

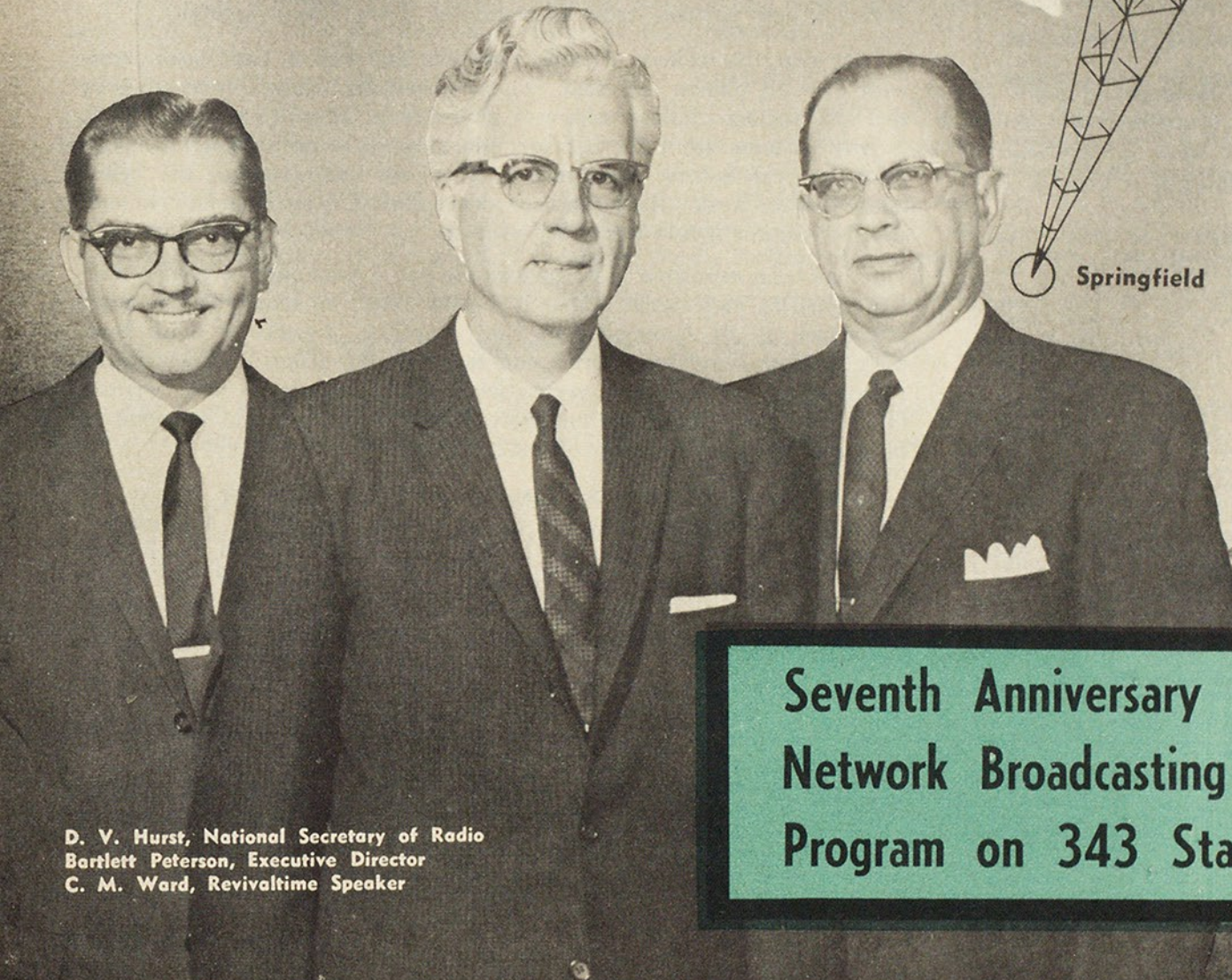
The Pentecostal

FILE COPY

Evangel

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

*"Coast to Coast and
Around the World!"*



Springfield

D. V. Hurst, National Secretary of Radio
Bartlett Peterson, Executive Director
C. M. Ward, Revivaltime Speaker

Seventh Anniversary of Revivaltime
Network Broadcasting Sees
Program on 343 Stations—page 12

The Pentecostal
Evangel

NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT. SAITH THE LORD
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..... **We believe** the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. WE BELIEVE 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, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule over the nations. WE BELIEVE that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. WE BELIEVE that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. WE BELIEVE in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

(Average paid circulation in November
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A Birthday Greeting

Happy birthday to Revivaltime on its seventh anniversary of network broadcasting! And that means goodwill greetings to the Revivaltime staff, for the broadcast is only as good as the people who produce it.

From its very beginning on Christmas Sunday 1953 this weekly full-gospel broadcast has had phenomenal results. The voluminous mail response (11,000 pieces of mail each month) indicates that it has a vast audience. Countless hundreds of persons have been led to Christ, healed, reunited with estranged marriage partners, or otherwise helped by the Revivaltime ministry. The decision of the 1953 General Council at Milwaukee to make Revivaltime a live network broadcast certainly was inspired by the Lord. It was a great step of faith, for the broadcast costs nearly \$10,000 a week. At first there was a wide gap between income and outlay—but God answered prayer. His people rallied to the financial need and the deficit grew smaller each year.

Revivaltime began its network ministry at the very time that television was sweeping the country. Some said radio was on the way out. The truth is that in the past seven years radio has kept growing. In fact, there are four times as many radio receiving sets in use today as there were at the advent of TV. People have radios in their kitchens, their bedrooms, their cars, their barns, their places of employment. It is stated on good authority that there are 155 million sets in 54 million homes in the U.S., plus 40 million radios in automobiles. In addition, there are an estimated 171,900,000 radio sets in the world outside the U.S. A new portable radio is purchased every fifteen seconds.

Last year the makers of radio receivers had one of their peak years with over 14 million sets sold. The Radio Advertising Bureau reports that the number of radio receivers in use is at an all-time high. That is why business spent 7.1 per cent more on radio advertising last year than the year before. And that is why new radio stations are being opened every week. Radio stations outnumber TV stations nine to one and Revivaltime is heard over 343 of them.

It has been estimated that Revivaltime has a minimum of twelve million listeners each week. This is twelve times as many as the total attendance at all Assemblies of God churches. People of more than forty denominations have written to say that they listen to Revivaltime. Prisoners of no less than twenty-seven different prisons have written to Revivaltime. Students from more than 129 colleges and universities have sent personal letters to the radio office.

Illustrious as Revivaltime's past ministry has been, we believe its future will be brighter yet. Let us be faithful to pray for this mighty evangelistic arm of our church. Let us also support it with regular offerings. And if God moves us to send a special "anniversary offering," let us do so. There is no better way to wish Revivaltime a *Happy Birthday* and to encourage its staff in their fine work.—R.C.C.

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Is it possible for a person who once was saved to backslide and finally be lost?

The Security of the Believer

By Myer Pearlman

EXPERIENCE PROVES THE POSSIBILITY of a temporary fall from grace popularly known as backsliding. "Backsliding" is not found in the New Testament; it is an Old Testament word. One Hebrew word used means to "turn back" or to "turn away"; another word means to "turn around" or "be refractory." Israel is compared to a backsliding heifer that refuses to be led and becomes refractory under the yoke; Israel has turned from Jehovah and has stubbornly refused to take upon her the yoke of His commandments.

The New Testament warns against such an attitude, but uses other terms. A backslider is one who once had zeal for God but who has become cold (Matthew 24:12). He once obeyed the Word but worldliness and sin impeded its growth and prevented fruit (Matthew 13:22). He once put his hand to the plough, but looked back (Luke 9:62). Like Lot's wife he has been delivered from the City of Destruction but his heart has returned there (Luke 17:32). He was once in vital contact with Christ, but is now out of touch, and is withered and barren and good for nothing spiritually (John 15:6).

He once heeded the checks of conscience but now has thrown away that guiding compass, and as a result, his ship of faith has become wrecked on the rocks of sin and worldliness (1 Timothy 1:19). He was once happy to call himself a Christian, but is now ashamed to confess his Lord (2 Timothy 1:8; 2:12). He was once delivered from the world's defilements, but has returned like "the sow that was washed to her wallowing in mire" (2 Peter 2:22; compare Luke 11:21-26).

Lapses from grace are possible; but may a person who was once saved lapse and be finally lost? Those who follow the Calvinistic system of doctrine answer in the negative; those who follow the Arminian system (named after Arminius, a Dutch theologian who brought the question to an issue) answer in the affirmative.

CALVINISM

John Calvin's doctrine was not new with him; it was taught by Augustine, the great saint and theologian of the fourth century. Neither was it new with Augustine, who claimed to be interpreting Paul's doctrine of free grace.

The Calvinistic doctrine is as follows. Salvation is entirely of God; man has absolutely nothing to do about it. If he repents and believes and comes to Christ, it is entirely because of the drawing power of God's Spirit. This is due to the fact that man's will has become so corrupt since the Fall that, without God's help, he cannot even repent and believe, or choose rightly. This was Calvin's starting point—the complete bondage of man's will to evil. Salvation therefore can be nothing but the execution of a divine decree which fixes its extent and conditions.

The question naturally arises: If salvation is entirely the work of God, and man has nothing to do about it, and is helpless unless God's Spirit deals with him, why does not God save *all* men, since all are lost and helpless? Calvin's answer was: God has predestined some to be saved and others to be lost. "Predestination is the eternal decree of God, by which He has decided what is to become of each and every individual. For all are not created in like condition; but eternal life is foreordained for some, eternal condem-

(Continued on page thirteen)

ARMINIUS AND CALVINISM

The four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Jacobus Arminius has aroused fresh interest in the Arminian teaching.

Jacobus Arminius was born in Holland on October 10, 1560. He became recognized as the chief critic of scholastic Calvinism, especially at the point of unconditional predestination. Whereas Calvin's primary emphasis was on the sovereignty of God, the emphasis of Arminius was on the freedom of the human will.

Schaff, the eminent church historian, said of the two points of view:

"Calvinism emphasizes divine sovereignty and free grace; Arminianism emphasizes human responsibility. The one restricts the saving grace to the elect; the other extends it to all men on the condition of faith. Both are

right in what they assert; both are wrong in what they deny. If one important truth is pressed to the exclusion of another truth of equal importance, it becomes an error, and loses its hold upon the conscience."

The viewpoint of Arminius influenced not only the Dutch Reformed Church but also the Church of England. It assumed new vigor through the Methodist Revival and has modified practically all of present-day Calvinism.

For the benefit of Evangel readers we are presenting an article by our late Brother Pearlman, which is an extract from his book, "Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible." It deals with the "Eternal Security" question. Turn the page for an article by R. M. Riggs, our former general superintendent, on the subject of "Predestination."



