

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

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PHOTO BY BOB TAYLOR

Keynote Message at the  
Council on Spiritual Life

By THOMAS F. ZIMMERMAN

# Be filled

SOME TIME AGO we had the opportunity to observe what a great difference the occupant makes in the appearance of a house.

During one occupancy the lawn looked like a field of weeds; trash was piled around in the yard, and the neighbors were embarrassed by this house.

Then one day the occupants moved out, and new people moved in. Almost immediately the lawn took on a neat appearance, the trash was removed, and the house became one of the nicest in the neighborhood.

This was a graphic illustration of the fact that the condition of the house really depends on the occupant. It's the person inside who determines what the house will be like.

When God wanted to clarify the relationship between Himself and believers, He used the figure of a building and its occupant. "What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19).

The New Testament allusion to the Old Testament tabernacle or temple has some very helpful lessons for us in this Council on Spiritual Life.

## THE NEED OF THE SPIRIT'S FULLNESS

In the Old Testament times one of the ways the tabernacle and temple differed from all other buildings was the glorious presence of the Lord. He said, "The tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory" (Exodus 29:43).

Years later after the temple had been built under King Solomon, "the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord" (1 Kings 8:10, 11).

What an important lesson! Just as the glory of God filled the tabernacle and temple, the life of every believer should be filled with the glory of God.

Paul stated this truth in Ephesians 5:18: "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but *be filled with the Spirit.*"

The pillar of cloud and fire was supernatural. Likewise the glory which comes to the Spirit-filled believer's life is supernatural—it can't be duplicated.

Scientists have long been fascinated by the little firefly that shares its glorious light along the countryside. But they have never been able to reproduce it. They have tried filaments, wires,



and batteries; and while they struggle and fail, the firefly just keeps glowing from the miraculous energy with which it was created.

There is no human substitute for the glory of God. Believers can glow only as they are filled with the supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit.

Believers who want the glowing life must recognize it is not enough just to accept Christ as Saviour—He must be Lord and Master. He must control the entire life. This was the New Testament pattern. The Samaritans were not only believers; they were Spirit-filled believers. Cornelius and his household not only accepted the message of salvation; they were filled with the Spirit.

This is normal New Testament experience. We cannot claim to be fully living in harmony with the Word until we too know what it is to live, day by day, filled with the Spirit.

## THE CONDITIONS OF THE SPIRIT'S FULLNESS

Before the glory of God could fill the tabernacle, two important factors needed to be recognized—the priority of the divine pattern, a symbol of God's Word; and putting the ark in its place of honor, a symbol of the exaltation of Christ.

*The authority of the Word must be recognized*

When God spoke to Moses, He insisted that the tabernacle should be built "according to all that I show thee" (Exodus 25:9).

Nothing was left to conjecture, nor trial and

# with the Spirit

error, nor human experience. Everything had to be according to divinely revealed plan. What a lesson for the church today! If we want the glory of God in our midst, corporately or individually, we must live by the eternal, inerrant Word of God.

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

We cannot bend the Word to suit ourselves—we must bend ourselves to suit the Word of God.

## *Christ must be exalted*

After Solomon had completed the work of the temple, the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Then when the priests came out, the cloud filled the house of the Lord.

What an important lesson for us today. The ark of the covenant symbolizes Christ.

It is when Christ is exalted in our lives that the glory of God will fill our lives.

This is demonstrated by New Testament experience. On the Day of Pentecost Peter *exalted Christ*, and the Holy Spirit was outpoured (Acts 2). At Samaria Philip *preached Christ* (Acts 8:5), and the Samaritans were saved and filled with the Spirit under the ministry of Peter and John.

At Caesarea Peter *preached Christ* (Acts 10:36), and Cornelius' household was filled with the Spirit. At Ephesus it was after Paul *preached Christ* (Acts 19:4) that the disciples were filled with the Spirit. This continues to be a condition of the Spirit's fullness today.

What a tragedy when efforts are made to glorify self—to glorify traditions—to glorify organizations—to glorify wealth. This will never bring the glory of God to any life. But when men fall in contrition at the feet of Jesus and recognize His sovereignty, God is glorified in their lives.

## **RESULTS OF THE SPIRIT'S FULLNESS**

One result is *guidance in progress*.

In Exodus 13:21 we read: "And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night."

*The Commentary on the Old Testament* by Keil Delitzsch points out that in early days caravans would arrange to have small wood fires in grates or iron vessels carried on long poles by leaders so people way back in the long caravan could see which way to go.

Israel never had any doubt as to whether God was leading them on—the glory made this clear.

Israel's wilderness experience is a history of progress. There must have been times when they

wished to stay in places where there were palm trees and flowing water, but God led them on. In like manner today many of God's people long only for times of spiritual refreshing and look with distaste on the plain plodding of life. They forget that the reason God fills us with the glory of His presence is that we might "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

The purpose of the ministry gifts is that we might come "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). This calls for disciplined living.

A small boy on a television program was asked if he had any pets. He replied, "I did have some goldfish, but some water softener got in the water and they softened to death."

We can learn from this. Through self-indulgence and lack of discipleship people are softening themselves to death. As the Spirit guides us in our spiritual growth and progress, we can expect hard experiences sometimes.

Another result is *guidance to victory*.

When we look at the circumstances surrounding the exodus, it seems that the venture would surely end in failure, but it didn't! God didn't lead Israel into the wilderness or Canaan for defeat—He led them there for victory.

Their faith was tested with the attack of Amalek (Exodus 17:8-16). What a thrilling story it is! As Moses held up his hands, Israel won a decisive battle.

The story is typical of the experience God wants His people to have. We have not been called to live defeated, frustrated lives. "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37).

Whenever people have completely made themselves available to God, they have won great victories for God. Moses triumphed over Pharaoh. Joshua triumphed over Jericho. David defeated Goliath. The three Hebrew children triumphed through the fiery furnace. The widow of Zarephath triumphed through the great famine. Peter triumphed on the Day of Pentecost. Paul triumphed in the Philippian jail.

There is a power in the presence of God that only the completely surrendered begins to understand. It results in victory, not defeat.

When David Livingstone appeared at the University of Glasgow to receive the honorary doctor of laws degree, he was received with silent respect. He was gaunt and weary from 16 years of exposure to Africa's hardships. One arm hung useless at his side because of an attack by a lion.

Livingstone asked, "Shall I tell you what supported me through all these years of exile among a people whose language I could not understand and whose attitude toward me was always uncertain and often hostile? It was this: 'Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.'"

It is the fullness of the Spirit today which will lead us from victory to victory in all the challenging experiences of life.

# Senseless Massacre



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**WE BELIEVE . . .**  
 . . . the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God.  
 . . . there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.  
 . . . in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years.  
 . . . in the Blessed Hope—the Rapture of the Church at Christ's coming.  
 . . . the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.  
 . . . regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.  
 . . . the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer.  
 . . . the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.  
 . . . in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.  
 . . . in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

THE MIDEAST TERRORISTS seem bent on massacre. One horrible outrage follows another, all aimed directly or indirectly at Israel, and the public is wondering, "Where will they strike next?"

