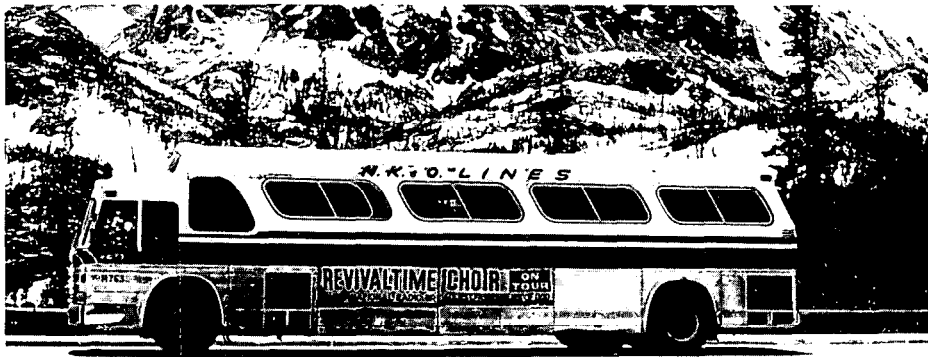
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The Choir spent 26 days in the presence of God busing through the beauty of America's western states.

Revivaltime Choir— ministering the Word through life and song

26 DAYS ON A BUS

The tour was fantastic!"

"It was the highlight of my year at Central Bible College."

These were typical of the expressions of *Revivaltime* Choir members who had just completed a 26-day tour of the West. As one who accompanied Director Cyril McLellan and the Choir, I agreed wholeheartedly.

Yet these expressions simply do not do justice to what transpired. Words are inadequate to express the rich experiences of 26 days traveling across the nation by bus and ministering in various churches to the glory of God—sitting in heavenly places and seeing Christ work in His mighty power.

There was so much to the tour in terms of fellowship, travel, and excitement. The Choir ministered in Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, California, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and Kansas. Between appearances they saw many of the attractions of western America.

In Colorado, for example, the students toured Dinosaur National Monument and Rocky Mountain National Park. And in San Francisco

By DON HENDERSON
Director of Development
Central Bible College

they enjoyed the sights and sounds of Fisherman's Wharf, the cable cars, and the Golden Gate.

All of these things were added blessings—some of the pleasures that make a *Revivaltime* Choir tour unforgettable.

But the really special thrills are the acts of the Holy Spirit night after night as Choir members minister the Word through their lives and their music.

On this tour I felt the glory of the

Lord come upon the group as we ministered to Him, and He to us. There was brokenness, humility of spirit, and a deep burden for the people to whom we ministered.

God used Cyril McLellan, *Revivaltime* Choir director, day after day in words of wisdom and knowledge. He inspired and challenged the Choir. As a result, there was a beautiful flow of the Spirit continually in our midst.

Each appearance on the tour revolved around the ministry of song. The theme was "Christ, the Son of the Living God." By the time the Choir finished singing at each service, the Holy Spirit was working mightily upon the people.

Following Brother McLellan's invitation to the congregation, the Choir would then minister individually to the people.

All told, 102 persons responded for salvation or returned to Christ from a backslidden condition. Twenty-two people received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. In one evening service the girls of the Choir helped 5 girls in prayer, and all 5 received the Baptism. One person was both saved and filled with the Spirit in one service. We saw a number of healings.

But the churches were by no means the only place the Choir ministered. One of the girls went jogging



Don Henderson (front left) and Director Cyril McLellan (front right) are happy to participate with these dedicated young men and women in the Revivaltime Choir ministry.

DID YOU SEE MY REPORT CARD?

Hey, Billy, the bus is leaving!"
"I don't care. Let it go!"

Comments like this are being heard again across the country as time for school approaches. And even more so here at Hillcrest Children's Home, because our children have not always been able to attend school regularly before coming to us. Therefore, they are not ready to make the commitment necessary to learn.

This will change as they spend time studying and learning new study habits. Gradual improvement will be seen as the Lakeside Public School system and the Hillcrest houseparents work together.

Back-to-school time is also very important for our sponsors. Their financial help is so necessary during this critical season.

It is no small chore to get 80 school-age children outfitted with the proper clothing. They need new shoes and enough outfits to get them from one wash day to the next. Also there are notebooks, pencils, pencil boxes, crayons, and all the other supplies that school children require.

I am sure anyone who has children today realizes the enormous cost involved in getting them ready for school. But as we pray, God lays the

By **QUAY R. HAYDEN**

Director of Social Services

Hillcrest Children's Home, Hot Springs, Arkansas

needs on the hearts of faithful friends. At the end of July, and during August, packages arrive with new school clothes and supplies. From all over the nation people respond to the needs of the Hillcresters. Many send money designated for new clothes, new shoes, or school supplies.

The children are taught practical lessons in faith as they hear of a young couple in Nebraska just starting to raise a family, or a retired couple in New Mexico who have already raised theirs, wanting to meet the needs of children they have never met.

In spite of inflation and increased costs, our friends are still meeting the need. I am sure the financial pressures are on these people too, but their Christian love and concern for homeless children compels them to help.

We are very thankful for our relationship with the public school system. We are told by the teachers every year that our youth are the best behaved and best dressed.

in San Francisco's Chinatown and led to Christ a young lady who was on her way to school.

Also in San Francisco we crowded onto a trolley car for the trip to Fisherman's Wharf. But the electrical power failed, and we were temporarily stalled.

The Choir began to sing quietly. A number of the people on the trolley responded favorably. Others became so uncomfortable that they left to escape the Spirit's conviction!

The Choir made a financial appeal at each appearance to help support the ministry of *Revivaltime* in Belize, Central America. One afternoon on the bus a girl shared her burden about these financial appeals. She felt strongly that asking everyone else to give toward this need ought

also to involve us personally. Spontaneously the Choir members gave \$279. This money came from their personal travel money and lunch money. It was a marvelous evidence of the spirit of self-sacrifice that characterized the group.