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH...

PREDESTINATION

ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS SUBJECT

BY R. M. RIGGS

FORMER GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

PREDESTINATION IS TAUGHT IN THE Bible. It is also confirmed by human observation and experience. There are phases of this doctrine that are delightful to behold. It is also possible to harden and project this doctrine into a cruel creed.

The following is a partial quotation from the Westminster Confession: "God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatever comes to pass." If one is careful and restrained in his definition of the word "ordain," he can make this statement and be fully supported by the Scripture.

First, let us declare that God foreknows all things. "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world" (Acts 15:18). "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23). "Whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate" (Romans 8:29). "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God" (1 Peter 1:2).

Our conception of God is the conception of an Almighty One—the greatest that can be conceived. We think of God as seeing and knowing everything that ever will happen in the future. He is the all-knowing God. He knew man was going to fall, so He gave His Son to be slain "from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). He knew wicked men would slay His Son, so He deliberately sent Him into the world in order that the world might

be redeemed through His death. He knows who will be saved and who will be lost. The absolute foreknowledge of God is fully supported by the Scripture and by reason. "But what God knows, though certain, is not thus necessitated."

Also, God controls all events. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Ephesians 1:11). He works all things for good for His children. What a sublime thought this is. He caused Caesar to issue his edict to bring Mary to Bethlehem, so her Baby's birth would fulfill Micah 5:2. He allowed Herod to threaten the life of the Baby so Joseph would take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to fulfill Hosea 11:1. He let the soldier thrust his spear into Jesus' side to fulfill Zechariah 12:10. As the psalmist said, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Psalm 76:10).

But not just the events relative to His Beloved Son are under His control. He controls all things concerning all those who are the called according to His purpose. Not a sparrow can fall to the ground without His knowledge and consent. What a panacea for all ills. What a perfect antidote to all disappointments and discouragements!

To Pilate Jesus said, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above"

(John 19:11). He will even control the ten kings who shall reign with the Antichrist. "God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and to give their kingdom unto the beast" (Revelation 17:17). What an enchanted life is this—living in the center of the will of God. "There shall no evil befall thee" (Psalm 91:10). "The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore" (Psalm 121:6-8).

* * *

And now we approach the subject of His eternal decrees. "He hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation" (Acts 17:26). He determined who would be born, where, and when. These facts are obvious.

The master in the parable gave to one servant five talents; to another, two; and to another, one; each according to his several ability. God gives opportunities and responsibilities to us according to our abilities, which He also gave us in the first place. Is there discrimination here? Apparently, but not really. For the reward to the faithful five-talent man was the same as the reward to the faithful two-talent man. Apparent discriminations as to birth and ability eventually will be equalized by the great Creator, who doeth all things well.

The servant who was called to work at the eleventh hour was rewarded with the same pay which the first-hour man received. Why? The eleventh-hour man did not have the same opportunity as the first man. He said, "No man hath

Brother Riggs recently moved to California to join the faculty of Bethany Bible College, 800 Bethany Drive, Santa Cruz, Calif.

hired me." The Lord said, "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with my own?" (Matthew 20:1-16). We can trust Him, especially since He is so good and so accurately just.

Now for the difficult question involved in Romans 9:13—"Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." God decided between the boys before they were born, to show that nothing they did would influence the situation. (See Romans 9:9-12.) This seems to be pure unconditional election. But here is a principle God has used from the beginning. He selects some to use as instruments or agents through whom He will bless the whole world. To Israel He said, "Ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests"—to intercede for others (Exodus 19:5, 6). To Abraham He said, "Thou shalt be a blessing, and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:2, 3).

God has chosen to use certain men and certain people as channels through whom He will bring blessing to other people. "God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, etc." (1 Corinthians 12:28). Is He partial to a man whom He appoints as an apostle? Two answers are possible here. He might have seen in this person a susceptibility to Him which justified Him in the choice. (He saw in David a man after His own heart.) Or He might have chosen the apostle as a means to be a blessing to others. Remember, too, the five-talent man has a greater responsibility. He must gain five talents more in order to get an equal reward with the man who gains two talents more. This ex-

plains and justifies the election of Abraham and Israel.

* * *

But what about *eternal* destiny? Inequalities on earth can be equalized at the judgment, but how could inequalities in eternal destiny ever be adjusted? Here is where the doctrine of predestination is so horribly abused. In spite of and contrary to the doctrine of the extreme Calvinists, God has not ordained some to everlasting life and others to everlasting damnation.

The Westminster Confession reads, "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated to everlasting life and others are foreordained to everlasting death." This is utterly untenable and is not supported by Scripture. (We are using "predestinated" and "foreordained" in the arbitrary

sense in which He has ordained some to be black and others white, some male and others female.)

There is a modified sense in which He does ordain to eternal life. It is expressed in Romans 8:29 and 1 Peter 1:2. "Those whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate." "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God." Those who respond to the call of God are the elect or predestinated. Election is based on the foreknowledge of God.

In the immutable counsel of God, He determined to create man as a free moral agent. It was God's will and plan that man, His highest creature, should have full freedom of the will to choose between right and wrong. This necessitated giving man in Eden the opportunity to disobey God, if he chose to do so. Hence the restriction

(Continued on page twenty-one)

PAYMENT OVERDUE

IT HAPPENED IN AN INSURANCE OFFICE in Minneapolis. A tired, timid old lady approached the first desk.

When asked what she wanted, she showed them a policy and explained that she was unable to make any more payments on it. She explained that it was hard for her to get work, and what little she did get was hardly enough to clothe and feed her and keep a roof over her head.

After a quick examination the clerk saw the policy was very valuable. He warned the little lady that she would be unwise to stop payment. Besides, did not her husband have anything to say? It was his policy, made out to her benefit.

Her husband? She quickly explained that he had been dead for three years.

The company went into action immediately and discovered that she told the truth. Consequently, instead of her owing them a small premium, they owed her the full amount for which her husband had insured his life in her favor.

Instead of cancelling the policy they paid her enough to keep her in comfort for the rest of her life! She had not realized that it became due when her husband died!

Listen! The greatest benefit of all time became due to mankind when the

Lord Jesus died on the Cross! But thousands of men and women have failed to "cash in their policy." They have continued to "make payments" by trying to quit their sins, and hoping to win God's favor by acts of charity and church attendance. They should stop their struggling. Jesus has died and their "eternal life insurance policy" is fully paid up.

Are you still trying to pay installments on a debt you never can discharge? All you need to do is to accept the immeasurable gift that is yours through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us" (Titus 3:5).

"God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

"God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:11, 12). ◀◀

BIBLE VERSE



Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

JOHN 4:10

The secret of victorious
Christian living lies in full
identification with Christ.

BY FRED SMOLCHUCK

Pastor, Evangel Assembly of God,
Detroit, Michigan



Ephraimites. A number of Ephraimites infiltrated the Gileadites' territory. For security it became imperative that these Ephraimites be discovered. An ingenious scheme was devised. Each person whose identity and loyalty was held in doubt was put to a speech test. He was asked to say, "Shibboleth." If instead he said, "Sibboleth," then it became apparent that he was an enemy, for the Ephraimites could not pronounce the word as did the Gileadites. The Christian's speech is blessed with the culture of holiness. His language glorifies the Master and edifies the Christian.

How alert are you to God's program? Gideon was instructed to put his volunteer army to the drink test. After tiring military maneuvers, the hot and dusty soldiers were led to the water's edge and told to drink. God instructed Gideon to watch. Some of the potential warriors knelt right down and drank, forgetting everything else about them. However, the others remembered that an enemy was lurking about, so they threw themselves down on all fours and lapped the water like an animal while keeping their eyes open and alert so that at an instant they could leap upright for action. God chose the latter group.

Believers are required today to be alert, sober and ready for action at a moment's notice. Those who are on the Lord's side will not seek for excuses to avoid responsibility. Putting one's selfish interests before the cause of Christ is evidence that one is not on the Lord's side.

How loyal are you to God? The cause of Christ may require you to be separated from those who have been close to you. When Moses asked, "Who is on the Lord's side?" the tribe of Levi stepped out from among the rest and stood apart. It was a difficult moment, for they left friends and close associates behind. But the Levites were loyal to God.

Demands that curb our activity for God or keep us from attending the

ISRAEL'S SENSUAL WORSHIP OF THE golden calf aroused God's fury. Their shameful behavior was a gross perversion of the worship of the only true, holy God.

Had it not been for Moses, these people would have been annihilated. When the lawgiver saw the abomination committed by Israel, he immediately cried out, "Who is on the Lord's side?" Prior to this, all assumed they were on the Lord's side. Moses' striking challenge made it very clear they were not. Only one tribe stepped forward; the rest knew that the evidence was against them.

"Who is on the Lord's side?" is still the all-important issue before men today. Many claim to be followers of the Lord but, as in the days of Jesus, some ask, "Let me first go and bury my father," or, "Let me first go bid them farewell which are at home at my house" (Luke 9:59, 61). They have other interests which they consider of first importance. To these Jesus replies, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mat-

thew 16:24). There is no room for divided interests.

There is no place for in-between followers. Either we are His disciples or we are only pretenders and are not His disciples. A disciple participates; a pretender only talks.

ARE WE GENUINE CHRISTIANS?

During the depression of the 1930's gold merchants went from house to house buying up old gold. One of the ways of proving an item was precious metal was the acid test. Gold always reacts like gold; when attacked by acid its insistence on shining brightly proves its worth. Other metals turn green or black. Many a person who thought his possession valuable was disappointed when the merchant pushed the article aside after the test.

The genuine Christian will always react in a Christian manner. There are actions which prove one is on the Lord's side. What are they?

THE PROOF

How is your speech? During the Biblical days of the Judges war broke out between the Gileadites and the

house of the Lord must be set aside, even though they come from our relatives and friends. A Christian's first loyalty is to God and His program.

How *co-operative* are you? Joshua told the tribes of Manasseh and Gad that it would be permissible for them to settle on the east side of Jordan as they requested. First, however, they must continue to fight side by side with their brethren who did not yet have their inheritance from the enemy. Manasseh and Gad had to co-operate so that others could obtain their share of the blessing. Selfishness has no place in the life of a Christian. He must keep fighting the enemy and working and helping others who have not yet attained spiritual rest and blessing.

THE POSSIBILITY OF DELUSION

It is possible to think all is well when it is not. A person may consider he is a true disciple when actually he is not. Jesus illustrated this when He said that some will cry out, "Lord, Lord, open up." But the answer will come back, "Depart from me, I never knew you." These will then insist, "But Lord, in Thy name we cast out devils."

Then the Lord will answer, "Depart . . . ye workers of iniquity. Not everyone who saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter." Such do not have what is required for true discipleship. Mere identification and association with a church body or Christian influence is not enough to put us "on the Lord's side."

