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THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

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

JUNE 1969 TEN CENTS
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

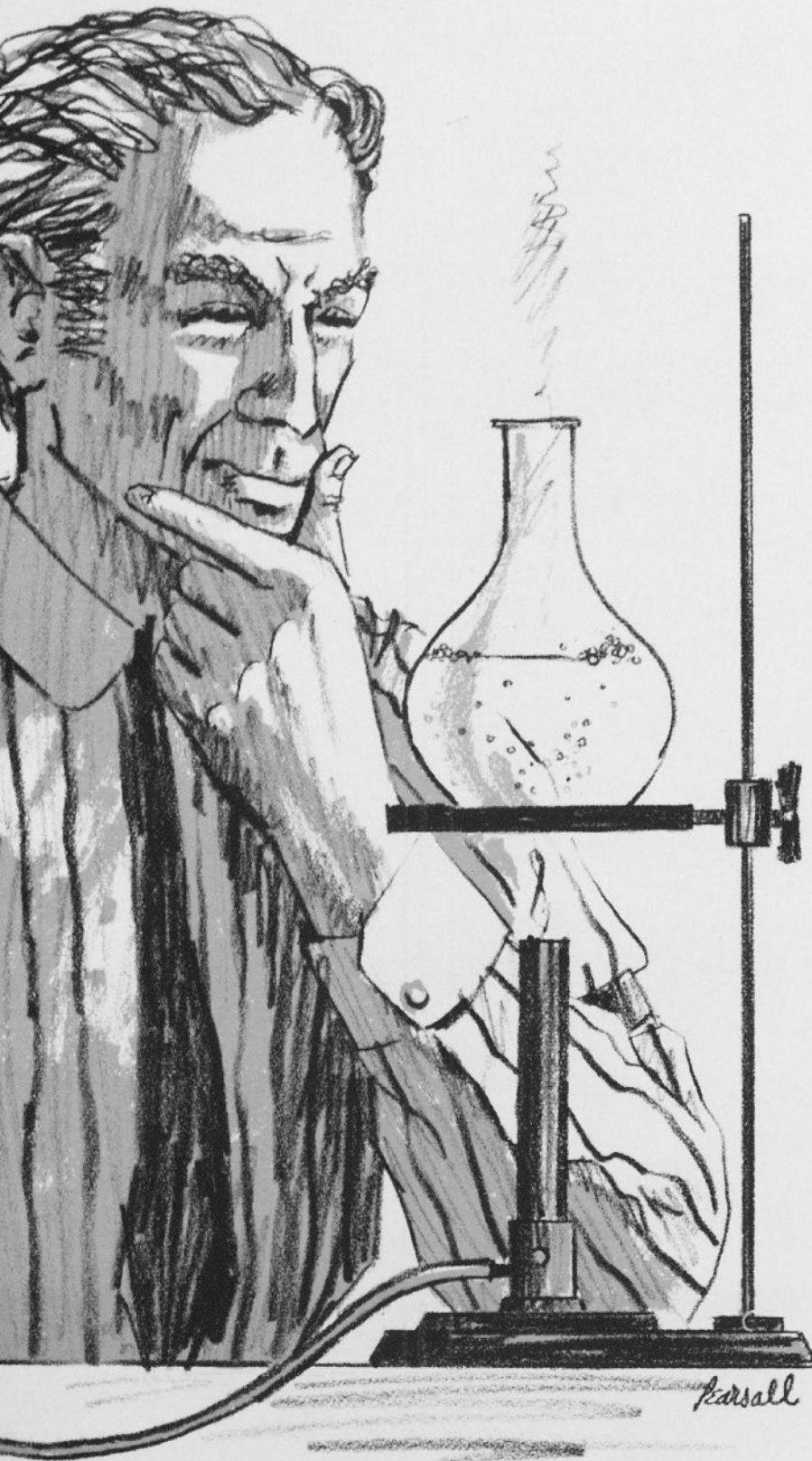
DALLAS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

SITE OF THE
33RD GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
AUGUST 21-26
1969



HOW TO GET YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED

By WM. F. P. BURTON / Johannesburg, South Africa



IT'S A FACT! We learned more from those chemistry lessons which were a failure than from those that went according to plan. Our old chemistry teacher was an excellent lecturer, but one could not compliment him on his demonstrations.

"You will notice," he would begin, "that when I put a few drops of acid into this colorless liquid, immediately a yellow precipitate is formed." He added the drops, but no precipitate appeared. He applied a glass stirring rod, and tried to better matters over a Bunsen burner, but still no precipitate!

The boys would giggle and nudge each other. The teacher would blush and remark, "Hmm! There must be something wrong." At last he would ejaculate, "Why, of course! I used hydrochloric acid instead of sulphuric."

And so that lesson impressed itself on our minds. Nearly 70 years later I still remember it.

Some people say, "What's the use in my going to God? I tried, and He did not answer. It's as though He mocked me." Yet God most certainly would have answered had His conditions been fulfilled—just as certainly as that yellow precipitate would have formed if the chemistry teacher had followed the textbook.

CONDITION NO. 1

Let me cite an example of unanswered prayer from my own experience.

A man had done me an injustice. It was a calculated and cruel wrong, and I was indignant. Instead of being sorry that the man could sink so low as to act that way, I would have been happy to see him paid back in good measure.

About the same time I was burdened by a family difficulty which pressed me heavily. I prayed much about it, but the difficulty continued. Indeed, it became aggravated, while always the following verses haunted me:

"When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any" (Mark 11:25).

"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:21, 22).

At last I became so convicted that I wrote to the man who had wronged me and told him I freely forgave him, that I was praying for him, and that I would not harm

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my own soul by having anything in my heart but love for him.

Even as I mailed that letter a peace came into my soul and a deep assurance that God and I had no controversy. I knew He would undertake in my family trouble and in every other difficulty.

So it was. That letter and change of attitude proved to be a turning point, and my family dilemma disappeared like clouds before the sun.

CONDITION NO. 2

Then too we must ask with a hearty submission to God's will. We are told to say, "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (James 4:15); and as it is our reasonable attitude to submit ourselves to Him in all things, we shall desire only those things which please Him (Romans 12:1, 2).

What a confidence this gives! "If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions we desired of him" (1 John 5:14, 15).

My South African friend, whom I shall call Johannes, was the only son of wealthy landowners. His early life was one of careless indifference to God.

As he grew to manhood, his sinful propensities grew too, until he was known in all the neighborhood where he lived as a drunken, blasphemous wife-beater and profligate. It seems extraordinary, but while he was in that condition, the church made him a "sidesman," hoping thereby to retain his prospective wealth within the sphere of their authority.

Johannes repented of his sin and turned in faith to the Lord Jesus. One would have thought the leaders of his church would rejoice at the change, but his conversion brought a storm of protest from the church *predikants* (preachers). They tried to prove to him that nobody can know that he is saved, but he pointed them to Ephesians 2:8: "By grace are ye saved," and to Romans 10:13: "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Then while reading his Bible, he found that the next step for a sinner who has been saved is to be "buried with Christ in baptism" (Romans 6:1-11). Johannes had been christened as a child by sprinkling, but he now discovered that such a ceremony was without scriptural authority or meaning, while immersion in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was according to Christ's command (Matthew 28:19), and represented the death of the old life and commencement of the new (Colossians 2:12).

When he had been properly baptized, however, the leaders could tolerate his presence no longer. They had closed their eyes to his sin, but now they closed their doors to him for declaring that he was saved.

They urged his widowed mother and his wife to influence him. With tears and threats they did their utmost, but Johannes simply showed them his convictions from the Scriptures, praying for them and begging them to get right with God.

The little office beside his home often saw him on his knees for his family, until he had that assurance that God would save them and would straighten out every perplexing problem caused by his conversion.

At last his mother said she would remove his name from her will and would disown him. In spite of this,

Johannes was supremely happy in his Lord, started meetings in his home, and testified to God's love in redeeming him.

When Johannes' wife presented him with a little son, his mother told him if he would have the baby christened, she would then settle £2,000 for it in her will. Johannes replied that he was not in the least concerned about the money; and he refused to have his son christened, declaring it was a useless and unscriptural ceremony. He declared that he would rather please God than have all the money in the world.

He continued to bring his family to God in prayer, and soon after his wife was saved and baptized. This was an added blow to the old mother and to the apostate church leaders.