It was a wonderful experience, that 26-day bus trip! The pastors and the churches in which we ministered were most gracious. And the beauties of the American West were unsurpassed.

But most of all, the lasting memory of each *Revivaltime* Choir member is of ministering. We were permitted to share in God's glory. We discovered in a new way the joy of praise in His presence. We felt as never before the excitement of sharing Jesus with needy people!

Thanks, sponsors! You give these young people personal pride by supplying the necessities of life. In many cases this brings about better social behavior.

But the most satisfying thing about going back to school is knowing that because of you we will be able to help them academically. Many of these children when they come to Hillcrest are below grade level. Dedicated teachers and houseparents realize this, and with hard work are usually able to help the children to improve their scholastic standing.

When this happens, we will not be hearing groans and complaints about going to school. Instead, we will be hearing shouts of, "Did you see what I got on my report card?"

So as the Hillcresters head back to school, please remember them in your planning. We need your prayers and support at Hillcrest Children's Home.

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NEWS OF OUR TIMES

SPEAKERS AT PENTECOSTAL WORLD CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER TO STRESS THEME OF 'THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LAST DAYS'

TORONTO, ONTARIO—Speakers for the 12th Pentecostal World Conference to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, October 2-7, will emphasize the theme of the convention, "The Holy Spirit in the Last Days." The list includes brethren from Africa, South America, India, and Europe as well as North America.

Thos. F. Zimmerman, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Mo., will open the conference Tuesday evening, October 2, speaking on the main convention theme. *Willard Cantelon*, missionary-evangelist, Mclean, Va., will minister Wednesday morning, October 3, on "The Holy Spirit and Holiness of Life." *Dan Beller*, pastor of Evangelistic Temple (Pentecostal Holiness), Tulsa, Okla., will speak Wednesday evening on "The Holy Spirit and World Evangelization."

Dennis Bennett, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Seattle, Wash., will use as his theme "The Holy Spirit in the 20th Century" as he speaks Thursday morning; and *Sam Odunaike*, an African church leader and administrator from Yaba, Nigeria, will minister Thursday night on "The Holy Spirit in Preaching."

John Thannickal, a native of Bangalore, India, president of a college, and representative of

3,200 local churches of India, will minister Friday morning on the theme, "The Holy Spirit in Today's Conflicts." *Eric Dando* of Newport, Wales, editor-elect of *World Pentecost* magazine, will speak Friday evening on "The Holy Spirit and Impartation of Gifts."

Javier Vasquez, general superintendent of the largest Pentecostal denomination in Chile and pastor of a church in Santiago with more than 80,000 members, will speak on Saturday morning on "The Holy Spirit and Worship." *Paul L. Walker*, pastor of Mount Paran Church of God, Atlanta, Ga., will preach on "The Holy Spirit and the Lordship of Christ" on Saturday evening.

Bertil Olingdahl, pastor of the 4,000-member Smyrna church of Vaastra Frolunda, Sweden, will speak on "The Holy Spirit Exalting Christ." He will minister Sunday morning. *P. S. Brewster*, England, general secretary of the conference will bring the concluding

message Sunday evening on "The Call of the Holy Spirit."

The Pentecostal World Conference will conduct its sessions in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (mornings) and in the Pacific Coliseum (evenings).

Further information may be obtained from The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Inquiries should be directed to Charles Yates, general secretary, at the Toronto headquarters.

More than 10,000 delegates from 80 countries are expected for the conference. Panel discussions, a testimonial review of Pentecostal happenings today, an international parade, and gospel music by groups from around the world, will highlight these days of worship, preaching, prayer, and fellowship. Other events will include a meeting for Pentecostal women and a meeting for writers and editors.

Adolescent suicide is growing problem

NEW YORK—Leading mental health experts consider the increasing problem of adolescent suicide one of the major challenges of the coming decade, says a new Public Affairs pamphlet by Arthur S. Freese.

"The statistics are startling," according to Mr. Freese, a medical writer. He says one estimate shows that in the U.S. about 400,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 attempt suicide each year and

more than 4,000 succeed. Suicidal teenagers come from all economic groups, levels of education, social classes, ethnic and racial backgrounds, he states.

Suicides and suicide attempts are cries for help, usually preceded by early warning signals which people can learn to detect, Mr. Freese says. Studies show at least 75 percent of suicide victims give advance warnings.

Right and below: Speakers for the main services of the 12th Pentecostal World Conference to be held October 2-7 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.



T. F. Zimmerman
USA



Willard Cantelon
USA



Dan Beller
USA



Dennis Bennett
USA



Samuel Odunaike
Nigeria



John Thannickal
India



Eric Dando
Wales



Javier Vasquez
Chile



Paul L. Walker
USA



Bertil Olingdahl
Sweden



P. S. Brewster
England

CHURCH REGISTERS OF THE WORLD SHOW LARGE GAINS AND LOSSES

NAIROBI, KENYA—A global survey of Christianity and world evangelization has revealed conflicting trends around the world. The Third World has had large gains, while the West shows losses.

The survey, nearing completion, is being produced at a large computerized research data base operated by the Centre for the Study of World Evangelization.

David Barrett, director of the center, reports phenomenal gains in the Third World. Africa showed a net gain of 6,052,800 new Christians in the past year—or 16,600 new believers

each day.

South Asia also experienced large growth. Churches and parachurch agencies of all Christian traditions evangelized just over 34,813,000 previously unevangelized persons during the past year. The rate is continuing to increase significantly.

The survey, in contrast, indicates large losses in the western world. In the past 12 months, so many adult professing Christians in Europe abandoned the faith to become agnostics, atheists, or adherents of non-Christian religions or cults, there was a net loss of

1,815,100. North America also registered a net decline of 950,000. Mr. Barrett pointed

out these figures indicate total defections minus total additions or conversions to Christianity.

