

PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

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

JANUARY 26, 1975 / FIFTEEN CENTS



February is
Home Missions
Rally Month

Compassion compels evangelism
Is Jesus really coming back?
Rescue!
The supernatural—a priority of pioneering
A time to die
Tripping over the trivia

**'In everything you do,
stay away from complaining
and arguing'**

PHILIPPIANS 2:14
Living Bible, Paraphrased

I complained . . .

"I don't want to get up this morning and go to work."
Then I saw some people who were sick and couldn't work. . . .
"The kids are driving me nuts, running all the time."
Then I saw crippled children who couldn't run and play. . . .
"It's just too noisy around here."
Then I noticed a man who couldn't hear anything. . . .
"I'm sick and tired of looking at this same old place."
Then I saw a woman who was blind. . . .
I thought about my blessings and prayed, "Thank You, God."

—CAROLYN SHOOK in *Vital Christianity*

Seeing His hands and feet

*Lord, when I am weary with toiling
And burdensome seem Thy commands,
If my load should lead to complaining,
Lord, show me Thy hands—
Thy nail-pierced hands,
Thy cross-torn hands!
Lord, show me Thy hands.*

*Christ, if my footsteps should falter
And I be prepared to retreat,
If desert or thorn cause lamenting,
Lord, show me Thy feet—
Thy bleeding feet,
Thy nail-pierced feet!
Jesus, show me Thy feet.*

*O God, dare I show Thee
My hands and my feet?*

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

On tying bricks to flicking tails

Two farm workers met on their way home at the close of day. One of them had a black eye.

"How did you get that?" the other asked.

"Well, the old cow has a habit of flicking her tail in my face, so I tied a brick to it," the first replied.

It's easy to make that mistake. Few of us can manage to stay beyond the range of the flicking tail. Life has a wide assortment of annoyances and exasperations for all of us.

Some folk seem to have a happy knack of lessening their troubles—and it's surprising how often this can be done when we make up our minds to do it. Others, like the black-eyed worker, just aggravate their trials by a well-meant but foolish attempt to relieve them.

A man in financial difficulty goes in for heavy borrowing instead of cutting back on his spending. A woman unable to sleep well forms the habit of

taking drugs. Another feels lonely and depressed and turns to liquor. And so a bad situation is made worse.

A more common form of tying bricks to flicking tails is by developing a resentful attitude toward life's unpleasant experiences. "Why should I be treated this way?" we ask.

Sometimes we develop ill will toward others. We may resort to self-pity or lying and cheating. We may become discouraged and lose interest in the church and spiritual matters.

In all this we are actually playing into the hands of the devil. And the hardships become harder, the loads heavier.

Beware of tying bricks to your troubles. It's a lot better to put up with relatively small annoyances than to take stunning blows.

The believer can take his problems to the Lord and so face life with courage, integrity, kindness, forgiveness—and cheerfulness.

—M. P. HORBAN

THE FIRST sight you see at the Telstar setup at Andover, Maine, is a large sign saying, "Earth Station for communicating by satellites."

Then as you come up the road you see a huge white bubble. It looks like a giant beach ball sitting in the Maine woods. It is a 12-story plastic and synthetic rubber radome, covering the giant horn antenna that sends and receives the signal from the Telstar satellite.

The horn is 180 feet long, 95 feet high, and weighs 380 tons. This huge apparatus has to run with the precision of a fine watch and turn on its steel rail sometimes only a fraction of an inch.

Do you know how they keep the track shiny and clean so this huge horn will be able to move freely? A 19-cent brush is installed in front of the wheels to remove any dust or dirt from the track!

A 19-cent brush makes it possible for a multimillion dollar antenna to focus properly on the Telstar satellite!

WE MUST NOT be blind to the importance of little things. Oceans are made up of drops of water. Mountains are composed of grains of sand. Centuries have their years; years have their days; and days are built with hours and moments.

Little foxes spoil vines as surely as do camels or elephants. The little crack dulls the clear ringing of the bell. One loose rivet can down an aircraft, and one hole in the hull can sink a boat.

A group of men were carrying on a friendly conversation. One of them remarked he had learned to be especially careful about small things. "Would you believe," he said, "that a little thing like a pair of socks changed the entire course of my life?"

"I can hardly believe that," replied another man.

"Well, it's true! Once I planned to take a trip with some of my friends on a canal boat, but two

days before we intended to leave, I injured my foot while chopping wood. It was only a small cut, but the blue dye in the homemade socks I wore poisoned the wound, and I was compelled to stay at home.

"While my friends were on their journey, a powerful preacher came to our town to hold revival meetings. Since I didn't have anything else to do, I decided to attend. The message touched me deeply, and as a result I surrendered my heart to the Lord.

"Afterward I saw that I needed to change my life in many ways. New desires and purposes took hold of me. I determined also to seek an education, for I trusted that this would enable me to live more usefully for my Lord."

The man who made those comments was none other than a former President of the United States—James A. Garfield.

Don't treat lightly the "little things" in life. They often gravitate to great and important consequences.

NOT LONG AGO someone interviewed an overland traveler who had walked on foot from California's Golden Gate to New York.

"What was the greatest difficulty you encountered on the long journey?" he asked. "Was it the mountains?"

"No."

"Was it the weather?"

"No. What almost defeated me was the sand in my shoes."

We are forever tripping over trivial things.

It is not the earth-shaking troubles that wreck a life, but the succession of trifles.

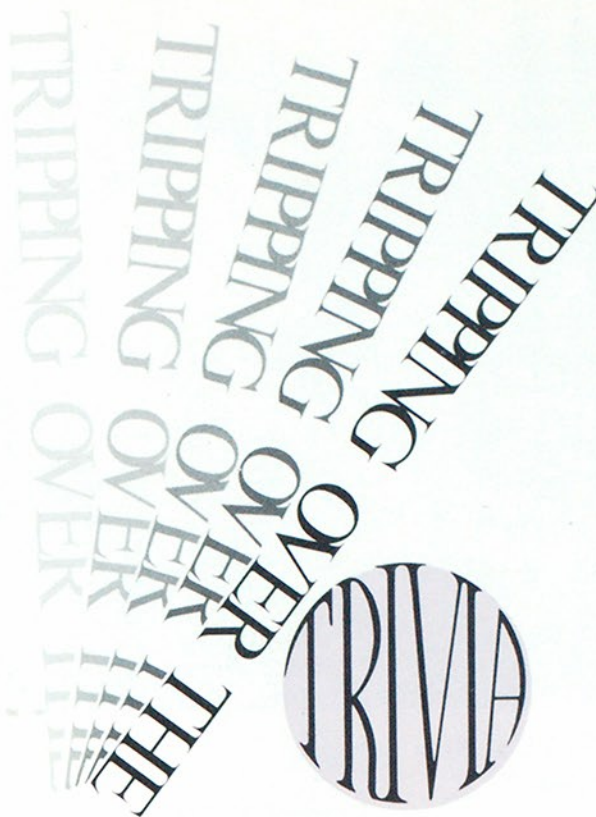
May God give us victory over the little things! If we overcome the trivia, we will make the journey successfully.

BY THE SAME TOKEN we need to be careful about the little things in our lives that create problems for others.

A harsh tone in the voice, a cynical shrug of the shoulder, a stony silence under provocative circumstances are the kind of things real problems are made of.