But nobody could fail to see the wonderful change God had made in the lives of Johannes and his wife. Lust and vice had gone. Before this he could not be trusted. Now his scrupulous honesty and frank integrity, their happy home and gracious demeanor, changed enemies to friends.

When the old mother looked around for someone to administer her property during her declining years, however, there was nobody else whom she could trust. So calling her son, she told him that his God should be her God, his Saviour her Saviour. She made over all her estate to him to administer while she lived and to own when she died.

It was thus that Johannes' confidence proved true. By subjecting his life to God's will, he could ask what he would and *get it*.

CONDITION NO. 3

"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24). Our prayer must be in faith.

Faith implies expecting just what we ask for. I was in a meeting where they were singing, "He may not give you what you ask, but He'll always give you something." I raised a strong protest. Would you like it if on entering a store and asking for lamb chops, the butcher replied, "I will not give you chops, but you can have a bone for the dog"? When we cry to God, we must believe that we there and then receive from Him the very thing we asked, and no substitute.

Let me tell you of a widow. Her husband had been lost at sea in a submarine attack, and now she had to provide for herself and her family.

A wedding ring is always a sacred token, but in her circumstances her ring seemed to have gathered an added significance: a precious link with so many sacred memories of the past.

One day as she was swimming in the sea at high tide, the salt water shrank her finger, and the ring slipped off. She was deeply distressed.

The beach was pebbly, and every roll of the waves churned the stones and gravel. As soon as the tide went down, she searched frantically near the spot where she lost her ring. Sympathetic passersby helped her for a while, but reasoned it would be utterly impossible to find her ring, and she might as well accept her loss.

The widow thought otherwise. She was a child of God and knew the power of prayer. Returning to the house where she was staying, she knelt and asked God, in Jesus' name, to direct her to the exact spot. Instead of

admitting defeat she became more and more confident as she prayed for the restoration of the ring.

Next day at low tide she returned to the beach. Hundreds had passed over the spot. Had there been anything noticeable, surely other eyes would have caught sight of it. But no! It had not been picked up, for the little widow went directly to the spot, guided by divine care, and there lay her ring. She picked it up, put it on her finger, and returned home to thank God for directing her so unerringly.

I can hear someone say, "Just a coincidence!" Nonsense! It was the direct intervention of God. The widow went to her Lord in believing prayer. She took her trouble to the right place, and, of course, He heard and sent her home rejoicing. Anyone who fulfills God's conditions can have precisely the same help, and have it continuously, unerringly.

CONDITION NO. 4

Four times in one of His last talks with His disciples, the Lord Jesus gave us the inestimable privilege of using His name: *John 14:14; 15:16; and 16:23, 24*. "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." We must pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, for that alone can unlock God's heart and hand.

To receive "power of attorney" is a very high privilege, indicating a profound trust in the recipient. Thus the Lord Jesus, in conferring upon us the right to use His name, has honored us highly; but for anyone to dare to approach the high and holy God apart from that name is equivalent to coming to Him upon our own merits, and we could not expect an answer to such prayer.

I had heard of a magnificent collection of watercolors in a certain private home. The owner was a man of importance, an artist of international renown, and I had no ground upon which to approach him. However, one day, as I conversed with a young artist, I said how much I wished to see those pictures.

"That's very easily arranged," he said. "He is a relative of mine. You only need to phone and tell him that Oliver sent you, and he will appoint a time when you can see his paintings." The thing which gained me admission was the simple expression, "Oliver sent me"; that was sufficient. The power of the name was such that I was not only shown the picture gallery, but was invited to take tea with the artist and his wife, and formed a lifelong friendship with them.

In a similar way our Lord says, "When you come to God, use *My name*, and He will give you what you ask."

CONDITION NO. 5

A final condition upon which prayer will be answered is that one's prayer should be fervent, wholehearted. Nothing can stand against such prayer. God will remove mountains. He will uproot sycamine trees (the most difficult of all trees to uproot). He will overturn kingdoms, change seasons, or stop constellations in their courses for the man who prays with all his heart. "Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (*Jeremiah 29:13*).

"He that wavereth is like a wave of the sea. . . . Let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways" (*James 1:6-8*), so let our asking be in fervent faith, nothing wavering.

WHICH IS BETTER?

A LIVING DOG OR A DEAD LION

LIFE IS A PRECIOUS THING, and in its humblest form it is superior to death. This truth is eminently certain in spiritual things. It is better to be the least in the kingdom of heaven than the greatest out of it. The lowest degree of grace is superior to the noblest development of unregenerate nature.

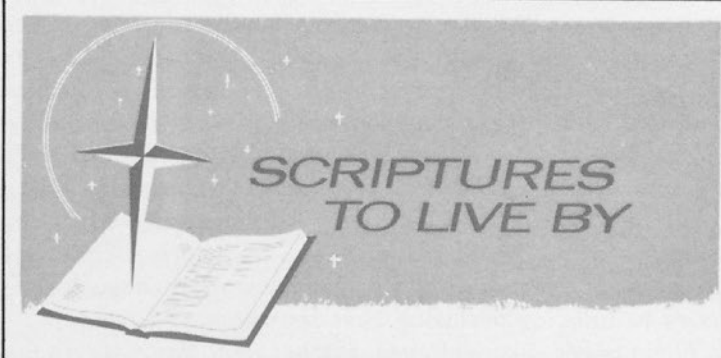
Where the Holy Ghost implants divine life in the soul, there is a precious deposit which none of the refinements of education can equal. The repentant thief on the cross excels Caesar on his throne; Lazarus among the dogs is better than Cicero among the senators; and the most unlettered Christian is in the sight of God superior to Plato. Life is the badge of nobility in the realm of spiritual things, and men without it are only coarser or finer specimens of the same lifeless material, needing to be quickened, for they are dead in trespasses and sins.

A living, loving gospel sermon, however unlearned in matter and uncouth in style, is better than the finest discourse devoid of unction and power. A living dog keeps better watch than a dead lion and is of more service to his master; and so the poorest spiritual preacher is infinitely to be preferred to the exquisite orator who has no wisdom but that of words, no energy but that of sound.

The like holds good of our prayers and other religious exercises. If we are quickened in them by the Holy Spirit, they are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, though we may think them to be worthless things; while our grand performances in which our hearts were absent, like dead lions, are mere carrion in the sight of the living God.

Oh, for living groans, living sighs, living despondencies, rather than lifeless songs and dead calms. Better anything than death. The snarlings of the dog of hell will at least keep us awake, but dead faith and dead profession, what greater curses can a man have? Quicken us, quicken us, oh, Lord!

—CHARLES H. SPURGEON



DAILY READING FOR JUNE 2-8
Theme of the Week: **AVOIDING PRIDE**

Mon.	Psalm 10:1-18	Thurs.	Proverbs 13:1-10
Tues.	Psalm 101:1-8	Fri.	Proverbs 16:1-33
Wed. ..	2 Chron. 32:20-26	Sat.	Daniel 4:28-37
Sun.	Malachi 3:13 to 4:1		

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (*Proverbs 16:18*).

Get Right With God!

June 1, 1969 Number 2873

Official Voice of the Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65802

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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.

IN A GREAT EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN in Canada a number of years ago, these four little words were used very effectively—"Get right with God." They were printed in red letters on small white cards, an inch wide and six inches long; and the words appeared on both sides, so that whichever side was up the message always met the eye—"Get right with God."

Many thousands of these cards were distributed throughout the city. Some people were offended by the blunt warning; some paid no attention; but others were alerted to their spiritual need. Hundreds of people knelt during that evangelistic campaign and got right with God by accepting Christ as their Saviour.

It is a blunt warning, but Peter and the other apostles were not afraid to be blunt in their preaching. To Simon the sorcerer he said very plainly, "Thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore . . ." (Acts 8:21, 22). The same message needs to be repeated today, for many are not on speaking terms with the Lord. They are living in sin, gambling their eternal future for this world's brief pleasures. They need to "get right with God" by repenting, changing their ways, and trusting in the Lord Jesus.

But it is not only the unchurched who need this message. Some who profess to be Christians are toying with a besetting sin, savoring it, and yielding to temptation in each moment of weakness. Consequently they live an up-and-down Christian life and do not enjoy the glow and strength of a Spirit-filled experience.

