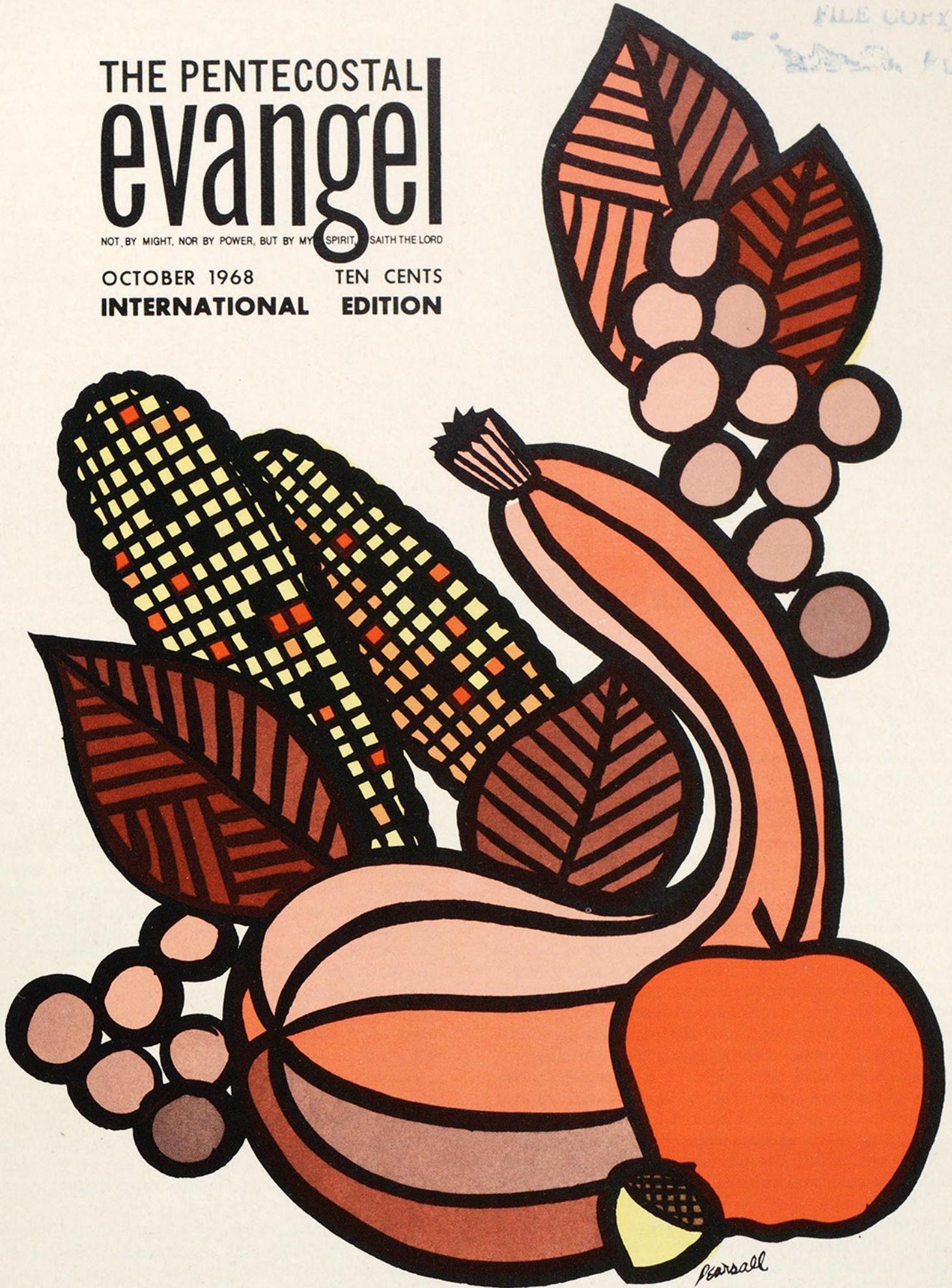


FILE COPY

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

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

OCTOBER 1968 TEN CENTS
INTERNATIONAL EDITION



WHY BE A BORN LOSER?

(WHEN YOU CAN BE A BORN-AGAIN WINNER)

By FORREST SMITH / Pastor, First Assembly, Pecos, Texas

TODAY'S WORLD MAKES MUCH of the born-loser concept. Born-Loser Clubs have sprung up around the country, and a comic strip depicts the protagonist as a constantly befouled personality.

But the Bible relates many inspirational stories of born winners. Or, more accurately, *born-again* winners, since no one really wins without being redeemed.

Adam began life in circumstances which should have assured total success, but through willful disobedience to God he suffered a tragic loss of kingdom and life. The story might have ended there but for the mercy of Adam's Creator. And Adam's great loss added a new dimension to his knowledge of God: the Creator became the Saviour.

It was God who provided a covering for Adam's nakedness, God who substituted the innocence of Christ for the guilt of man, thereby giving man another opportunity. And Adam, who might have become a charter member of the Born-Loser Club, became instead a charter member of the Born-Again Winners Club!

God's plans favor man's success. He has placed laws on the books which tip the scale in favor of man's material, physical, and spiritual prosperity. Consider the weight of evidence.

God, who gave Adam a kingdom to rule, is interested in all of His creatures having an abundance of good things. Adam was made a present of all the material blessings his heart could desire. And in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy the Lord gave Moses and the children

of Israel a plan of success which, had they followed it, assured continuous happiness and material blessing and total prosperity for all times. Plainly it is the desire of God that the man He created should prosper materially.

Jesus pointed out the beauty of the lilies of the field: "They toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" (Matthew 6:28-30).

He said again, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). That is, all our material needs will be supplied.

A wealthy oil man testified, "We were always strapped for operating capital until I made a covenant with God to tithe according to the Bible. At first it was difficult to turn loose the money; but I kept my word, and the Lord began to bless. Since that day there has never been a lack of money in my business, and it has grown and prospered."

In the physical area, God reflected an interest in Adam by providing him an access to the tree of life. Eating the fruit of this tree gave him continuous health. When he sinned, he was denied access to the tree; and experience joins with Bible testimony to indicate the

certainty of death since that fateful day. However, the Lord is still interested in the physical well-being of man.

The fifth commandment, for example, states, "Honor thy father and thy mother . . . that thy days may be prolonged . . . in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Deuteronomy 5:16). Paul writing later said this was the first commandment with promise.

The writer of Proverbs declared, "The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened" (Proverbs 10:27).

In the New Testament there are many examples of life being prolonged, and even restored.

But most important, God made the provision for Adam to prosper spiritually. Though the cherubim guarded the approach to the tree of life, Adam was forgiven his sin, and God provided a covering for his nakedness through the death of the sacrificial animal.

The law of the sacrifice which tips the scales in favor of eternal life for all men was seen on Mount Moriah when Abraham explained to Isaac that God would provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering. God's sacrifice for Isaac was caught in a thicket by its horns, and Abraham slew the ram in Isaac's place.

Nineteen hundred years later God's true sacrifice for sins, Jesus Christ, suffered the crown of thorns crushed into the flesh of His brow and was suspended from the tree in crucifixion. God provided Himself a Lamb, indeed!

The prophet Isaiah declared, "The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). Wonderful words for those who have become mired in sin! Peter declared God is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9). That includes all, irrespective of character, caste, or circumstance!

Thus for all who feel they are born losers, who feel the odds are stacked against their success, there is good news—the odds are stacked the other way!

To the individual in material difficulties, Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you. . . . For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38). And Deuteronomy 28 is still a fine blueprint even in this age.

To that one who faces an untimely death, James prescribed: "Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:14, 15).