AT A GLANCE

- • • Protestant ministers have a longer life expectancy than men in other professions in West Germany, according to the Federation of Life Insurance Companies. They live an average of 77 years while tavernkeepers, at the bottom of the list, live only 58 years on the average.
- • • Voluntary prayer during student assemblies at the high school in Chandler, Ariz., was ruled unconstitutional by a U.S. District judge recently. The decision delighted an official of the Humanist Association of the Southwest who said it will lead the way to having Christmas and Easter programs stopped in public schools as well.
- • • "Grandma" Minnie Tucker recently died at about 120 years of age. She made a public profession of faith at Friendship Baptist Mission in Fairbanks, Alaska, when about 100, and was baptized in water when she was about 107 years old. No accurate birth records exist to confirm her age.
- • • A bowling alley in Minnesota refused to renew its contract with a Covenant Church bowling team that has bowled there for 15 years, because the members don't drink beer. The new manager says he depends on beer drinkers to make a profit.

Gay caucus gains official status at Presbyterian assembly

KANSAS CITY, MO.—Homosexual Presbyterians this year again failed to win endorsement for ordination in the nation's two largest Presbyterian denominations. However, a gay caucus won official recognition by the general assembly of one group.

The matter of homosexual ordination was discussed at the general assemblies of the

United Presbyterian Church (UPC) and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (PCUS), which met simultaneously here.

Although the United Presbyterians refused to change their position on ordination, they did vote to admit a homosexual rights group, Presbyterians for Gay Concerns, as a recognized organization within the denomination.

High court refuses to hear O'Hair suit

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Supreme Court announced here it will not hear atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair's challenge to the constitutionality of the motto "In God We Trust" that appears on American coins and currency.

The high court's action

marked the final defeat of the atheist's efforts to remove the slogan.

The slogan has appeared on U.S. coins for more than a century and on all currency since 1955, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law a bill requiring that it be used.

PRIVATE SCHOOL TAX BREAK BANNED BY SUPREME COURT

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The United States Supreme Court has ruled that New Jersey may not give a \$1,000 tax deduction to parents who send their children to private schools.

The Court's brief one-sentence affirmation of lower-court rulings was a setback to advocates of public aid to private schools, since the reasoning used by the lower courts will no doubt stand as a precedent for resolving similar disputes in

the future.

The high court's order was adopted over the objection of Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and associate justices Byron R. White and William H. Rehnquist. The other six justices summarily affirmed two lower federal courts which held earlier that New Jersey's plan had the primary effect of advancing religion contrary to the establishment of religion clause of the First Amendment.



H. Armstrong Roberts photo

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

"Study to show thyself approved unto God . . ." (2 Timothy 2:15).

Summer will soon be over, and children at Hillcrest will be heading back to school. It is an important time in the lives of over 80 Hillcresters. Back-to-school is a time of character-building and good memories for these children. With help and encouragement of houseparents, they strive to do their best in school.

You can help make it the best year yet by sending a back-to-school gift today. Help these children make the most of their school years.

Yes, I want to help make this school year the best ever for the children at Hillcrest Children's Home. Enclosed is my back-to-school gift of \$_____.

Please send me a list of back-to-school needs.

NAME _____

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THE BENEVOLENCES DEPARTMENT
1445 Boonville Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65802



A part of the group of MAPS volunteers during the Commissioning Service at the School of Missions in Springfield, June 15.

MAPS commissions 50 volunteers

SPRINGFIELD, MO.—The Mobilization and Placement Service (MAPS) of the Assemblies of God commissioned 50 MAPS volunteers on June 15 during the School of Missions here.

In addition, 160 college interns and other workers also are serving on assignments both overseas and stateside during the summer months, says Lamar Headley, MAPS coordinator.

MAPS continues to see growth in all areas of its ministry. There currently are 140 MAPS volunteers on assignment for a 1- to 2-year period, and approximately 75 more who have been approved are preparing to go to the field.

Of those now on a 1- to 2-year assignment overseas, 84 are in Eurasia, 24 in the Far East, 19 in Latin America, and 7 in Af-

rica, while 6 are serving in the U.S.

Construction work done by MAPS volunteers is an important part of MAPS outreach. From January 1 through May 31, 1979, there were 52 groups of workers assisting in building projects on foreign mission fields with a total of 597 people involved. Six groups assisting in home missions projects involved 78 people in construction.

Brother Headley said requests from missionaries expressing needs for MAPS personnel on a 1- to 2-year basis continue to increase at a rapid pace. The current newsletter from MAPS has a list of 377 openings both overseas and in this country.

MAPS uses short-term workers in many other types of missionary assistance besides con-

struction work. Among the types of work are youth ministry, teaching, radio and TV, secretarial tasks, nursing, edit-

ing, music direction, orphanage work, maintenance, residence hall supervision, and substituting for those on furlough.

MINISTERS WITH CHRIST

Lina O'Donnell, 88, Phoenix, Ariz.; on Apr. 6, 1979.

Mrs. O'Donnell was affiliated with the Arizona District. She served pastorates in El Mirage, Phoenix, and Coolidge, Ariz. She is survived by five sons and two daughters.

Arthur R. Nichols, 70, Elyria, Ohio; on Mar. 14, 1979.

A member of the Ohio District, Brother Nichols pastored in Ohio as well as Alaska, and also served as an evangelist. He is survived by his wife Grace, a son, and three daughters. One daughter, Gloria, is married to Pastor Gary Hallberg, minister of music at Brightmoor Tabernacle, Detroit, Mich. (A son, Capt. Phillip A. Nichols, an Assemblies of God chaplain, was killed in action in 1970 in Vietnam.)

Joseph Rosselli, 96, Sherman Oaks, Calif.; on Mar. 12, 1979.

Brother Rosselli, an ordained minister with the Southern California District, served the Lord as an evangelist. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Thomas F. Gilbert, 87, Duncan, Okla.; on Mar. 11, 1979.