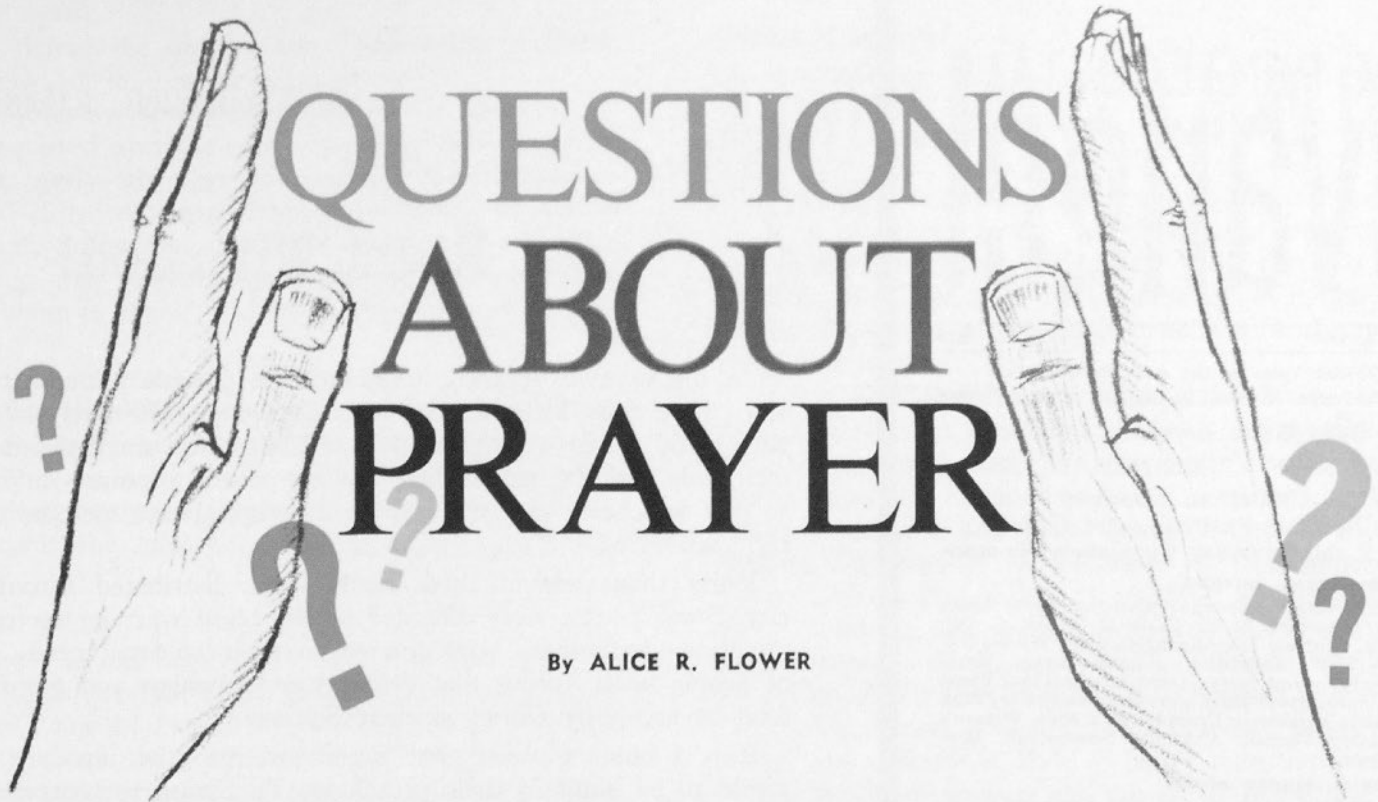
Do you wonder why your prayers are not answered? Perhaps there is something in your life that you have never brought to the Cross and conquered through the power of God. You have never made a clear break with sin. The inspired writer said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18). God will not even bend down and listen to what we have to say if we are harboring sins in our lives. Perhaps no one else knows about it, but God does. The only way we can get right is to confess our sins to God, renounce them, and change our ways.

The Bible says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). If you have wronged someone, apologize. If you have stolen, do all you can to pay it back. You cannot be right with God until you are right with your fellowman. Perhaps there are debts you will have to pay. If you will humble yourself before the Lord, and give yourself to prayer, allowing the Holy Spirit to search your heart, He will make everything clear, and He will give you the grace and strength to right the wrongs that stand between you and your Maker.

The prophet of old said, "The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God" (Isaiah 59:1, 2). Sin is the barrier. That barrier must be removed by confessing the wrongdoings and forsaking them completely. God will forgive if you will repent; it was for this cause that Christ shed His precious blood. And God will give you the ability to conquer every besetting sin if you will turn your back upon it and yield the controls of your life to His Spirit.

What a privilege to be right with God—to know He is smiling upon you—and to see Him answering your prayers.

—r.c.c.



QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

By ALICE R. FLOWER

PERHAPS THE INEXHAUSTIBLE SUBJECT of prayer can best be dealt with briefly under several questions intimately connected with this important pursuit.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is communication with God. Our hearts express themselves to God either silently or vocally. According to James Montgomery:

*Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.*

But communication is a two-way exercise. On God's side there is a definite response as we wait before Him, a word of assurance, direction, reproof (if needed), and spiritual uplift.

WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

Communication with God is our spiritual lifeline. "Prayer is the Christian's native air." On our faithfulness in prayer depends our strength, our overcoming grace, our fruitful living. Furthermore, the privilege of prayer for others becomes a responsibility not to be trifled with. Samuel's attitude toward Israel should be ours: "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you."

*Restraining prayer, we cease to fight;
Prayer keeps the Christian's armor bright;
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.
Were half the breath that's vainly spent,
To heaven in supplication sent,
Our cheerful song would oftener be,
"Hear what the Lord has done for me."*

WHEN SHOULD WE PRAY?

Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Paul wrote, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Our relationship with God, our Heavenly Father, assures us of ready access to His presence at any time. This can occur even as we go about our work. However, there should be in every believer's life definite seasons of prayer and communication with God. To "pray without ceasing" is *wonderful*; to take time apart from all else for private prayer is *vital* to spiritual experience.

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

We are to *pray in faith* according to Christ's words: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24); and the words of Paul: "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); and of James: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering" (James 1:6). Like the Syrophenician woman, we too should bring our need humbly, conscious of our unworthiness, but counting on His gracious mercy.

There must be "clean hands" and a "pure heart" in approaching God. There must be *persistence in prayer*. This is the point Christ emphasized in the story of the unjust judge and the widow (Luke 18:2-5). Impertunity in prayer has brought mighty results.

WHAT HINDERS PRAYER?

The importance of our relationship to God, assuring us ready access in prayer, has already been mentioned. Christ's words emphasize this in John 15:7: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Relationship demands a constant partaking of God's Word. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them" (Jeremiah 15:16). The apostle Paul declared in Romans 10:17: "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Hindrances to this abiding life limit our access to God.

Note three major reasons for unanswered prayer, hindrances to receiving an answer from God.

The first is *sin*—and this may be deeply hidden in the

A CALLING FOR EVERYONE

I USED TO BELIEVE that only people like ministers, missionaries, and teachers had callings. Now I know that each of us has a place where he can serve, a place that God is calling him to fill.

Each set of talents is a gift from God to be utilized for His glory. George Washington Carver had a calling to work with plants. His research brought better methods and new crops to the poverty-stricken farmers of the south. Henry Ford, maker of automobiles, also had a dream for better production. His assembly line procedures gave employment to many and lowered the cost of the finished product.

For several years my husband floundered about in different occupations from farming to operating a filling station. He was unhappy and so was I. We didn't realize that God was interested in the way we earned our living. In our unhappiness we turned to God, and after praying for several months we learned God had given my husband unique talents and a desire to do a particular work.

Now he is a mechanic. He has found his niche, the place where he can best serve God, fulfill his talents, and help others.

God's blueprint for your life is the best and happiest plan you can follow. God authored your talents and your worthy aspirations. He will help you bring the two into focus if you will pray.

—MRS. A. L. CLARKE

TOO LATE

MANY YEARS AGO, Ebenezer Wooton, an earnest but eccentric evangelist, conducted a series of summer evening services on the village green at Lidford Brook. The last meeting had been held; the crowd was melting away; and the evangelist was engaged in taking down the tent. All at once a young fellow approached him and asked, casually rather than earnestly, "Mr. Wooton, what must I do to be saved?"