Should the Lord desire to take us home, we may remember Paul's words: "To be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). The Psalmist sang, "Yea, though I walk *through* the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me" (Psalm 23:4). The Lord knows the way through the valley, having passed that way Himself!

And to the individual whose soul hangs in the balance, Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Again, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Potential born losers may become born-again winners by coming to Christ! 

LIFE OF A THREE- YEAR-OLD SPARED IN ANSWER TO PRAYER

MY WIFE AND I know from experience God can and will hear the cry of His people; He can and will heal.

It was almost 5 p.m. on a Friday in July 1965. I was scheduled to preach at a streetmeeting on Chicago's Northside and was making last-minute preparations. My wife Peggy had started out the door with our son Timothy, when the phone rang. She returned to answer it, but our three-year-old son continued onto the street and was struck down by a car.

From the bedroom I heard a neighbor cry out that my son was hurt. As I rushed to his side, he lifted his head. I saw blood streaming down his face.

The headlight of the car had struck the right side of his head, causing a concussion. His forehead and entire face became so swollen he was almost beyond recognition.

While waiting for the ambulance to come, my wife and I knelt beside our son and began to call upon God. At the hospital I helped place his unconscious body on the table and again prayed that God would save our son. But I turned to my wife and tried to make her understand we might have to give him up.

The doctors told us our son might not make it. They watched his blood pressure mount and then drop, indicating a blood clot in the head.

At that time George Lee was our pastor at Central Assembly in Chicago. He and his associate, Marion Beach, prayed with us at the hospital most of the night. Many of the church people and the staff at the Teen Challenge Center joined us in prayer.

At about 3 a.m. Saturday, Timothy's blood pressure began to stabilize. It became evident that God had spared his life.

On Sunday, while reading about instantaneous healings in *The Pentecostal Evangel* I felt prompted to ask God to remove the swelling from Timothy too. And God did.

The doctor told us we could bring our son home on Monday, but he was held over until Tuesday for tests. We took Timothy to the Wednesday night prayer service, and he showed no sign of the accident.

If you face a situation that seems hopeless, I trust this testimony will encourage you to look to God. He will help you.—Cleston H. Newcomb, Chicago, Ill.

(Endorsed by George H. Lee, now pastor of Faith Assembly, Quincy, Ill.)

A Year of Worldwide Revival

TO SPEAK OF NEW YEAR'S EVE when October has hardly begun may seem to be rushing the seasons, but we have to remember that some readers will not see this page until December. Ships have to sail half-way around the world to reach some members of the *Evangel* family. Their copies always arrive eight to ten weeks late!

This being so, it is appropriate in this International Edition to mention the special Watchnight Services which will be held in local Assemblies to inaugurate 1969 as a "Year of Revival." Spirit-filled believers all across America are launching new spiritual adventures in the wake of the Council on Evangelism held in St. Louis in August. How good it would be if all our brothers and sisters around the globe would join in this New Year's Eve prayer meeting asking God for a year of unsurpassed Pentecostal revival on a worldwide scale. There is a desire for revival everywhere. As we pray God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

A Five-Year Plan of Advance was introduced at the Council on Evangelism. Delegates were challenged to make the first year, beginning January 1, a Year of Revival.

It is essential that revival should come before any advance is attempted. Jesus told His followers that before beginning their program of evangelism they should wait until they were endued with power from on high (Luke 24:29). This is still the prerequisite for spiritual service. The one essential equipment of the church is empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Nothing else can enable her to advance Christ's kingdom. Natural gifts of leadership won't do it. Oratory isn't enough. Human strength is inadequate. The spirit of man may accomplish great things but it cannot accomplish God's will. Only as members are fully dedicated to the Lord and anointed by His Spirit can the Church fulfill her mission in today's world.

Our mission is to "minister the Spirit," to speak His message, to transmit His power. The Spirit is the Vicar of Christ on earth and, as Samuel Chadwick wrote, "The Spirit has never abdicated His authority nor relegated His power. Neither pope nor parliament, neither conference nor council is supreme in the true Church. Any church that is man-managed instead of God-governed is doomed to failure. Any ministry that is college-trained but not Spirit-filled works no miracles."

A church may multiply committees and work its members to the bone, but if it bypasses the upper room of prayer and power it will labor in vain and waste its strength. "It is possible to excel in mechanics and fail in dynamics." What is the good of machinery without power?

We need the Holy Spirit—and, strange though it may seem, the Spirit needs us. A reader of the *Evangel* who is not affiliated with the Assemblies of God told us how highly he regards the Assembly pastor in his particular city. "I know that no man or group of men can have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit," he said, "but I think the Holy Spirit has a monopoly on that man of God." That is the secret. Revival will come when God is given a monopoly over His people. May this be our purpose in preparing for a year of worldwide revival. When the Spirit of the Lord has a monopoly on our lives He can lead us, empower us, and use us to fulfill His purpose in the earth.

—r.c.c.

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

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 a thousand years. WE BELIEVE in the Blessed Hope, which is the Rapture of the Church at Christ's coming. 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.

MANY PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE there is a hell. Some say God is too good to send anyone to hell, while others argue that man is too good to go to hell. Still others claim that they have their hell on earth, and some churches teach that hell is just an old-fashioned notion.

To those who don't know the truth, all this is very confusing. If there isn't a hell, why fear it? If there is, then let's not deny it, even though it may be an unpleasant truth.

Charles Spurgeon said, "We love to play upon the silver trumpet of grace much more than to blow upon the ram's horn of judgment." So comes the question, "If hell is taught in the Bible, why don't ministers warn their people? If men and women are to be punished for their sins and lost forever, why not cry aloud and sound the alarm?"

There is a hell because Jesus said it exists. "The rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, . . . And he cried and said . . . send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:22-24). Hell is a place of torment. Hell as Jesus taught in His earthly ministry is the final abode of all wicked people, the ultimate destination of the sinner.

There is a hell because the Bible tells of its existence. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15). This is a *real* hell. Just as surely as there is a heaven for those who honor Christ, so there is a hell for those who reject Him.

The greatest evidence of an eternal hell is Calvary. For what purpose did Jesus die on the cross if all mankind were going to heaven? The reason Jesus gave His life was because there was no other way to keep all mankind from going to hell.

God's Word is the only source of authentic information about hell. It says hell is a "lake which burneth with fire and brimstone" (Revelation 21:8). It says this is an everlasting burning. It is a devouring fire and the punishment of sinners and hypocrites.

In Matthew 13:41, 42 Jesus tells us that the things that offend and the persons who do iniquity shall be cast into a furnace of fire.

Hell is a place where men pray, but their prayers are not answered. Hell is a place of outer darkness, where those who refuse to accept Christ shall be cast. Hell is a place of weeping. Hell is a place of eternal rejection and separation from the presence of God.

God made hell for the devil and his evil angels (Matthew 25:41). Those who go there do so by rejecting or ignoring God's offer of eternal life through Christ. God has "no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezekiel 33:11).