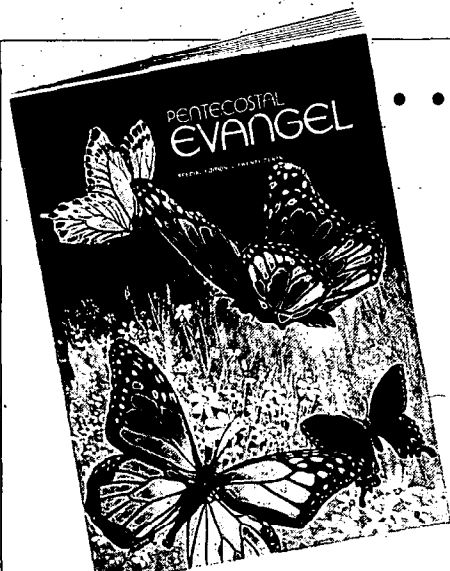
A member of the Oklahoma District, Brother Gilbert was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1914 and evangelized for many years. He helped pioneer a number of churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. He is survived by his wife Hattie, two daughters, and five sons, two of whom are in the ministry. Paul pastors in Walters, Okla., and James pastors in Wichita Falls, Tex.

Ronald W. Irwin, 44, Tulsa, Okla.; on Feb. 27, 1979.

A member of the Oklahoma District, Brother Irwin served pastorates in Texas as well as Oklahoma, and was an evangelist. He is survived by his wife Verlie and two sons.

Modesto Escobedo, 89, Dallas, Tex.; on Jan. 17, 1979.

Brother Escobedo was a member of the Gulf Latin American District. He was one of the pioneer Assemblies of God ministers in Tamaulipas, Mexico, and established many churches there. He was active in the ministry for over 50 years, serving as presbyter and executive presbyter, and was honored by the Republic of Mexico for his achievements and service. He is survived by his wife Juanita, three sons, and seven daughters. One son Daniel pastors in Austin, Tex., and a daughter Lydia is Women's Ministries president of the Gulf Latin American District.



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Assembly in state of Washington dedicates new sanctuary

RICHLAND, WASH.—The Assemblies of God church here recently dedicated its new sanctuary. Northwest District Secretary-treasurer Clifford Hobson spoke in the Sunday morning service. He, along with four of the previous pastors of the congregation, took part in the afternoon dedication ceremonies. Government representatives also attended and expressed appreciation for the role of the church in the community during the past 36 years.

According to Pastor Jesse Wilkinson, the new building contains approximately 18,000 square feet of floor space. It adjoins the former church building by paved walkways and a patio.

The new sanctuary seats 600 and features an open beamed ceiling and walnut trim throughout. A large foyer makes possible the seating of 200 additional persons for an overflow crowd.

Other facilities in the new building include infant and tod-



The new sanctuary of the Assembly of God in Richland, Wash.

ler nursery, six large Sunday school rooms, the pastor's study, board room, and six offices.

The former sanctuary is now the educational unit.

Exterior of the new building is finished in beige stucco with dark brown wood trim set off with manufactured stone.

Pastor Wilkinson says the

appraised value of the new structure is over \$1,500,000. However, the actual building cost was \$400,000 because of the time and talent "given to the Lord" by members of the congregation.

The assembly continues to grow spiritually, numerically, and financially in a rapidly growing city.

REDFIELD, S. DAK.—Pastor Keith C. Carlson reports a good meeting with Evangelist David C. Phelps from Jeffersonville, Ind.

Seven were saved, five were baptized in the Holy Spirit, and several were healed.

An 11-year-old girl with 35 percent deafness received good hearing. One lady was healed of lumps in her breasts. Another received relief from high blood pressure.

Two received deliverance from cigarettes and snuff.

"As a result of these services, the spirit of revival runs high," writes Pastor Carlson.

"A Bible study is being planned on the subject of the Holy Spirit. We are inviting friends from different churches to attend."

KANSAS CITY, KANS.—"We recently had Evangelists Larry and Judy Sohn of St. Charles, Mo., for a series of meetings," writes Pastor Howard W. Marshall of Oak Cliff Assembly.

"God moved in a marvelous way and we praise Him for it. Our folk were blessed by the singing and preaching of the Sohns."