The preacher took the measure of his man. "Too late!" he said, in a matter-of-fact way. He glanced up from a somewhat obstinate tent peg with which he was strug-

heart. The law of abiding has been broken. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18). The cleansing of God's Word deals with sin. To maintain continual access to God we must allow the searching of the Holy Spirit in the light of God's Word and the constant cleansing of the blood of Jesus.

The second hindrance is a *wrong motive*. James wrote (4:3): "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it on your lusts." The motive behind the petition is important, and selfish prayers for mere gratification of the flesh find little answer from God. If the passion of our hearts is the glory of God, it will govern our petitions.

The third hindrance, as mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 18:21-35, is an *unforgiving spirit*. This can cut the nerve of prayer. Jesus coupled forgiveness and prayer in His talks on various occasions. If we forgive not men from our hearts, we cannot have confidence in our approach to God. Jealousies, grudges, roots of bitterness bring heart condemnation and become hindrances to receiving the desired answer to petitions, however praise-

gling and said, "Too late, my friend, too late!"

The young fellow was startled. "Oh, don't say that, Mr. Wooton," he pleaded, a new note coming into his voice. "Surely it isn't too late just because the meetings are over?"

"Yes, my friend," exclaimed the evangelist, dropping the rope in his hand, straightening himself up, and looking right into the face of his questioner. "It's too late. You want to know what you must *do* to be saved, and I tell you that you're hundreds of years too late! The work of salvation is done, completed, *finished!* It was finished on the Cross; Jesus said so with the last breath that He drew! What more do you want?"

And, then and there, it dawned upon the now earnest inquirer on the village green, that "*since the whole work was finished and the whole debt paid upon the Cross, there was nothing for him to do but to fall upon his knees and accept the Saviour.*" And there, under the elms, as the sentinel stars witnessed the great transaction, he knelt in glad thanksgiving and rested his soul for time and for eternity on "the finished work of Christ."

—F. W. BOREMAN

NOT AS A PRINCE

WHEN THE DUKE OF KENT, father of Queen Victoria, was dying, he expressed some concern about the state of his soul. His physician endeavored to soothe his mind by referring to his high respectability and his honorable conduct.

The duke stopped him short, saying, "No; remember, if I am to be saved, it is not as a prince, but as a sinner."

This is true of us all, "for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." We are saved "not of blood [neither by race nor rank], nor of the the will of the flesh [not by human endeavor, no matter how moral], nor of the will of man [whether he be potentate or priest], but of God" (John 1:13). His mercy alone is our hope, and Christ's blood alone our plea.

—G. JEFFREYS WILLIAMSON

worthy they may be in themselves. John tells us: "If our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:21, 22).

WHAT ARE THE FORMS OF PRAYER?

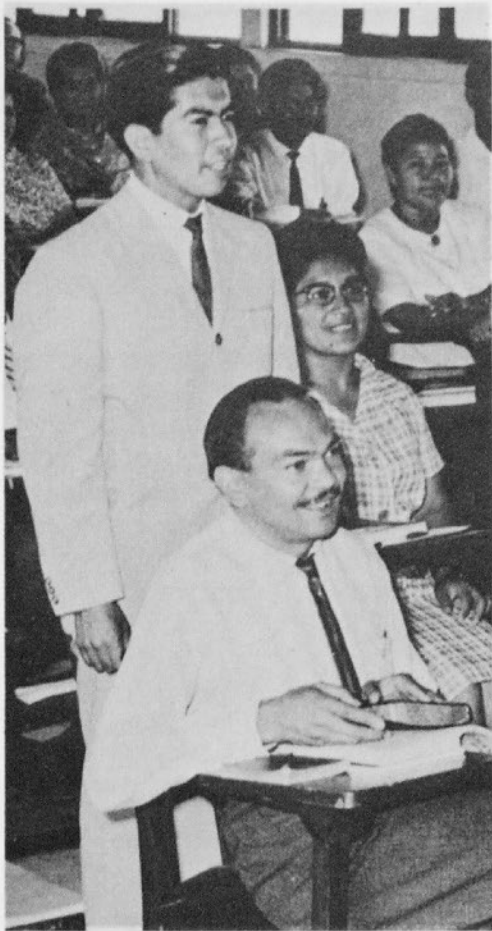
Shall we call it the hand of prayer upraised to God? Five fingers which can mark five basic forms of prayer:

1. *Confession* (Proverbs 28:13; Luke 18:13; 1 John 1:9).
2. *Petition* (John 14:14; Acts 10:31; 12:5).
3. *Praise* (Psalms 35:28; 118:21; 145:3).
4. *Worship* (2 Kings 17:36; 1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 95:6).
5. *Intercession* (Exodus 32:31-33; Daniel 9:3-19).

"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (1 Timothy 2:8).

"Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:2).

CIRCUIT-RIDING



ABOVE: A quartet practices for the closing program. LEFT: Patrón Contreras, a university professor, takes part in a class discussion.



ABOVE: Students participate in a principles of teaching class. BELOW: Exams bring a serious mood to everyone including Peru's superintendent Eduardo Ríos, front row right.



HIBERNÓN MEZA, a white-haired presbyter from high in the Peruvian Andes, was excited. He had been one of the 57 pastors, presbyters, church executives, Bible school teachers, and other leaders who attended the four-week seminar of the Advanced Ministerial Training Institute, held at Lima, Peru.

When he returned to his high mountain homeland, Hibernón Meza knew that his fellow ministers needed the same kind of training he had received at the seminar. He said, "In the next workers' meeting in Callejón de

THE PERUVIAN AIRLINES jet circled the Lima airport for an hour before the fog lifted enough for us to land. Lima was in the middle of its warmest summer weather, and my suitcoat and overcoat got heavy on my arm before I cleared customs.

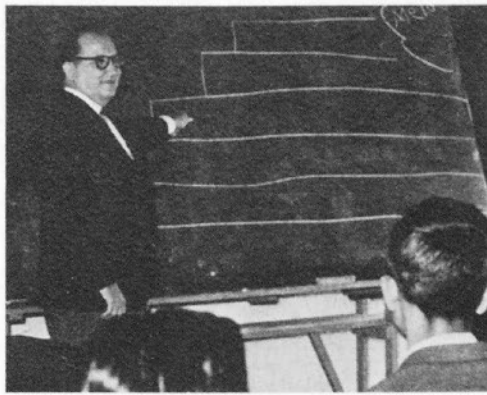
It was a joy to see Verne Warner, director of our Advanced Ministerial Training Program, waiting outside the glass doors of the Peruvian customs office. He told me this was the finest seminar yet, and that they had just finished the second week.

Meeting the students in the classroom the next day made me realize again the marvelous way God had led us the last eight years into the present program of advanced ministerial training. What students! Among the 57 mature men and women (average age over 35) were executives of national Assemblies of God organizations, presbyters, Bible school teachers or presidents, and national or regional representatives of the Women's Missionary Council or Christ's Ambassadors. The rest were pastors.

Here were students from five South American countries—Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile, and Argentina. What

Director Warner tests the students' memories in his principles of administration class.

FACULTY



Huaylas I hope to present a plan for teaching these lessons in our area. I want to help others who need this same kind of training."

The Advanced Ministerial Training Institute for Latin America and the West Indies is directed by Missionary Verne A. Warner and has its home office in the same building as the Spanish Literature Division (Editorial Vida) in Miami, Florida.

Each year the institute goes to two or three regions for intensive seminars.

These "summer" schools make it possible for Bible school teachers and

administrators to take advantage of courses prepared for active leaders.

Eduardo Rios, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Peru, attended the Peru seminar after 24 years in the ministry. He especially appreciated the course in principles of administration.

The 25 Bible school teachers studied how to plan the courses they teach. To date, 182 students have attended the four regional seminars that have been held.

After each seminar the students continue studying the same courses by

correspondence. They apply the theory in their own ministries until they each meet the requirements for credit in the individual subjects.

The curriculum of the institute is equivalent to two semesters of college work. The training alternates seminars and correspondence work over a five-year period. In this way the roving faculty reaches two or three of the eight regions annually.