Somewhere I read a little prayer that can help a person build the "tremendous trifles" into a mountain of good will:

"Please, dear God . . . keep me remembering that there are others in this world besides myself. Please keep me from being sand in the gears of life."



By MORRIS CHALFANT



The prayers and search of a New Jersey congregation were rewarded

John N. De Sanctis (second from left), pastor of Glad Tidings Church in New Shrewsbury, New Jersey, leads members of his church into the woods to search for Diana Hicks.

RESCUE!

WHAT HAPPENS when a 13-year-old daughter of a family in your congregation is lost?

That was the problem facing the members of Glad Tidings Church (Assemblies of God), New Shrewsbury, New Jersey, early in December.

Thirteen-year-old Diana Hicks had gone horseback riding on a Saturday, renting a horse at a riding stable. The animal apparently threw her as she was on a trail in a densely wooded area.

A companion noticed Diana's horse wandering around riderless and contacted the family. They searched for her for several hours before notifying authorities that she was lost.

Policemen, firemen, motorcyclists, horseback riders, and Coast Guard helicopters all searched for Diana without success.

The search continued into Sunday through blustery winds and chilling rain. Finally authorities decided to call it off, assuming the girl had been kidnapped.

But members at Glad Tidings

Church, who had organized for prayer as soon as they received word that Diana was lost, started a search of their own.

Colin Black, a staff writer for the *Asbury Park Press* and a member of Glad Tidings Church, was one of the rescuers who found Diana on December 1, 1974. Here's how he described the event for newspaper readers:

"PRAISE GOD for answering our prayers!"

Those were the first words of the searchers who found Diana Lynn Hicks at 3:55 p.m. yesterday.

I was among seven of the searchers who first reached the dazed 13-year-old girl, who scrambled out of thick briars and into the arms of her rescuers.

Her face was pale and scratched from the briars, and her dark hair was matted from the cold rain that had drenched her periodically dur-

ing the 24 hours she was lost in the dense woods. But she appeared in excellent condition, considering the ordeal.

"What are you doing here?" she asked her uncle, John Allen, who was among the searchers who pulled her small thin body free of the briars as we ran up to help.

"We've been looking for you..." he managed to answer, but his voice was swallowed by a sob. "Thank God... you're all right!"

About 60 members of Glad Tidings Church, Assemblies of God, New Shrewsbury, had been searching the woods for more than an hour. Diana's parents are members of the church.

Those closest to the girl ripped off their heavy jackets to wrap around her, while the others went wild with joy and leaped through the woods. All took a moment to thank God for the wilderness deliverance.

The Rev. John N. De Santis, the church's pastor, was standing beside me when the girl was found. He cried out with joy.

"Praise God!" he shouted. "What a mighty God we serve!"

The girl was picked up gently by the church brethren, who took turns carrying her from the woods. One of the men dashed ahead of the party



Thirteen-year-old Diana Hicks, missing in the woods for 24 hours, is carried on the back of one of her rescuers.

to give the glad tidings to the others.

"I was just out riding. . . . I'm looking for my horse," the girl told her rescuers.

"That's all right," the Rev. Mr. De Sanctis said. "Don't try to talk. The horse went back to the stable."

The rescue party carried Diana to an open field where a car sped her back to Bill French's Riding Stable. An ambulance rushed her from

there to Jersey Shore Medical Center.

The church members began searching for her around 2:45 p.m. after policemen and firemen had given up the search. . . .

We had been shouting back and forth at each other while combing the woods. I think this may have

partly revived the girl and attracted her to the search party.

The church had begun a prayer vigil for Diana shortly after she was reported missing.

During its service yesterday morning, special prayers were offered for her deliverance and a call was issued for search volunteers. The Rev. Mr. De Sanctis, a retired Army officer, cut the service short to organize the search party early in the day.

After the girl was returned to the riding academy, a large group of other church members gathered near the stable began crying and laughing with joy. They had come armed with coffee, sandwiches, and Bibles.

"Thank God for answered prayer!" one woman shouted, falling to her knees in the mud.

The Rev. Mr. De Sanctis was still glowing with joy.

"This is one of the great moments of our church," he said. "Praise God who has done so much for us!"

THE RESCUE was publicized not only in the *Asbury Park Press* with its circulation of 125,000, but also in the million-circulation *New York Daily News*—and church members were careful to give God the credit for helping them find Diana.

Thank God for the miracle of answered prayer in rescuing the lost. That was the response of members of Glad Tidings Church. We rejoice with them.

But the incident also makes us stop and think. Are we always as concerned about those who have lost their way spiritually? Are we willing to make their rescue a matter of fervent prayer and concerted action?

The apostle James put it this way: "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:19, 20).

[Signature]

DURING World War II the American forces had just won a resounding victory in Europe. The editor of a small newspaper in the Midwest, wanting to give the report the widest possible publicity, instructed his printer to splash it on the front page.

In due course the printer presented a proof bearing a banner headline which seemed designed for the blind.

The editor wasn't satisfied. "Is that the largest type you've got?" he demanded.

"Well," admitted the printer half apologetically, "I do have one size larger, but I was saving that for the Second Coming!"

But is Christ coming back? May

we reasonably expect Him to reenter history and assume the leading role in world affairs? Does He, after a lapse of almost 2,000 years, intend to return as literally as does an astronaut who has been to the moon?

If He really is coming back, it will be the greatest news story ever.

When Ronald Allison, a British Broadcasting Corporation newsman and journalist, was asked in a television interview what item of news he would most wish to broadcast to the world, he unhesitatingly replied, "The news of the second coming of Christ!"

What an electrifying announcement that will be! For nobody but Jesus is able to tackle the titanic tasks of a world ruler today; nobody but He is competent to unravel the tangled skein of human affairs; nobody but He is big enough to grapple with the great and growing problems now clamoring for solution.

And if He is not coming back to assume such responsibilities, then there is no hope for humanity.

George Bernard Shaw, who will certainly not be suspected of any special leanings toward the Second

Is Jesus really coming back?

By IAN MACPHERSON



Coming, felt compelled to confess: "I am ready to admit that, after contemplating the world and human nature for nearly 60 years, I see no way out of the world's misery but the way which would have been found by Christ's will if He had undertaken the work of a modern practical statesman."

That is precisely what Christ purposes to be! It is His role to rule, not only in heaven, but on earth.

Publicly to proclaim that striking hour will be to make the greatest statement in the history of news-casting.

BUT IS HE really coming back?

In all honesty there is no precedent for it. Nobody in his right mind looks for a similar reappearance by any other great personality of the past. They are all dead and gone.

After the assassination of Ghandi, a group of his followers assembled to pray. For a while their devotions proceeded quietly enough. But all at once someone broke out: "Come back, Mahatma! Come back! You've been dead 3 days. Come back!"

But Ghandi didn't return. The dead never do.

What rational grounds have we for assuming and asserting that to this universal rule a single exception will be made in favor of Jesus Christ? We have numerous solid bases for believing that He will. Let me mention just two of them here:

First, we believe that Jesus will come back to the earth because He himself expected to do so and forecast that He would.

On that score there cannot be the slightest doubt. As William Neil states in the introduction to his commentary on Thessalonians: "It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the initial impetus to the Church's belief in the return of Christ was given by our Lord himself."