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EVANGELISTIC EVENTS

| STATE | CITY | ASSEMBLY | DATE | EVANGELIST | PASTOR |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ark. | Ft. Smith | New Bethel | Aug. 12-17 | Jennie L. Powell | Dewitt Rousey |
| | Waldron | Needmore | Aug. 12-19 | Lawrence & Patty Posey | Everett Hogan |
| | Western Grove | Evangel | Aug. 12-19 | J. C. & Mrs. Nichols | Rex Middleton |
| Calif. | El Monte | First | Aug. 5-9 | Stanford E. Linzey | Donald McMinn |
| Colo. | Colorado Spgs. | First ¹ | Aug. 12-16 | Lynn & Becky Wickstrom | Don Lunsford |
| | Fleming | A/G ¹ | Aug. 12-17 | Eager Beaver Krusade | Gary McElhany |
| Fla. | Fort Lupton | First ¹ | Aug. 6-10 | Eager Beaver Krusade | Henry Russell |
| | Century | A/G | Aug. 12-15 | Russell Coyne Family | Larry Broome |
| Ill. | Grand Ridge | El Bethel ¹ | Aug. 12-16 | Charles J. Aaron | Roland Young |
| | Algonquin | First | Aug. 12-17 | George & Karen Clymer | Dennis Thompson |
| Ind. | New Boston | A/G | Aug. 12-24 | Elizabeth DeGreef | Larry Connour |
| | Chesterton | A/G | Aug. 8-13 | David Phelps | Tim Hume |
| La. | Springhill | Pine Hill | Aug. 12-17 | Kenneth Moore Family | Joe Chisum |
| Me. | Gray | Trinity | Aug. 5-9 | Michael & Rita Jo Amico | Eugene Kemp |
| Md. | Gaithersburg | First | Aug. 18-Sept. 2 | Don Mallough | Herbert Nunley |
| Mass. | Lynnfield | Calvary Tem. | Aug. 12— | Ken & Martha Pilkenton | Richard Grimes |
| Mich. | Marine City | A/G | Aug. 6-14 | Louie Calaway | Denver Surgenberg |
| | Cambridge | First | Aug. 8-12 | Carl & Melba Perry | Lloyd Tandberg |
| Minn. | Clarkfield | A/G ¹ | Aug. 12-17 | Larson-Stiver Team | Frank Ross |
| | Brookfield | A/G | Aug. 14-24 | Richard & LaVera Havner | Harry Hunter |
| Mo. | Elvins | A/G | Aug. 13-19 | Edwin & Mrs. Burris | Joseph Miller |
| | King City | A/G | Aug. 5-17 | Jim Snyder Family | Floyd Couch |
| Mont. | Lebanon | First | Aug. 12-17 | Arvin & Cathy Haynes | Jerry Cuneio |
| | Sweet Springs | A/G | Aug. 12-17 | Stan & Sherry Welch | D. B. Shaw |
| N. Y. | Rocky Boy | A/G | Aug. 4-9 | Les & Sandra Merrick | Tony Castillo |
| | White Sulphur Spgs. | Calvary ¹ | Aug. 12-17 | Chuck & Kathy Foster | Walter Daggett |
| Okla. | Avoca | A/G | Aug. 12-15 | Russell Coyne Family | Charles Hann |
| | Carthage | Calvary | Aug. 7-12 | David & Sherrill Fulton | Walt Schell |
| Pa. | Duncan | Banner | Aug. 13-19 | Stephen & Louetta Grace | Bennie Grissom |
| | Mannsville | A/G ¹ | Aug. 12-17 | James Walter Family | Gary Thiessen |
| R. I. | Pryor | Open-Air Meeting | Aug. 12-24 | F. "Rudy" McAdams Evang. Tm. | Billy Davenport |
| | Spencer | First | Aug. 12— | Steve & Bridget Davis | Wes Larson |
| S. C. | Stillwater | Calvary | Aug. 1-12 | Charley Hudspeth | W. Stan Formby |
| | Glenolden | Evangel | Aug. 7-12 | Esther Palmer | Fred Zufall |
| Tex. | Muncy | A/G ¹ | Aug. 6-10 | Gordon & Esther Preiser | Harold Imes |
| | Barrington | A/G | Aug. 5-8 | Ken & Martha Pilkenton | Wilbert Brendel |
| Va. | Joanna | A/G ¹ | Aug. 10-12 | "Aunt Jo & Her Helpers" | C. A. Barfield |
| | Dallas | Little Bethel | Aug. 12-26 | B. P. Carroll | C. J. Hurley |
| W. Va. | Henderson | Chalk Hill ¹ | Aug. 12-17 | Helen Steele | S. J. Underhill |
| | Katy | First ¹ | Aug. 12-17 | Billy & Vickie Burns | M. P. Smith |
| Va. | Laird Hill | A/G | Aug. 12-22 | Roger & Debbie Lewis | G. D. Tucker |
| | Lavon | A/G | Aug. 5— | Dale Sexton | Arlon Ragsdale |
| Va. | Murchison | Barton's Chapel | Aug. 12— | John & Freda Bryant | J. W. Thomison |
| | Shamrock | First | Aug. 12-19 | James & Ruby Hutson | Everett Berry |
| Va. | Stinnett | First ¹ | Aug. 13-17 | Louis & Mary Smith | Ron Witt |
| | Clifton Forge | First | Aug. 3-5 | David Baird | Ervin Hukill |
| W. Va. | Winchester | First | Aug. 12-17 | 3 Ms for the Master | David Cunsolo |
| | Morgantown | Maranatha | Aug. 12-15 | Bob McCutchen | Park Benner |
| | Parkersburg | First | Aug. 13-16 | William Caldwell | Marvin Dennis |

¹Children's Revival

Due to printing schedule, announcements must reach the *Pentecostal Evangel* 6 weeks in advance.

PALATINE, ILL.—Evangelist Ken Krivohlavek conducted an outstanding revival at First Assembly recently.

Fifteen were saved, 20 were baptized in the Holy Spirit, and several testified to receiving healing.

Pastor Larry L. Best writes: "The meetings were blessed by the moving of the Holy Spirit. People responded to the altar services, and God met their needs.


"Many more are now exercising the gifts of the Spirit as we gather in worship. A deep love prevails among the people."

RAPID CITY, MICH.—First Assembly enjoyed a week's revival with Evangelist Hazel Poe.

Approximately 10 boys and girls gave their hearts to Jesus. Sunday morning closed the crusade with a big boost in attendance. Total attendance was 160, with 49 visitors.

"Several of the children do not attend church, and we are looking forward to reaching them," says Pastor John J. Enders.

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MILWAUKEE, WIS.—Evangelists Robert M. and Mrs. Abbott held a revival in which 29 were saved and 15 were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Pastor Joel Pavia reports:

"Our 5 days of meetings with

the Abbotts were times of spiritual enrichment and renewal for our church. For many it was a time of new beginnings as they accepted Christ as Saviour or were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

"Each of the services climaxed with a time of group prayer when the pastor and evangelists offered special prayer for them. This was also a time when people in the congregation prayed with each other. All of the age groups were involved—adults, teens, and even children! The special meetings resulted in a new level of life in the Spirit for many.

"Just over 2 years have passed since we added a new sanctuary to our present facility. Attendance has grown steadily with a number of individuals and families being added to the church. Financial growth has been just as steady.

"The church's ministry has expanded this past year with the formation of a special fellowship group for adult singles and another for those over 55. Two Joy Fellowship groups were also begun for women. We praise God for the work He is doing here at Evangel Assembly!"

GRAYSVILLE, ALA.—The Assembly of God here enjoyed a season of revival recently with the singing Russell Coyne Family of Tulsa, Okla.