In August they struck an El Al airliner, planting a bomb timed to explode while the craft was in the air. They intended to kill everyone on board—but fortunately the bomb only destroyed the luggage compartment. The airliner landed safely and no one was hurt.

In September they struck at Munich. Eleven members of Israel's Olympic team were slain in a senseless massacre that shocked and sickened decent people everywhere.

These were only two of a long series of murderous and inhuman acts of violence. It is difficult to imagine how terrorists can hope to arouse sympathy for their cause by crimes like these. They only arouse contempt for themselves—and sympathy for their victims.

One wonders how any good can come from such tragedies. Are people solemnized when they see others struck down suddenly? Does it cause them to reflect on death, resurrection, and the question of where they will spend eternity? If so, there is some good. Hundreds of Spirit-filled Christians were presenting a gospel witness to the throngs assembled in Munich for the Olympic games. We hope the sad events softened some hearts to receive the saving gospel.

As the TV brought us the memorial service at Israel's Lod Airport for the murdered athletes, we recalled the massacre which occurred at this same airport three months earlier. There was one good feature of that awful event—many of the tourists machine-gunned to death by terrorists were Christian believers ready to meet God.

L. V. D. Tiller, a Pentecostal missionary, was in Jerusalem at that time and he met the survivors of the airport massacre. Writing in *The Elim Evangel*, London, he said:

"When it was learned that they were mostly an Evangelical Protestant group, some local ministers arranged a service in the hotel where they were staying, as an act of fellowship, prayer, and encouragement. I was invited to take part. I discovered that the majority there were Pentecostal believers from Puerto Rico.

"That service will live in my memory as a revelation of what Pentecostal Christianity really means. How they sang, prayed, praised, and testified! With 16 of their friends unexpectedly and brutally murdered, with more than 20 others still in hospital, these survivors—many of them bandaged and still suffering the after-effects, with broken hearts and tear-swollen eyes—showed the reality of their faith in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives to sustain in all circumstances.

"People from the Caribbean are by nature and temperament excitable, but what they showed was not emotionalism. It was something that revealed a depth of character and life that gave joy, victory, and triumph in circumstances that would normally depress and destroy.

"This was no light emotionalism or exhibitionist behavior; this was the wealth of Christian reality in the face of terror, death, bereavement, sorrow and injury. It lifted them above circumstances to become a shining and living example to Jew, Arab, and fellow-Christians in a land that needs such an example.

"This is the type of Pentecostal experience that transcends criticism, creates soul-hunger in others, and brings true glory to Jesus the Messiah—Pentecost in precept and practice." —r.c.c.

## CHILD HEALED OF HEART MURMUR

"A HEART MURMUR," the doctor reported after he had examined our little girl Sara. At the time it was what doctors called "a functional heart murmur." The doctor urged us not to be alarmed.

Later, at the age of four, Sara had a physical for nursery school. By this time she was acting abnormally. She had lost much of her normal childhood vitality. She weakened and became weary after the slightest exertion. She asked to be carried during short trips to the store. Her color was bad, and her eyes had dark circles around them. She no longer sang; she was always irritable and nervous from not feeling well.



After his examination, the doctor made no comment except to advise us to take her to a cardiologist.

When the cardiologist examined her, he said her heart "made a lot of noise." He explained it was caused by a hole between two of the chambers of her heart. He told us a series of tests would be necessary to determine how large the hole was. If the hole appeared very large, they would perform open heart surgery.

During the week before the tests were made, our family called everyone we could think of to pray for Sara. We went to a midweek service at Mamre Assembly of God, Melvindale, Michigan, where William Meszaros is pastor. The congregation prayed for Sara and touched God in her behalf.

The following Sunday, at the request of an aunt, we attended the communion service at the Assembly of God in Sturgis. The church was holding revival services that week. The pastor and Evangelist Larry Riley laid hands on Sara, anointing her with oil. As they prayed the prayer of faith, tears rolled down many cheeks. The communion service came alive with spontaneous praise to God from His people.

We had the assurance in our hearts that Sara had been healed. Many people had prayed, and God had answered.

After the tests were completed, the cardiologist reported there was no hole and that Sara was perfectly normal.

Recently I took her to the pediatrician and asked if she could hear a murmur. She responded, "No, none at all. In fact, she has a very strong heartbeat."

We praise God for His wonder-working power and love.—Mr. and Mrs. H. Trent Jr., Taylor, Mich.

*(Endorsed by Pastor John R. Phillips, Assembly of God, Sturgis, Mich. and Pastor Wm. J. Meszaros, Mamre Assembly of God, Melvindale, Mich.)*

## KIDNEY STONE DISAPPEARS

ONE SUNDAY MORNING in April 1970 I woke up with a terrible pain on the left side of my back. I went to Sunday school, but by the time our class was over I was in so much pain I couldn't stay for church.

I went straight to the hospital in Fort Smith, Ark. In

God said it, and these people have proved His promise true.

# I am the Lord that healeth thee

checking X rays the doctor told me I had a kidney stone lodged in the left ureter. He said it would have to be removed either by cystoscopy or surgery.

My wife got in touch with our pastor so the church would pray. At 7 o'clock that evening, while I lay in pain, I felt something give in my back and the pain suddenly left. I knew the Lord had healed me.

When I checked with my pastor I learned that he had the congregation pray for my healing at 7 o'clock! Praise God!

The doctor did a cystoscopy and found no sign of a stone. I give God the glory.—Gene A. York, Greenwood, Ark.

*(Endorsed by Pastor Everett Hogan, Assembly of God, Greenwood, Ark.)*

## ARM AND HAND MADE NORMAL AGAIN

ON DECEMBER 1, 1967, I broke my right wrist in a fall. Complications set in, and I was in the hospital six weeks where surgery was performed twice. Afterward I received therapy as an outpatient for three months.

Even following therapy I could use my fingers only a very little, as there was no strength in them. I wore my arm in a sling so long that it was of little use because it was weak.

During a service at Northridge Assembly of God on November 15, 1971, Evangelist William Caldwell stated someone present had a bone broken that had not healed properly. He said, "The Lord is healing that condition right now."

I realized he was talking about me when my knuckles started loosening and my whole hand became very warm! Then for the first time in almost four years, I could close my hand.

I can now use my fingers normally with no pain at all, and I have much strength in my hand and wrist as I had before it was broken. Also, my arm which was so weak is perfectly normal.

My heart is full of praise and gratitude to our Lord Jesus.—Marie Trezise, Union, Ohio.

*(Endorsed by Pastor Hollis Kelley, Northridge Assembly, Dayton, Ohio.)*

BELOW: William N. Ilnisky (bottom right) and a group of collegians engage in dialogue.  
 RIGHT: Beirut university students stop to read the Christ Chapel sign before entering.