Second, we believe that Christ

will come back in the future because He has already come back in the past. His resurrection is presumptive proof of His return. He who came from the *clouds* will come from the *clouds*.

The amazing thing is that so few professing Christians today cherish what Titus 2:13 calls that "blessed [literally, happy] hope" at all. Surely if there is even the remotest possibility that the Rapture will happen, the prospect ought to thrill with holy joy the heart of every follower of Jesus!

But no! Many modern Christians give the impression of being embarrassed by the bare mention of it and would almost rather exclude it from their creeds.

Nothing, then, at this juncture in Christian history could exceed in practical importance the inquiry: Is Jesus Christ really coming back to earth?

You will find four broad answers to this question.

IT IS A MISTAKE. One of these answers claims that the Advent expectation was, from the first, a mistake.

There are those who do not hesitate to charge even our Lord Jesus himself with error. They allege that, under the influence of current Jewish apocalyptic ideas, Jesus sincerely believed that, after His departure from the world, He would return to His disciples; but He was wrong.

Here is what some of these people teach:

"The hope that Christ will reappear in physical manifestation," declares John Mayor, "is not held nowadays by educated people."

"The second coming of Christ from the skies," says Harry Emerson Fosdick, "is an outmoded phrasing of hope."

"The first Christians looked for

the immediate return of Christ and with it the end of the 'present age,'" observes Hugh Burnaby; "we must conclude that the expectation was based on a misapprehension."

"Paul was completely wrong," affirms J. D. Pearse-Higgins, "in his idea of a Second Coming and the sudden transformation of the still living into etheric or spiritual bodies like those of such as had already died and were expected to return on the clouds of heaven with Christ."

So according to theological liberalism, the hope of the Second Coming from the start has been a mistake, an error into which even our Lord himself lapsed and which He passed on to His followers.

IT IS A MYSTERY. The second reply to the hope of Christ's personal return is that it is an inscrutable mystery.

To try to read a book through its covers is hard enough, these doubters say, but it is simplicity itself compared with trying to read the future. They claim that attempting to peer "between the pages of the unopened years" is both impious and impossible.

Though some have tried to do this, these people claim their forecasts have been so vague as to be quite valueless.

Even the Book of Revelation, they tell us, is to be dismissed as "history in hysterics," a document that no one can make heads nor tails of.

Faith in the Second Coming is an effort to find meaning in a mystery, they claim, an effort foredoomed to failure and frustration.

IT IS A MYTH. The third reply is that the hope of the Second Coming is just a myth.

"It is evident," writes Oliver Chase Quick, "that the notions of a Last Day and a Second Advent are not to be taken literally at all."

"In the New Testament," according to William Barclay, we have "a

picture in terms of a world view which is simply no longer tenable. It is seen in terms of a universe where heaven is somewhere above the sky, and from which the Lord comes down, and to which He and His people will go up. We can no longer take this picture literally in the spatial sense of the term. The truth which this picture contains must be symbolic."

"I suppose few of us believe literally in the Second Coming anymore," confesses Hugh Montefiore. "We pay lip service to the idea in the creeds, but at best we would say it is symbolism."

Thus many maintain that the Advent faith is a mere myth.

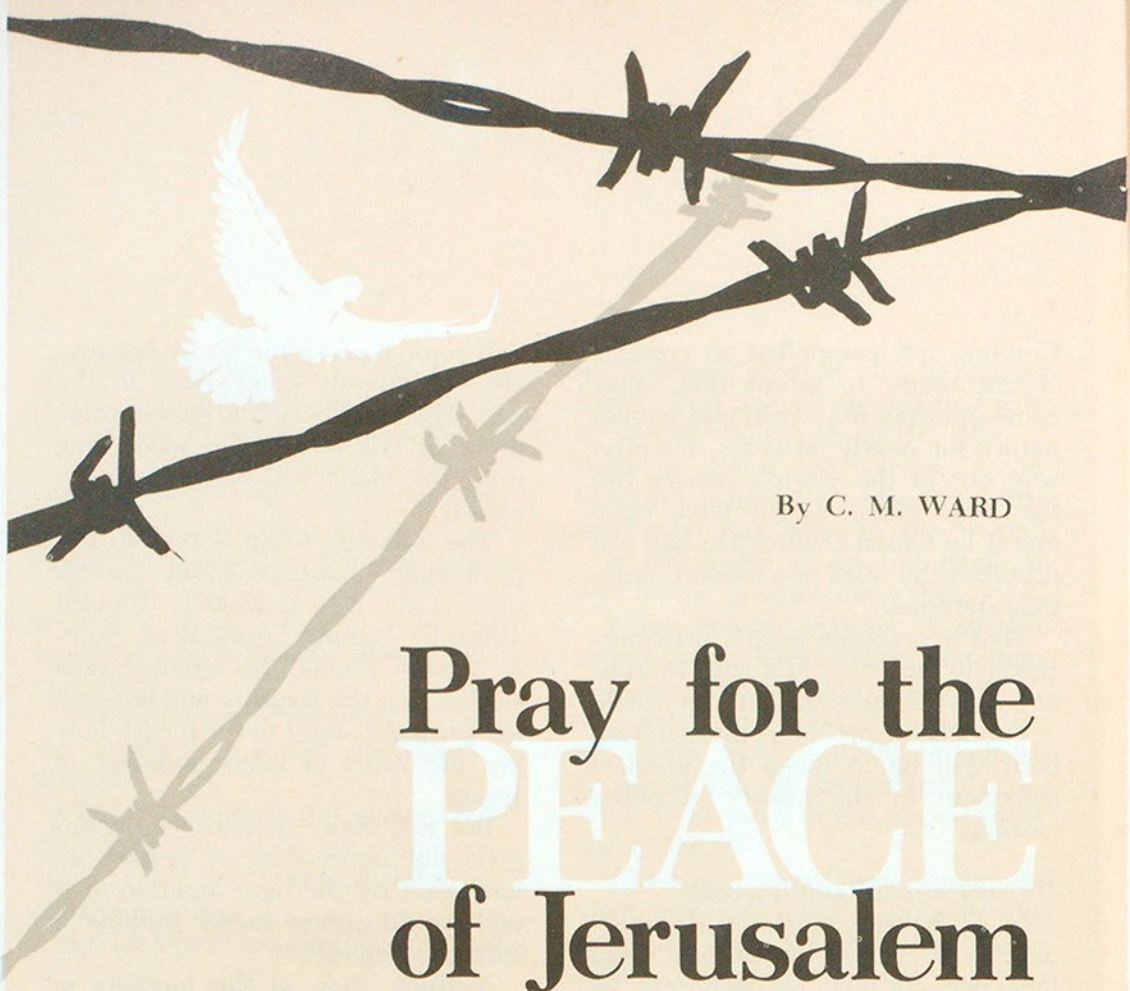
IT IS A MIGHTY MANIFESTATION. The fourth and final reply is that our Lord's personal return will be a mighty manifestation.

This faith is firmly grounded on the Word of the God who could not be false without denying His own nature. "It was impossible for God to lie" (Hebrews 6:18).