When disciples avoid responsibility to the Lord, He is disappointed. Many today are occupied just as the persons Jesus told about in Luke 14:16-24. One bought a piece of land, another purchased five yoke of oxen, and still another married a wife. Each was in the process of acquiring something for himself and used it as an excuse to remain away from the king's table.

How can we expect the world, which we are trying to save, to be impressed with our claim of being on the Lord's side, when we do not possess nor display Christian principles?

Participation shows on whose side we stand. A participant will attend the mid-week prayer meeting. He will be in Sunday school, at Sunday morning worship, and at the Sunday evening service. He will not avoid the Men's

Fellowship nor the Women's Missionary Council. He will attend rallies and fellowship gatherings, and will gladly take part in church business meetings. He will be at the church on designated work days. Being on God's side, a participant supports his church with his tithes and offerings, and actively takes part in all that concerns the kingdom of God.

Who is on the Lord's side? That person who comes over to the Lord's side and engages in God's program. That person who separates himself from influences contrary to God's will, and proves by his speech, his alertness, his loyalty, and his concern for others that he is determined to please the Lord.

"By their fruits ye shall know them." Having a mere form of godliness is inadequate. Jesus showed His disappointment with a tree that had "nothing but leaves." Verbal acknowledgment is not enough; we must step out and participate actively in God's work.

When we utilize our time and energies for God we leave no room for the devil nor the world. To be actively and positively on God's side is the secret of victorious Christian living.

A Beautiful Lesson From a Paper Mill

QUEEN VICTORIA, WHILE DRIVING one day, directed her carriage to a new paper mill which had been built recently a few miles outside the city. She left her attendants when the mill was yet some distance before them, and went there unattended, to avoid recognition.

The manager, not knowing he had the first lady of England before him, showed her the machinery and the fine accomplishments of the craft. He showed her how the rags were first bleached and turned white, then ground into a sort of pap, and there-upon run through the hammers, thinned, dried, cut into sheets, etc. The Queen was surprised and pleased.

As she was leaving, they passed through a room where a company of men, women, and children sat sorting rags. Many of these rags had been picked up in dirty streets.

"What do you do with that filthy heap of rags?" the Queen asked.

"We make paper out of them," the manager answered.

"But I notice they are of all colors; how do you contrive to whiten them?"

"By a chemical operation we remove every color, and rags red as crimson, after going through the process, assume the whiteness of a cherry blossom."

"Wonderful!" the Queen said, and left after thanking the manager for his obliging attention.

The gentleman escorted his caller part of her way back, and seeing the royal retinue, knew that the lady was none other than Queen Victoria. She bowed, said goodbye, and rode off.

A few days later the Queen found a pack of the prettiest white and polished paper lying on her writing desk. On each sheet her initials together with her portrait were impressed. A letter of explanation was attached which said:

"Your Majesty will graciously accept a sample of my paper, hereby submissively transmitted as a small

souvenir, with the assurance that every sheet therein is a fabric made out of those filthy dark-colored rags you saw in the mill. Your Majesty will permit me to add that it is from this transformation that I have often received much instruction. It has taught me how our Lord Jesus Christ is able to wash poor human beings who are spotted and begrimed with sin, and who are far filthier than these rags. As a consequence of His washing us, our sins, though they be scarlet, shall become whiter than snow.

"Again, I learned that God can impress His image upon poor sinful man, as Your Majesty beholds her image impressed in the paper. And as the paper, thus finished, is capable of attracting the good pleasure even of a queen, likewise the poor sinner may be so washed and adorned by the blood of the Lamb that finally he will shine as a welcome guest in the heavenly palaces." —*Young Lutheran Magazine*

Children's Questions Should Be Answered

BY WILDON COLBAUGH

JERRY KICKED HIS FOOTBALL INTO a long spiral that landed with a resounding thud near the flower garden and then bounced sideways onto a choice geranium plant. With an irritated tone Jerry inquired, "Hey, Dad, what made my ball bounce *that way*?"

This question may not have required an answer, but hundreds of others he asked over the years did. Dad often wondered where such a mite of a fellow could find such puzzling and varied questions.

There was the time when Jerry with eager expectancy looked into his father's eyes and asked simply, "What makes kitty purr?" Dad took refuge behind the evening paper with the feeble excuse, "Don't bother me right now, son; I'm busy."

Another time Jerry almost sent his father into solitary seclusion with the question, "Dad, where is God?" This was one question that was not so simple and for the moment he could not think of a good answer—so he brushed aside the eager inquirer who was ready to accept his word as law.

What a pity! No learner ever sat at a master's feet with more eagerness than Jerry did before his dad. He drank from the spring of knowledge which came forth from his father as from the oracle. That is, the knowledge

poured forth until Jerry began to *ask* questions. Then for some strange reason the fountains of deep wisdom dried up and Jerry's questions went unanswered.

Mother, too, was usually too busy to stop what she was doing and give him a proper answer. Often she would say, "I'm busy just now, Jerry; you'll have to ask me some other time." But once the time was gone his mind was on other things. The opportunity for teaching had been lost.

Every growing child is a bundle of question marks. His learning process is speeded up when mother or dad takes time to stimulate him with answers. As the parent looks down upon that little fellow he can observe the handiwork of God in the probing, wondering eyes and mind bent on finding the answers to all the strange mysteries about him. Questions have thrown the door of the fresh young mind open to the prayerful, skillful guidance of the parent. If he does not get the answers at home he will pick them up somewhere in the street and neighborhood. His mind may be cast in the wrong mold and irreparable harm may result.

What if your boy or girl *does* take a round-about route to get to the point? You should listen patiently. Don't ever give your child the feeling that you are

unconcerned or that you consider his puzzling questions unimportant. They are important to *him*.

When Jerry asks a question, that is your golden opportunity to teach him. His mind is open. And into that eager absorbent young mind you can implant the thoughts which tomorrow may produce a leader in science, industry, business, religion, or music. You hold the key to his future in your hand. How you turn it will determine the destiny of that boy or girl of yours.

Listen to Jerry's questions. If you are unable to answer them, be frank with him. Say to him, "Jerry, I don't know just how to answer that one; let's look it up together"—and he will be thrilled to watch you go to the dictionary, map, or some other source for an answer. It would be of help to have on hand such books as a Bible concordance, Bible encyclopedia, a good dictionary, a world atlas, and a Bible story book. (See the list of helpful books at the end of this article.) If you cannot find the answers at home, the local librarian is always willing to help you find answers to your children's questions.

Where did he come from? What makes the night dark? What makes the pumpkin grow? These questions are inevitable and they provide an opportunity for you to give him scriptural answers.

Not all of Jerry's questions will lead to a spiritual answer, nor should you try to preach a short sermon to your captive auditor each time. But be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and be ready to plant the seeds of God's Word whenever it seems natural and desirable.

It will pay you to cultivate this comradeship and encourage him to bring you his problems. Some day, when he is older, you may wish he would come to you for advice!

* * *

The following books which will help you to find an answer to your children's questions may be ordered from the Gospel Publishing House, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Mo. Be sure to include the catalog number when ordering.

- 3 J 908 *Cruden's Concordance* \$4.00
- 3 J 946 *Bible Encyclopaedia and Dictionary* by A. R. Fausset \$5.95
- 3 J 3700 *Atlas of the Bible Lands* .50
- 3 J 3031 *Egermeiers Bible Story Book* \$3.95
- 3 J 1181 *Can You Tell Me?* by Dena Korfker \$1.95
- 3 J 3008 *Questions Children Ask* by Dena Korfker \$1.95
- 2 J 776 *What My Church Believes* by R. M. Riggs .60

<p style="text-align: center;">FOR THE JUNIOR READER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE BIBLE</p> <p>In the first nine verses of Psalm 119 seven different terms are used to describe the Word of God. All seven are included in the puzzle at right. Begin in the square marked "start" and move either left or right, up or down until you have completed a word. The gray squares mark the end of a word. Do not use any letter more than once, and do not move diagonally.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>ANSWERS:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Law, testimonies, precepts, statutes, commandments, judgments, word.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">START</td> <td>L</td><td>A</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>P</td><td>T</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>I</td><td>T</td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>C</td><td>E</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>M</td><td>O</td><td>N</td><td>I</td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>W</td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td>D</td><td>S</td><td>P</td><td>T</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td><td>T</td><td>N</td><td>T</td><td>U</td><td>T</td><td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="background-color: #cccccc;"></td> <td>M</td><td>E</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>C</td><td>O</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>D</td><td>G</td><td>T</td><td>N</td><td>D</td><td>N</td><td>M</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>U</td><td>J</td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>M</td><td>A</td><td>M</td> </tr> </table>	START	L	A	W	T	E	P	T		I	T	S	E	C	E	S		M	O	N	I	E	R	S		W	O	R	D	S	P	T		S	T	N	T	U	T	A			M	E	E	S	C	O		D	G	T	N	D	N	M		U	J	S	E	M	A	M
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The Family Altar



PRAYER REQUESTS • DAILY BIBLE READINGS BY R. G. CHAMPION • MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

Monday, December 12

Read: Psalm 102:11-22

Learn: "But thou, O Lord, shalt endure forever; and thy remembrance unto all generations" (Psalm 102:12).

For the Parent: From this passage point out: (1) the uncertainty and brevity of human life on earth, v. 11; (2) the eternal existence of God, v. 12; (3) God's concern for His own, vv. 13, 14; (4) the results of God's concern, v. 15; (5) our Lord shall come again, v. 16; (6) God answers prayer, v. 17; (7) God sees us at all times and knows our problems—and is ready to help us as we yield ourselves to Him, vv. 18-22.

Question Time: To what did the Psalmist liken the length of his life on earth? (v. 11) How does the length of God's life contrast to this? (v. 12) How do we know God answers prayer? (v. 17)

Missionary Birthdays: Mrs. A. Ruth Hutchinson (Indian), California; Mary K. Bush, India; Gilbert Marrero, El Salvador; George Hemminger, Sierra Leone; Mrs. R. A. Hymes, Japan; Ruby A. Johnson, Ghana.

Tuesday, December 13

Read: Psalm 103:1-8

Learn: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2).

For the Parent: This psalm begins with a burst of praise unto God—it is praise from the depths of our being, v. 1. It is also praise to God because of all the benefits He gives us, v. 2. Verses 3-8 list some of these benefits. They are: (1) forgiving our sins; (2) healing our sicknesses; (3) redeeming us from eternal destruction; (4) making us the recipients of God's mercy and love; (5) giving us good things—things that are for our good; (6) strengthening us; (7) judging us rightly—justice tempered by His great mercy.

Question Time: How are we to praise God? (v. 1) What are some of the benefits that are ours in God? (See above)

Missionary Birthday: Ada Reitz (superannuated), South Africa.