Under the chairmanship of Field Secretary Melvin L. Hodges, the Christian Education Committee for Latin America and the West Indies serves as the board of directors for the institute. The committee has tailored the studies in this graduate school program to meet the most urgent needs of the work.

Caught up in the social revolution that is raising the educational level of the masses in Latin America, our Bible schools must upgrade their level and quality of teaching. Pastors must improve their teaching and preaching in order to hold the better educated converts in their churches. Presbyters and national executives need help in administrative principles as they take over responsibilities once held by missionaries.

Pastors and other leaders must be aware of liberal trends of theology in the ecumenical movement, which is trying to align national churches in its camp. The population explosion and the growth of the church make it imperative to mobilize and train additional workers. Pastors in mushrooming cities are asking for help to open night Bible schools to train their layworkers.

For such a time as this, God has raised up the Advanced Ministerial Training Institute and is helping it to meet the challenge. Those who were present in the Peru seminar are praising God for what was accomplished.

As the students returned to their homes in Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, and Peru, they shared the feelings of Victor Peña, a presbyter and Bible school teacher, who said: "I have a burning desire to put into practice what I have learned. I feel encouraged to trust the Lord for a more effective teaching ministry."

Ricardo Sarmiento, a pastor, summed up the importance of the institute: "I am entering a new phase of my ministry because I have more confidence as a worker for the Lord and will be putting into practice what I have learned here." 

I Lectured at Lima

By **MONROE O. GRAMS** / *Bolivia*

a thrill to teach these ministers deeper truths and more efficient methods for carrying forward the gospel outreach.

During the four-week seminar, six subjects on the postgraduate level were taught: didactics, administration, Galatians and the Pastoral Epistles, advanced pastoral theology, advanced homiletics, and contemporary theology. The last two subjects were mine.

At the closing exercises, my heart was moved as key ministers shared their feelings with a congregation of over 500 people.

"This was time well spent," said Eduardo Ríos, superintendent of the Peru Assemblies of God.

The president of our Bible school in Guayaquil, Ecuador, said, "As I go back to Ecuador, I am going to storm the windows and doors of heaven, asking God to send this same advanced training seminar to us in Ecuador, so

that all of our pastors can participate."

"I am a professor at the university at Huanuco, Peru," said Patrón Contreras, one of the finest students of the group, who also serves as pastor of an Assemblies of God church. "I have been an educator, but now I can go into Christian education!"

The national secretary of the Peru Assemblies of God remarked, "These instructors have brought us teachings that to us are completely new. Our horizons have been broadened! We are deeply grateful to the faculty for this valuable help."

"We are deeply grateful to God for this seminar," rang in my ears as I boarded a plane and soared into the Peruvian skies. "And, Lord," I prayed, "I am deeply grateful for the privilege of filling one small part in so important a ministry to advance Your Church in Latin America."



ELISHA'S FINAL PROPHECY

Sunday School Lesson for June 8, 1969

By J. BASHFORD BISHOP

2 KINGS 13:14-21

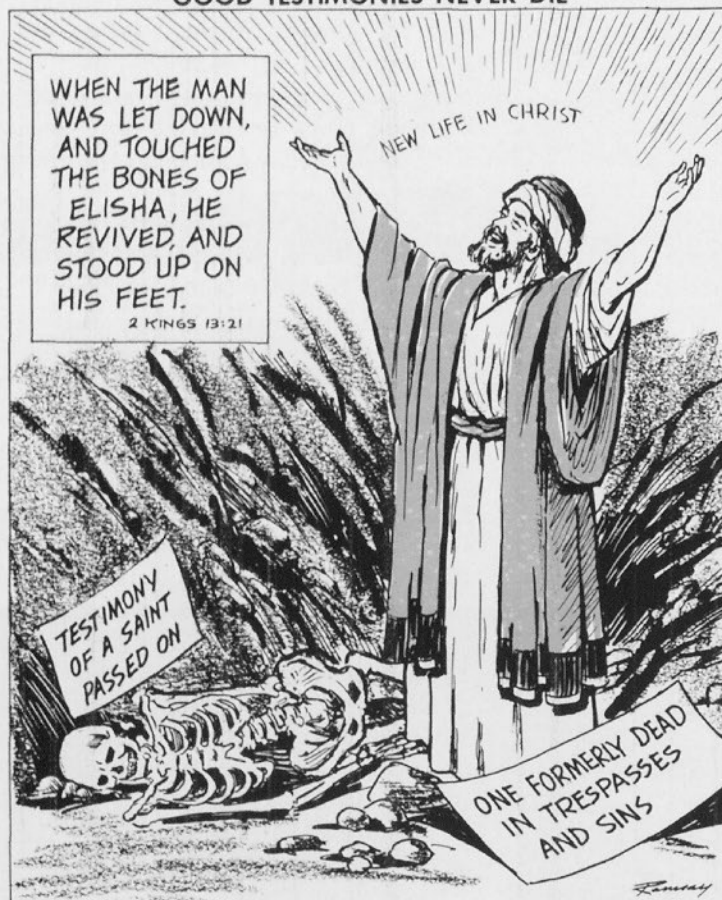
"NOW ELISHA WAS FALLEN SICK of his sickness whereof he died." Even the most useful life must end. Elisha, the man of God, must die, but he had no regrets. For about 60 years he had served the Lord in the prophetic office and demonstrated the reality and power of the living God. Such men challenge us all by showing the tremendous possibilities of a single lifetime!

A DYING PROPHET'S LAST ACT (vv. 14-19)

It is recorded of Joash, king of Israel, that "he did evil in the sight of the Lord," because he kept up the ancient idolatry of the house of Jeroboam. Yet evidently he had feelings of tenderness and respect toward the dying prophet, for he came to visit him and to receive his dying counsel and blessing.

It would be to anyone's spiritual advantage to visit the sickbeds of godly ministers and aged saints and heed their words. They may have a great many spiritual secrets to pass on and thus help us over the path they have already trod.

GOOD TESTIMONIES NEVER DIE



1. *The lament of Joash* (v. 14). Joash repeated over the dying prophet the very words Elisha had spoken at the time of Elijah's departure. He as much as said: "O Elisha, God has been with you and protected Israel because of you. Now that you are departing—and without a successor—what will become of us?"

2. *The action of Elisha* (vv. 15-17). Instead of giving the king a direct answer, Elisha, moved by sudden inspiration, told him to take a bow and arrow and shoot in the direction of Syria. After the king had obeyed, Elisha explained the significance of the act. God would give Israel victory over the Syrians.

3. *The halfheartedness of Joash* (vv. 18, 19). Having given Joash this assurance, Elisha gave a second command. Joash was to take arrows and smite the ground with them. It seems Joash would have most zealously and repeatedly smitten the ground with the arrows, because the arrows represented "the Lord's deliverance." Yet Joash smote three times and stopped. "And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times, then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice."

Why did Joash smite only three times? Perhaps he felt it was a foolish and useless thing to do. Perhaps he did not really believe at heart that Syria could be vanquished. At any rate he missed the golden opportunity to gain permanent victory over Syria because he stopped too soon!

A number of important lessons suggest themselves:

(a) "According to your faith be it unto you."

(b) *It is possible to give up too soon in prayer.* Elijah prayed and sent his servant seven times before rain came. Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint [that is, give up too soon]" (Luke 18:1).

(c) *It is possible to give up too soon in gospel service.* Service for the Lord is not always easy. Christians are called to be soldiers who can endure hardness—not invalids going to heaven in wheelchairs! Giving testimony, speaking in services, handing out tracts, building a Sunday school, establishing a church in a new field, preaching and teaching natives in a foreign land—all these things involve difficulty, stress, and strain. They call for wholeheartedness, perseverance, determination, and, above all, the grace of God imparted by the Holy Spirit! But "let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

A DEAD PROPHET'S LIVING INFLUENCE (vv. 19-21)

Imagine a corpse being revived by contact with a dead man's bones! Such was the posthumous influence of Elisha. Elisha's influence lived though his body was dead.

There are multitudes of God's saints who "being dead" (Hebrews 11:4) yet speak today! How is this possible? Good men and women live on: (1) in their writings, as the apostle Paul, John Bunyan, and Charles H. Spurgeon; (2) by the example of their lives; e.g., the obedience of Abraham, the courage of Luther, the consecration of Hudson Taylor, the faith of George Mueller; (3) in the memory of their loved ones. The memory of the love of a mother or wife has inspired many a man to live up to the best that is in him.