The Advent faith is no mistake. Nor is it an impenetrable mystery. It is founded on the testimony of One to whose all-knowing mind the future is already a present reality, and to whom therefore its events are no mystery. "I am God, and there is none like me; declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done" (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

The prospect of Christ's reappearance on this planet is so rooted in passage after passage of the Bible, and these passages are so obviously factual, that to interpret them other than literally would be almost to treat them as if they were untrue.

The New Testament speaks of the "promise of his coming" (2 Peter 3:4). Some promises may be made to be broken; but not this one. Jesus really is coming back to earth again!



By C. M. WARD

Pray for the PEACE of Jerusalem

THAT IMPERATIVE, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6), is given because peace on this planet cannot be achieved until there is peace in that city.

Peace seems remote. Yosef Tekoah of Israel faces Yasir Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization at the United Nations.

Palestinian aggressiveness matches Israeli intransigence.

Tekoah faces great disadvantage. The United Nations audience is weighted prejudicially against him. This is nothing new for an Israeli. The odds have always been against Isaac's descendants. Jerusalem is "a cup of trembling unto all people round about" and "a burdensome stone for all people" (Zechariah 12:2, 3).

Today two peoples—Jew and Palestinian—cry: "Next year, Jerusalem." The momentum and fury increase. There can be no reconciliation among the nations of earth until this Gordian knot is cut. Where can discussion begin? And, if begun, where can it lead?

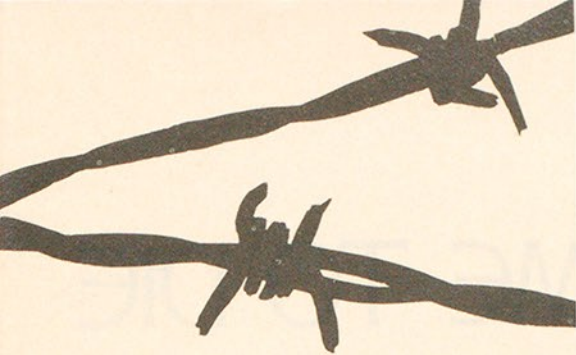
The first president of Israel, Chaim Weizmann, saw the Mideast conflict as a clash between total justice and total justice. Each side has legitimate claims. That is the tragedy of the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation. It is no service to the survival of Israel to distort that tragedy.

Will there be overtures? Arafat strides into the United Nations with gun holster, the symbol of unrestrained violence—hardly fitting for the halls of peace. Israel's answer is to bristle with modern armament. Together they tip the planet toward the chasm of nuclear holocaust.

How will they eventually live? It is unlikely that strength can eliminate strength. Yasir Arafat announced: "In my formal capacity as chairman of the PLO and as leader of the Palestinian revolution, I proclaim before you that when we speak of our common hopes for the Palestine of tomorrow we include in our perspective all Jews now living in Palestine who choose to live with us there in peace and without discrimination." Is there a genuine flexibility?

The directive is to pray for peace, not war. "They shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces"

C. M. Ward is speaker for *Revivaltime*, international broadcast service of the Assemblies of God, heard weekly on more than 600 radio stations.



(Psalm 122:6, 7). Israel has most to lose if a fifth Mideast war erupts. The next round will make all the previous rounds look like humanitarian exercises.

Therefore, it is in Israel's interest to break out of the vicious cycle of terror, retaliation, more terror, and more retaliation. Terror cannot be contained.

The city of Jerusalem is divided, with Israeli and Arab segments. Feelings simmer. Increasing numbers of Israeli Arabs, torn between conflicting loyalties, are being drawn into the unrest. Feelings of West Bank Arabs range from passive dislike to open hatred. Israeli writer Amos Kenan has said: "Even benevolent occupation is still tyranny."

Two internal threats to Israel's security are surfacing. Terrorism threatens democracy. The inevitable intensification of such measures as "collective punishment" (the dynamiting of houses), "administrative arrests" without charge, and deportations will not work any better for the Jews than they worked for the British or the Germans.

The loss of the spirit of its citizens army is the greater threat. The young soldiers, source of Israel's strength, visiting their paraplegic and quadriplegic comrades in veterans hospitals, are asking: "How long can we go on fighting with raging resistance to threats of extermination?"

Israel cannot afford to wait for terrorists to become humane. Time and numbers are against her.

Israel's road to survival is peace.

The old walls of the city tell the story of that search for peace. The very name of the city implies peace. In a mysterious way peace for the city is always elusive.

David brought it in his day and reign. Must it wait again for a Greater David to be resident? "He that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth" (Revelation 3:7).

Earth groans politically for that moment.

The silver lining

By RUTH VAUGHN

IT WAS our first pastorate, a home missions church on the Gulf Coast. We made the stupendous salary of \$25 per week.

With hospital bills piled on other bills and living expenses, the check always had to stretch a long way.

But this had been an unusually bill-heavy week. The check hadn't reached far enough to cover all bills. The pantry looked like Mother Hubbard's cupboard. The baby cried because there was no milk.

That Friday was a dark, dismal day. There was nothing in weather or circumstances to give cheer.

Friday was our usual day for prayer and fasting at the church. Several of our people were ill or out of town, and we knew we would be the only ones present. The church would be cold; the baby was fussy. Perhaps we could have the service at home much more conveniently.

But we brushed the thought away, wrapped the baby in a blanket, and started for the church.

On the way we stopped at the post office. In our box was a small white envelope with our address scrawled in pencil. The postmark stated, "Groves." There was no return address.

We opened it in wonderment and found a short note reading: "I just felt led to send this to you. God told me there was a need." It was signed "A friend in Christ."

Enclosed was enough money to

pay our bills and obligations!

With our hearts bursting we drove the short distance to the church. A man in a big car was waiting in front. He came over as soon as we pulled up. We recognized him as a member of a church in Orange.

He talked with us for a while; then he went to his car and pulled out the largest box of groceries I have ever seen. It contained everything from ham and potatoes to ice cream and candy bars.

He told us simply, "I felt you were in need. God sent me!"

There was enough to last us for a long time—and plenty to fill those very vacant spaces on our pantry shelves.

As he drove away, we stood together on the porch of our first little church. There may have been clouds in the sky, but we didn't notice. There was too much glory and radiance, gratitude and joyousness swelling within us. We had seen the silver lining!

We looked at each other and smiled. It seemed we both could hear the "Hallelujah Chorus" resounding within our hearts.

In humble praise and thanksgiving we walked through the doors and down the aisle to the small altar. There we knelt, and as the tears fell from our eyes, we prayed, "Dear God, bless these, Your servants—and thank You, God! Oh, thank You!"

To every thing there is a season . . . a time to be born, and a time to die"
(Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2).

A TIME TO DIE

BEREAVEMENT comes to all, soon or late. It came to me December 9, 1973, when my husband was called into God's presence.

In view of the way the Lord dealt with me during this experience, I feel constrained to write the following account, hoping it will perhaps help others in times of sorrow.

God wonderfully spared the life of my husband, Hugo Cargnel, in 1966 following an automobile collision. He was dying, but there in the hospital the Spirit of the Lord came upon me and without any volition on my part caused me to rebuke death. I heard myself speaking in an authoritative voice, "Death, I rebuke thee in the name of the Lord."

Immediately his condition began to change. Color returned to his face, his heartbeat stabilized, and he was able to take oxygen. Miraculously

he spit up two blood clots which had almost taken his life, and after a few days he was dismissed from the hospital. God had healed him.