Crowds were good each night as the Spirit of the Lord moved among the people. Many visitors came to hear the Word of God preached.

As a result of the growth during the past 2 years, the church is looking for more space in which to expand.

Travis E. Bittle is pastor.

12th

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OCTOBER 2-7, 1979



EVANGELLETTERS

EXCERPTS FROM THE EDITORS' MAIL

"THE 'GOSPEL' OF PROSPERITY - AN ALIEN GOSPEL"

The article by Gordon D. Fee which appeared under this title in the June 24 *Evangel* elicited an unusually large amount of mail. There is not space to quote all of the letters, but we are publishing excerpts from a number which represent a sampling of the response that has reached the editors.

Timely and helpful

Thanks for the article. It was timely and most helpful.

PASTOR STEPHEN REXROAT
California

Contradiction noted

The June 24 *Evangel* had many interesting articles in it, two of which seemed to contradict each other.

Jerald Ogg in "The Gasoline Shortage" said, "We, as God's children, are to seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto us," quoting Matthew 6:33.

Gordon Fee in "The Gospel of Prosperity" indicated that we can no longer believe what the Bible has to say when it touches wealth or things.

I agree that our gospel preaching must be global in that it works everywhere. But I suggest that the same faith that makes John 3:16 work, and makes Acts 2:4 work, will also make Deuteronomy 8:18 work, which says, "Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee the power to get wealth. . . ."

PASTOR G. MARK DENYES
Minnesota

Sowing and reaping

God blesses people financially. Radical views are wrong, and I dislike them too; but people who believe Philippians 4:19 are not cult members.

In 1 Corinthians 16:1,2, notice the word "prosper." It is the same Greek word as in 3 John 2. God had prospered the Corinthian believers so they could give.

It seems to me that everyone who will put 2 Corinthians 9:6 into action will see it work. It says, "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." Many people are poor because they don't give. God's will is for 2 Corinthians 9:6 to work for everyone.

KENNY B. CAMPBELL
West Virginia

Old-fashioned greed

Thank you for the excellent article. The purveyors of the "prosperity gospel" have reversed the Biblical teachings by substituting the term "positive confession" for old-fashioned greed. Further, they insist that our Heavenly Father can give nothing but good; and then they insist that the child, not the Father, is to determine what is good. God is thus relegated to little more than a heavenly Santa Claus or a reluctant bellhop.

I have seen sincere people stalled in their spiritual growth as a consequence of this teaching that literally nullifies the tenth commandment. God said, "Thou shalt not covet" (Exodus 20:17). And Jesus warned, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). And Paul adds, "But godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6).

PASTOR E. S. CALDWELL
Missouri

Destroys faith

I am curious as to how the article got into our Fellowship paper. I am not questioning that much truth is mixed with what Reverend Fee says, or whether his interpretation of certain scriptures may be closer to the original meaning than others'. I am not qualified as a Greek and Hebrew student to determine that. But why publish the article? To me it does only one thing, and that is destroy faith.

PASTOR CLYDE F. FLETCHALL
Kansas

A distraction

The article was very timely and needful. This "gospel" of prosperity has placed pressure on relationships within the local churches and has certainly been a distraction from the spread of the true gospel.

JOHN E. ARNOLD
Ohio District secretary

Devious teaching

You are to be commended for including the article. Such a message is long overdue. There doesn't seem to be a section of our country that is not touched by this devious teaching.

PASTOR WILSON SHABAZ
Indiana

Completely secure

I love the *Evangel* and was especially pleased with the item by Gordon Fee. I have always believed the highest level of prosperity for Christians was to feel completely secure in the love of God, knowing He will provide, and material things don't matter if the soul prospers.

FLORENCE TAMBURRO
New Jersey

A good balance

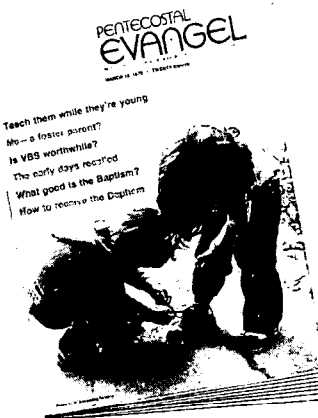
Thank you for the article. It provided a good balance to counteract some of the current extremes of the so-called prosperity gospel.

Gordon Fee's explanation of? John 2 was very fine. As I pointed out in the *Adult Teacher* for July 1, the context implies that Gaius had sacrificed and suffered for the sake of both fellow Christians and strangers. All John is doing is expressing a desire that God will make it up to him. He is not expressing a general principle that prosperity of soul guarantees material prosperity. *Prosper* here means literally "to be led along a good road."

The corresponding Hebrew word in Joshua 1:8 has the meaning of bringing something to a successful conclusion. It is the word used of the servant of Abraham who kept quiet while Rebekah went to draw water for his 10 camels to learn "whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not" (Genesis 24:21).

In 2 Chronicles 26:5 it is used of Uzziah: "As long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper." The context shows that the reference is not to material prosperity as such but to an effective rule. That is, God

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brought him through the battles and troubles that came his way.

First Corinthians 16:2 might seem to be an exception. There everyone is to store up in keeping with his gains. But again, the purpose is to bring the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem to a successful conclusion. We should note here that there was no condemnation on them for being poor. Also the word for "laying by in store" is the same one used for storing up treasures in heaven.

God, of course, has promised to supply our needs. When Paul was shipwrecked, he with the others lost everything. Then God did some miracles and worked on the hearts of the people of Malta so that they supplied what was needed for the rest of the journey (Acts 28:10), but Paul remained a prisoner. He had learned the freedom Dr. Fee talks about. He knew how to be abased and how to abound. God supplied Paul's wants—and Paul's desires too, for his one great desire was "that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings" (Philippians 3:10).

But any teaching that makes a one-to-one correspondence between spirituality or faith and material prosperity is like the logic of Job's friends. As Dr. Fee points out, it is not Biblical. Thank you again for printing Dr. Fee's article.