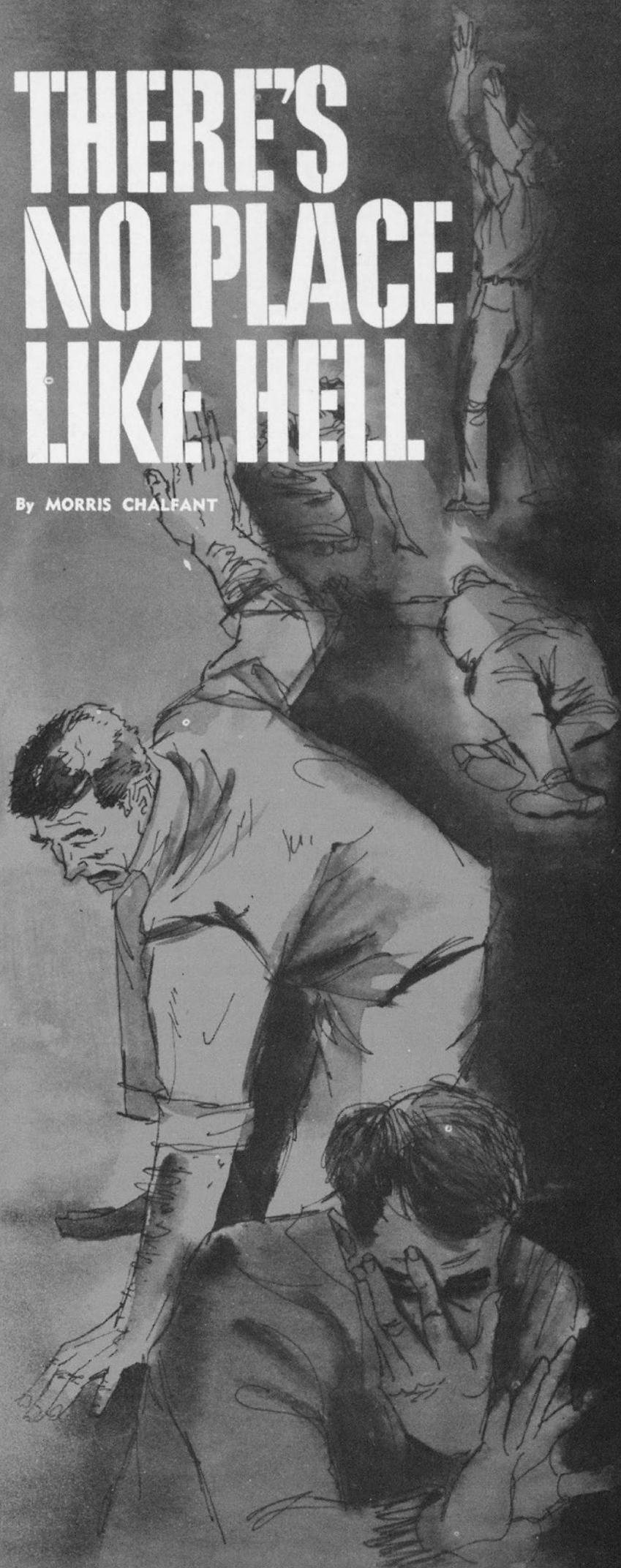
In the light of all this evidence, why try to deny there is a hell? It is true: *There's no place like hell.*

Why not accept Jesus as Saviour and be rid once and for all of the fear of hell? Jesus said, "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

Hell will be robbed of all its terror when you become a child of God through believing in Jesus Christ. The choice lies with you.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HELL.

By MORRIS CHALFANT





REVERBERATIONS OF THE SPIRIT

By F. HELEN JARVIS

AT CHURCH ONE EVENING A HIGHLY TRAINED organist presented a remarkable recital on the pipe organ. The early part of the program had drawn enthusiastic applause from a delighted audience; and as the superb performance continued, the listeners sensed a rising emotional tide.

Gradually the organist moved into a crescendo of volume and range. Soul-thrilling harmony echoed in the vaulted recesses of the ceiling and resounded from the sanctuary's stone walls. Then suddenly, in a climactic finale, the swelling tones reached a unique synchronization of pitch and timbre. For an instant the entire building quivered under the reverberations of the sublimely magnificent chords. The result was sheer musical ecstasy—unforgettable, overwhelming, and awesome indeed!

But as wonderful as the impact of human talent may be, the moving of the Holy Spirit is far greater. There are tremendous reverberations as He fills and anoints human lives. His divine vibrations cause mighty miracles, inspire individual hearts and minds, and lift heavenward the spirits of men in blessings exceeding anything the natural can effect.

Recall what happened in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. As the Jewish priests were completing the rites of the morning sacrifice in the temple area and the smoke from burning offerings was drifting upward on the breeze, 120 persons were assembled in the Upper Room of a Jewish home. "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast,

and filled the whole house...and they were all filled...with the Holy Spirit...and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit...kept giving them clear and loud expression" (Acts 2:2-4, *Amplified*).

A similar activity is related in Acts 4. When the authorities threatened them, the apostles dared to let their faith play upon the promises of God, and again they experienced the mighty vibrations of the power of God. For "when they had prayed, the place was shaken...and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...and with great power gave...witness of the resurrection" (Acts 4:31-33).

Indeed, the Bible implies such was an oft-repeated apostolic occurrence: "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost according to his own will" (Hebrews 2:4).

Neither did such remarkable happenings end with the first century after Christ. History authenticates like exhibitions of the Holy Spirit's reverberations through the centuries that followed. Spiritual phenomena were known in the second century, among the Albigenses and Waldenses of the Dark Ages, the mendicant friars of the 13th century, the Jansenists and the early Quakers, the early Methodists, and many others—a great host of witnesses. And always these heaven-sent demonstrations were linked with Christian revival.

Even as recently as the turn of the present century spiritual awakenings were accompanied by unusual manifestations of God's power, and many persons testified to an apostolic infilling of the Holy Spirit. Since 1906 these operations have been more and more universal in scope, and of late much publicity has been given to the charismatic movement.

Presently there is a widespread cry for revival—an evident hunger for fresh reverberations of the Holy Spirit. World events, national problems, and perplexing social conflicts are demanding something to meet and solve the challenging exigencies of the hour. And in the midst of it all sounds the distinct overtone that Jesus is coming soon!

The question arises, "How can we have revival today? Many man-made formulas have been propounded, only to be stymied in sterile deadness. And there is much talk of former blessings with much complaint of present lack. To some the expression "the old-time power" assumes a fancied aura of magic; to others, it is merely a trite cliché.

Recalling past experiences should challenge us to take a personal inventory of faith and practice. For although the dynamics of renewal originate with God, the basics of a revival climate lie with humans—and are therefore conditional.

God has shown Himself equal to every crisis in history and He has an answer for today. This answer is both scriptural and relevant, but the Master must have responsive "organs" through which He can work. Many people refuse to permit the Lord to select the stops, work the manuals, and press the keys of their hearts and lives; yet this is necessary if His divine Spirit, yearnings, and love are to be outpoured upon a sinful, perishing world.

The disciples did not know what to expect after Christ's ascension, but they believed His Word and followed His command to "tarry until." Certainly today there

is an acute need to relearn the important art of "waiting upon the Lord." Only through seeking the Lord and waiting upon Him will we become freshly sensitive to His holy impulses—a harmonious blending of faith, hope, and love. And with the love of God shed abroad by the Holy Spirit in hearts of believers, there will be a unity of spirit and singleness of purpose.

The attainment of this revival will require the humbling and rededication of hearts and lives. It will mean keeping those committals already made and honoring those promises made to God years ago. But most important of all there must be wholehearted obedience to the leading of the Spirit. The organ recital would have been a crashing

fiasco without precise attention to the rules, and a life that is not obedient to the Holy Spirit cannot expect anything better. In order to have this vibrant, stirring tide of spiritual power in our generation, a complete surrender to God and His directives is imperative.

And someday soon God's great organ of eternal purpose will peal forth a grand finale! As the far reaches of heaven echo endless alleluias, there will come an earth-shaking reverberation of divine power to fulfill the yearning hope and desire of the redeemed. The dead in Christ shall be quickened, and the living saints will be caught up together with them—and so shall we forever be with the Lord! 



LIFE'S LONGEST MOMENT

DYING AND KNOWING IT, but unable to do anything about it. A wife and three children at home; so many things yet to do, so much witnessing for Christ yet undone. That is what troubled me that moment as I encountered accidental electrocution.