# CHRIST CHAPEL: a soul-winning venture

By WILLIAM N. ILNISKY / *Missionary to the Middle East*

JUST STEPS AWAY from the American University of Beirut, virtually the youth center of the Middle East, stands Christ Chapel Collegiate Center, our Assemblies of God University Action Center dedicated to reaching Middle Eastern collegians with the gospel.

Christ Chapel offers friendship and recreational facilities but always with the ultimate purpose of presenting Christ.

Our approach is person-to-person. Direct. Our objective is clear. No facades, no psychedelia, no paraphernalia to clutter the clarity of the gospel. Our emphasis is positive. The teachings of Jesus are paramount!

The key word for us leaders is *listen*. We do it... and do it... and do it again. We talk a lot too. Always about Jesus.

The key word for the student is *participate*—and he does. Immediately. Upon accepting Christ he is encouraged to engage in the exercise of prayer. He talks to God in simple, clichéless style; and then the greatest miracles happen.

The Bible is always an open Book

in every room at Christ Chapel. Reading it is instantaneously natural.

*Interaction* and *dialogue* are ensuing key words. Meaningful communication—through sharing of experiences and needs, victories and problems, questions and thoughts—flows freely and easily.

Our sound is *alive*—another key word. This generation of music makers creates truly living sound. The singing, whether from *Hymns of Glorious Praise* with organ accompaniment, or a folk hymnal with guitars, or a chorus sheet a cappella, comes from happy hearts.

Chapel services highlight each week. The church still remains the chief arm of evangelism—not the structure, but the people. Morning worship is just that, with the Holy Spirit's blessing. The music, praise, and testimonies of the evening vespers are enthusiastic and evangelistic.

Even the building housing Christ Chapel carries the joy of our spirited young believers. The entire first floor of a spacious apartment building was completely renovated and adapted to

our purpose. The physical structure of Christ Chapel Collegiate Center is simple, warm, bright, and attractive, with "Jesus mottoes" and colorful posters as its only decor.

The chapel is always available for prayer and meditation. Two activity rooms with refreshment facilities, along with a library, make the collegiate center conducive to pleasant interaction. My office, it seems, is the favorite meeting place of all. A courtyard cafe is envisioned to complement the center.

One of the big turning points of our ministry came recently when we hosted Don Wilkerson and Victor Torres in a citywide youth rally. A newly constructed amphitheater on one of Beirut's leading campuses was made available for the service. Never before had a religious service been held in a public university auditorium. The audience was captivated by Victor's life, old and new. A host of young people instantaneously responded to Don's invitation, at the close of the meeting.

The rally gave birth to Christ Chapel's own music group, The Solid



## WHY A PENTECOSTAL CAMPUS OUTREACH IN THE HOLY LAND?

1. There has been no previous Pentecostal voice in any Middle Eastern university.

2. The cosmopolitan atmosphere, freedom of religious expression, and large student population are a "natural habitat" for campus ministry.

3. Every year, 50,000 Arab students from every Arab country attend one of Beirut's six major universities. Half are Muslim, the other half are nominal Christians (an ironic paradox for peoples of the Holy Land).

4. Philosophical and religious ideologies vie in the battle for student minds. Disillusionment and rejection of Oriental and Western traditional religions leave them in a spiritual vacuum.

5. It is impossible for missionaries to reside in most Middle Eastern countries. Students can take the gospel back to their countries. There is no better witness than a national.

—WILLIAM N. ILSISKY, *director*  
Christ Chapel Collegiate Center

TOP LEFT: The youth rally audience, numbering over 450, listens to the message in song. LOWER LEFT: The Solid Rock group performs before a capacity crowd during the Wilkerson-Torres rally.

Rock. The ensemble recently conducted a rally for the YWCA Convention held here in Beirut. They have a charisma and have created a rapport with almost every audience, large or small.

As a result of the Wilkerson-Torres rally and a later one with Evangelist David Grant, a phenomenal chain of events has transpired. We have outgrown our facilities at the center. The Christ Chapel story was in the newspapers, on the radio, and became the topic of conversation all over Beirut. Churches and schools throughout Lebanon have invited us to conduct rallies.

Testimonies such as the following continue to reach us:

*Leeca*: "I can't stop crying for joy since I found Jesus. My mom raised her hand too. So did our friend."

*Kismet*: "Imagine! Me, a Muslim, accepting Christ. It's beautiful."

*Vahe*: "Now it's Jesus first, basketball second."

Influential university personnel have been inquiring about the center and are giving us enthusiastic encouragement. At the moment we are

happily engaged in establishing many beautifully fresh young Christians in the Word and the Christian walk.

Our emphasis: Jesus, the only way to God—a very pertinent fact here in the Muslim world.

We're on the verge of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Several have already received—spontaneously—during worship or prayer or privately.

David Wilkerson's *Maturity Manual* and a variety of carefully chosen contemporary gospel tracts and books are being used to help develop Christian character. Our invitation brochure is personal and sincere, with color pictures of students in action at the center. But our best advertisement is the student who has discovered new life in Christ and passes it on in a natural flow of words.

Two of our students are presently attending Evangel College, Springfield, Missouri, as a result of this outreach. And others will follow. Our prayer is that they will return to their homelands here in the Middle East

with a greater incentive to share Christ with their people.

Christ Chapel reaches students from almost every country in this part of the world. In one recent service 11 countries—Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, England, Ghana, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, U.S., Somalia, and Jordan—were represented.

The chief topic among Lebanese university students is *rejection*. How beautiful it is that our young people are proclaiming positive reasons for *acceptance* of the challenges of life through life in Christ.

And what of the future? Limitless potential lies ahead for intensified outreach through rallies, enlarged facilities, mass literature saturation, and person-to-person witness. Our next big thrust will come at the onset of the fall term of school. We are planning an all-day gospel festival in the stadium of the Beirut International College.

A year ago Christ Chapel Collegiate Center was an experiment. Today it is a proven soul-winning venture.



**T**HE OUTLINE OF FUTURE EVENTS unfolds before the earnest student of the Scriptures in this way:

1. Jesus Christ is coming to this world again (Acts 1:9-11).

2. His coming will be an unexpected surprise to the world in general (Matthew 24:44).

3. He comes, first of all, as a Bridegroom for His bride (Matthew 25:6).

4. When He returns, He will raise the dead and change the living saints and gather them to Himself in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

5. Subsequent to the snatching away of His church will be the judgment seat of Christ in which He rewards His people (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).

6. His return for His saints, and their departure with Him, will be a surprise to the unbelieving world (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

7. The first resurrection takes place at the coming of Christ for His church (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 20:5).

8. With the departure of the Church, the hindrance to Antichrist will be removed (2 Thessalonians 2:7, 8).

9. Antichrist rises to power through a 10-kingdom confederacy, established within the framework of the old Roman Empire, and signs an important treaty of peace with Israel (Daniel 9:26, 27).

10. Antichrist is energized by Satan and is revealed as the man of sin (Revelation 12:7-12; 13:1-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4).

11. Antichrist wages war against all who oppose him, and eventually breaks his pact with Israel (Revelation 13:7; Daniel 9:27).