Seven years of happy service followed. In revivals and in pastoral work, my husband was with me. Together we worked for God.

Then suddenly, in December 1973, there was a coronary thrombosis.

I was standing once more at his bedside. I wanted God to heal him again. I tried to offer the prayer of faith. But I couldn't. I could not travail. I could not claim the divine promises. I could only ask the Lord for an explanation through His Word.

I was directed to Isaiah 61:1-3 which told me He would heal my broken heart; He would give me beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning.

I had my answer. God was going to take my beloved. This was his time to die, and I must be submissive to the divine will.

As Corrie ten Boom says in her book, *The Hiding Place*: "There are no ifs in God's kingdom. His timing

a holy man of God. He is now in heaven."

They could not understand how I could retain my composure, but I was able to make all the arrangements that were required at the hospital. There was a profound peace within. I cannot explain it, but the glory of God's presence just enveloped me.

Miraculously I was able to sleep. In fact, while relatives and friends visited with me, I would grow drowsy. My eyes would become heavy, to the point of embarrassment; I would almost fall asleep in their presence. The words of Psalm 127:2—"So he giveth his beloved sleep"—were made blessedly true.

Strange though it seemed, I could not weep. I loved my husband—oh, how I missed him, for we had 39 happy years together in a wonderful marriage, and yet I could not shed tears and weep convulsively the way I have seen other women weep.

My relatives, very concerned over this, wondered why I had never broken and decided I was still in shock. They were very fearful of the results when the numbness would wear off.

But the days passed, and I could not weep, even though I tried!

I cried out in desperation, "Oh, God, am I so hard that I cannot cry? What is wrong? Am I not a normal woman? Am I still in shock? What is it, Lord? Speak to me directly from your Word."

Then I opened my Bible, and my eyes fell on Ezekiel 24:16, 17: "Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down. Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead." I understood. Now I was at peace.

Someone remarked that my husband's death seemed untimely, since God had healed him and he had so much to live for. Was he not known as "The Miracle Man"?

This remark sent me back to the

is perfect. Lord, just keep me in Your will. Don't let me go mad by poking about outside it."

When I was informed of my husband's death, the doctor and nurse wanted to give me a sedative, but I refused it. "Why should I take a sedative?" I said. "My husband was

By DAENA CARGNEL
Canton, Ohio

Scriptures. I asked God for an answer, and He directed me to Isaiah 57:1: "The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come."

I am confident God knows what is best. He is sovereign both in wisdom and in power. We can safely leave the mysteries of life with Him and trust when we cannot understand.

This lesson was reinforced for me through the healing of my 93-year-old mother last July. She had suffered an internal hemorrhage, and

no hope was given for her recovery. In fact, she had asked God to take her home to heaven.

I laid hands on my precious Christian mother and prayed God would take her before pain set in. She was just skin and bones. The nurses stood by, awaiting the end.

But God intervened and performed a miracle. The next day Mother knew us! She could speak. She ate a full breakfast. Her pulse was regular. They helped her out of bed and sat her on a chair.

Mother celebrated her 93rd birthday July 21. The nurses and doctors

were stunned. They couldn't understand it.

I went home and asked God, "Why?" He called my husband home at the age of 62, then healed my 93-year-old mother! Why?

God gave me an answer. He wished to manifest His power to that nursing home.

He is Sovereign. He "worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11). Truly His ways are past finding out. Blessed are all they who do not complain or question, but simply trust in Him.

Give to him that asks

By OPAL S. MABE / Phoenix, Arizona

I COULD barely see the face of the strange, little man in the dusk as I peered through the front screen. My husband was attending night school. I might have been frightened except that the man stood out on the steps and he had knocked on the porch floor in a humble sort of way.

"A lady down the street said you would give me something if I came to your house," he said. "My wife is sick, and our house burned down. . . ." He also murmured something about being 80 percent blind.

I couldn't think who could have sent him, or if he had just made it up. But I knew that if he were looking for money, he had come to the wrong place; I didn't have even 50 cents!

I told him to wait. As I started back toward the kitchen, the words came to me, "Give to him that asketh thee . . . and turn not thou away" (Matthew 6:42). So I filled a bag with canned goods and some potatoes.

When I carried it back to him, I was surprised that he seemed pleased. I still felt he was really looking for money.

Then I remembered a little, wine-colored windbreaker my son had out-

grown. "Do you have any children?" I asked. "I have a size 4 jacket."

He said, "Yes, anything; and my wife is about your size."

So I left him with the bag of groceries and went to see. I remember standing there in my bedroom thinking, *I only have two good housedresses and two good bras; why do I feel I should give her one of these?*

But I put one dress and one bra in the bag with the little jacket and carried them back to him.

He thanked me and went away. I was still thinking that if he were looking for money, he had concealed his disappointment well.

I didn't tell a soul. In fact, I had forgotten about it until the following Sunday when we drove up to my father's house for Sunday dinner.

My stepmother said, "I hope you won't feel bad, but I have some dresses Jo and Jean left here when they returned to college last week. They are good dresses, but the girls won't wear anything but pants at college this year."

There were eight good dresses! Jonathan Logans—my favorites!

Also she handed me some bras, half apologetically, saying we all wore the same size clothes, and it seemed a pity to throw them away. There were eight of them too!

As we started to leave the room, she said, "Oh, here is a little wine-colored windbreaker that Wesley misplaced soon after we bought it for him; when we found it, he had outgrown it. I'll bet it would just fit Eddie!"

A size 6 like new for a size 4 well-worn windbreaker, same color, same brand name! Dresses and bras—eight for one!

I remembered the words of Jesus: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:38).

It was too precious a moment to spoil with trying to explain to her what had happened. Besides, there were no words to describe the rejoicing of the Holy Spirit within me.

This incident was only one of many in those years of special training, as God taught me how to give, how to tithe, how He would defend me if I would not defend myself.

How beneficial it was to obey Him quickly and not ask questions. Truly "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

The supernatural— a priority of pioneering

By J. ROBERT ASHCROFT

IN LESS than 2 years the Assemblies of God has opened more than 400 new churches. This is an outstanding record. Even greater victories lie ahead.

As we face the future, new reinforcements are available. We have a supernatural power with which to do a supernatural work.

Jonathan Edwards said, "When God has something great to accomplish for His church, it is God's will that there should precede it the extraordinary prayers of His people for the extraordinary power."

The Acts of the Apostles is a historical digest of incidents which become symbolic of God's plan for us. This record indicates it is God's plan to honor pioneer efforts with the supernatural.

Notice the series given us in the "new works" of Acts.

In Jerusalem the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the healing of the lame man become signs to the unbelievers. The council "conferred among themselves, saying, . . . that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it" (Acts 4:15, 16).

In Samaria God wrought special miracles through Philip. "The people gave heed . . . seeing the miracles which he did" (Acts 8:6).

In Lydda, Aeneas was cured of palsy which was of 8 years' standing. "All that dwelt in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and turned to the Lord" (Acts 9:35).

In Joppa, Dorcas was raised from

the dead, and "it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord" (Acts 9:42).

In Phoenicia, Cyprus, Cyrene, and Antioch "the hand of the Lord was with them" (Acts 11:1-23).