Wednesday, December 14

Read: Psalm 103:8-22

Learn: "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him" (Psalm 103:11).

For the Parent: This passage reminds us of God's mercy v. 8, but warns that God's love, when spurned, brings His wrath, v. 9. Verses 10-18 are a beautiful picture of a loving heavenly Father who understands us and yet loves us. These verses describe His mercy toward us. Discuss these together, stressing God's love and mercy. The remainder of the psalm shows that God is a God of power and gives additional exhortations to worship and praise God.

Question Time: What happens to a person who spurns God's love? (See above) How far has God removed our transgressions? (v. 12) How great is God's mercy toward those who fear him? (v. 11)

Missionary Birthday: Mrs. G. A. Marker, Mexico.

Thursday, December 15

Read: Luke 10:38-42; John 12:1-8

Learn: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

For the Parent: (Additional material on "Mary of Bethany" will be found on Sunday's Lesson page.) One of the things which our Lord desires from each believer is his love. That love can be expressed in devoted service. Discuss the life of Mary of Bethany, pointing out her desire for spiritual food—that "good part, which shall not be taken away." Also discuss her actions in anointing the feet of Jesus—including the reaction of the crowd and Jesus' commendation of her actions.

Question Time: Why was Martha upset with Mary? (Luke 10:40) How did Jesus correct Martha's attitude? (Luke 10:41, 42)

Missionary Birthdays: Talmage F. Butler, Senegal; Pearl M. Estep, Bolivia; Mrs. V. E. Stewart; Leonard M. McNutt, Togo-Dahomey; Mrs. H. D. Wolverton, South Africa; Mrs. J. H. Kenney, Hawaii; Eugene Meador (Deaf), Oklahoma.

Friday, December 16

Read: Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21, 22; John 1:32-34 (Sunday's Lesson for Juniors)

Learn: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

For the Parent: Review the story of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. Point out: (1) the location—the Jordan River, Matthew 3:13; (2) John's protest,

Matthew 3:14; (3) Jesus' answer to John's protest—and the reason why Jesus was baptized in water, Matthew 3:15; (4) what happened immediately after Jesus was baptized, Matthew 3:16, 17 and Luke 3:21, 22; (5) how John knew that Jesus was the Messiah promised by the Lord, John 1:32-34.

Question Time: Why was Jesus baptized in water? (Matthew 3:15) What happened after Jesus was baptized? (Matthew 3:16, 17) How did John know for sure that Jesus was the Messiah? (John 1:32-34)

Saturday, December 17

Read: Matthew 14:13-23 (Sunday's Lesson for Primaries)

Learn: "Give, and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38).

For the Parent: Jesus has done so much for us that we often feel we want to do something for Him in return. Have the group review the story of the boy who gave his lunch to Jesus and the miracle Jesus performed because of the boy's willingness to give. Talk about some of the things we can give to Jesus: our time, money, interest, self. Point out that Jesus is more interested in how we give our gifts than He is in the gift itself—and that He can turn insignificant gifts into great blessings for many people.

Question Time: What gift did the boy give to Jesus? What did Jesus do with it? What can we give to Jesus? (See above)

Missionary Birthdays: Verena Rich, India; June Pearson (Indian), Arizona.

Missionary Birthdays for Sunday: Mrs. F. B. Wood, Indonesia; Mrs. P. C. Wright, Nyasaland.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Three more churches in South India have been started but there is no money to put roofs on the buildings. Missionary Clarence Maloney requests that we pray that funds will be provided to complete these churches.

* * *

Missionaries of the American and Canadian Assemblies are having an important meeting in Argentina this month. Pray for the blessings of the Lord and the guidance of the Holy Spirit at this conference.

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steps, voices, and sounds which are both strange and familiar; but they never see a smile hovering upon the lips of a loved one or the sweet little face of a son or daughter. They hear the halting words which inadequately describe the beauties of nature but they never see the splendor of a sunset nor the fresh loveliness of a rose petal. The sightless may hear the sound of a fountain, but can never see the spray like a diamond mist, sparkling in the sunlight.

Helen Keller, the well-known deaf-blind writer, philosopher, humanitarian, and educator, has triumphed over her physical disabilities. One of the three things for which she thanks God every day of her life is "that He has set in my darkness the lamp of faith." Her outward radiance, no doubt, is but the expression of her inner faith. "A simple, childlike faith in a divine Friend," she testifies, "solves all the problems that come to us." She has read her Braille Bible until whole pages of dots have been rubbed off.

Helen Keller considers the Bible important to every life. She says, "It is natural that I should think first of those who have not the light of earth's day; but I never forget that the Bible is the Lord's rod and staff comforting multitudes who, though not physically hindered, live in a vale of shadow. It has always been a grief to me that many people do not look upon the Bible as a book for daily use, but only to be read in church or on holy days and special occasions. The Bible is a book to live with, to think from, and to die by."

The American Bible Society, in 125 years of service to the blind, has distributed over three-quarters of a mil-



Mrs. E. Rogers of Binghamton, N. Y. eagerly reads her Adult Student quarterly in Braille.

Out of Darkness

Have you ever considered what it would be like to be blind?

BY MAXINE STROBRIDGE

DARKNESS IS THE CONSTANT companion of twenty million men, women, boys, and girls who live in a sightless world. Approximately 355,000 of these blind persons live in the United States.

Greater than the darkness of blindness is the darkness of sin. The blind need to be brought out of this spiritual darkness into the marvelous light of Jesus Christ.

Few lives are so empty as those of blind men and women. They hear foot-



Do not be afraid to talk to blind people. You may win a soul for Christ.

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lion volumes of embossed Scriptures and Talking Book records in more than forty different languages and systems.

The following was taken from the April 1960 issue of the *Bible Society Record*:

"On a spring day in April 1835, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe drove down from Boston. He was accompanied by two blind persons whom he had taught to read ordinary lettering embossed on special paper. He went straight to the Society's building on Nassau Street. There the Society presented Doctor Howe with a check for \$1,000 to pioneer the work which was to lead to the publication of the Bible in the Line Letter system, a sixteen-volume edition, the stereotype plates of which cost \$10,000. Over a period of sixty years, thousands of volumes were published and distributed in Howe's method of embossed printing.

"Then in 1874 the Bible was printed in New York Point, a raised-dot system invented by William Bell Wait, another pioneer worker for the blind.

"For eighty years embossing had been on only one side of the sheet. Mr. Wait, however, perfected the New York Point Bipage (two-side printing) which greatly reduced the bulk as well as the cost, and the Bible was produced in this form, which is still read and preferred today by some finger-tip readers. This was followed by publications in a raised-dot system which bears the name of a blind Frenchman, Louis Braille, probably the greatest benefactor of the blind the world has ever known. The Bible Society began printing the Bible in this system in 1911. Braille is the system most widely read by the blind today."

The Home Missions Department of the Assemblies of God now supplies

the only full-gospel literature available in Braille. These publications are: *Adult Student*, *Primary Pupil*, *Junior Pupil*, and *Teen* quarterlies; the *Pentecostal Digest*, a monthly compilation of articles from the *Pentecostal Evangel*, *Live*, etc.; and *My Personal Worker's Guide*, a booklet by C. M. Ward to help blind Christians win others to Christ. Gospel tapes are also available through the Home Missions Department for blind persons who have tape recorders.

One blind lady who recently received an *Adult Student* quarterly did not put it down until she had read every word of the entire book. A director in a school for the blind in Sierra Leone, Africa, has asked for all the Braille material produced by the Home Missions Department for students in his school.

The Home Missions Department does not charge the blind for Braille literature, but depends entirely upon the contributions of friends to continue this ministry. In accordance with the conditions of a free mail permit, literature must be sent directly to blind persons. If you know of blind people in your community or church, send us their names and addresses and we will send them publications regularly.

The dark emptiness of persons without sight cries to be filled with the blessings and presence of Jesus Christ. He alone can satisfy the longing hearts and bring them out of darkness into the light of His truth. Distribution of Assemblies of God full-gospel literature in Braille is bringing the Blind to Christ.

Your offering for BRAILLE LITERATURE may be sent direct to the Home Missions Department, 434 W. Pacific, Springfield, Mo.



Blind Korean children read Braille Bibles provided by the American Bible Society.

Your Questions



ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

What is the difference between faith and trust?

I think they are much alike, but faith is active, whereas trust is passive. Faith causes us to advance. Trust causes us to rest on the truthfulness and faithfulness of God.

Please explain what Jesus meant when He said, "For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" Luke 23:31.

I think Dean Farrar explains it well: "If they act thus to Me, the Innocent and the Holy, what shall be the fate of these, the guilty and the false?" Another says: "The green wood represents Jesus, condemned to crucifixion as a traitor. . . . The dry wood pictures the Jews . . . who will bring upon themselves . . . the terrible vengeance of the great conquering empire."

In view of the fact that God told Balaam he might go to Balak, why was He angry with Balaam when he did go?

Balaam had received a direct commandment of God that he should not go (Numbers 22:12). When the invitation was renewed by the messenger of Balak, God yielded to Balaam's desire and said he might go (vv. 19, 20) but Balaam knew very well that God's highest will was that he should refuse the invitation. There is a lesson here for us. If we insist on wanting our own way, after God has shown us it is contrary to His will, He may yield to our insistence but we will be the losers in the end.

What did Jesus mean (Luke 14:26) when He said a man should hate his father and mother?

The word "misco," translated hate, seems to have been used to express different degrees of hatred. For example: "Ye shall be hated of all men," indicates a bitter hatred. But it is generally considered that the hating of parents meant to love them less than Christ; to be willing, if necessary, to leave them behind in order to do the will of the Lord. To follow Jesus means also to hate one's own life. Certainly, Jesus does not want us to turn against ourselves with bitter hatred, but He does want us to put love for Him above self-love.

What is meant by the Apostles' Creed? Is it part of the Bible, or how did it originate?

A creed is a statement of one's beliefs. Several Christian creeds have been written and used by various churches at different times. The Apostles' Creed seems to be the oldest. It begins, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord." Although anciently ascribed to the twelve apostles, it actually dates from the third century A. D. It is not a part of the Bible but is based on Bible truths which were taught by Christ's apostles.

When a Protestant boy turns Catholic and is married in a Catholic church, should his parents allow their other children to serve as ushers and flower girl at the wedding?

There are some things we must leave to individual conscience. The parents of the young man might feel that by showing honor and love toward their son and his bride they would retain an influence over them. Otherwise, they might lose the opportunity to win them to Christ.

If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Missouri. Brother Williams will answer either in this column or by a personal letter (if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope).

Seventh ABC NETWORK Anniversary

BY STANLEY MICHAEL

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, *Revivaltime* will celebrate its seventh anniversary with the ABC Network. During these years of ministry the broadcast has grown steadily. From its first network release over 198 stations it has expanded to the present radio log of 343 outlets.