STANLEY M. HORTON
Missouri

Poverty Syndrome

I have enjoyed your magazine very much in the past. I am disturbed, however, by the recent article on prosperity.

I have seen people that have been infected by a "poverty

syndrome" as well as those with a "wealth syndrome." Either can be dangerous to spiritual growth.

How can we give to the poor if we are poor ourselves? We can't. How do we get more? By following the scriptural principles of giving and receiving, as the Lord has taught us.

DON R. CAMERON
Texas

Not alien to the Word

A Pentecostal magazine should promote faith. This article has not helped my faith one bit. If anything, it is a destroyer of faith of those who are really trying to believe God to help them.

In this same *Evangel* there appears an article about a church adding to its present structure \$1,600,000 of needed facilities.

Another church has increased its attendance by 60,000 members in just 5 years. This can come only from God and a gospel preached and believed that we can receive from God that which we cannot acquire by ourselves.

Prosperity and blessings are not alien to the Word of God.

PASTOR JAMES EITSON
Texas

Overkill regretted

I just wanted to commend you on the article. I imagine you'll get some strong responses, but it should provide scriptural instruction for our people.

My one concern was that the article tended to "overkill." I wish there had been a bit more balance in presenting God's promises to meet our needs.

I have felt that God promises financial health, not so much financial wealth.

PASTOR JOHN O. ANDERSON
Oregon

Disappointed

I was never so disappointed. . . . There is excess in some circles concerning prosperity; but in the light of the struggles many are having in these days due to inflation and financial pressures, to publish such a biased and tasteless article is more than cruel.

I am convinced that God does want all His children to prosper financially and will continue to teach and preach that Word openly. I have more than a few isolated texts to base my teaching on.

PASTOR LEON STUMP
Missouri

Why the waste?

I was shocked and hurt to read such an ultracritical article in my *Evangel*. The article had its merits, but why waste time knocking other ministries?

I was born into and reared in an Assemblies of God minister's home. . . . I can truthfully say I never heard a member of the flock or any other minister or His work spoken about in a negative fashion in my home as a child. . . . The Lord is in the building, business. Tearing down is Satan's work.

JOANNE KOCH
Nebraska

Wise stewardship

I have read and reread the article. The statement that "they are to treat their wealth with indifference" smacks of poor understanding of stewardship and really appears quite contrary to Jesus' statement in Luke 16:9-12 about wise investment of money.

Although there are excesses in some of the prosperity teachings today, the article is so final and authoritarian as to smack

strongly of "there is no other side to this story."

Mr. Fee states that "God's love and giving are predicated on His mercy. Therefore in every expression they are unconditional." This simply is not true. The Word teaches that as we sow, so shall we reap, as well as, "Give, and it shall be given unto you."

It seems to me the need is to teach more faith.

PASTOR JAMES I. MILLER
Colorado

Receiving and giving

Thank you for the article. I read it twice and noticed the author did not mention tithing; but as he said, the lesson could not include everything.

No doubt Dr. Fee had in mind the verse, "Freely ye have received, freely give." It does not say, "Freely ye should give, so that ye can freely receive."

MARY ANN VORVICK
Minnesota

Answers many questions

Thanks for this fine article. It is well balanced and well written and says the very things that need to be said quite often both from our pulpits and in our publications at this particular time. The Biblical exegesis is sound and will answer many questions for the honest, seeking heart.

PASTOR JACK M. WILSON
Kansas

Commercializing the gospel

We have seen so much commercialization of the gospel of late years. I appreciate the articulate way Gordon Fee reasoned his interpretation of the Scriptures on this very relevant subject.

JOHN D. SHAMEL
Arizona



Southeastern College
1000 Ferguson Blvd.
Lakeland, Fla. 33501

Dear Sirs,
I am a twelve year old christian
wondering if you have or will have
by 1985 a imball team. My address is
Shelbyville, Mo. 64544, thank you.

Love, Mark
Brother

Dear Mark:
Thank you for your letter. Yes, we do have a basketball team of which we are very proud. We also have baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, track, and tennis. (Girls can compete too; we hope you don't mind.)

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'LORD, HELP ME TO BE ONE OF YOUR SALMON'

Men's Ministries is the theme of this *Evangel*, and men like to fish—so here's a good fish story. It appeared in the *Evangelical Friend* and was contributed by a layman, Bert Hill.

Bert was having one of his periodic talks with his friend, a retired minister in Oklahoma. The old gospel fisherman asked him if he had noticed the parable in Matthew 13:37,48. No? So he quoted it:

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away."

With a twinkle in his eye, the old clergyman said:

"I've been casting the gospel net into the sea for over 40 years, and I've seen many fish caught in the Lord's net.

"Did you know there's a fish called the puff fish? It has the amazing ability to inflate itself to almost twice its size. I've seen some of these in God's net. If everything didn't go just the way they thought it should, they'd puff up until it seemed they'd explode.

"Then there are eels. We used to try to catch eels with our bare hands, but they slipped right through our fingers. I've caught a few in the Lord's net. About the time you think you can depend on them, they slip away.

"There are jelly fish, too. These fish have no fins or backbone. They just drift with the tide. Even in God's net, they go with the wind. When they're with Christians, they act like Christians. When they're with the world, they follow the crowd.

"Sometimes you get suckers. You find them on the bottom of the stream living on refuse that settles to their level. If one gets caught in the net, it isn't content to stay. It soon wants to settle back to the dregs of life where it feels at home.

"The catfish is a better fish, but you must be careful how you touch it, for it has poison spines in its fins. When you get one in the net you must handle it 'with kid gloves' or you may find poison darts headed your way.

"Now the bass—it's a fighter. Anything that ruffles his little pool gets his dander up. You usually find some in the gospel net. Anything

that agitates the status quo finds them ready to contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.