This reminds us of the believers' prayer (Acts 4:29, 30) in which they asked the Lord to stretch forth His hand, that signs and wonders might be done in the name of His holy child Jesus.

In Iconium "the Lord . . . gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands" (Acts 14:3).

Finally, observe that at Lystra the impotent man was healed. Paul had difficulty restraining the people.

Truly the Lord went with them confirming the Word with signs following.

Such a historical digest seems to prove that God especially desires to support with the supernatural His ministers who are pioneering in new areas. If you expect God to bless, He will. God's power is often more manifest among those who have never heard the full gospel than among veteran Pentecostals!

Let's take one of the aforementioned cities and its first evangelist and notice how he was backed by the supernatural power of God. The story is found in Acts 8:1-40.

There must be unusual significance attached to the story of Philip and his first evangelistic mission, for

it takes an especially prominent place in the Book of Acts. The entire eighth chapter of Acts is devoted to this man and his exploits.

Is it not strange that this story is frequently overlooked? In this marvelous story we have the person, the purpose, the place, the power, and the product of home missionary activity. It is a thrilling story and deserves our attention.

With Philip, the hero of the story, lies the secret of this successful missionary operation. Like all other work for God, there is always a consecrated man in the center of the picture. In this case it was Philip. This Philip was a layman, not an apostle.

Philip is the only person called an evangelist in the Scriptures. He was the first to open a home missionary project after the Day of Pentecost. What a distinction! And to think this honor was given to one who was not an apostle.

Could it be that this honor conferred upon him—to be called an evangelist—was due to his first missionary project?

THE PERSON

This Philip was one of those deacons chosen by the apostles to serve tables, but the Lord led him to preach the gospel.

Sometimes we think that only those who are paid to work for God should do so. Actually, the work of God is so great and there is so much to be done that were it left to the clergy or those duly appointed to missionary activity, the tremendous task would never be achieved.

The eyes of the apostles literally must have bulged when they visited Samaria where Philip had seen this great revival. What! Has this table server now become a citywide evangelist? See what he has accomplished for God!

Philip was motivated by an outward persecution and an inner compulsion. The result—he evangelized.

It was the persecution at Jerusalem which drove many of the believers from that city to the surrounding country; but they had an inner compulsion which made them witness for Christ wherever they went. When the Holy Spirit presses from within and Satan challenges from without, the true Christian goes into action!

Like the apostle Paul, the Christian is ready for a riot or a revival, and sometimes both. In such a picture we see the courage of youth. They refuse to be bottled up at home.

Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ. He passed through all the cities, preaching Christ to all the people.

THE PLACE

Samaria is about 40 miles north of Jerusalem. When the traveler reaches this part of Palestine, he is virtually in the true physical center of the country; and Samaria is an important community because it becomes the hub of a number of small urban areas lying round about. It is similar to a large county seat.

Perhaps Philip said to himself, *Christianity has been successful in Jerusalem; let's see what it will do in Samaria!* It worked! It always does!

Though Samaria has its geographical advantages, there were many other things to consider about a home missionary project besides the geographical location. It was not an easy situation.

The people there were usually hostile to the Jews. In the past they had been stung by the actions of

the Jews and frequently had refused them passage through their country. Occasionally they would waylay the Jews who did pass through.

You may recall how Jesus indicated the necessity of going through Samaria, even though this was not the accepted custom. So custom could not stop Philip!

Furthermore, Samaria had now been invaded by Simon the sorcerer. The people were under the sway of his magic.

An evangelist or a worker might reason that a city so influenced by such a force would be a discouraging field in which to preach the gospel. With such paganism and false faith the people might not take readily to the message of Christ. But this did not deter Philip!

Samaria had aggravated some of the apostles. You may recall how they desired to call down fire upon these people for their attitude toward Jesus in an earlier day; but none of these things could deter Philip.

Philip hit Samaria! It was God's place! God's man in God's place will have God's missionary results!

THE PURPOSE

Philip had a driving purpose! Whether to crowds in a city or to a single man in a chariot, he had a passion and purpose to preach Christ!

He was among those "seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom" (Acts 6:3). Philip and his associate Stephen were faithful in witnessing until "the number of disciples greatly multiplied in Jerusalem" (Acts 6:7).

Here is implied that those who are avidly witnessing for Christ in their home communities will find success in witnessing for Christ in the towns nearby. It was Philip's usual purpose to witness for Christ; therefore, he did not find it strange,

uncomfortable, or inconvenient to preach the gospel in the strange city of Samaria after he was driven out of Jerusalem. He was a member of a church which was on fire for God.

The Holy Spirit, who had given the disciples power to witness in "Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth" (Acts 1:8) was working with Philip. Samaria was included. This power was pressing the missionary purpose upon Philip's heart. The urge was to witness!

Following Pentecost the disciples with great power witnessed to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Prominent among the results of the infilling of the Holy Spirit is the passion to preach Christ to those who have not received Him.

Furthermore it was Philip's purpose to preach about the kingdom of God. What a challenge! What an opportunity!

Would the sick be healed in Samaria as they were in Jerusalem? Would the lame walk in Samaria as the lame man had walked at the Beautiful Gate? Would Satan be cast out of those who were possessed as in Judea? Philip was one who would try!

Who, when filled with such a purpose, could forbear to preach the gospel! A worker with a *passion*, with a *purpose*, and with a *place* has a golden opportunity to see what God will do. One man with God is a majority; and if God is with us, there can be no defeat!

THE POWER

Philip had power! The power was not of himself. It was not humanly acquired.

The power he had was of a three-fold nature. All those who go forth in the mission of reaching others with the gospel may have this three-fold power with them.

In the first place, Philip had the *power of the name of the Lord Jesus*

Christ with him, for we read Philip was preaching about the kingdom of God and in the name of Jesus Christ.

D. L. Moody said, "If you want true spiritual results and to see a renaissance of apostolic Christianity, then you must return to the headwaters of the Christian faith. You must preach again the living God unto salvation. You must lift up the crucified and risen Lord that He may draw all men unto Him."

This is the equipment with which Jesus sent out His disciples. In Mark 16:17 we read, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; in *my name* shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Christ had given them power to cast out unclean spirits and to heal all manner of sickness and diseases.

Mark 16:20 tells us the disciples went forth preaching everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word with signs following.

Herein lies the second factor of the power which accompanied Philip: Philip had the *power of the Word of God*.

With the Word, these early pioneers were able to see results. Theirs was a Pentecostal mission with Pentecostal power; they went everywhere preaching the Word.

The Word still has the same force today. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but the Word of the Lord endures forever.

The third factor of this power is *the power of the Holy Spirit*.

What a trinity! The power of the name of Jesus Christ, the power of the Word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit to accompany one in a home missionary project!

Could there be defeat? Never! There is no defeat in Jesus! Philip need not fear the hostility of the Samaritans. He need not fear the competition of Satan. He need not fear the threat to his own life by those who would persecute. He need not fear the shame of failure. He was equipped with the Spirit, the presence of the Lord, and the Word of God!

THE PRODUCT

Philip's product! With God's help Philip had four *greats* in his work at Samaria.

First, there were the *great multitudes*. The Scriptures tell us that the people gave heed to Philip's message. The great multitudes were as one man. Many believed the gospel and were converted.