In spite of serious financial crises, *Revivaltime's* ministry has been blessed. Within the last three months Russian and Ukrainian language broadcasts have become associate broadcasts of *Revivaltime*. Produced by Paul Demetrus, *Revivaltime's* "Voice of Truth" reaches

each week an estimated 6,000,000 individuals behind the iron curtain.

In answer to prayer, overseas outlets for the broadcast are opening up. *Revivaltime* is presently being released on 39 foreign stations. Several African stations are now open to religious broadcasting as they are being freed from government control. A station in Nigeria, recently added to the radio log, has a potential listening audience of 13,000,000 English-speaking people. Other stations in Africa's newly independent nations will be added as funds are provided.

A vitally important factor in *Revivaltime's* spiritual success is the prayer partner fellowship. Begun in 1957 with approximately 100 individuals responding, the fellowship has grown to 1,850 persons who have received prayer requests each month in 1960. The prayer partners join with the Radio Department staff in praying for the hundreds of requests which come into the office from radio listeners.

Another distinctive feature of the broadcast ministry is the simultaneous prayer meetings called periodically to take many thousands of special requests to the Lord in intercessory prayer. On these occasions local churches and groups across the nation join with *Revivaltime* in praying for requests sent in by listeners. As many as 25,000 requests have been prayed for in a single prayer meeting.

Revivaltime is glad to announce its expanding ministry of music. By public demand the choir has produced two long-playing records—stereo and high-fidelity—of songs as sung on the broadcast. Individuals who have been blessed by hearing the choir's anointed singing of the old-time favorites and new gospel

songs can now listen to them on record in their own homes.

Brother C. M. Ward's correspondence and follow-up ministry has brought many souls to salvation, untwisted confused lives, and acquainted persons with the blessed Holy Spirit. Incoming mail averages 10,000 to 12,000 letters each month. Since going on the network in 1953 *Revivaltime* has received letters from prisoners in no less than 30 different penal institutions across the country, and from students of no less than 142 colleges, universities, and Bible institutes in the United States and foreign countries, as well as from ministers of more than 46 denominations.

As part of the follow-up ministry, names of persons writing to *Revivaltime* for the first time are sent to the Assemblies of God district officers to be relayed to a nearby Assemblies of God minister. Nearly 3,000 names are mailed to the districts each month. Contact reports from local ministers and lay members visiting these people report that many have been brought into our churches as a result of the *Revivaltime* lead.

Through *Revivaltime's* 304 United States stations, its 39 foreign releases, the associate broadcast in Russian and Ukrainian, and the extensive literature ministry (with approximately two and one-half million pieces distributed since *Revivaltime* went on the network), the broadcast is reaching the lost around the world. Through our emphasis on prayer, our ministry of follow-up, and correspondence, we are continuing to bring Christ to souls in need.

Our strength and our outreach in the future depend upon those who will stand with us in these dark days. *Revivaltime* holds a strategic place to help millions each week by taking the full gospel directly to the homes of the unsaved. We need your help during this next year.

There are vital areas not now being covered by the broadcast. Many foreign stations that we are on still lack a sponsor, and many other foreign areas are wanting the broadcast.

We are asking you to remember *Revivaltime* this Christmas by giving a special *Christmas-anniversary* offering to the broadcast. We ask you to consider our slogan—"Give to *Revivaltime* this Christmas so we may keep giving all the new year." Please fill out the coupon at right and send it to us to let us know you will help. ◀◀



Revivaltime choir and personnel ready to begin another broadcast over the ABC network

SECURITY

(Continued from page three)

nation for others." In so acting God is not unjust said Calvin for He is under no obligation to save anybody; man's responsibility remains, for Adam's fall was his own fault and man is always responsible for his own sins.

If God has predestined certain individuals to salvation, it follows that Christ died only for the "elect"; the atonement would fail were any to be lost for whom Christ died.

From the doctrine of predestination follows the teaching of "once in grace always in grace," for if God has predestined a man to salvation, and he can be saved and kept only by God's grace, which is irresistible, then he can never be lost.

Advocates of the "eternal security" doctrine present the following scriptures in support of their position: John 10:28, 29; Romans 11:29; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5; Romans 8:35; John 17:6.

ARMINIANISM

The Arminian teaching is as follows. God's will is that all men be saved because Christ died for all (1 Timothy 2:4-6; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Titus 2:11, 12). To that end He offers His grace to all. While salvation is the work of God, absolutely free, and independent of our good works or merits, yet man has certain conditions to fulfill. He can choose either to accept God's grace or to resist or reject it. The power of choice ever remains.

The Scriptures do teach a predestination, but not that God predestines some to eternal life and others to

eternal suffering. He predestines "whosoever will" to be saved—and that plan is wide enough to include everybody who really wants to be saved. This truth has been explained as follows: Outside the door of salvation we read the words, "Whosoever will may come"; when we enter and are saved, we read the words, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God." God, because of His knowledge, foresaw those persons who would accept the gospel and stay saved, and predestined such to a heavenly inheritance. He *foreknew* their destiny but did not *fix* it.

The doctrine of predestination is mentioned not for a speculative, but for a practical purpose. When God called Jeremiah to the ministry, He knew that he was going to have a very difficult task, and that he might be tempted to give up. In order to encourage him, the Lord assured the prophet that He had known him and called him before he was born (Jeremiah 1:5). The Lord as much as says, "I know what is ahead of you; but I also know that I can give you grace to meet every future test and to take you through victoriously." When the New Testament describes Christians as objects of God's foreknowledge, its purpose is to assure us of the fact that God has foreseen every difficulty that will confront us, and that He can and will keep us from falling.

THE TWO SYSTEMS COMPARED

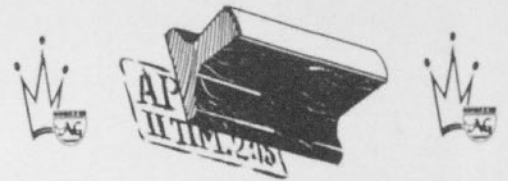
Is salvation conditional or unconditional? Once saved, is a person eternally saved? The answer will depend on the way we can answer the following "key questions": On whom does salvation depend? Is grace irresistible?

(1) On whom does salvation ultimately depend—on God or man? Certainly it must depend on God, for who could be saved if salvation depended on a person's own strength? We may be sure of this—God will take us through no matter how weak or blundering we are—provided we honestly desire to do His will. His grace is ever present to warn, check, encourage and sustain.

However, is there not a certain sense in which salvation does depend on man? The Scriptures consistently teach that man has the power of freely choosing between life and death, and that power God will never violate.

(2) Can God's grace be resisted? One of the fundamental principles of Calvinism is that God's grace is ir-

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resistible. When God decrees the salvation of a person, His Spirit draws, and that drawing cannot be resisted. Therefore a true child of God will certainly persevere to the end and be saved. Even though he fall into sin God will chastise him and strive with him. Speaking figuratively: the man may fall on the ship but he cannot fall overboard.

But the New Testament does teach that divine grace may be resisted, and resisted to eternal loss (John 6:40; Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-30; 2 Peter 2:21; Hebrews 2:3; 2 Peter 1:10), and that perseverance is conditional upon keeping in contact with God.

Note especially Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:26-29. These words were spoken to Christians; Paul's letters were not addressed to the unregenerate. Those addressed are described as being once enlightened, having tasted of the heavenly gift, being made partakers of the Holy Ghost, having tasted the good word of God and the powers of the world to come. These words certainly describe regenerate persons.

Those addressed were Hebrew Christians, who, discouraged and persecuted (10:32-39), were tempted to return to Judaism. Before being received again into the synagogue they would be required publicly to make the following statements (10:29): that Jesus was not the Son of God; that His blood was rightly shed as that of a malefactor; and that His miracles were done by the power of the evil one. All this is implied in 10:29. (That such a repudiation would have been insisted on is illustrated by the case of a Hebrew Christian in Germany, who desired to return to the synagogue, but was refused when he desired to hold on to some of the New Testament truths.)

Before their conversion they had be-

(Continued on page fifteen)

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YEAR OF

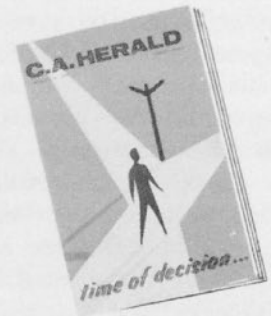
POWER

The Holy Spirit—His power in the believer's life and witness—this is the emphasis the National C. A. Department will place before our young people in 1961. All year long, through every available means, the C. A. Department will urge our sons and daughters to deepen their spiritual experience and add this new dimension to their Christian lives.

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POWER

longed to the nation which had crucified Christ; to return to the synagogue would be to crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame; it would be like the unpardonable sin for which there is no forgiveness, because the one so hardened as to commit it cannot be "renewed unto repentance"; it would be worthy of a worse punishment than that of death (10:28); it would mean incurring the vengeance of the living God (10:30, 31).

It is not stated that any have gone that far; indeed, the writer is "persuaded better things" of them (6:9). However, if the terrible sin of apostasy on the part of saved people were not possible, all these warnings would have been meaningless.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-12. The Corinthians had been boasting of their Christian liberty and the possession of spiritual gifts, yet many of them were living on a low plane. They were evidently trusting in their "standing" and privileges in the gospel. But Paul warns them that privileges may be lost by sin, and cites the examples of the Israelites. They were supernaturally delivered from the land of Egypt, through the agency of Moses, and as a result accepted him as their leader to the Promised Land. Their passing through the Red Sea was a sign of their dedication to his leadership.

Overshadowing them was the supernatural symbol of God's guiding presence. After saving them from Egypt God sustained them with supernatural food and drink. All this meant that the Israelites were in grace; that is, in favor and fellowship with God.

But "once in grace always in grace" was not true in their case; for the route was dotted with the graves of those who had been smitten for their murmurings, rebellion, and idolatries. Sin broke their fellowship with God and as a result they fell from grace. Paul declares that these events were recorded to warn Christians of the possibility of forfeiting the most exalted privileges through willful sin.

A SCRIPTURAL BALANCE

The respective fundamental positions of both Calvinism and Arminianism are taught in the Scriptures. Calvinism exalts the grace of God as the only source of salvation—and so does the Bible; Arminianism emphasizes man's free will and responsibility—and so does the Bible. The practical solution consists in avoiding the un-Scriptural

extremes of either view, and in refraining from setting one view in antagonism to the other. For when two Scriptural doctrines are set squarely in opposition to each other the result is a reaction that leads to error. For example: overemphasis of God's sovereignty and grace in salvation may lead to careless living, for if a person is led to believe that his conduct and attitude have nothing to do with his salvation, he may become negligent. On the other hand, overemphasis of man's free will and responsibility, in reaction against Calvinism, may bring people under the bondage of legalism and rob them of all assurance. Lawlessness and legalism—these are the two extremes to be avoided.