A Filipino tenant farmer listens thoughtfully to his portable radio. Many inhabitants of the Pacific islands now possess inexpensive transistor radios and are being reached by gospel broadcasts.



family knows very little about the work of Jesus Christ. However, my home has a radio that I always turn on to the station of your broadcasting company. The programs that I like best are the stories and the preaching about the kingdom of God in Chinese and English, and the lovely songs that praise the work of Christ and tell its power of delivering from our sins."

A missionary in Barat, Indonesia, reported:

"Many Dyaks are proud owners of radios because this was a good year for the *tengkawang nut* which has a good price on the market. So be encouraged to know that your broadcasts are reaching into many dark and smoky long-houses. Pray with us that many will find the Lord as their Saviour and be strengthened in the Christian life through your broadcasts."

FEBC provides battery-powered radios to responsible persons in isolated places throughout the Philippine Islands. These PM (portable missionary) radios are pre-tuned to wavelengths which carry gospel broadcasts, including *Revivaltime*.

"We are very thankful for the PM radio because it helps in our family," writes Teresa Escarilla. "We are very far from the town and could not attend any of the services in the church. Also our neighbors are very happy to listen to the message that was given in the radio. One

Revivaltime IN THE PACIFIC

I AM STATIONED in the Western Pacific on a small island about three miles by five miles. It is located 55 miles west of Okinawa, and I hear you from the station there. There are over 100 military men stationed here, very few of whom think of the Lord—and even fewer serve Him. I just want you to know that I am listening to your preaching and it is encouraging."

How would you like to exchange places with TSgt. C. F. Write, the man who wrote this letter to *Revivaltime*? Thousands of future servicemen can expect to face similar isolation in bases throughout the Pacific. They also will depend largely on gospel radio broadcasts for spiritual encouragement.

But the need to reach the islands of the Pacific with *Revivaltime* goes beyond ministering to our servicemen. More and more of the native inhabitants of these countless islands now understand English, so this gospel broadcast ministers directly to the islanders.

Revivaltime's extensive coverage of the Pacific area is provided largely through the multiple transmitters of the Far East Broadcasting Company with headquarters in Manila, Philippines. This Christian organization releases *Revivaltime* more than 40 times each week on a wide range of shortwave frequencies covering most of the Pacific and mainland Asia.

Typical of scores of letters received daily at FEBC is this note from Wong Hie Thong of Sarawak on the northern shore of Borneo:

"I am a Chinese boy living in a rural village. My


of our sisters was converted through the message and songs in the radio."

Araceli Ellaga reports: "Through the use of the PM radio, people around us are becoming eager to hear the Word of our Lord. I am an employee to the Municipal Court and I put the radio in our office, and people are hearing it."

Inexpensive transistor radios now on the market are being purchased at a remarkable rate by islanders all over the Pacific. As a result people are now listening to gospel broadcasts on far-flung islands. And, thank God, miraculous transformations take place!

Pablo Catamilla says: "This radio station has given me the greatest blessing in my whole life because it changes my custom. No drinking any alcohol and even smoking because God does not bless unclean followers. I have found peace in hearing gospel songs and messages through many broadcasts from my radio. I thank God for giving light to the people. I thank you too."

Letters of testimony arrive at the *Revivaltime* office from listeners throughout Oceania and the far reaches of the Pacific—Guam, Hawaii, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Okinawa, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Taiwan, and Tonga.

These testimonies give evidence that God is using powerful transmitters to bring His gospel to isolated island inhabitants. As the prophet said, "Men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen" (Zephaniah 2:11). 

YOUR QUESTIONS

ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS



First John 5:16 says, "There is a sin unto death: I do not say he shall pray for it." Please explain what the sin unto death may be.

I believe the sin unto death may be best understood by reading Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-31. The writer of Hebrews warns concerning apostasy, a willful turning from Christ after having known the way of truth. It is especially emphasized in Hebrews because this book was addressed to save Jews. It was feared that through Jewish pressure they might turn away from Christ and go back to the ritual worship of temple service and offerings.

The sin of apostasy is a deliberate sin. In our day there is great temptation to apostatize since the air is so full of skepticism and atheism.

What scriptures have we for believing the soul survives after the body dies?

There is the promise that he who believes in Jesus "should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus said: "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:26); "I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish" (John 10:28); and "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

The apostle Paul expressed his willingness "to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8), and said, "I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Philippians 1:23). Peter said: "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me" (2 Peter 1:14).

How can a Christian know he is saved now, since the Bible says, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved"? (Matthew 24:13).

The salvation spoken of in this verse is our final salvation when Jesus comes. He will save us from the time of trouble. Our present daily salvation depends on our daily walk of faith. The saving promise of Jesus is: "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish" (John 10:28). This makes salvation as sure today as it will be when we have reached heaven.

There may be dry times, when a person is sorely tried or even tempted to doubt his experience. When the dark hours come, we must remember that we are saved because Jesus made atonement for our souls. "The just shall live by faith"—not faith in himself, but in Christ who made the atonement. Nothing, other than the decision on our part to turn from Christ, can hinder our salvation. Read Romans 8:11-38. Where can stronger assurance be given?

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.

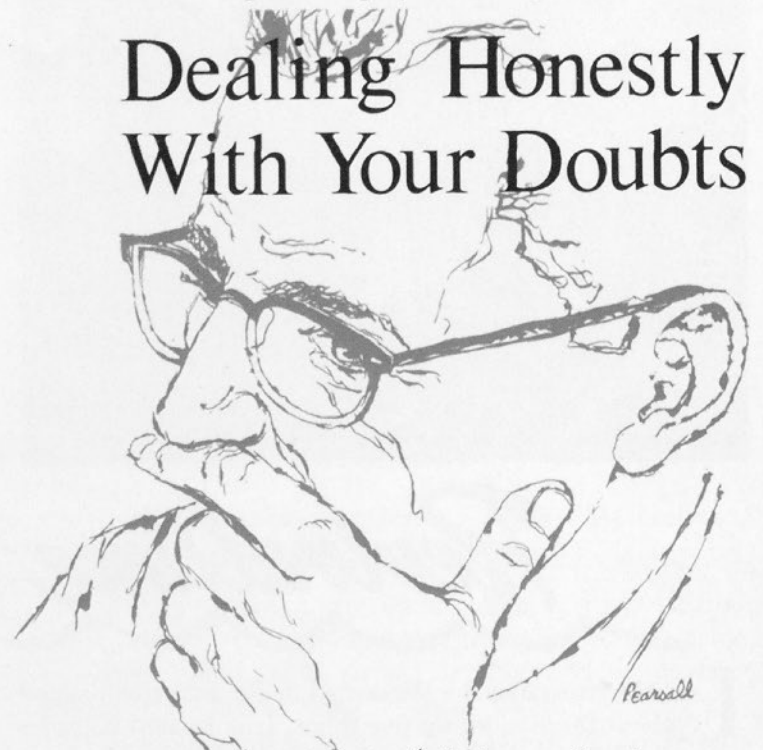
DID YOU EVER HEAR how John R. Mott faced his doubts about the effectiveness of intercessory prayer?

During his university years he fell into a period of doubt—doubt about the value of prayer in general. Try as he would, he couldn't believe that prayer did any good.

But Mott didn't toss his faith away. Instead, he really faced his doubt and searched for the answer. He discussed and argued the issue with Christians who knew the power of prayer. He read 43 books on the subject of prayer alone.

He went beyond discussion and reading and gave himself to the discipline of regular and earnest prayer. He wrestled and fought and prayed through all his doubts

Dealing Honestly With Your Doubts



By MICHAEL HORBAN / Saskatoon, Canada

until he found the answer—until prayer became a vital part of his experience. He went on to become an outstanding missionary statesman and a great "prayer warrior."

Forty-three books on one aspect of the faith! You who are having a battle with doubt: when did you last read a good book on the Christian faith? When did you last discuss the problem with your pastor or some mature, informed believer? Have you made any serious attempt to study the faith? For every doubt there is an answer.

Don't content yourself with reading critical arguments about the faith—arguments by men who hardly understand what Christianity is. There's another side. Think of the many great minds, like C. S. Lewis (the list could be long), who have been able to give full allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Don't remove yourself from those resources of Christian fellowship and inspiration that might bring you through the mists of uncertainty to a surer faith. Seek help.