Second, *great miracles* accompanied Philip's ministry. The same power that had accompanied Jesus, the same power that had manifested itself through the apostle Peter, was now being manifested through Philip.

Unclean spirits, crying with loud voices, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many suffering from palsy and many that were lame were healed.

Third, there was *great blessing*, for the Scriptures record there was great joy in the city.

Few cities have experienced such a comment in the Scriptures. Here the joy of the Lord was a citywide experience. What a thrill it must have been to be in town during the revival in Samaria!

Fourth, there was *great power*. Even Simon the sorcerer was

brought under the sway of Philip's message, for the Scriptures say that Simon himself believed. When he was baptized, he continued with Philip and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

No wonder the apostles were called from Jerusalem to observe this great manifestation of the Spirit of God. Even the apostles themselves became missionary-minded, for the Scriptures record that after they had testified and preached the Word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

There must have been rejoicing on earth, as well as in heaven, over the work which God had accomplished through the layman Philip!

Recall, if you will, the experience of Jesus in Gadara. "Then the whole multitude of the country of Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them. . . ." The demon-possessed man, now delivered, "went his way, and *published* throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people *gladly* received him: for they were all waiting for him" (Luke 8:39, 40).

Waiting for Him! God's manifest power made the difference. God's supernatural power still makes the difference in pioneer efforts!

There is a lesson for us all in the entire story of Philip, no matter who we may be—a server at tables, a layman, perhaps a person not privileged to travel to foreign or distant places.

God *has the person*. He has the *place*. He has the *purpose*. He has the *power*!

Thank God, there will be *products* as a result of a combination of these elements in the home missionary work. The opportunities lie to all those whose eyes are open and whose hearts are concerned with serving Christ.

Special Offerings for
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ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
DIVISION OF HOME MISSIONS
1445 Boonville Ave.
Springfield, Mo. 65802



Compassion compels EVANGELISM

By THEODORE E. GANNON / National Home Missions Director

CHRIST'S COMMAND in Mark 16: 15 to preach the gospel to every creature is irrevocable.

The Church cannot excuse itself from this injunction. We do not have to decide whether we should or should not. That decision was made almost 2,000 years ago. We have but one decision to make—that is, *how*.

Because of the lack of specific directions, it is evident we have the liberty to explore every justifiable means to fulfill this command.

Several scriptural patterns are worth considering. Luke 15 provides a most interesting guideline.

First, the man who lost a sheep left the 99 in the wilderness to *go after* that which was lost.

Building a better fold will not get the job done. Erecting larger signs and doing more advertising will not achieve the goal of reaching every creature. The marching orders are "*Go after*."

The next pattern is given in the story of the lost coin. The woman of the house lit a candle, swept the house, and *sought diligently* till she found it.

Nothing is said as to how the lost coin compared with the other coins—whether it was of equal value, or newer, or older. She didn't spend all her time shining the remaining 9 coins, or building a safer place to keep them. Her top priority, as with the shepherd, was recovering the lost. To do this she *sought diligently*.

The third example is the story

of a lost son. He was lost by choice, by his willful rejection of his father's household.

He demanded his *rights*—"the portion that belongs to me," he said. He asked for the right to investigate for himself.

His journey was long. It took him into the world of a subculture, into sinful involvement. Perhaps we would have called it an adventure into a ghetto world. He journeyed into the halls of iniquity, into the cesspools of sin and degradation.

The reunion of father and son is touching. The rehabilitation was in the main house, not the servants' quarters. Neither was it in a house in another part of the city where those of his kind would feel more at home. Again the cardinal truth is that *the lost was found*.

The description of this touching scene is most enlightening: "The father saw him and *had compassion*."

New Church Evangelism will flourish when every church, pastor, evangelist, Christian worker, and Spirit-filled believer follows this pattern: (1) *Go after* the one who is

lost; (2) *seek diligently* until he is found; and (3) *have compassion* and restore (rehabilitate) the one that is lost—because *compassion compels*.

Now is the time to make plans for that outreach ministry. To reach the lost at any cost is our goal. It can be done. Individuals must be confronted with the claims of Christ, new churches established, ghetto ministries maintained.

To do this we must cross all economic, language, social, and cultural barriers. We will then fulfill that command by preaching the gospel to every creature, among all races, and in every community.

Then it will be said of us as it was of the Early Church: "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also."

If we in *this generation*—with all the talent, communicative skills, competent personnel, and the finest facilities of any church age—do not penetrate this generation with the gospel, can we expect there will be another generation?

Maranatha.



A pattern for the church today...

Compassion Compels

Assemblies of God congregations, representing less than 3 percent of the churches of America, received nearly 25 percent of the awards for "fastest-growing" Sunday schools.

Our Sunday schools are growing!

By GEORGE EDGERLY

TWELVE PASTORS of Assemblies of God Sunday schools were among those receiving special banners proclaiming their Sunday schools as the fastest growing in their states at the recent Mid-America Sunday School Convention.

The awards were made by *Christian Life* magazine, which annually publishes a list of the largest 100 Sunday schools in the U.S.

This is the first time an award was made for the fastest-growing Sunday school in each state.

Assemblies of God Sunday schools honored are shown on the accompanying chart.

The awards were made on the basis of reports submitted by the individual schools. A banner was awarded to one school in each state.

Attendance for the period from September 1973 to May 1974 was compared with the same period for the previous year. (Extension classes and branch schools were not counted. For this reason the figures published by *Christian Life* do not correspond exactly with those re-

George Edgerly is research and field services coordinator for the national Sunday School Department.

ported on this year's Sunday school Checkups.)

It is an honor to our entire Fellowship that these 12 schools have earned this recognition. The Assemblies of God, representing less than 3 percent of the churches of America, received nearly 25 percent of the awards!

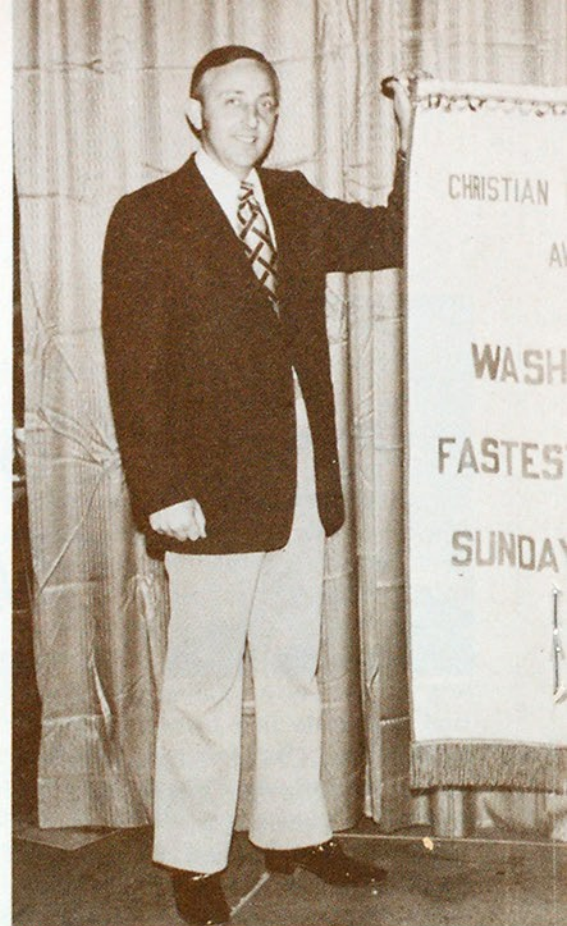
The wide geographic spread of the 12 schools attests that Sunday school growth in the Assemblies of God is not limited to one area. One district—Northwest—had winners in both Washington and Idaho, however.