When Finney ministered in a community where grace had been overemphasized he bore down heavily on the doctrine of man's responsibility. When he held a meeting in a community where human responsibility and works had been stressed he emphasized the grace of God. And as we leave the mysteries of predestination and set ourselves to the practical task of getting people saved, we shall not be troubled by the matter. Wesley was an Arminian and Whitefield was a Calvinist. Yet both led thousands to Christ.

Godly Calvinistic preachers of the type of Spurgeon and Finney have preached the perseverance of the saints in such a manner as to discourage carelessness. They were careful to point out that while a true child of God was certain to persevere to the end, the fact that he did not persevere would put in question the fact as to whether he had really been born again! If a person did not follow after holiness, said Calvin, he would do well to question his election.

We are bound to be confronted with mystery as we set out to relate the mighty truths of God's foreknowledge and man's free will; but as we keep to the practical exhortations of the Scripture and set ourselves to the definite duties commanded, we shall not go wrong. "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us" (Deuteronomy 29:29).

In conclusion may we suggest that it is unwise to dwell unduly on the perils of the Christian life. The emphasis should rather be placed upon the means of security—the power of Christ as Saviour, the faithfulness of the indwelling Spirit, the certainty of

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divine promises, and the unfailing efficacy of prayer. The New Testament teaches a true "eternal security," assuring us that regardless of weakness, imperfections, handicaps, or outward troubles, the Christian can be secure and victorious in Christ. With the apostle Paul he can cry: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"—Romans 8:35-39. ◀◀

YEAR OF POWER

(SEE OPPOSITE PAGE)

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434 W. Pacific, Springfield, Mo.

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CITY STATE

PIONEERING IN PARAGUAY

BY PAUL HUTSELL
Missionary to Paraguay



PHOTO BY PAUL HUTSELL
Congregation in Coronel Bogado. Back row, left to right: Missionaries R. M. Stawinski and L. P. Emory and Brother Ruben Aranda

TWO YEARS AGO RUBEN ARANDA FINISHED his first year of Bible study in the Bible Institute in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He then went to the little Paraguayan town of Coronel Bogado to establish a work. A few believers here were faithful to the Lord but they had no leader. Ruben went with a heart full of zeal and confidence that he could do something for the Lord.

Brother Aranda suffered persecution from the beginning when the devil saw that the intrepid worker was not willing to be satisfied with the situation as it was. The priests announced in open-air meetings that Brother Aranda

had but a little time to stay in Coronel Bogado because they were going to get rid of him. One young priest, with a misguided zeal like Saul of Tarsus, went from house to house encouraging the people to stone the young pastor. This priest collected all the gospel literature and Bibles that Ruben distributed and publicly burned them.

Brother Aranda returned to Buenos Aires for another term of Bible study and left his wife and two small daughters alone for six months. His faithful wife prayed for him and promised the children each time they asked about him that their father would soon return.

After finishing his studies in Argentina Brother Aranda returned to Coronel Bogado. The converts won during his first trip had been faithful to the Lord, and in spite of persecution the work had remained.

Difficulties arose shortly after Brother Aranda's arrival. The believer in whose home they held their meetings needed the room for his family. There was no place for them to hold services and the missionaries had no funds to help. But God soon provided a place for the Arandas to live. And so services are held now in one room of their home, although it is very small and inadequate.

Brother Aranda began witnessing in each home in the area and the priests promptly protested. The local police commissioner is supposed to guarantee liberty to each man, but since he is also the president of the local Catholic organization he led the campaign to stamp out the gospel in Coronel Bogado.

One afternoon as Brother Aranda was testifying to a family about the saving grace of Jesus Christ two soldiers arrived and led him to jail. The soldiers claimed he was disturbing the peace with his talk about Jesus. After Brother Aranda was put in jail the commissioner arrived and began beating him. After each blow the same question was asked, "Do you still believe that the gospel will reign in this town?" and just as determinedly as before the answer was, "Yes, it will."

Mrs. Aranda heard that her husband was in jail and she arrived just as he was being shoved back into the cell. Neither her pleading nor the tears of the small daughters had any effect upon the commissioner. So the tearful family returned to their home. Eventually however, Brother Aranda was released.

Today the work in Coronel Bogado goes on in spite of opposition. The meetings are restricted to the Aranda home, but the believers are carrying the gospel to their neighbors. An appropriate meeting place is needed for these believers. A man has offered a brick building which was once a large saloon. It has three other rooms and is available for the low price of \$750.

If you would like to help this group of believers purchase a building and establish a permanent work, send your offering to the Foreign Missions Department, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Mo. DESIGNATION: PAUL HUTSELL, CHURCH BUILDING.



Brother Aranda and his family

Send Foreign Missionary offerings to
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Christmas in Africa

BY LYNITA C. BROCK

I SHALL NEVER FORGET MY FIRST Christmas in Africa. It was quite different from the holiday in America!

It was with mixed emotions that I faced that Christmas. My husband and I had been on the field for ten months, so there may have been a slight touch of homesickness—just wondering what the folk back home were doing—but there was also a curiosity as to what our first Christmas on the mission field would hold.

Packages help to make any Christmas, and packages from America mean so much on the mission field—even if some of them do not arrive until March. I was so excited when our first Christmas packages arrived a few days before Christmas. I couldn't wait; I secretly opened them, tearfully handled each item, and quickly re-wrapped each package. (My husband discovered what I had done, but chalked it up to Christmas excitement.)

More than the value of the packages was the thrill of knowing that we had been remembered by folk back home. Some sent personal gifts; some sent food; others, money; but just to be remembered meant so much. The WMC's were especially thoughtful. I remember in particular one group that seemed to know how to send the right thing. How thrilled I was to receive a beautiful nylon dress—of the latest fashion—and it fit! They had taken the trouble to make sure they were sending the right size.

Usually, families on neighboring mission stations try to get together for Christmas. Our day began by taking the few decorations we had brought from home and turning our mission bungalow into the usual Christmas setting. How strange it seemed to be putting up Christmas trimmings when the temperature was above 90 and the humidity was 99. It was a far cry from the white Christmases we had known at home. Instead of hearing the longed-for carols, we watched the na-

tive children coming to the house, dressed in their holiday finery, singing and dancing according to their pagan customs.

Our Christmas dinner came mostly from the WMC barrels we had brought with us, and was much like an American Christmas dinner. The touch of delight came when missionaries on furlough sent money for a turkey, which could be purchased locally; and a drum of apples arrived by refrigerated freighter—our first apples since we had left America.

The highlight of Christmas followed the exchanging of gifts. We gathered on the veranda of the mission bungalow, opened our Bibles, and together read the beautiful Christmas story that never grows old, but becomes more precious with the years. It made me realize even more deeply than ever before how precious our Lord is and how thankful we should be that we serve Him instead of the idols and jujus of the pagan.

As the lights of Christmas Day faded and the hot, muggy African night settled upon us, I was glad to be a missionary, but I couldn't help being conscious of the fact that the day had been especially joyful because folk back home had remembered to send gifts—money and personal items—to make Christmas a happy day in Africa.

If you would like to make sure that ALL of your missionaries have a Merry Christmas this year, send an offering TODAY to the Foreign Missions Department, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Mo. DESIGNATION: CHRISTMAS GIFT.



Inez Kreiss



Lillian Trasher

MISSIONARY News Notes

COMING: Mr. and Mrs. John Andresen have returned from Chile and are living at 15031 Rockwell Ave., Harvey, Ill.

The Ward Woods family has returned from Nigeria. Their address is Box 38, Brooks, Oregon.

Home from India is Miss Virginia Watts. Her address is 1130 B. Chelsea Ave., Santa Monica, Calif.

* * *

GOING: Mr. and Mrs. Foster Wood and family have sailed for Indonesia. They were formerly missionaries to Hawaii.

Miss Lillian Trasher returned to Egypt in September.

Miss Inez Kreiss has sailed for India for another tour of service.

The Burton Arnos, newly-appointed missionaries to Nicaragua, have arrived in Costa Rica for language studies before going to their appointed field of service.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Backman and children have sailed for Liberia for their first tour of service.



Mr. and Mrs. Foster Wood and family



The Norman Backman family



Mr. and Mrs. Burton Arno and family

Men's Fellowship Sponsors New Year's Eve Service

Offering Goal of
\$20,000 Set for
Local Churches to
Provide 2,000,000
Gospels Needed
in Latin America

By SAM COCHRAN,
National Administrator, Light for the Lost

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE MEN THROUGHOUT the nation will pause to review the tremendous move of God through *Action Mandatory*, the Men's Fellowship crusade to pray and win neighbors to the Lord. We will lift our voices to give thanks for what God already has done among the men.

Let us look into the future as New Year's eve brings us to the brink of another year. There is every indication that the Spirit of God will stir our people with an over-powering conviction that will compel us all to go forth with the gospel.

Evangelism in Men's Fellowship is a two-point ministry. At home, it is praying and winning neighbors to the Lord. For overseas, it is providing gospel literature for widespread distribution.

Every month the letters from our missionaries tell of new opportunities to win souls through gospel literature. Only a small number of these needs are being met. Because of this increasing demand *Light for the Lost*, the national missionary program of Men's Fellowship, has taken the responsibility



Members of the Light for the Lost Executive Committee watch as Sam Cochran, chairman, begins the signing of the Action Mandatory pledge at the Executive Convention in Denver.

to raise funds for the printing and distribution of gospel literature overseas.

This gospel literature is the ammunition that is needed to fight the forces of Communism, heathenism, and Catholicism. Our missionaries are pouring out their lives on foreign fields to combat these evil forces and perform a work for God. The true gospel of Jesus Christ is needed by the world, and the printed gospel portion is one of today's best tools to reach the masses. The least we can do is to provide our missionaries with this tool to help accomplish their task.

In many parts of the world we taught the people to read, but what are they reading now? Communism has taken advantage of this opportunity to wage mass literature distribution campaigns. They have brainwashed millions of people in many nations through the printed page.

Many of our faithful missionaries are carrying on great literature distribution efforts. The nationals are going from door to door in teams giving out gospel literature and witnessing for Jesus Christ. Great revivals are springing up, and churches are being born because of these campaigns. It is Christ

or Communism for many of these countries.

The cost of these little "printed preachers" is very small. Throughout the world the average cost is \$1.00 for 100 printed gospels. *For every fourteen cents invested in gospel literature today a soul is won for Christ.* Everyone can have a part; every church can help in this program.

As the old year departs let us thank God for the tremendous move of the Holy Spirit through *Action Mandatory* to reach our neighbors. When the bells ring in the new year let us make a resolution to God that we will support *Light for the Lost*, and give the first offering of 1961 to this work. If you are unable to attend a New Year's eve service, then designate an offering for *Light for the Lost* and send it to the Foreign Missions Department at Springfield, Mo.