I felt the presence of the Lord and questioned, "Why are You taking me now?" Then it occurred to me that Christ suffered much more than I to bring salvation to men, and possibly through my suffering and witnessing someone might accept Christ and have everlasting life.

It was May 25, 1965. Our company truck, a new Ford with 25-foot gin poles, had backed unnoticed into a 7,620-volt power line, under which was a pumping unit equalizer and pittman arm to be welded. I parked my vehicle and noticed the helper on the gin pole truck had gone to the shop. Being in a hurry, I took hold of the winch line to pull off the slack, which would allow me to hook the winch line to the equalizer so I could move it and weld it.

The instant my hand touched the winch line, it was as if I was welded to it. I felt and heard it burning into my hand and out of my feet as I stood there unable to move. I became extremely hot all over, and then passed out.

The electrical current had a breaker system which flashes off to release anything that gets into the power line; however, the current is turned back on by this system almost instantaneously after the current is broken. In that instant, while the current was off, my unconscious body slumped against the truck; but before it could get

completely loose the current was on again. It then blew three holes in my arm and the top side of my foot. The current broke again, and I fell flat on my back in a damp ditch.

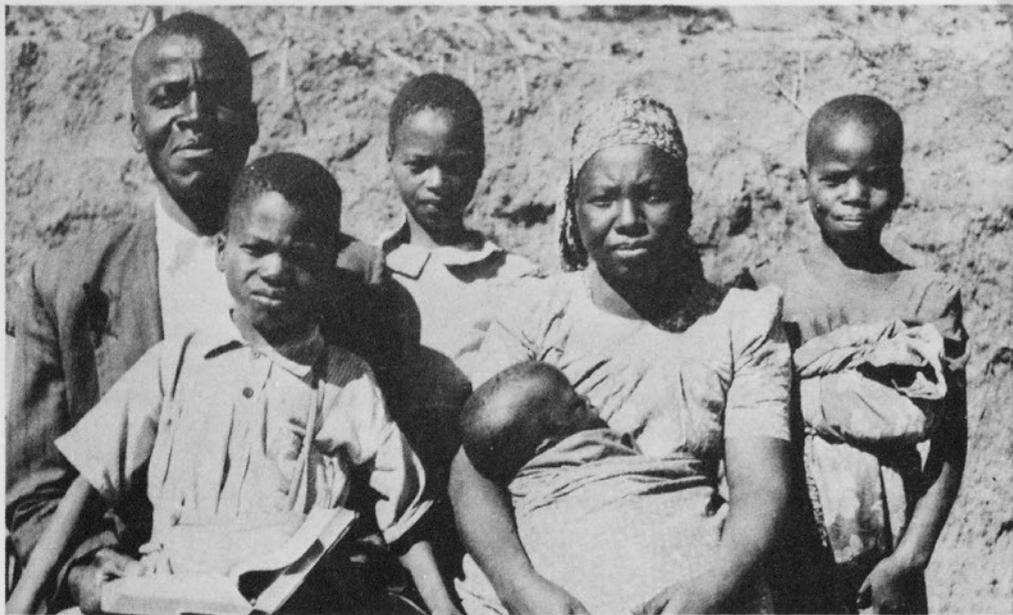
The electric current had peppered my back in 150 places. I heard myself screaming as I sat up and opened my eyes. The driver came running from the shop toward the rear of the truck. I was aware of what could happen to him if he touched the truck so I shouted, "Drive it up!" He ran toward the front of the truck and jumped onto the running board, then into the cab, and drove it up. The electrical current blew out a tire as he moved forward.

My employer took me to a doctor who dressed the burns and desired that I remain in the hospital; but feeling that the Lord was working already in my behalf, I returned home to my family. Our pastor came to pray for me. We agreed that the Lord had worked a miracle in my body.

The doctor had said it would be three weeks before I could walk. However, I went to town the next day. The day following, I was in Oklahoma City.

The week following my accident our church was engaged in vacation Bible school. I had already recovered enough to be able to help in some of the activities. This was a testimony to our community of what prayer and faith in God can do.—Dorsey Nichols, Haysville, Kansas.

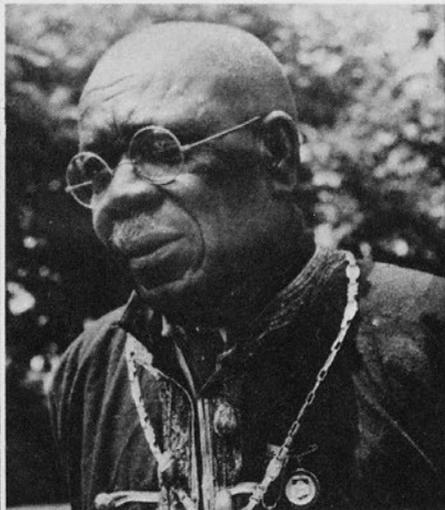
(Endorsed by Pastor Royce D. Hutson, Assembly of God, Prue, Oklahoma.)



ABOVE: The Slatiel Zuze family. BELOW: Missionary Morris Williams at work in Africa. RIGHT: Chief Kachere, paramount chief of the Ashewa people and friend to missionaries.



Morris Williams explains the gifts and fruit of the Spirit to Bible school students.



THINGS I LEARNED FROM

By MORRIS WILLIAMS / *Africa*

MISSIONARIES ARE TEACHERS. We are divinely commissioned to teach the truths that concern God and eternal life. Yet we have need to be taught and often are taught by those who, in their simplicity of faith, are taught by the Holy Ghost. Such a person was Slatiel Zuze.

It was still dark in Malembo Valley. We slept soundly for we had worked hard the day before. Our three-room mud house, which was to be our home for the next two and one-half years, was almost complete (thanks to Kalambule and his crew of Nkuni-ka, Sida, Leveret, and Slatiel, plus the womenfolk).

The house was a rush job, for the rains were due. Once they came, all building projects would give way to urgent hoeing, for in Africa crop failure can mean life failure. To do other than hoe at hoeing time is unthinkable.

How good these African brethren had been to us! We had spent a frantic month trying to locate a suitable place for a mission station—the first for the Assemblies of God in southern Malawi. The week before we had

SLATIEL ZUZE

found the right spot and gotten the permission of Chief Kachere. Now our hut was already home, and our dreams were filled with exciting visions of ministry among the Malawians and of the indigenous churches we hoped to establish.

So we slept soundly until about four o'clock. The village roosters had just announced the approach of early morning, and their crowing was a signal for my first lesson from Slatiel.

I didn't hear the first "bell," but my teacher did, for a spiritual habit had prepared him for it. Suddenly I was conscious of a cadence of prayer as Slatiel and then his companions began to worship God. I remember how wonderful, how refreshingly pure their praying sounded in the predawn darkness.

They never stirred from their blankets, but as naturally as breathing they greeted God in their waking moments. It was over in five minutes, and then all was quiet as they slept again until the morning sun signaled the beginning of another day's activity.

Slatiel calls me *mphunzitsi* (teacher), but it was I who was taught that morning. A certain disquietness still stirs my conscience as I ponder the directness and simplicity of that worship. We make it so involved; but to Slatiel worship was a part of life itself—supernatural life!

My next lesson came the following day, a lesson in soul winning. Slatiel used the occasion of our house-building to witness to four unsaved girls from Chivumvulu village. They had volunteered to help "hand-plaster" our house with mud. That evening all four accepted Christ as their Lord.

I do not infer an ulterior motive on Slatiel's part when I record that one of those girls later became his wife. Let's think of it rather as God's bonus to a faithful witness!