Above all, turn to Jesus Christ. Look at His life. Listen to His words. See what He has done across the ages and what He is doing in lives today.

You have to live by some faith. Christ's gospel is far and away the best hope we can find. He deserves your allegiance!

TESTIMONIES OF HEALING

JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND FOREVER (Hebrews 13:8)



BOY HEALED OF WARTS

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO the Lord healed our 11-year-old son of warts. Praise God, His healing power is just the same yesterday, and today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).



Ernest H. Nelson, of Honor, Mich. (now pastor of the Assembly of God at Anita, Pa.), was speaking at our church that day. After praying for many at the altar, Brother Nelson walked up the aisle to where my son Stephen was standing beside his father. As I approached them, Brother Nelson told me that the Lord had shown him Stephen was going to do a special work for Him. At the same time, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Stephen and healed him of warts.

Formerly the palms of both hands and some of the fingers were covered with masses of warts. A couple of days later Stephen drew our attention to the fact that the warts were all disappearing. Now both hands are clear of any evidence of them. What a mighty God we serve! —Mrs. James Hoffman, Du Bois, Pa.

(Endorsed by Pastor Roger A. Woodwell, Calvary Assembly, Du Bois, Pa.)

PASTOR'S BACK IS MIRACULOUSLY HEALED

WE PRAISE GOD for His miracle power! He performed a work of healing in my husband's body which the doctor said could be cured only by surgery.

A number of years ago, while my husband R. L. Davis was pastoring in Dallas, Texas, he developed what the doctors call a pilonidal cyst. It was caused by hair growing internally along the spine. The pipe ulcers which developed from this condition caused pain and severe drainage.

His condition grew worse until finally he had corrective surgery. At the time, the doctor told him if he didn't succeed in removing all of the cyst, it would grow back. This is exactly what happened.

The six- to eight-inch incision burst wide open, and he was in bad condition. The doctor told him he would do the surgical work over as this was the only known cure. But my husband determined this time to trust the Lord and refrain from surgery.

The church fasted and prayed with us for a miracle of healing. The condition, however, seemed to grow worse. Finally, one night God told him he was healed. He began to praise the Lord for healing, even though there was no apparent improvement. For several days he seemed only to get worse; but he continued to praise God for healing and to claim His promise.

One night he went to bed with this attitude of praise and fell asleep. The next morning he awakened lying on his back, something he had been unable to do. He arose perfectly healed. The incision had completely grown together. The drainage and pain were both gone! And he has remained healed ever since that day.

After my husband received healing in his own body, God gave him faith, and others have been healed in answer to prayer.—Mrs. R. L. Davis, Waxahachie, Tex.

(R. L. Davis is pastor of University Assembly of God, 908 Sycamore Street, Waxahachie, Texas 75165. We are indebted to Mrs. Davis for permission to reprint this chapter from her 50-page paperback book, *God's Healing River*.)

HEALED OF SERIOUS HEART MURMUR

WHEN OUR SON Kim wanted to play football this year, we rejoiced again because of the healing power of God.

Three years ago, when Kim was in the sixth grade, he had to take a complete physical because he had moved into the Denver school district from out of state. A nurse called my husband and me to the school and we were advised to take Kim to the heart clinic because he had a serious heart murmur.

Immediately we talked to Pastor Hubert Surratt and asked the church to pray that when he had the examination, there would be nothing wrong with him. The Sunday before we went to the clinic, we followed the Biblical instruction in James 5:14, 15.

That night, going home in the car, Kim said he felt different: "I feel like I could run and run and run!" He previously had tired easily and frequently had pains in his heart.

When we went to the clinic, a doctor gave him a complete physical and then called 12 other doctors to listen to Kim's heart. One of the doctors said, "What are you doing here? There's not a thing wrong with this kid." I recognized him as the school doctor and said, "I believe you're the one who sent him here." He listened again and quickly walked out before I could explain that we had prayed for Kim.

Then the head doctor examined him. He looked at me and said, "There's not a thing wrong with this child. He is a perfectly normal boy, so treat him like one. The school doctor sent him here because he detected a serious heart murmur. He does have a little murmur, but not as much as a normal child on the street."

Kim passed the physical for football in top condition. He was one of those chosen to play and the physical exertion of the game didn't bother him a bit.—Mrs. Ivan Butrick, Lakewood, Colo.

(Endorsed by Pastor Hubert Surratt, First Assembly, Lakewood, Colo.)

Evangel NEWS Digest

Replacing "This Present World"

June International Edition

BLOCK COMPLEX CONTAINS NEW CHURCH

ELIM CHURCH IN GREAT BRITAIN DEDICATES NEW HEADQUARTERS

CHELTENHAM, ENGLAND—The Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance, with headquarters here, last fall officially dedicated to the Lord its facilities on St. Georges Road.

The block complex contains new administration offices for the Pentecostal organization, and a new church for the Elim Cheltenham congregation.

In addition to Elim officials, John Carter and Eric Dando of the Assemblies of God in Great

Britain also participated in the ceremonies.

The Elim movement came into being in 1915 through the ministry of Evangelists George and

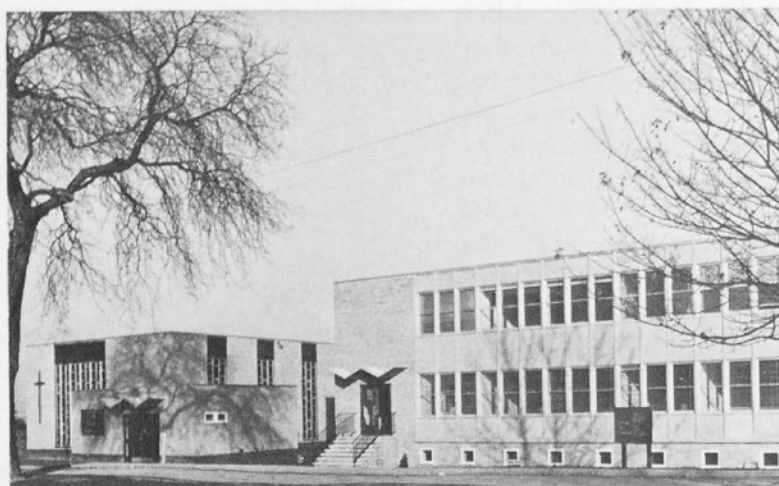
Stephen Jeffreys, first in Ireland and later in other areas. Many notable healings accompanied the ministry of these Welsh evangelists with the result that crowds

packed the largest halls to hear them preach, and converts numbered in the thousands.

The Alliance includes many churches in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and the Channel Islands. It sponsors Elim Bible College in Capel, Surrey, and publishes the *Elim Evangel*.

A strongly evangelistic movement, it is widely known for its great London Crusader Choir and its mass meetings in London's famous Royal Albert Hall.

R. B. Chapman, Elim field superintendent speaks at the opening of the new office building. Others standing (left to right) are: John Bloom, architect; J. C. Smyth, administrative secretary; Eric Dando and John Carter, Assemblies of God; L. W. Green, president; E. J. Phillips, former secretary-general for 40 years; and H. W. Greenway, secretary-general.



This view of the building block at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England, shows the Elim Church at the left and the central offices of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance at the right.

Members and friends of the Cheltenham Elim Church participate in dedication services outside. The new church adjoins the central administrative office complex which is the headquarters for the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance.



CHARLES HARTHERN IS WITH CHRIST

Charles H. Harthern, 70, of Stoke-on-Trent, England, went to be with Christ on November 6, 1968.

Brother Harthern was ordained by the British Assemblies of God in 1935. After World War II he moved to the USA and affiliated with the West Florida District. He pastored in Graceville, Tallahassee, and Port St. Joe, Florida.

During the war, Brother Harthern had held services in his home in England. This was the beginning of Penkhull Assembly. Sunday school was held there after he came to America.

When he heard the land was going to be confiscated, he per-

suaded the authorities to give it to him for a church; and while traveling in various parts of the U.S. as an evangelist and Bible teacher he raised funds for this building.

Feeling God would have him go back to his home city to build, he returned to England in 1964,

and the first services were held in the Penkhull Assembly in August 1967. Sunday school attendance passed the 100 mark.