12. The voiding of the treaty with Israel signals the beginning of the "time of Jacob's trouble" about which Jesus prophesied (Matthew 24:15; Jeremiah 30:3-7).

13. Two spectacular witnesses appear in Jerusalem; and though Antichrist eventually succeeds in killing them, God raises them from the dead (Revelation 11:3-12).

14. Antichrist, in terrible rage against Israel, comes against Jerusalem with his army (Zechariah 14:2; Revelation 19:19).

15. At this dramatic moment, our Lord returns with His church (Zechariah 14:3, 4; Revelation 19:19).

16. Antichrist and the false prophet are overthrown and cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20).

17. Satan is bound for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3).

18. Christ begins His millennial reign (Revelation 20:4; 5:9, 10).

19. At the close of the millennial reign of Christ, Satan and all the wicked, whose names are not found in the Book of Life, stand before the Great White Throne for final judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

20. The eternal Kingdom of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost begins—a never-ending reign (1 Corinthians 15:24, 25).

# Jesus is coming

By EMIL A. BALLIET

President, Southern California College, Costa Mesa

## AMAZING END-TIME PROPHECIES POINT TO HIS SOON RETURN

The Lord Jesus spoke with such solemn authority about His return that His disciples burst out with the questions, "When . . . and what shall be the sign of thy coming?"

In His reply Jesus explained that the believers would not be in darkness about the imminence of His return, particularly if they would discern the signs of the times (Matthew 24:3; Luke 21:25-28).

It would be impossible in this brief paper to review all the signs that indicate His soon return. Here are but a few:

1. *The sign of increased knowledge.* In "the time of the end . . . knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4).

We live in the hour of a knowledge explosion! One-half of man's knowledge has been gained in the last 15 years! The other half was gained in the preceding thousands of years.

"It is estimated that man's total body of knowledge doubled between 1775 and 1900," says science writer



Photo by Rush J. McCoy

Frederic C. Appel. "It doubled again between 1900 and 1950, and again between 1950 and 1958. It is now thought to be doubling *every five years!*"

Research centers throughout the world now turn out 60 million pages of technical information yearly. Consider the astounding fact: 90 percent of all scientists who ever lived *are living today!*

What is the prophetic meaning of this knowledge explosion? It is a mark of the end time, and it indicates that Christ is coming soon!

2. *The sign of the rebirth of the nation of Israel.* Before His crucifixion Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, the captivity and dispersion of Israel into all nations, the eventual demise of Gentile world power, and the return of the Jews to a restored Jerusalem (Luke 21:24).

Two-thirds of that particular prophecy has now been fulfilled! For after nearly two thousand years of the diaspora Israel is once again a vital, virile nation. The new nation was reborn on May 15, 1948. Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:11), sym-

bolizing Israel's national resurrection and revitalization, is one of the amazing realities of our times.

What is the prophetic significance of Israel's restoration? Listen to the Psalmist, "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory" (Psalm 102:16).

3. *The sign of widespread revival.* "And it shall come to pass *in the last days*, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" (Acts 2:17).

An amazing renewal of the Pentecostal outpouring of the Spirit is the religious phenomenon of our times. Overleaping all denominational lines, the Holy Spirit is now being outpoured "upon all flesh." It is a true ministry of the Spirit, and its reach embraces ecclesiastical and lay leaders at all levels.

Most remarkable of all in this worldwide outpouring is the exciting leadership of Spirit-filled young people. Turned off by materialism, war, drugs, and empty philosophy, young people by the thousands are being turned on by the realities and joy found in the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Bernard Palmer, an experienced author, traveled across the U.S. carefully gathering material for his book, *The Winds of God Are Blowing*. As a result of his observations and research, he says, "Scratch anywhere in any community in America these days, and you will find some sort of *a revival movement*. In home Bible classes, in churches, in Christian and secular colleges, and even in prisons there is the same story everywhere. *God is at work around the world*, and it's fun to be a part of it and watch what is happening."

What does this signify? These are the "last days" and Jesus is coming soon!

4. *The sign of moral perversion.* "As it was in the days of Lot . . ." (Luke 17:28, 29).

Jesus predicted that the last days prior to His return would be marked with the moral corruptions of Sodom and Gomorrah. *The sin of ancient Sodom* is indicated by the word *sodomy*; i.e., homosexuality with its accompanying perversions.

Not since the days of Lot has sexual perversion reached the proportions of our times. An enormous volume of literature has flooded the world in defense of homosexuality. Heterosexuality is depicted as puritanical, an imposition by the medieval mentality of the church. Homosexuality is lauded as an enlightened liberation of the mind and body!

What does all this rebellion against God's rules mean

## IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

The Music Department of the Assemblies of God has published a beautiful new cantata, "Rejoice," just in time for the Christmas season.

Written by Max Eleiott and Robert Krogstad, the cantata incorporates some melodies that will be familiar and others that will be new to everyone. Happily it heralds the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in whom all nations of the world may rejoice.

The cantata may be ordered from the Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Price \$1.75. Ask for "Rejoice," Number 05 EV 0474.

prophetically? Christ's return is very near at hand!

5. *The sign of world evangelization.* "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached to all the world for a witness, and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

The patient translation and distribution of the Scriptures in over 1,400 languages to the nations of the world has reached climactic levels. Not a major language of the world remains without the witness of the gospel—the Word of God.

Explo '72 in Dallas was an exciting, ambitious surge in evangelization. Campus Crusade for Christ invited 100,000 high school and college-age young people to come for training in evangelism and spiritual growth. Each one attending Explo '72 was challenged to enlist four other young people, share the training received, and then—as an evangelizing force of 500,000—invade campuses across America with a witness for Christ! This could trigger an exciting spiritual explosion for God on college campuses everywhere. Let us pray it shall be so!

Forty thousand people paraded through the streets of downtown Mexico City to express their faith in Jesus Christ. The parade was filmed to be shown in 500 theaters throughout Mexico.

The first "Jesus festival" in Carnegie Hall attracted a full house of 3,000 ecstatic Jesus people. An overflow crowd of 500 was across the street in the auditorium of Calvary Baptist Church.

Chicago's beautiful McCormick Place has been filled with monthly "Jesus rallies" this year.

A recent survey in The Netherlands showed that 80 percent of the nation's three million TV sets were tuned in to a showing of the Moody Sermons in Science film series.

Consider the remarkable announcement made by the Far East Broadcasting Company. "In less time than it took you to read this far, FEBC radio signals have traveled around the world 70 times through 16 transmitters, in 36 languages and dialects, broadcasting 700 hours a week to 1,700,000,000 people in the primary target areas of Greater Asia, Oceania, and Latin America. . . . Because radio travels at the speed of light,

knowing no curtains, the Far East Broadcasting Company is using this modern miracle to proclaim to the world that 'Jesus Saves.'"

What does it mean? It means Jesus is coming! He is coming soon!