Slatiel also taught me much about discipleship and adherence to the Word of God. He was a stickler for tithing,

though he lived among a people looking for excuses not to tithe. Somehow he had seen the truth about tithing in God's Word, and that was that! The failure of his corn crop, the sickness in his home, the poverty of his person—it never occurred to him to use these as excuses to bypass a scriptural injunction. He was Job-like in his persuasion: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him."

It was the same when he entered the ministry. He had waited for a special call, stubbornly refusing to consider the Lord's work without some sign. Then he was persuaded from God's Word that the Lord used "the brethren" to indicate His will for certain disciples. That settled it! It was in the Word. His brethren were asking him to help. His only comment was, "When do we start?"

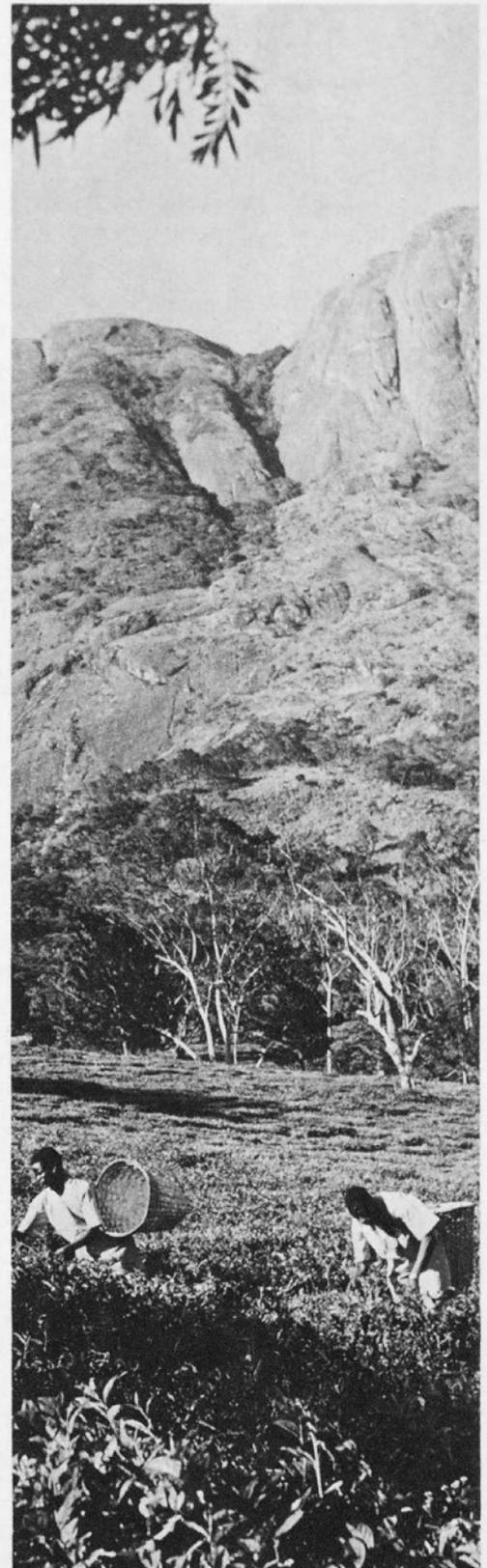
Perhaps the most vivid picture I have of Slatiel, and certainly one of the greatest lessons he taught me, was at a time of crisis. This lesson concerned faith and hope.

Smallpox had struck Maonde village. Few families were spared. God saw fit to take the youngest of Slatiel's family. We attended the funeral, and so did all the village in spite of the smallpox, for in Africa attendance is almost mandatory. When death comes, custom rules, and caution flees, for contagion is little understood.

I'll not forget Slatiel on that day. He stood before the weeping crowd, a smile on his face, and said, "I'm older than Suteen, so I should have seen Him first. But now she's gone ahead and will see Jesus before I will. So now I'll have to wait till later."

It was as simple as that. As real as that. Slatiel never missed a stride. His faith never faltered. Nor did he question God. Slatiel's eye was single, so his whole body was full of light!

As I said, we missionaries are called *mphunzitsi* (teachers), but we have much to learn from men like Slatiel Zuze.



The mountainous country of Malawi is known for its production of tea.



THIS PRESENT WORLD

THE BIBLE

Bible Week Is October 20-27

National Bible Week has been set for October 20-27, 1968. This interfaith program cosponsored by the American Bible Society and more than 100 top business executives in the U.S. is seeking a return to Bible reading again this year.

Chairman for National Bible Week this year is Wallace E. Johnson, president of Holiday Inns of America, Inc. The self-made multimillionaire from Memphis, Tenn., who began his extraordinary rags-to-riches career with a \$250 loan, is also chairman of the Bible Society's Worldwide Bible Reading program which runs from October 20 through Thanksgiving. Each day millions of people around the world will read suggested selections printed on 300 million free bookmarks provided by the Worldwide Bible Reading committee.

Plastic Dispensers Distribute Bibles

Books of the New Testament are now available from plastic dispensers in bus stations. The Ministerial Association of Turlock, California, and the Christian Businessmen's Committee purchase the Bible portions from the American Bible Society. Each month an average of 500 copies are distributed.

The Word Has Power

The Roman Catholic Church has organized "Family Assemblies" in Colombia. These home study meetings for reading and discussing the Bible are being held throughout the country.

In Medellin, a Presbyterian elder visited one of the assemblies in a home near his. Hearing his comments during the discussion, the priest in charge said, "I would like for you to teach these classes for us. You can teach the Bible and lead a discussion better than anyone we know." Sixty people are studying in that group.

In another area a prominent Catholic laywoman was chosen to lead a family assembly. The first session, however, proved to be too much for her. She called an evangelical pastor and asked him to teach her how to lead a Bible study. The pastor met with her every day, teaching her the Scriptures and helping her learn to communicate the message to others. As she studied about Jesus Christ, she saw her need for a personal Saviour and gave her heart to the Lord.

New Testament Completed for Venezuela Indians

The American Bible Society has published Venezuela's first New Testament in an Indian language. It is the Maquiritare New Testament.

The translation started in 1956, was completed in seven years. Over four years were spent in revision and preparation of the final manuscripts.

THE CHURCHES

Love Helps Build a Church

A week-long conference was held in Colorado, Colombia, recently to dedicate an evangelical church building which during construction had been twice destroyed by local opposition.

About five years ago a group of believers started to build a church. One dark night they heard the sounds of stones against tin roofs and the loud rumble of falling rocks. Soon the newly constructed foundation of their church lay in ruins.

"We have won again!" shouted the leader of the attacking mob. "They'll never build their church in town as long as I, Magdaleno Marcelo, am inspector!"

In 1965 another church building was started, and once more it was reduced to ruins by the same group.

In 1967 the church began to rise for the third time. When the congregation celebrated the triumph of a completed building, they also rejoiced in a greater miracle. Among those who had given time and labor to construct this church was Inspector Magdaleno Marcelo. The love and concern the new pastor had shown him when he was ill had reached his heart, and he was now a baptized believer in Christ.

Graham Disagrees with Pope's Birth Control Ban

Evangelist Billy Graham stated recently that because of his "compassion for humanity" he believed in planned parenthood and disagreed "in general" with Pope Paul's encyclical affirming traditional Roman Catholic opposition to birth control.

The Pope's decree banned contraceptive pills and mechanical and chemical means of birth control for Catholics.

Mr. Graham explained that his feeling in favor of planned parenthood arose from world travels in which he had seen the effects of the population explosion.

He expressed the opinion that the encyclical would not cause a great exodus from the Catholic church.