He is survived by his wife Florrie and two sons: Roy, an ordained pastor in Beaumont, Texas, and Paul, a licensed pastor in Clanton, Alabama.

'UNDERGROUND' CHURCH SEEKS A RETURN TO SIMPLICITY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Without the approval of church authorities, and often in direct opposition to them, tens of thousands of clergy and laymen on their own are seeking a return to the simplicity and fellowship of the early Christians who talked, worshiped, and ate together in homes and catacombs of ancient Rome.

U.S. News and World Report, April 14, made this statement in citing the "new anxieties" arising in America's churches.

This time, however, the "underground" patrons are not beleaguered Christians as were the early Christians, but prosperous Americans seeking renewal of spirit.

These unorthodox services and "underground" religious activities are creating a great deal of controversy in one community after another in the U.S., the magazine said.

It mentioned a meeting in Dayton, Ohio, where Roman Catholics and Protestants met for worship and speaking in tongues—holding hands to share to the fullest a mystical experience that is building up a "Pentecostal movement in several of the major denominations."

Tolerance, though not approval, is being given to this "Pentecostal" or "spirit" movement. According to the article, one to two million Christians from the big denominations are meeting in

By United Bible Societies

COMMON BIBLE PLANNED FOR ARAB COUNTRIES

BEIRUT, LEBANON—The possibility of a common Bible for all Arab-speaking Christians was advanced at an interreligious conference here.

Representatives of Protestant, Orthodox, and Roman Catholic Churches of the Near East gave tentative approval for work to begin on a common, up-to-date translation of the Bible into Arabic. The plans, produced under the leadership of the United Bible Societies, are subject to final approval of the churches involved.

It was noted that the Arabic language has changed, and there is need for a version which follows contemporary translation principles and is understandable by today's reader.

Arabic, which ranks eighth among the most widely spoken languages, is used by more than 91 million of the world's people.

small groups across the nation for evenings of speaking in tongues, a practice hitherto found almost exclusively within the Pentecostal movements.

Joining such groups are people

from all walks of life—professors, businessmen, priests, nuns, students—who seek to emulate the religious exaltation experienced by Christians in New Testament times.

Britain's New Coin System May Cause Church Headache

LONDON—The decimalization of Britain's currency, to be completed by 1971, is giving the churches some concern.

Churchmen fear that when old coins are retired and new coins are in general distribution, the general public may accidentally, or intentionally, short-change the collection plate.

Here's the problem:

The half-crown has long been the most faithful churchgoer among the coins of England, pretty much as the U.S. quarter has become more religious than folding money. Worth 30 cents (U.S.), the half-crown will soon be retired from circulation, and the only coin of comparable size will be the new 10-penny (worth 20 cents).

Thus some churchmen fear that many churchgoers will reach for

a 10-penny piece as a substitute for the half-crown, leaving the church with a net loss of 33 percent in a time of inflation.

Of course, among those who follow the scriptural method of tithes and offerings there will be no problem!

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ON SUNDAY, BRITISH LAWMAKER SUGGESTS

LONDON—Formal proposals that Christmas be celebrated on a fixed Sunday rather than the traditional December 25 are to be put to Britain's Parliament by a member of the House of Commons who is "disturbed at the industrial disruption" it currently causes.

His plan suggests that Christmas in the future be observed on

Muslims Concerned About Conversions

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—A record 2.5 million Indonesian Muslims have been converted to Christianity in the last three years, according to a UPI release.

Taking its information from the Muslim newspaper *New Generation*, UPI said most of the conversions were in Central and East Java, areas of former Communist strength. The paper said some of the conversions might have been caused by a revulsion against the slaughter of suspected Communists by Muslim fanatics following the attempted Communist coup in 1965.

New Generation chided the Muslim leaders for being "preoccupied with politics rather than religious missionary work."

the nearest Sunday after December 25.

This would prevent the festival which often falls in midweek from "becoming a Saturnalian hangover," with industrial productions disrupted through absenteeism and extended holidays, as occurred last December, according to the House of Commons member.

Pay Pastors on Ability

Revise Pay Plan, Methodists Urge

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The traditional practice of paying pastors of Protestant churches has come under attack in the United Methodist Church, according to an editorial in the *Christian Advocate*.

Support is building for a new approach under which a minister's income would be determined by his ability, training, and experience rather than by the financial resources of the congregation he serves, says the magazine.

This allegedly would reimburse clergymen more equitably and also enable the church to place its best men in places where they are needed most.

Churches in inner-city poverty areas, churches in rural areas with declining population, and college chaplaincies, were cited as examples.

"Under our present system no minister can for long remain in these places of critical need without sacrificing his opportunity for professional advancement and jeopardizing his family's security," the editorial said.

... at a glance

- • • The cover of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has been carrying the face of a clock whose hands showed seven minutes until "doomsday." Now the hands of the clock show civilization has 10 minutes to spend. The three minutes were added following the U.S. Senate's ratification of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

- • • An important archaeological find recently reported in Jerusalem is believed to be the first inscription in the Philistine language dating from the 12th century B.C. Many scholars had doubted the existence of a written language among the Philistines.

- • • Blind readers in Pakistan will soon be able to read the Bible in their own language. Copies of the Scriptures in Urdu Braille are being produced in Scotland under the sponsorship of the United Bible Societies. It is estimated that 80 percent of the sales of the Urdu Braille Scriptures will be to non-Christians.

- • • A recent Gallup Poll indicates that the majority of Americans feel religion as a whole is losing its influence on American life. The poll revealed 62 percent of the churchgoers and 70 percent of the nonchurchgoers hold this opinion. Those who hold this view generally cite one of the following reasons: (1) young people losing interest in formal religion; (2) growing crime, immorality, and violence; (3) materialistic distractions; (4) the church is not playing its proper role (some say it is not keeping up with the times, but an equal number say it is too involved in social and political issues).

... and six died

By ARTHUR H. TOWNSEND

WINNIFRED COLLIS of Creston, British Columbia, died when a heavy canopy, 20 feet long and 10 feet wide, fell on her as she walked past a variety store. Large metal bolts failed to hold, and Mrs. Collis was crushed to death.

A 19-year-old girl, Deborah Depiero of Fort William, Ontario, was killed when a four-ton boulder hurtled down a mountainside and crashed into Canadian Pacific train 11 miles west of Revelstoke, British Columbia. A number of passengers were injured as the huge stone crashed through the side of a coach. Several cars were derailed and 800 feet of track torn up.

Ernest and Janet Bitterman and their two daughters, members of the Glad Tidings (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada) church in Victoria, British Columbia, died when their car was swept from the Trans-Canada Highway by a massive mud- and rock-filled slide. Six-year-old Janet Bitterman was the only survivor. She was thrown clear by the impact and was unharmed. The tragedy occurred 18 miles west of Revelstoke when the Bitterman family was returning home from a visit to Saskatchewan. They died instantly.

A fallen canopy, a huge boulder, and a mud- and rock-filled slide brought death to six people. They were enjoying life and did not expect to die. Death came suddenly.

Perhaps that day when the canopy fell, Mrs. Collis was absorbed in her shopping, preoccupied with thoughts of what to fix for dinner. Then death struck.

Deborah Depiero, that day when the huge boulder crashed through the side of the train, may have been enjoying the mountain scenery. As she gazed out the window she may have been contemplating her plans for the future. Suddenly she died.

Ernest and Janet Bitterman may have been talking about their pleasant visit with friends back in Saskatchewan. The children may have been happily singing the hymns and choruses they learned in Sunday school. Suddenly the four were swept away.

"How tragic," you say. Yes, death is tragic, and it is no respecter of persons.

You too will die one day. How will you die? Death may come soon for you or me. It may come in the form of:

a lightning bolt,
an avalanche,
a crashing plane,
a falling canopy,
a crashing boulder,
a mud- and rock-filled slide,
or any of a thousand unexpected events.

David said, "There is but a step between me and death" (1 Samuel 20:3). And that is all there is between anybody and death—just a step!

Jesus said, "The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying,



What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee" (Luke 12:16-20).

Because death is sure and eternity certain (and both can come into full focus suddenly) you should be ready to meet God.

While you have time, this very moment, will you not receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? He died and rose again to give you eternal life.

The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

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

Don't delay! Receive the Saviour now.