#### CHRIST'S RETURN—A MOTIVE FOR PERSONAL HOLINESS

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ is presented in the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit with a direct appeal to believers to live a holy life of preparedness for His imminent coming.

1. Jesus exhorted His followers to take care lest the pressures of daily life crush their spiritual life. "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34).

2. A holy life and a prayerful life are synonymous. No one can be holy without prayer. Hence the exhortation, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

3. Our very life as Christians flows from Christ. He is the Vine, and we are the branches. There is no life apart from Him. Abiding in Christ is an absolute necessity, particularly in the light of His return. "Abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:28).

4. The hope of the return of Christ is a deep incentive to the believer to live a life of constant readiness for His coming. "When He comes we will be like Him, as a result of seeing Him as He really is. And everyone who really believes this will try to stay pure because Christ is pure" (1 John 3:2, 3, *The Living Bible*).

5. Jesus is the living example of true holiness, and He said of Himself, "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). No follower of Jesus can be truly holy unless, like his Lord, he lives the outflowing, outreaching life of service. In His parable about the faithful servant and the unfaithful one, Jesus lauds the wisdom of the servant who lives in the light of the imminent, unannounced return of his master. "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing" (Matthew 24:46).

Martin Luther beautifully summarized the believer's relationship to his Lord's return. He said, "Let us live as though Christ were crucified yesterday, risen today, and coming tomorrow."

Perhaps Wendell Loveless has caught the spirit of the believer and end-time prophecy best in his words: "The Lord's return is so near that I am no longer looking *for signs*. I am listening *for sounds!*"

This article is abridged from a paper presented at a forum at the Council on Spiritual Life, Minneapolis. More than 35 forums met at the Council to discuss various phases of spiritual life. All these papers, together with the sermons and Bible studies, are included in the Council on Spiritual Life digest, *Live in the Spirit*, published by the Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri (\$3.95). Order number 02 EV 0536. Mention number and title when ordering. The book will be ready for mailing by December 15.

## READ IT EVERY DAY

CHAPTERS FOR  
OCTOBER 1-7

Sunday—Habakkuk 1-3  
Monday—Zephaniah 1-3  
Tuesday—Haggai 1, 2  
Wednesday—Zechariah 1-5  
Thursday—Zechariah 6-10  
Friday—Zechariah 11-14  
Saturday—Malachi 1-4

#### This Week's Memory Verse

"But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings" (Malachi 4:2).

# True righteousness

Sunday School Lesson for October 8, 1972

By J. BASHFORD BISHOP

MATTHEW 5:17-37

IN TODAY'S LESSON Christ described the kind of morality and character expected of those who belong to Him.

## THE NECESSARY RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jesus was accused of ignoring and setting aside the Law of Moses. Here He pointed out that far from setting aside the Law, He had introduced a new order in which the requirements are far more comprehensive than those of the old order (vv. 17-20).

It is necessary not only to be outwardly righteous like the Pharisees and to refrain from outward *acts* of evil; but we must also refrain from all evil thoughts and intents which cause the outward acts!

## MURDER VERSUS ANGER

Not only must a Christian refrain from the outward act of murder (vv. 21, 22); he must at any cost refrain from inner anger which issues in unchristian and damaging speech and may lead to quarreling, strife, and even murder!

## ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

Anger issues in wrong relationships to others. Here Jesus pointed out that devotions attempted when one is not rightly related to his fellowman are unacceptable. Therefore, when about to engage in devotions, if we are reminded by the Spirit of God that someone has something against us, we are to take the initiative and seek reconciliation with our brother (vv. 23, 24). Having done that, we are then in a position to offer unto our Lord devotion that is pleasing to Him.

## SETTLING DISPUTES AND DEBTS

Verses 25 and 26 are difficult and yet undoubtedly are an amplification of the previous verses. Here Christ urged us to pay debts and settle differences with others quickly—before these differences become more aggravated and complicated. Instead of contending for our rights, we are to graciously seek to settle matters quickly.

## INNER PURITY

The emphasis here is on abstinence—not only from immoral *acts* but from immoral *thoughts* as well (vv. 27-30). Christ said a man may be guilty of adultery without committing the act. But this certainly does not mean, as some have mistakenly concluded, that to think

adulterously is as bad as to commit adultery, and therefore that one might as well commit the act!

These verses make it clear that sexual sins begin in the mind. The statement, "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out," is not to be taken literally. While the eye may be a *channel* for sin, it is not the *source* of sin. The source is the *heart!* One must deal drastically with every suggestion of evil and cut it out of the mind lest it contaminate the heart and lead to acts of outward sin. In other words, in the power of the Spirit we are to shut the door of the mind to every evil suggestion and fill our minds with thoughts which are pure, true, and lovely. (See Philippians 4:8.)


## BASIC HONESTY

Christ's words in verses 33-37 may be summarized as follows: Have such a reputation for truthfulness that your simple word will be sufficient.

## RETALIATION AND FORBEARANCE

How often I used to hear this admonition from my mother: "Two wrongs never make a right." And though I tired of it then, how thankful I have been over the years for that lesson.

When we fight back, or seek to pay another back in kind for his treatment of us, we become like the person who wronged us. Christ's way is the way of non-resistance.

The best way to deal with those who wrong us is Christ's own way—"Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." We will be amazed at what happens if we will take seriously these very simple and clear admonitions of Christ! 

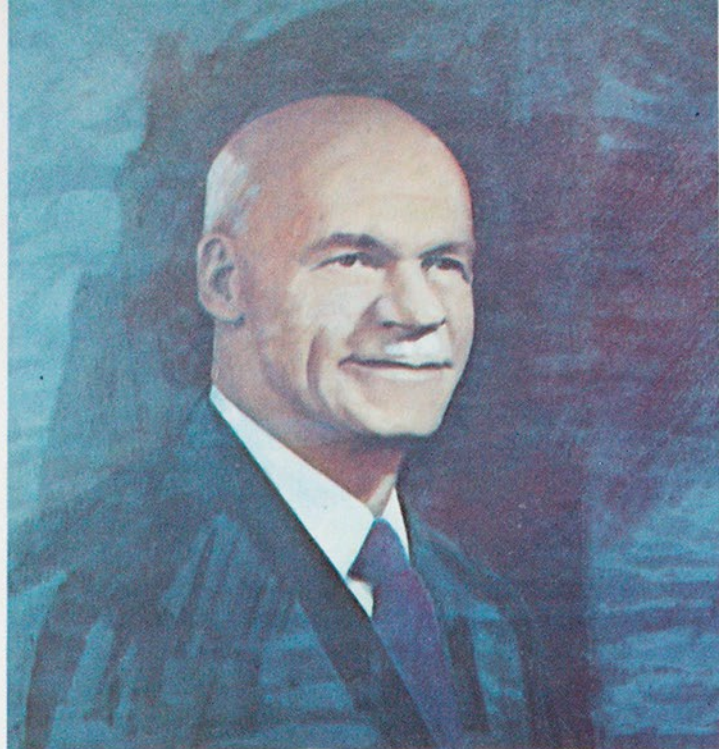
## JUST REMOVE THE BLINDFOLD!