Neo-American Church Not Legally Recognized

U.S. District Court judge in Washington, D.C., has ruled that the Neo-American Church is not a legally recognized religion. Members of the organization claim that LSD and marijuana are sacraments of their religion.

This opinion was issued in the case of Mrs. Judith Kuch who claims to be a minister in the so-called church. She had asked the court to dismiss an indictment charging her with violating the Marijuana Tax Act and with illegal possession of LSD. The defendant contended that laws restricting the use of marijuana and LSD violate her constitutional rights of free exercise of her religion.

The judge, in refusing to dismiss the indictment, said that after reading the "so-called catechism and handbook

of the church...one gains the inescapable impression that the membership is mocking established institutions, playing with words, and (is) totally irreverent in any sense of the term." He said the church's literature is "full of goofy nonsense, contradictions, and irreverent expressions."

Merging Groups Form The Missionary Church

Twenty-five years of merger consideration came to a climax July 18 when delegates to the general conferences of the United Missionary Church and the Missionary Church Association voted overwhelmingly for the two denominations to unite.

The two general conferences met simultaneously, the former in Elkhart, Indiana, and the latter in Fort Wayne, Indiana. One voted 96.3 percent in favor of the merger, the other 91.7 percent.

Both Kenneth E. Geiger, general superintendent of the United Missionary Church, and Tillman Habegger, president of the Missionary Church Association, expressed the opinion that the large majorities clearly indicated it was the will of the Lord for the two churches to unite.

The new denomination, to be known simply as The Missionary Church, will have a total of 354 churches in the United States and Canada with a constituency of more than 50,000. It will support almost 200 overseas missionaries serving in 19 countries.

The church operates two educational institutions in the United States: Bethel College, a liberal arts college in Mishawaka, Indiana, and Fort Wayne Bible College, (Indiana) with a combined enrollment of more than 1,100 students. Also there are two Bible colleges in Canada: Emmanuel Bible College, Kitchener, Ontario, and Mountain View Bible College, Didsbury, Alberta.

THE GOVERNMENT

Government Aid Has Strings Attached

The Ohio Valley College, a Church of Christ school in Parkersburg, West Virginia, is conducting a fund-raising drive to pay back a \$76,000 Federal grant it had requested for building purposes.

The decision to return the money came when school officials were notified that the government would not allow chapel services in the school's auditorium and would ban all Bible classes from the new building.

Christian Labor Union Wins Recognition

In a dispute with AFL-CIO unions, the Christian Labor Association of Canada won a favorable decision from Chief Justice Dalton Courtwright Wells of the Supreme Court of Ontario. The larger unions were charged with "discriminatory action" against the Christian group in connection with a construction job at Chatham, Ontario.

There are 76 local unions in the CLAC with total membership of 3,300 workers.

Congressman Purcell to Head Prayer Group

Representative Graham Purcell, Texas Democrat, was elected president of the breakfast prayer group of Congressmen formerly headed by Ben Reifel, South Dakota Republican. The Congressmen meet at 8 a.m. every Thursday for a Scripture reading, breakfast, and a short testimonial or summary of a religious experience by a member of the House of Representatives.

YOUR QUESTIONS

ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS



I am a teen-age girl. Please tell me how I can have a closer walk with God. I pray, but my praying doesn't seem to get me anywhere.

You need have no fear if you are living for Jesus as best you know how. Continue to do this, and you will prove to be all that Jesus wishes you to be. We are unable to "make one hair white or black." What we become Jesus must make us.

Life may bring many unexpected circumstances, some of which we may not understand at the time. Do not try to measure your experience in Christ by the way you feel. "The just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11). Trust, "for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his own good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). He has begun a good work in you and He will perfect it.

If the Bible says, "Spare the rod and spoil the child," where is it found? And, where does the Bible speak of "the rod of correction"?

The Bible does not say this in so many words. It says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Proverbs 13:24; see also Proverbs 23:13, 14). This means that parents should correct their children, at times using the rod. It does not encourage beating children when in a state of anger. Its meaning includes more than one form of correction. Children need explanation that they might know what is right. It is when they refuse to obey instruction that discipline should be used.

As to "the rod of correction," this expression is found in Proverbs 22:15. It means that through discipline a child learns to follow the right way. (See Hebrews 12:5-11.)

When a person has been misrepresented and grossly injured, how can he be freed from remembering these things?

According to Luke 16:25, the rich man retained his memory even after death. It is a nice thought that we will remember each other and the fellowship we have enjoyed here, even when we depart this life. We hope unhappy memories will then be blotted out, or so viewed that they will be sweetened in the blessing of eternity. For example, Paul will remember the times he hungered and the stripes he received while serving Jesus, but they will be joyful memories.

Memory may call our attention to wrong things which we have done, or to wrongs which we have suffered. The blessedness is in also remembering that when Jesus saved us, He pardoned all our past sins and remembers them against us no more forever. We must turn from unhappy memories to the Lord, thanking Him for freedom from guilt and also committing to Him the memory of injuries suffered. To dwell on the past can only open the wounds afresh and keep them from healing.

If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Brother Williams will answer if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope.



MARY'S VISIT TO ELISABETH

Sunday School Lesson for October 13, 1968

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

LUKE 1:26-56

LAST WEEK'S LESSON CONCLUDED with the angel's visit to Zacharias, father of John the Baptist. This lesson begins with the visitation of an angel to Mary—a visitation necessary so she might understand an experience which otherwise would have crushed and disgraced her.

MARY AND THE ANGEL (1:26-38)

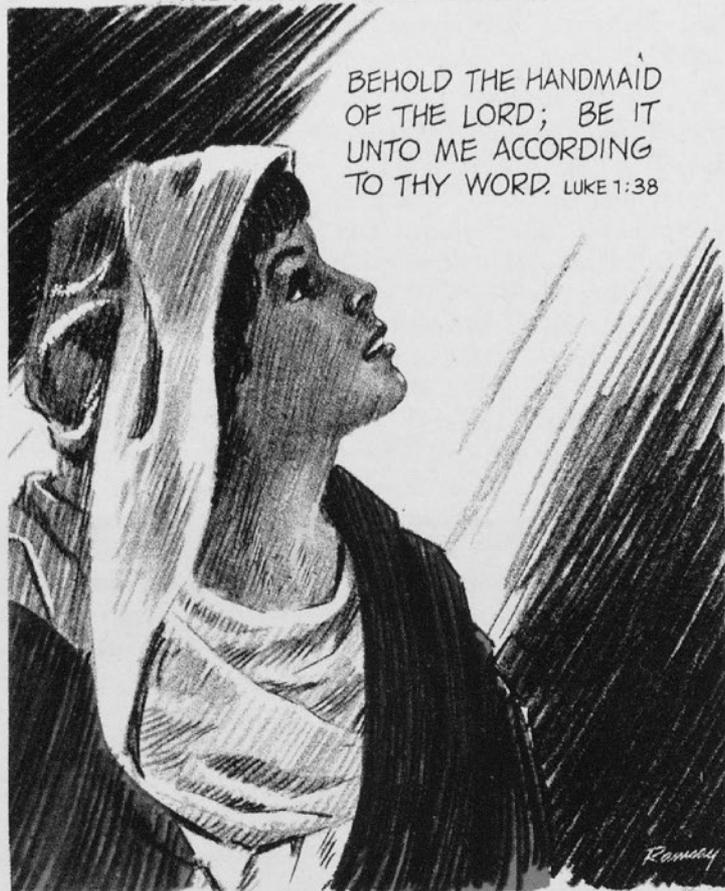
1. *Salutation* (vv. 26-28). To an obscure maiden of humble estate the angel appeared with the strange greeting, "Hail...highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."