The goal for this New Year's Eve offering is \$20,000, which will provide funds for printing two million gospel portions. We will more than reach this amount if everyone will take part in it.

Then, if we all co-operate and do what the Spirit of God tells us to do,

Send all inquiries regarding

ACTION MANDATORY

TO: **BURTON W. PIERCE**

National Secretary of Men's Fellowship

434 W. PACIFIC ST., SPRINGFIELD, MO

action will be mandatory on God's part too, to send us the greatest revival that we have yet seen, both here at home and on our foreign mission fields.

Men, we're depending upon you to send *light to the lost* this New Year's season. ◀◀

A Graveyard for Gossip

If you must gossip, tell your seamy tale to someone who won't tell anyone else. One of those old-time wooden Indians might do. Or some china figurine. Or your child's teddy bear or doll. Go out into the middle of the woods and relieve your urge to tell where none but the rabbits and the squirrels can hear. The whispering winds have better subject matter than what you will tell them.

There are a few people to whom you can confide your story. Proverbs 11:13 describes him as: "he that is of faithful spirit concealeth the matter." A person of this genius is a graveyard for gossip. Any tale which has no real right to public possession dies with him. He carefully weighs whether what he hears is worthy of being repeated. If the decision is negative or doubtful, he promptly buries the tale away.

Actually, people like that don't hear many tales. The gossipers don't like the cool reception they get. The sober judgment of eye and demeanor is not easy to meet. And so the one who refuses to gossip soon is left uninformed.

It is of no particular compliment to a man or woman that he knows everything that is going on, including things that should not go on. It is a compliment to a man when the purveyors of scandal detour around him. The good man will learn to control the gate between his ears and his tongue. The good man will learn to control the gate between his ears and his tongue. The ground plan of a Christian mind should include a graveyard for gossip.

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

STATE	CITY	ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
Ark.	Barling	First	Dec. 12—	Merle J. Harris	H. Wayne Taylor
	Dumas	A/G	Dec. 4-18	N. B. & Mrs. Rayburn	Willis Brothers
Calif.	Lakewood	First	Dec. 6-11	Harry E. Fisher	Roy C. Spece
	Reseda	Calvary Chapel	Dec. 14-18	Robert Watters	J. M. Harrell
Ind.	Huntington	A/G	Dec. 6-11	Bob & Pat Ludwig	Rosamond Gross
N. Dak.	Tioga	A/G	Dec. 6-18	Wes & Pat Larson	J. H. Syverson
N. Y.	Alcove	Full Gospel	Dec. 2-11	Hattie Hammond	Charles Flach
Pa.	Hellertown	A/G	Dec. 6—	Harold L. Zuch	James E. Gorman
	Manheim	A/G	Nov. 29-Dec. 18	William H. Kautz	Howard E. Pfoutz
Tex.	El Paso	First	Dec. 16-18	Warren Litzman	William Hageman
	Frankston	First	Dec. 18-Jan. 1	Quentin Edwards	M. K. Capehart
	Houston	Lindale	Dec. 11-18	T. E. Daugherty	James McKeenan
Va.	Richmond	Bethel	Dec. 14-18	John French	H. C. Wiles

Announcements should reach the Department of Evangelism 30 days in advance, due to the fact that *THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL* is made up 24 days before the date which appears upon it.

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MISCELLANEOUS

CONTEMPLATING COMING TO MIAMI, FLORIDA? Attend the CENTRAL ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 885 Northwest 27th Avenue. For further information, write Marvin Smith, pastor.

THINKING OF MOVING TO SOUTHERN ARIZONA? Free information and literature. Write Central Assembly, 2555 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson, Arizona. Spencer Weddle, Pastor.

WITH THE LORD

F. R. ANDERSON, 74, of Houston, Tex., passed away on September 9, following a stroke. He was a pioneer minister with the Assemblies of God, being ordained in the Texas District. He engaged in pastoral and evangelistic ministry, holding pastorates in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Baytown, and DeLeon, Texas. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, a brother and three sisters.

JOSEPH KING LACK, 66, of Siloam Springs, Ark., went to be with the Lord on October 14. For a year prior to his death he suffered from the results of a stroke. Ordained in 1932, he engaged in pastoral and evangelistic work in Arkansas.

MRS. MARY PARISH, 54, of Weott, Calif. passed into the presence of her Lord on October 24 following a lengthy illness. Ordained in 1939 in the Rocky Mountain District, she ministered in Colorado, Wyoming, and California. She and her husband were co-pastors of the Assembly of God at Weott.

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JANUARY IS TRAINING MONTH



MARY OF BETHANY

Sunday School Lesson for December 18, 1960

LUKE 10:38-42; JOHN 12:1-8

In an age characterized by cold and heartless religion which is anything but Christ-centered, how welcome is such a lesson as we have today—a lesson which teaches that the highest form of service is that which springs from passionate personal devotion to Jesus Himself!

I. MARY WORSHIPING AT HOME. Luke 10:38-42.

This incident may perplex some. Christ commends Mary who sat at His feet enjoying fellowship with Him while Martha was busily engaged in preparing a meal. Was Christ belittling practical service? Was He commending impractical mysticism? We think not. The words of Jesus suggest the real heart of the matter: "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Christ meant that in the spiritual realm certain things have top priority; there is a proper order to be observed. Martha was undoubtedly preparing some tasty dish for Jesus and felt Mary should help her. Christ said, in effect, "Martha, your sister has chosen the best dish; namely, fellowship with me." In other words, while food is necessary to the body, there are times when it is not nearly so important as fellowship with Christ.

"Which shall not be taken away from her." Is there not here a reference to an all-important but often-neglected principle, that only that service which springs from real fellowship with Christ, and which is performed in the power of the Spirit, will merit eternal reward. Will there not be many Christians whose works will be destroyed at the Judgment Seat of Christ because their works were the fruit of human energy alone?

Practical Christianity is certainly necessary, but if it is to please the Lord it must be the result of fellowship with Him, and not a substitute for fellowship with Him.

II. MARY WORSHIPING IN SIMON'S HOUSE. John 12:1-8.

The Occasion. Vv. 1, 2. Jesus is guest of honor this time in the home of Simon the leper (Matthew 26:6).

The nature of Mary's act. V. 3. Mary's deed is a model of pure, unaffected devotion and reveals many elements which should characterize all spiritual worship and service: (1) *Gratitude.* She was grateful for His love. Jesus had snatched Lazarus her brother from the grave so that he sat before them now in health. (2) *Whole-heartedness.* Mary did not act from a sense of duty. There was nothing calculating nor grudging in her conduct. Her action in breaking the alabaster jar of perfume was the spontaneous prompting of a heart of burning love. (3) *Sacrifice.* That which she poured out upon Jesus was far more than she could afford!

The originality of love. Overflowing with devotion, Mary's heart devised a new method of honoring the Lord. Love is creative; it contains the element of recklessness; it in-

vents new ways of service. Such love led General Booth to a new way of reaching the down-and-out and slum dwellers. Such love led George Muller to find a new way to prove to the world that God delights to answer the prayer of faith.

"What is needed," said a minister of old, "to fill the church with original preachers, original givers, original helpers in all departments of Christian work, is not more brains, or more training, or more opportunities, but above all, more heart."

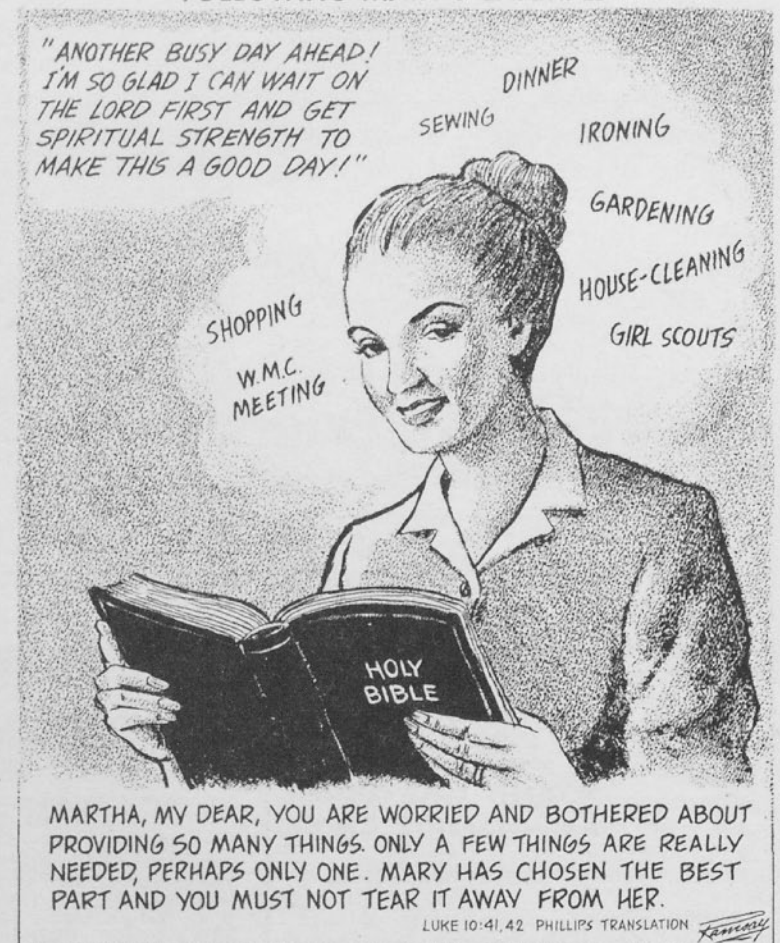
The objection of Judas and others. Vv. 4-6. Judas professed an interest in the poor, but really was interested only in himself! His criticism was due to greed, for he would soon betray Jesus for far less money than Mary spent! Matthew and Mark tell us the others joined Judas in his criticism. Their attitude suggests several lessons: (1) Whole-hearted devotion and zeal for Christ is a rebuke to those who are without it. (2) True consecration is regarded as waste by the worldly-wise. (3) Acts of worship and service which are truly Spirit-inspired are often misunderstood and severely criticized.

The defense of Jesus. Vv. 7, 8. (1) He pointed out that Mary was simply anticipating His burial and pouring out her ointment on Him while He was still alive. (2) He showed that Mary was wise in taking advantage of an opportunity which would soon pass away.

Weigh opportunities well! Opportunities differ in value and importance. We need wisdom to evaluate correctly and to seize those which are most urgent and important. Blessed is the man who does not allow an opportunity that comes every day to rob him of some greater opportunity which comes but once in a lifetime!

—J. Bashford Bishop

FOLLOWING MARY'S EXAMPLE



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Predestination

(Continued from page five)

concerning eating a certain fruit. Adam chose to sin.