"As each digit is added, the power is multiplied"—W. I. Evans

# POWER TO SHAKE THE WORLD

By E. S. CALDWELL



W. I. Evans served on the faculty of Central Bible College from 1929 through 1954.

**F**ROM HIS 25 YEARS on the faculty of Central Bible College, W. I. Evans is remembered most for his prayer life.

The 1955 CBC yearbook, *The Cup*, reflects this revered memory of their godly dean: "His life here was characterized by several outstanding traits. The first was his life of prayer and fellowship with God. He loved to spend the early morning hours in prayer and Bible study. From this prayer time he carried a sweet fragrance into faculty prayers and morning chapel."

According to his son Paul, the prayerful educator

discovered a formula about people gathering in seasons of intercession.

Here's how it came about. Brother Evans habitually arrived half an hour early at the faculty prayer sessions. He never looked up as other faculty members entered the room and knelt to pray. But as each began to pray, the dean sensed another had arrived. It was as though he possessed a built-in sensitivity that measured spiritual atmosphere as readily and as accurately as a barometer measures air pressure.

To W. I. Evans, prayer was not preparation for ministering; prayer was the apex of ministry. And he determined to exclude all distractions from his mind while at prayer. Yet he always became aware of the presence of others as they joined him in prayer.

What caused this awareness? It was not the sound of people entering the room or even of other voices joining in fervent prayer. It was something else—the room began to be charged more and more with God's presence.

He discovered that the spiritual atmosphere intensified in relationship to the number engaged in intercession. That seemed reasonable.

## The church can't

TO AN ALARMING DEGREE the church has taken the place of God in the lives of many people. This 20th-century goddess salves the conscience of the worshipers who think they are doing God a service. They find great comfort in believing they are patrons of God.

They leave the welfare of their souls to their minister. He was hired to perform their religious exercises for them, and they are happy to be relieved of the responsibility.

What a false foundation! Did the church die for the redemption of man? Can brick and mortar bleed and die to take us to heaven? Only faith in the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary is sufficient to ensure forgiveness of sins. No church can save a man's soul. God has given to no man on earth the power to forgive sins.

Perhaps you have merely joined a church without experiencing a change of heart. You believe in the

Lord; you have tried to live a Christian life yet like the rich young ruler who sought the Lord, you realize there is something you yet lack.

If this has been your experience, you ought to follow the counsel that Jesus gave to this young man—rid yourself of every encumbrance and begin following Christ.

If you want spiritual life instead of mere ritual and outward show, you must approach God as a sinner who needs pardon. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." And we are promised in the Bible, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Perhaps the reason you fail to live a Christian life is that you are trying to do it in your own strength. If you will accept Christ as your Saviour, old things will pass away and all things will become new; for "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Co-

But another observation was yet to be made—the observation that produced his remarkable formula.

Over the years W. I. Evans concluded that while the intensity of spiritual power did ascend as more people were involved in prayer, it was not in direct ratio to the number of intercessors. The spiritual energy present when 10 were in prayer much more than doubled the intensity he sensed with five praying!

Allowing for differences in the individuals who were at prayer, and allowing for the variations of concern about prayer petitions occupying the group's attention, this fact persisted—the more persons participated, the greater the power. And this power increased in a greater degree than could be explained by merely counting the number in the room.

Brother Evans summarized his deductions with these words: "As each digit is added, the power is multiplied." There's a remarkable formula for prayer power in those words.

The question must be asked: Is it scriptural? I think it is.

This multiplication-of-power formula manifests itself in Leviticus 26:8. The Lord promises His people: "Five of you shall chase a hundred"—that's pretty good, one Israelite pursuing 20 enemies. But the percentage gets better: "And a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight." Now the ratio is upped until every Hebrew has sufficient power to cause 100 opponents to run in panic.

Every year *Revivaltime* sponsors a carefully prepared prayer effort called World Prayermeeting. The Women's Missionary Council and Men's Department assist in promoting participation.

Each year more churches and prayer groups register as part of this great prayer session.

For some reason known to God alone, the power of intercessory prayer *multiplies* as more are *added* to

World Prayermeeting. In 1966 there were 44,510 intercessors registered. The results were good. Last year almost double that number prayed—84,499 people in 1,770 prayer groups. The testimonies of answered prayer were absolutely fantastic! As nearly as we can determine, far more than twice the power of the 1966 prayer effort was manifested in 1971.

That's why we want to urge you and your church to participate in this year's *Revivaltime* World Prayermeeting scheduled for November 19. We're concerned with a great deal more than adding numbers; *we're concerned with multiplying prayer power.*

Of course, you don't have to wait until November to discover for yourself the truth behind W. I. Evans' formula. The next time you join others in a season of prayer, make a point of getting there early. Kneel in prayer and see if you cannot feel the atmosphere become increasingly charged with God's presence as others begin to intercede with you.

Much has been said about the value and importance of praying alone—and the worth of secret prayer should not be minimized. But we need to be reminded of the dynamics of group prayer.

Remember, it was upon 120 gathered in prayer that the Fire fell (Acts 1:15; 2:1, 2). In the next prayer meeting, the very building shook with the intensified power of a "company" of believers at prayer (Acts 4:23-31).

And what we need today is power to shake the world! That kind of power is only available as believers make a determined effort to unite in prayer.

We must utilize the formula W. I. Evans expressed: "As each digit is added, the power is multiplied."

It is time to join each other in prayer until the power multiplies to shake our towns—our nation—our world!

## save you!

rinthians 5:17). And with the nature of Christ within, you will be able to lead a life pleasing to God.

In the Old Testament there is this promise: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26). This is the "new covenant" spoken of in Hebrews 8:8. This heart-renovating operation is a most glorious work, and with the "new spirit" put within us we truly become sons of God. "Hereby *know* we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit" (1 John 4:13).

As the Scripture says, "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith*" (2 Corinthians 13:5). If you have been trusting in church membership or something other than the blood of Christ to save you, your hope is false. Trust Christ with your soul; yield your life to Him today as your Lord, and He will give you the joy of salvation.