2. *Indecision* (v. 29). Mary was puzzled at such a greeting. And naturally so! Why should she, a young woman with nothing in the natural to commend her, be thus singled out?

3. *Annunciation* (vv. 30-33). "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God." She was not favored in the sense that she was sinless, divine, or different from other godly young women of her day, but in that she was the recipient of special grace and unmerited favor—that of being chosen to be the mother of Christ.

4. *Interrogation* (v. 34). "How shall this be, seeing

THE ATTITUDE GOD HONORS



BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD; BE IT UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD. LUKE 1:38

I know not a man?" What an effect the angelic announcement must have had upon Mary! Her question was one of inquiring wonderment rather than unbelief (compare 1:11-20). Mary had been taught the Scriptures. She was acquainted with Messianic promises, and with the words of Isaiah 7:14 which the angel now applied to her. She was not surprised that Messiah should come, but that He should come through her.

5. *Explanation* (vv. 35-37). "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee." This too must have puzzled Mary. A. B. Simpson said, "The human mind cannot fathom this mystery—a holy Christ conceived and born of one who was herself the daughter of a sinful race. The very fact that she was an imperfect woman adds to the glory of the mystery."

6. *Acceptation* (v. 38). "Be it unto me according to thy word." What a wonderful attitude! Here was faith, submission to God's will, humility, and courage; for although she was highly favored, Mary would have to suffer suspicion, shame, and misunderstanding from a skeptical, unbelieving world.

MARY AND ELISABETH (1:39-56)

Immediately following the angelic announcement, Mary hastened to the home of her cousin Elisabeth, soon to become the mother of John the Baptist.

1. *Elisabeth's prophetic salutation* (vv. 41-45). "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" As soon as Mary appeared, Elisabeth, moved by the Spirit, broke forth into prophetic utterance. What a comfort and source of strength this prophetic revelation and confirmation must have been to Mary.

2. *Mary's song in the Spirit* (vv. 46-55). In reply to Elisabeth's greeting, Mary burst forth in the pure, Spirit-inspired prophetic song known in church liturgy as the "Magnificat" (from the first word in the Latin version). It is one of the most beautiful portions of the Bible, universally loved and known. It may be divided into four sections; first, the expression of devout emotion (vv. 46-48); second, the great fact from which these emotions arise—the coming birth of the Messiah (vv. 48-50); third, the consequences of this fact—and here Mary prophetically anticipated the ministry of Christ and the reactions of those who accept and reject Him (vv. 51-53); fourth, its relation to Israel as the fulfillment of the promise made to the fathers.

"My soul doth magnify the Lord" (vv. 54, 55). There was no trace of self-exaltation. Simplicity and humility characterized the song. The personal element had completely faded from her thoughts. First, she marveled and adored because such an honor had come to her. Then she lost sight of self and considered what Messiah's coming would mean to her own people and to the world.

"My soul doth magnify the Lord." Here is an occupation for all people—an occupation which can be accomplished anywhere, in solitude or in the throng; an occupation which requires no money nor talent; an occupation which is the greatest in which mortal man can engage. It is a good remedy for self-magnification, a God-pleasing expression for holy emotions, a blessed means of magnifying others, and a noble motivation for all of man's conduct.

IT REACHED ME!

IN MY LONELINESS

"*Revivaltime* reaches me every Sunday. I am growing older and am alone since my wife passed on more than three years ago. I like to think of your altar of prayer reaching even me. Blindness is taking me fast, but keep preaching and praying, and I'll keep listening."



MY HEART WAS STIRRED

"As a soldier in Vietnam, I was deeply touched by your message today. Pray for me. I am a sinner and need to know Christ."



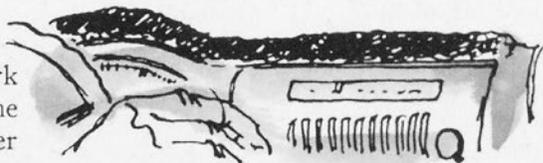
SUICIDE SEEMED THE ONLY ANSWER

"For me, life was no longer worth living, and I had rented a hotel room, planning to shoot myself. I turned up the volume on the small radio in the room to muffle the explosion, and then it happened. A booming voice spoke from the radio, "Mister, you're contemplating suicide right now. Don't do it!" It was C. M. Ward; and as he went on to explain the way of salvation, I fell on my knees and discovered the One who makes life worthwhile. Thank God for *Revivaltime*!"

A FLICK OF THE DIAL

Ken had stopped at a roadside park to rest his eyes. When he heard the first few notes of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," he decided to listen.

"When I heard C. M. Ward's message, it seemed pointed straight to me," he says. "I bowed right there and prayed for His direction back to the Christian life."



LIVING ROOM CONVERSION

"Your radio message hit me so hard I fell on my knees and asked God to save me from my sins."



NO BARS TO RADIO

"Though I'm in jail, I listen to *Revivaltime* at night on my small radio. It's so hard to live for Christ here among so much evil, but your music and sermons have brought me closer to the Lord. Please pray for me, as I do want to be a better witness for Him."



HOPELESS?

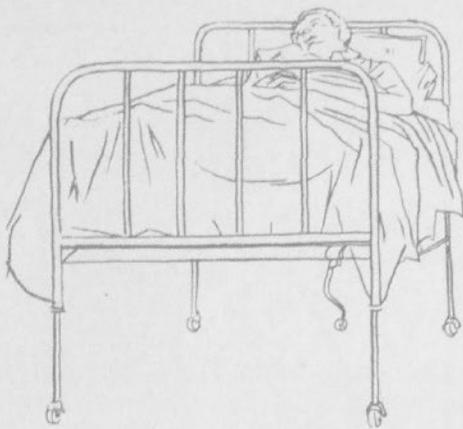
For five years Alice was in an institution for alcoholism. Doctors said she was a hopeless case and could not be cured. In despair, she felt like no one cared. But one night she heard Evangelist C. M. Ward speak about God's being a specialist. She knew then that she had found the right Doctor. Now she has no more desire for strong drinks.

EVER REACHING

From a lonely room to an institution for alcoholics, this is the story of *Revivaltime*—taking the full gospel to people where they are. Fifty-two weeks a year this evangelistic broadcast service goes behind closed doors, ministering to people in their moments of despair, weariness, frustration, fear, and loneliness.

Revivaltime is your broadcast, willing and eager to go wherever you will send it. Is it reaching your community? We cannot promise to fill your church, but we can help you fulfill God's commission for your life—to share the truth with every person in your town.

REVIVALTIME REACHES PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



GOD MAKES US ADEQUATE

By G. WEATHERLEY / *Norwich, England*

I NEED YOU," said a Christian to a patient in the hospital. This statement was unexpected, for the woman had been confined to her bed for some time. She had left it only to attend her husband's funeral.

Looking up wearily, she offered the first complaint she had uttered, "Why? I'm no good to anyone any more."

The visitor protested: "You will never know how much influence you have in the world. I need you myself. When I become impatient, I think of your patience through all these years. When I am tempted to be unkind, I think of your unfailing kindness to everyone. If I lose hope, I think of your courage when adversity came to you. You, by your life, make me a better person. And your influence is passed on in turn to the hundreds with whom I work."

In her position and environment the patient felt inadequate. Yet how useful she was!

The sheer magnitude of the world and the tremendous forces of power available today make us seem like dwarfs. We sometimes lose a sense of personal worth. How could we ever undertake a great task? Our background is inadequate; our ability is limited. We lack courage. We know the value of a great project, but we are not the ones to do it.

Feeling inadequate is not surprising. Many great men experienced this feeling just before they began to do great things for God.

When called to lead God's people out of Egypt, Moses asserted that this task was not for him: "Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11).