"As for the trout, it's a nice fish but it never goes anywhere. Year after year you find the same trout in the same pool. When you have a meeting and the water is stirred, they may move out some; but as soon as the meeting's over they're back in the same old place.

"Some can't tell a small salmon from the trout, but there's a lot of difference. The salmon moves from pool to pool until it reaches the ocean, where it goes out into the deep to feed on the things God has provided. When it receives a call from God, it returns to the spawning ground. The only way you can stop it from doing this is to kill it. Once at the spawning ground, it gives its life that there may be other salmon."

Bert listened thoughtfully. Then, bidding his old friend goodbye, he started down the street.

Silently he prayed as he walked along, "Lord, help me to be one of Your salmon."

—r.c.c.

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. . . 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.

. . . the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer.

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

. . . in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.

. . . in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

The Psalmist never saw an automobile, but he set us a good example.

In my toolbox there's an odd-looking tool called a compression tester. It resembles an expensive tire gauge with a large circular dial, but its purpose is far different. It's used to test the compression in the cylinders of an automobile engine.

By using it a mechanic can tell what's wrong with a motor before he takes it apart.

I'll never forget the first time a mechanic friend of mine offered to run a compression test on my car. I'd been complaining about the money I'd spent to tune up the motor, and how rough it was still running.

"Why don't you let me run a compression test?" Bud said. "It only takes a few minutes, and then you'll know for sure what's wrong."

The engine sputtered and shook as I drove my car into his garage. After raising the hood, he removed a spark plug, disconnected the distributor wire, and told me to turn the engine over. "Don't start it until I get the tester set in the spark plug hole," Bud said, "and be sure to turn it off when I say stop."

After completing the test, he said, "Come here, and I'll show you what your problem is."

Bud showed me where to place the tester, and how to hold it while he cranked the motor. As the engine turned over, the pressure built up inside the cylinder until the tester registered almost 120 pounds.

"That cylinder isn't too bad," said Bud. "The pressure shows the valves are in good shape and the piston rings are OK. But look at these two cylinders," and he pointed to the readings he'd taken. "This one has only 55 pounds of pressure, and the one next to it only has 60."

As he talked, everything I'd learned about internal combustion engines came back to me. No longer was it mere textbook information. Now it explained why my car was running poorly.

"You may have a blown head gasket," Bud said, "but my guess is that you've got a couple of burned valves."

Bud offered to help me tear down the motor, but actually I helped while he did the work. He replaced the valves, and soon the car was running like new.

Since then I never hear a rough running motor or see my compression tester lying in the toolbox without thinking of Bud. Every 20,000 miles I run a compression test as a

precautionary measure. It doesn't take long, and it saves me a lot of worry.

I was reminded of this today when reading the 139th Psalm. David's description of the omniscience of God really hit me. He said:

"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before. . . ."

The idea overwhelmed me. I read the Psalm several times and then started to list all the things David said God knew about him:

God examines the heart and knows everything about us.

He even knows when we stand, or sit, or lie down.

No matter how far away God may seem, He knows our every thought. He knows where we are every moment of every day.

He charts the path of our future. He knows what we are going to say before we say it.


God is so great, He actually goes before us and follows us at the same time.

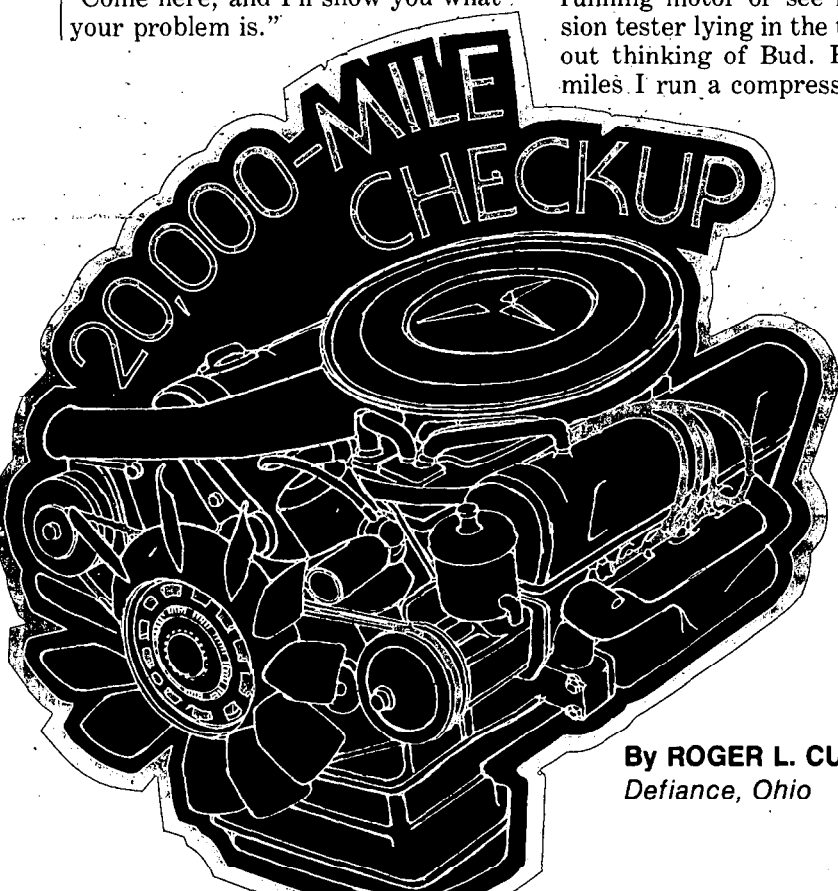
I thought, *Just as Bud found out what was going on inside the motor, God knows what's going on inside me. He knows my spiritual condition. He knows me better than I know myself.*

So I need checkups from time to time—not only to correct anything that's wrong, but also to keep things from getting worse.

David, in all his life, never saw an automobile, much less a compression tester, but he recognized his need of spiritual checkups. In the latter part of his beautiful Psalm he prayed:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Personally I think David set us a good example. Don't you? 



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