—The Witness

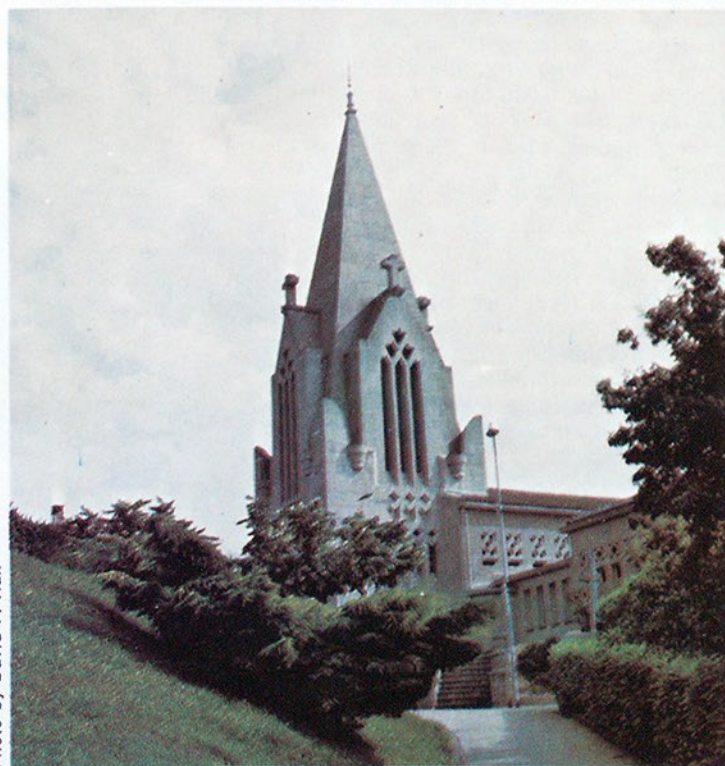


Photo by David F. Hall

## Council on Spiritual Life draws 7,500 in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—Attendance at the Council on Spiritual Life peaked the final night when 7,500 came to hear Robert Harrison speak on "The Believer's Relationship to the World."

Official registration for the three nights and two days of concentrated Bible studies, forums, and united worship sessions reached 4,216. Leaders expressed pleasure over the large number of laymen, including many families, who attended in addition to the hundreds of ministers present.

### Capacity Crowds

Capacity crowds were reported at the special meetings for children and young people which were held in conjunction with the Council.

The Minneapolis Auditorium was two-thirds filled the opening night to hear an address by T. F. Zimmerman on "Be Filled With the Spirit." Attendance the second night was even larger when Richard D. Dobbins spoke on "The Believers' Relationship to Each Other."

Bible studies on Ephesians and Galatians were led by Leland R. Keys and G. Raymond Carlson. From 3,500 to 4,000 assembled each morning to enjoy these studies of the Word of God.

### Popular Forums

Some 37 forums, on a variety of topics ranging from The Jesus Movement to The Christian View of Death, were among the most popular features of the Council. Format of the forums included presentation of a paper on the topic followed by a panel discussion and audience participation. All sessions were recorded and will be included in the Council on Spiritual Life Digest, a large book which will be published this fall by the Gospel Publishing House under the title, "Live in the Spirit."

The forum papers and the interaction of participants are expected to influence future planning of Assemblies of God programs and emphases.

### Themes for 1974 to 1979

A visual presentation by a

committee projecting priorities for the 70s, with yearly themes for 1974 to 1979, was given on Tuesday afternoon.

The themes and scriptural bases are: 1974—Ready Always (1 Peter 3:15); 1975—Come, Lord Jesus (Revelation 22:20); 1976—Free Indeed (John 8:36); 1977—Walk Worthy (Ephesians 4:1); 1978—All Things Are Possible (Matthew 19:26); and 1979—Lord, Send Me (Isaiah 6:8).

Announcement was made of plans for a national training institute for district leadership to be held in December 1973. The institute will be the springboard for similar intensive training institutes on the district, sectional, and local levels throughout 1974. Purpose of the institutes is to prepare laymen and ministers of the church to better serve both in the church and in its outreach.

### Key 73

On Wednesday afternoon, a visual presentation showed anticipated involvement of the Assemblies of God in the transdenominational evangelis-

tic thrust of Key 73. General Superintendent T. F. Zimmerman, who is chairman of the Key 73 executive committee, said the effort now involves 130 denominations.

"Key 73 will be the most comprehensive uniting of different types of Christians for a common purpose in the history of the church," Brother Zimmerman said. "But it will not succeed simply because we have a continent-wide program of 'Calling Our Continent to Christ.' To effectively confront people with Jesus Christ, individual Christians must become involved. Our hope is that Christians everywhere will in their own way bring Christ to those within their personal spheres of influence."

The Council on Spiritual Life was the second nonlegislative council in the 58-year history of the Assemblies of God. The first was a Council on Evangelism held in St. Louis in 1968.

The next national meeting of the Assemblies of God will be the biennial General Council scheduled for Miami Beach, Aug. 16-21, 1973.

*Peak attendance at the Council on Spiritual Life was 7500. More than 4000 registered for the three-day convention. This was the second non-legislative council of the Assemblies of God.*



PHOTO BY PHIL STOVALL

## FINDS JESUS PEOPLE IN FILIPINO PROVINCES

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Seven young people were baptized on a beach here, marking the entry of Jesus people into provincial centers of the Philippines.

Most converts are former drug addicts and school dropouts. Others are homeless youth who have drifted into this commercial center from rural areas, he said.

Shouting "Praise God!" and "One Way!" they are aggressive in evangelism.

## Fifth of Swedish infants born out of wedlock

STOCKHOLM—Nearly one-fifth of all infants born in Sweden arrive out of wedlock, according to Erland Hofsten, head of the country's statistical bureau.

"Nothing like it is happening elsewhere in Europe," Hofsten said. He indicated marriage in Sweden is rapidly going out of style.

## Life span shortens in three nations

GENEVA—The United States is among three countries listed in a World Health Organization survey showing a decrease in life expectancy for men.

The figures dropped from 66.7 years to 66.6 years in the period between 1958 and 1968.

Life expectancy for women, on the other hand, went up from 73.0 years to 74.1 years.

## Korea—next Explo site

MODESTO, CALIF.—Bill Bright, who organized the Explo '72 gathering of young people in Dallas, said here that the next Explo will be held in Korea in 1974 and the attendance goal for it will be 300,000.

The original Explo (June 12-17, 1972) drew some 85,000 young people to Dallas, Texas, for a week-long evangelism seminar.

## AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY REPORTS ON A/G ASSISTANCE IN 1971

NEW YORK — The American Bible Society, in its 1972 report to the Assemblies of God, noted that more than 90 million copies of Scripture were distributed in the United States in 1971, and that the total number of languages into which at least one book of the Bible has been translated over the years is 1,457.

The ABS, in cooperation with 49 other members of the United Bible Societies, placed over 173 million Scriptures in circulation worldwide in 1971.

Through their overseas activity, the Bible societies and the Assemblies of God cooperate in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. In Burma, for example, where there are more than 135 Assemblies of God churches, the two organizations cooperated on a special project.

There was a shortage of Scriptures in Burma, due to import restrictions, but two years ago the ban was temporarily lifted, and the Assemblies of God raised \$50,000 to provide Bibles for Burma. As a result,

### Sees Russia tightening

## Judge questions loose U.S. marriages

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senior U.S. District Judge Luther Youngdahl warned that America's loose approach to marriage is seriously endangering U.S. society at a time when atheistic Russia is putting great stress on family permanence.

In a speech at Augustana Lutheran Church here, the jurist criticized U.S. "trial marriages," citing them as warnings that the deterioration of the family is at hand. "There is an ominous similarity to the disintegration

more than 167,000 Scriptures were distributed in 1970 and almost 217,000 in 1971.