When God sent an angel to tell Gideon he was to deliver Israel from the Midianites, he protested: "Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house" (Judges 6:15).

Seeing God in the temple Isaiah felt unfit to be God's prophet. He exclaimed: "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts" (Isaiah 6:5).

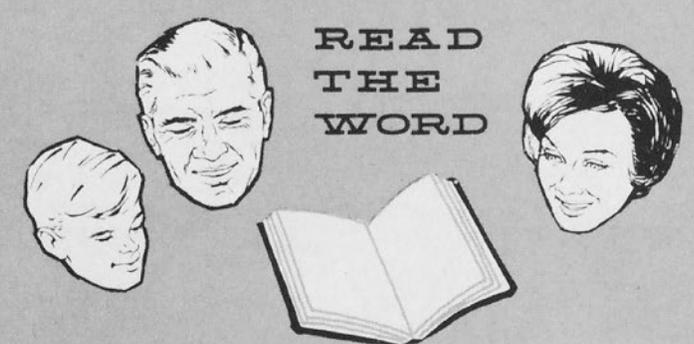
Yet Moses led Israel out of Egypt; Gideon delivered

Israel from the Midianites; and Isaiah became one of God's greatest prophets. They were successful in spite of their inadequacy. And we can be exactly the same.

We need not feel inadequate, for our work does not depend upon what we are but upon what God is. When Moses felt the difficulty of going to Pharaoh in the name of Israel, God showed him where his strength lay. "I am that I am," He explained.

God is a God of wisdom and power. Because He created the world and each one in it, He sees possibilities that are outside human knowledge. He knows exactly what each one can do best and He can give the needed ability to do it well. So we need to lift our eyes from our insufficiency and rest them on an all-powerful God.

All the wealth of the world is God's, and through Christ all is ours. The apostle Paul affirms: "All things are yours; whether . . . things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's and Christ is God's" (1 Corinthians 3:21-23). Here are resources more than adequate for our daily needs, sufficient to make our life vigorous and vibrant.



**READ
THE
WORD**

CHAPTERS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6-13

Sunday	Obadiah	Thursday	Micah 3, 4
Monday	Jonah 1, 2	Friday	Micah 5, 6
Tuesday	Jonah 3, 4	Saturday	Micah 7
Wednesday	Micah 1, 2	Sunday	Nahum 1, 2

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Micah 4:3).

MALIGNANCY ENDS WHEN CHURCH PRAYS

God's giving never limits us to a simple and bare existence. Living on His resources makes our lives richer, fuller, and deeper than we have known before. For He "giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). His giving is "according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Backed by God's generous giving the impossible becomes possible.

We need not feel inadequate, for we can have divine power in our lives. Just before Jesus left His disciples, He said: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit conveys power that is as real as atomic energy and is far more effective for good.

We need power greater than our own to enable us to live for God today. We need power to serve Him in the daily routine. We can have that power in the Person of the Holy Spirit. His power is without limit so He can overcome our weaknesses with the divine dynamic. He can give conviction to the words we speak. Through this power we can be adequate.

To his friends, Mark Kingston was a mystery. He had no strength of personality, no great academic ability, yet he had been most successful in teaching others the way of salvation. One of his friends approached him with the question: "How is it that you are able to lead so many people to the Lord? We all know you are rather a timid man, and yet you have done all this. Tell us how you did it."

His secret was simple. He said he looked to the Lord for definite guidance, and relied on the Holy Spirit to convict and press home the Word of God.

After realizing who God is, seeing the magnitude of His resources and the power resident in the Holy Spirit, we change our question. It is no longer: "Is there anything I can do?" but, "How much can I do?"

Jesus made an amazing promise to His disciples: "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). Look at the apostle Paul and the works he was able to do! He explains: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

We can witness effectively for the Lord to those we meet daily. We can teach our class successfully with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We can exert an influence for right in our daily lives as we walk with the Lord. The grace of God is always sufficient to make us adequate to do lasting good for His kingdom.

We thank God for mighty evangelists and rejoice with them in their success. Yet it is well to remember that some of the greatest men and women of God were led to the Lord by some obscure or unknown soul winner.

C. H. Spurgeon was one of the spiritual giants of the last century. His sermons resulted in the conversion of thousands. Who led C. H. Spurgeon to Christ? All we know is that he was converted in a Methodist chapel in England. Years of research have failed to identify the preacher who led him to Christ.

There is valuable work for each one to do. You need not feel inadequate; success does not depend on what you are, but on what you can do by God's grace. Face the future with confidence, for the Lord gives adequacy to those who trust Him.

WHEN THE LAB REPORT following a routine physical examination in March 1966 indicated I had a malignancy, I turned to God for help. He mercifully met my need.

We knew something was wrong when the doctor called both my husband and me in for consultation. He informed us there was every indication that I had cancer of the uterus. Then he described the surgery and treatment necessary, and insisted upon immediate attention.

The following Sunday I went forward for prayer after the communion service. As the church prayed, I felt the healing virtue of God flow through my body. I knew without doubt that God had healed me.

The next morning I had surgery, as scheduled, but upon returning to my room I found my family all in smiles. I knew all was well. The surgery had revealed only a small trace of infection!

Over two years have passed and all is well. I had my check-up in 1967 and another in July 1968 and I still rejoice in God's healing power.—Mrs. R. E. Singleton, Highlands, Tex.

(Endorsed by James W. Morris, former pastor at First Assembly, Highlands, and now pastor at First Assembly, Grand Prairie, Tex.)



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THE PENTECOSTAL
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SPRINGFIELD, MO., USA 65802

By FRED SMOLCHUCK

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING



I THOUGHT I WAS DYING.
WHAT CONCERNED ME MOST?

YOU'D BETTER SLOW DOWN or you'll have a stroke or heart attack!" The doctor's words echoed loud and clear as I struggled with the steering wheel of my car.

I was returning from the minister's institute in Midland, Michigan. It was dark, and I was traveling alone on Interstate 75 headed for home 130 miles away. Suddenly my right side began to feel numb, a buzzing and ringing sound filled my head. My tongue felt thick and swollen. Something terrible was happening to me. I felt nauseous and sick.

What was wrong? It was then that the doctor's warning reverberated in my ear, "You'll have a stroke—a stroke—a stroke." I thought I was going to die on the highway.

I cried out to the Lord, "God, touch me; heal me; deliver me!"

The Holy Spirit enveloped me, and I found myself speaking in tongues. The Spirit of God was praying a prayer through me. All at once the power of God surged through my body. The nausea disappeared; the numbness left. I knew God had healed me right then.

I reflected on my experience for some days. God was trying to show me that the moment when a man is about to leave this life is very important—most important. What concerned me most at that time? I discovered that when I thought I was going to die on that dark Michigan highway, I was not concerned about my office as secretary-treasurer of the district. I wasn't thinking about my friends, my car, nor about my family—as dear as each member is to me. My concern was that at any moment I would have to face my Lord. What would I say? How would I stand? I was concerned only about my relationship with God.

The thought burned itself into my mind. If at the most important moment of my life—the moment when I am ushered from this life into the next—my greatest concern was for a proper relationship with God, then should not this same concern possess me during my lifetime? It is a fact that when the moment of departure comes, there is nothing I can do *then* to improve my position with God. If any improvement is to be made, it must be *now*.

Oh, how unwise to allow a career, money, friends, or our status to become the most important thing. Jesus warned that a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things he possesses. Rather he must prepare to meet God. Everything you have—your job, wealth, human goals, and ambitions—must be measured and evaluated in the light of your relationship with Christ.

What is the most important thing to you now? Will it help you when you stand before God?

Fred Smolchuck is secretary-treasurer of the Michigan District of the Assemblies of God.