All mankind suffered through Adam's sin, but not to the extent that man cannot now choose between right and wrong, as the Calvinist doctrine of total depravity would indicate. Sin did not destroy the mind nor freedom.

That the human will is free to accept the gospel call is shown by the following considerations. The Bible is full of appeals to do right and shun the wrong. The whole gospel program is to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Why preach to every creature if they are not all free to come, or if some are predestined to be eternally lost? The call is, *Whosoever will come of his own free will, let him come—not, Whosoever is elected or predestinated to eternal life, let him only come.*

Also, there is a hell to which sinners go. But God will never send men to hell without giving them an opportunity to be saved. "For there is no unrighteousness with God" (Romans 9:14). These facts prove the untrammelled freedom of the human will and disprove the doctrine of arbitrary predestination. "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). Having condemned partiality (in James 3:17) He would not be guilty of it.

* * *

In 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11 we find a good scripture to illustrate the freedom and responsibility of man. "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." They will perish because of what they have done, and not because He foreordained it. They refused to accept and love the truth. That's all they had to do—merely accept God's free grace and love the truth. This is the least men could do. But they refused to do even that. "For this cause" God lets them be deceived,

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WAYS OF UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD
 by J. Robert Ashcroft the 1961
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and for no other. Because man is guilty of refusing even a desire to be saved, therefore God sends strong delusion and they are damned. This illustrates freedom of the human will and human responsibility for one's own damnation.

By way of summary, we have seen that all things are within the scope of the foreknowledge of God. "For they that dwell at Jerusalem and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him" (Acts 13:27). We have seen that He has determined and decreed the wide range of human facts and experience, and will compensate for certain evident inequalities. We have seen also that God, throughout the ages, has adopted and used the principle of especially choosing certain men and nations as instruments and agents in His hands through which He seeks to bring ultimate blessing to all men.

As God moves majestically down the ages working out the details of His eternal plan, He pauses at the threshold of the human will, a barrier which He Himself has created. Man was made a free moral agent and remains such. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock. If any man will hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:21). Man can either accept or reject the redeeming, appealing Christ.

God sees and knows those persons who will accept Him, and He ordains to predestinate those persons to eternal life. This is the Bible doctrine of predestination. ◀◀

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to him, and saith of him, Behold Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile.
48 Nā-thān'ā-ēl saith unto J
Whence knowest thou me? J

140



8 ¶ Jē-hōi'ā-chin¹ was
teen years old when he be-
reign, and he reigned in
saalem three months. Ar

196



11 I indeed baptize you with
water unto repentance: but he
that cometh after me is mightier
than I, whose shoes I am not
worthy to bear: he shall baptize

425

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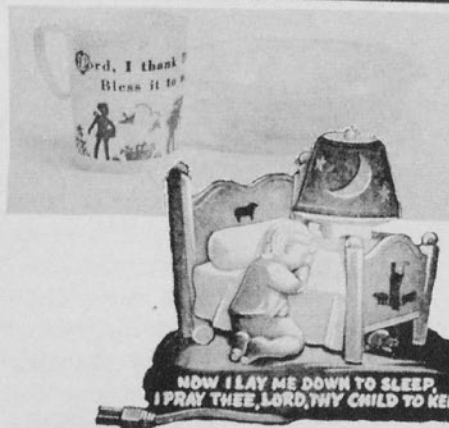
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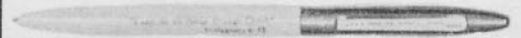


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20 EV 8071

15c

BIBLE PICTURE CHALK BOARD. This delightful picture chalk board will provide hours of creative entertainment for your small children. The Bible designs motto, in yellow, decorate the smooth, durable green writing surface. This surface is easy on the eyes. Small enough it can be easily carried. Comes with a box of chalk and sponge eraser in the shape of a lamb. Choice of two mottoes. The smaller child will appreciate receiving this entertaining item.

18 EV 7537 I Belong to Jesus

18 EV 7538 Jesus Loves Me

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CHRISTMAS TODAY

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16 EV 7086

35c

DUAL JET DESK SET. This popular desk set is useful in the school, home, or office. Consists of two tapered pens—one black with blue ink and the other a red pen with red ink. They are held in a molded black plastic base. The text, "Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord"; is imprinted with gold.

17 EV 7222

.69



COLORFUL NAIL PUZZLE. Boys and girls alike will be fascinated by this colorful nail puzzle. This new design is printed in bright yellow and blue. Nail is sturdy and galvanized; button on each nail head is alminated and 7/8 of an inch in diameter.

20 EV 8084

20c

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20 EV 8108 Boy Jesus in Temple

20 EV 8109 Sermon on Mount

20 EV 8110 Jesus Blessing Children

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20 EV 8115 Draught of Fishes

50c each

SACRED HAWAIIAN MELODIES Bud Tutmarc. What a charming idea for a Christmas gift! Beautiful Hawaiian music by Bud Tutmarc. Album features the following songs: My Beautiful King of Kings; In Love with the Lover of My Soul; End of the Trail; He Hideth My Soul; After; When They Ring the Golden Bells; Be Ready; Hold My Hand; Nail Scarred Hand; One Master; No One Ever Cared; Melody Divine.

27 EV 9344 Stereo \$5.98

27 EV 9358 Spectrophonic \$4.98

HALLOWED MOMENTS, Sanctuary Choir with Ralph Carmichael directing choir and orchestra. Give your loved ones this album for Christmas. A gift that will truly be appreciated. Contains: Old Rugged Cross; All Creatures of Our God and King; A Ballad of the Trees; For All the Saints; Ivory Palaces; Now Thank We All Our God; When I Survey the Wondrous Cross; This Is My Father's World; Wonderful Peace; Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand; In the Cross of Christ I Glory; I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say.

27 EV 9324 Spectrophonic \$4.98

JUST A CLOSER WALK, Bob Daniels. The ever popular songs are featured in this album. Songs are by Bob Daniels, featured on nationally televised evangelistic programs. I Will Pilot Thee; Closer Than a Brother; Just a Closer Walk; I Found the Answer; He'll Understand and Say Well Done; The Lord Is My Shepherd; Linger a Moment; It Is Springtime; He Bought My Soul; No One Understands Like Jesus; Just When I Need Him Most; For All My Sin.

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REFRESHING MELODIES, Alvino Rey, console guitar; Ralph Carmichael, orchestra. This inspiring album consists of the following: What a Friend; Cleanse Me; The Way of the Cross; In the Garden; I Love Him; Rock of Ages; Old Rugged Cross; He's Coming Soon; Home Sweet Home; Haven of Rest; Now the Day Is Over.

27 EV 9331 Spectrophonic \$4.98

INSPIRATIONAL SONGS, Bob Daniels, Baritone. Here is an unforgettable album of your favorite songs with the captivating voice of Bob Daniels. The ideal Christmas gift. Album contains: My Father; The King of All Kings; When I've Gone the Last Mile; I Am Persuaded; Help Thou My Unbelief; The Saviour Is Waiting; The Wonder of It All; If You Know the Lord; Amazing Grace; Father Forgive Them; The Glory of His Presence; Precious Lord.

27 EV 9335 Spectrophonic \$4.98

CUTTING BOARD WITH KNIFE. This ¾-inch thick hardwood cutting board comes with an 8-inch stainless steel slicer. Brass chain for hanging. Hand decorated in three colors; slotted to hold the knife. A Kitchen Prayer is painted on its face. A useful gift for every woman's kitchen.

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When Prayers Are ANSWERED

By CHARLES A. HARRIS

CHRISTMAS DAY WAS NEARLY AT HAND. MY WIFE AND I wanted to go home to our parents. It would mean so much to them as well as to us if we could be home for the holidays; but we were ministering in a pioneer church and knew if we were to go home God would have to send the money in from some other source than the church treasury.

I went to my knees one morning and prayed definitely for God to supply this need. Among the many scriptures that came to my mind were these: "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you," "According to your faith be it unto you."

A knock came on the door while I was praying. Leaving my study and opening the door I saw an unsaved man who sometimes came to the church. With noticeable embarrassment he said, "I hope you won't be offended, but as I was passing by the house in my milk wagon I felt I must stop and give you some money. Please don't be offended."

I assured him we were not offended, and he then handed me some money. After he had gone I counted the money he had given me and found it was enough for one round-trip fare to our home. I gave the money to my wife and said, "Honey, here is your fare home."

"What about your fare?" she asked. "I won't go without you." I answered, "I believe the Lord will send my fare in too. I'll get home somehow."

Going back to my knees in prayer, I thanked God for

the promise that "before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." After I had prayed for a few minutes another knock came on the door. The same man was standing there, more ill at ease than ever.

He said, "I know it seems silly but I couldn't get away from the thought that I didn't give you enough money. Please take this." And he thrust more money into my hand.

I thanked him once again. Upon counting the money I found it was enough for my fare and five cents over.

Does God always answer prayer so quickly? No; nor does He always answer in the same way, nor in the manner we expect. In this instance He used an unsaved man who knew nothing about our situation. But the Bible makes it very clear that if we believe God, He is pleased to answer our prayer in one way or another. Sometimes His answer is, *Yes*. Sometimes He answers, *no*, or, *Later*.

When Paul prayed three times for his "thorn in the flesh" to be removed, God answered him. He did not answer by removing the thorn but by saying, "My grace is sufficient for you."

I once asked a friend how his brother was progressing, as they had been praying about his failing eyesight. He replied, "We have not seen a miracle of healing, but we have seen a miracle of God's grace. My brother has a ministry in his blindness greater than he ever had when he could see."

The way God answers our prayers must be left to Him. The fact of an answer always coming to the one who believes God is established in His Word. When we pray in faith, expecting an answer, God will answer. He always keeps His promise. If the answer does not come it is because we have not prayed in faith. Perhaps we have *hope* but hope is not *faith*. The Bible says, "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Further, the Bible states, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him."

There is one other important consideration to prayer, and that is the will of God. Even Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but Thine, be done." We pray selfishly if we pray without desiring the will of God. He only desires the best for us, and so we may be sure that praying for His will is to pray for the best in life for us.

George Muller attributed the fact that God answered prayer for him so often, not only to the faith he exercised when he prayed, but also to the fact that before he prayed for anything he ascertained that the thing for which he prayed was in God's will. He spent a great deal of time seeking God's will.

God's will is found first in His Word. Also, circumstances very often show the trend of His thought for us. And His Spirit witnesses to His Word as to His will for our lives.

Yes, God answers prayer! Let your heart rejoice in all the wonderful promises He gives in His Word. You may be sure your prayer will be answered if, first, you seek to know His will, and if you then come to Him in faith, offering your petition in Jesus' Name. God says, "While they are yet speaking, I will hear."

"While they are yet speaking, I will hear . . ."