In 1972 the Assemblies of God pledged \$50,000 toward producing the New Testament in Today's Chinese Version. Completion of this project is scheduled for 1973.

The ABS reported that by June 30, over \$19,000 had been received from the Assemblies of God for this Chinese translation.

Churches of all denominations contributed over \$1.2 million last year to operations of the American Bible Society. The Assemblies of God provided \$20,218 of that amount, a sum amounting to less than 4c per member.

Taken as a whole, the churches of America provided only 14 percent of the Society's budget in 1971, the lowest in more than 12 years.

The report urged more churches to support the Bible Society so it can provide God's Word to more people in every part of the world.

of the family when Rome declined," he said.

Judge Youngdahl stated that home and family relationships, because they are closest and earliest, "do most to mold a child's personality and behavior . . . and ultimately influence the kind of marriage which results when the children grow up."

The judge advocated a revival of the family reunion which "arouses pride in one's ancestry, and will make man more interested in perpetuating the good name and standing of his people."

He quoted Soviet Professor V. N. Kalbanouski as saying, "The relations between men and women should be permanent." The Russian added: "Husband and wife should share each other's interests, help each other in their work and in the home. They must also serve their country. Life for such married couples will never be dull or empty."

Getting a divorce in Russia, Youngdahl said, is "like a tough obstacle course."

The judge said despite his observations on current society, he has an abiding conviction that "Christian homes will survive the shocks of the future, if they are truly Christian and have love as a foundation."

## Liberals treat unborn child 'like cancer'

PHILADELPHIA—A leader of the New York State Legislature's attempt to repeal the state's liberal abortion law has assailed "liberals" for treating an unborn child "as if it were a cancer or excrement."

Delivering the keynote address at the third annual convention of the National Right to Life Committee here, New York State Senator James H. Donovan said that as a result of the legislature's action, "other Americans who still hold

their traditional principles of compassion, morality, and individual freedom will not stand quietly for the killing under the law of the most defenseless of human beings—the unborn child."

American liberals, he said, "have gone too far when in the name of women's equal rights, and in the name of the right of a woman to control her own destiny, they advocate the murdering of unborn children at any time after conception by abortion. They treat an unborn child, if you will, as if it were cancer or excrement."

### Court rules

## Mother can be anonymous in death of fetus

NEW YORK—A New York State Supreme Court justice ruled that a woman who has an abortion does not have to be identified by name and address on the fetal death certificate.

Justice Samuel A. Spiegel struck down a nonstatutory requirement of New York City's Department of Health. He said it is "arbitrary and capricious" to require a record of the woman's name and address, calling it an "unlawful invasion of privacy."

The justice added that the requirement could prove embarrassing to both married and single women who have had abortions.

## Couples clamor for adoptive babies

ANNANDALE, VA.—The demand for babies to adopt is greater than those available, and the gap is growing wider, according to Mrs. Dorothy Garrett, director of the Northern Virginia chapter of Birthright International.

The latest statistics indicate that some 800,000 couples in the United States want to adopt children, but only 90,000 infants are available, she said.

This is a "message" which isn't making much headway during these days of clamor for liberalized abortion, Mrs. Garrett told EP News Service.

## CATHOLICS CHANGING POSITION ON DIVORCE?

CHICAGO—The Roman Catholic Church, viewed by most as a bastion against change—especially in its unyielding opposition to divorce—may be re-evaluating its position.

A clergyman in the Archdiocese of Chicago says there "have been in recent years changes in matrimonial procedures so it may be possible to grant decrees of annulity where it was not possible in the past."

One of the most significant changes is the consideration of psychological factors which "may have made the marriage invalid," the Rev. John D'Amore said.

25th ANNUAL

# PFNA CONVENTION

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IT WAS THURSDAY EVENING, March 4, 1971. A capacity crowd—115,000 people—overflowed the huge Fonte Nova soccer stadium at Salvador, Bahia, which Brazil's president, General Medici, and other authorities had just dedicated. The inaugural game was on.

Then suddenly—*CRASH!*

"This place is collapsing!" cried a spectator as he fled from an upper tier of seats.

That was all it took to trigger a horrible panic that instantly sent thousands of fans rushing forward, trampling over one another in a mad scramble to get to the ground and safety.

The game stopped. TV cameras focused instead on the human avalanche that poured down in utter frenzy. It was every man for himself!

The sturdy retaining fence, purposely built there to keep spectators off the playing field, was crumpled by the crazed multitude of men, women, and children who were shoved or recklessly threw themselves to the ground below, convinced that the structure was crumbling! There was absolutely nothing that anyone, not even the President, could do to stop the tragedy.

Before the frightful stampede was over, 2,086 people had been taken to hospitals for treatment of broken bones and bruises, and some lay dead!

What really had happened? Had the gigantic stadium, one of the world's largest, really weakened? The architect, hastily summoned before TV cameras, was at a total loss to say; he was too far away.

Days later, with the structure still standing intact, it was learned that the whole sad affair had been caused by someone throwing a pop bottle at someone else! Those nearest by supposed the crashing sound to be a concrete beam cracking. They ran for their lives, thus triggering the panic.

Spiritual tragedies happen because of suppositions.

The jailer at Philippi, the night Paul and Silas were held in the inner jail, panicked when the earthquake hit at midnight. Knowing only too well the severity of Roman laws for losing prisoners and seeing the jail demolished, he imagined the worst. "*Supposing* that the prisoners had been fled" (Acts 16:27) and that his life would be forfeited, this desperate man drew his sword and was ready to plunge it into his own heart. But Paul cried through a crack in the rubble, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here!"

How near that man came to going into eternity lost—all on supposition!

That is why Satan is so busy getting men to accept his suggestions. That is why some commit suicide. They assume *there is no danger of being lost* since a God of love, they reason, couldn't possibly send His children to hell. This supposition fails to reckon with God's moral government which is one of justice as well as love. And it fails to consider the true nature of sin as rebellion against God.

There are many who vainly suppose there is *no way of being sure* of their soul's salvation. They point to apparent differences of doctrine within the religious community and so give up in despair. Yet Jesus has declared, "*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!*" (John

8:32). He also said, "I am the way, the *truth*, and the life" (John 14:6).

Not a few suppose that *being a good parent, a respectable citizen, and a kind neighbor* automatically qualifies one for heaven. But Jesus said to a self-righteous man named Nicodemus, "Except a man be *born again*, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

*How can we get past such suppositions* and find a solid foundation on which our souls can rest? Paul, when confronted with the panicked sword-wielding jailer, said it in the fewest possible words: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

Don't act on flimsy suppositions, as did those Brazilian soccer fans who set off a human avalanche of suffering and death; but place your feet firmly on the solid Rock—Jesus Christ the Saviour and glorified King. You'll not be disappointed.

Paul, in his final word before he was martyred, wrote these words of assurance: "Nevertheless I am *not ashamed*; for I know whom I have believed, and *am persuaded* that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

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## SUPPOSING