Third largest reported gain among all schools honored was at First Assembly, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Pastor Dan Sheaffer stated: "All I can say is that we have attempted to meet the spiritual needs of the people."

A 50 percent gain was reported by Westside Assembly of God, Daventry, Iowa. While the numerical gains of the smaller schools do not match those of these two, their percentage gain is equally spectacular.

Bellevue Assembly is an example. It is located in a lovely community of 25,000 just south of Omaha, Nebraska, near Offut Air Base. The church, pioneered just 3 years ago by Charles Turner, had a 240 percent increase.

Present pastor is Sam Mayo. He assisted his father, James Mayo, Sr., in leading the Assembly of God Tab-



Glen Cole (left), pastor of Evergreen Christian Center, Olympia, Washington, receives a banner for having the fastest-growing Sunday school in Washington. Making the award is Elmer Townes, Sunday school editor of *Christian Life* magazine. (Photo by Ed Brundage)

ernacle, Atlanta, Georgia, to become the largest Assemblies of God Sunday school.

Under Sam Mayo's leadership Bellevue Assembly continues to grow. The youth group exploded from a handful to over 100 in meetings conducted by the pastor's wife.

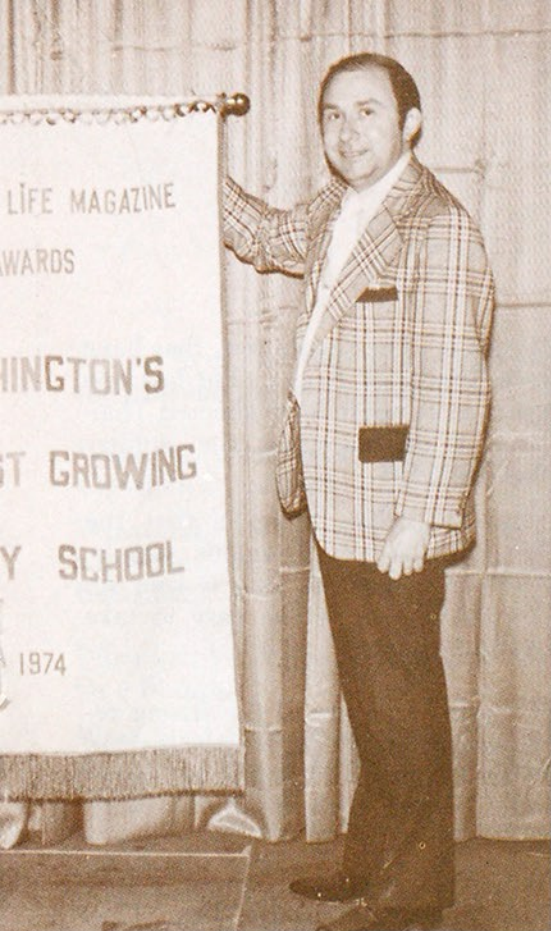
Busing, day care, radio, witnessing, and literature ministries all earmark this aggressive young church.

Another winner was Evergreen Christian Center, Olympia, Washington.

Two years ago the national Sunday School Department featured this church in a filmstrip, *Dare to Change*.

Pastor Glen Cole confided that they little dreamed then they would fill their lovely new facilities in 2 years' time, let alone outgrow them. But it happened.

They now conduct two separate Sunday schools with two separate staffs each Sunday morning.



"Our philosophy is that our church is here to reach our community for Christ," Pastor Cole stated. "That philosophy has perhaps contributed more to our growth than has anything else."

Trinity Assembly in Providence had the fastest growing Sunday school in Rhode Island. This church is not yet 10 years old.

"A return to old-fashioned militant evangelism" was Pastor Melford Carriere's summary of the reason for the growth of the Sunday school.

This congregation has a full-time staff member in charge of outreach evangelism.

An innovative Christian education program is at the heart of Trinity's efforts to reach, teach, win, mature, and train. An elective program, using the undated Christian Faith series of Word of Life manuals, allows adults to choose study areas of their particular need or interest. A Saturday teacher training class supplies the growing school with a qualified staff.

In cooperation with the Berean School of the Bible a weeknight adult education program is provided for training in Christian service.

These schools are not resting on past accomplishments. The growth continues. For example, Don Ronsisvalle, pastor of Huffman Assembly in Birmingham, Alabama, reports that their current average is nearly 200 above last year—and Sunday morning worship attendance is considerably above Sunday school attendance.

Our hats are off to each of these 12—and to every Assemblies of God Sunday school which is reaching, winning, and maturing people through Christian education and worship.

Hearing greatly improved

AT THE AGE OF 15 I had a severe case of typhoid fever. I was given so much quinine that it weakened my ears. Also, I developed a kind of catarrh that partially closed my eustachian tubes so that I could not hear well most of the time.

In the last 15 years I bought hearing aids of two different types. They helped me hear better, but I felt the noise was damaging my ears. When the second one broke and could not be repaired, I did not replace it.

By this time my ears had become infected with a fungus.

One day I was swabbing my ear with a cotton swab and the cotton came off the stick; I gipped the eardrum. It became sore. I put my thumb to my ear tightly and jerked it away quickly. That caused the sore eardrum to split.

A doctor treated the ear and cauterized the drum so that it grew back together. Thank the Lord, I could hear fairly well again, but the old case of mucous was still present.

In January 1974 we attended the Brethren Church in Taylor, Tex., where Evangelist William Caldwell, of Tulsa, Okla., was holding special meetings.

After he prayed for me, the mucous cleared up and my eustachian tubes opened. My ears felt different, and I could hear so much better.

The morning after we returned home, my wife and I were sitting in the kitchen and the phone rang. I heard it and turned my head. My wife noticed this and said, "Praise the Lord."

Now I can enjoy the music and songs so much better at church. I can hear the television, radio, records, and tapes without having the volume turned up so loud it bothers my wife.

I do thank and praise the Lord for His goodness to me.—Alfred B. Die, Austin, Tex.

(Endorsed by Pastor Larry Maddux, Bethel Assembly of God, Austin, Tex.)

AVERAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

CHURCH	CITY, STATE	PASTOR	1973	1974
Huffman Assembly of God	Birmingham, Ala.	Dan Ronsisvalle	223	492
First Assembly of God	Grand Junction, Colo.	Clarence Cope	934	1113
First Assembly of God	Lewiston, Idaho	Charles Mooney	369	433
Westside Assembly of God	Davenport, Iowa	Tommy Barnett	804	1207
Bellevue Assembly of God	Bellevue, Nebr.	Sam Mayo	84	205
Fountain of Life Center	Burlington, N.J.	Paul Graban	461	697
First Assembly of God	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Daniel Sheaffer	794	1526
Faith Assembly of God	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	Ralph Midgett	358	521
Central Assembly of God	Salem, Oreg.	Dennis Davis	634	766
Trinity Assembly of God	Providence, R.I.	Melford Carriere	84	120
First Assembly of God	Brookings, S.D.	Wesley J. Brooks	69	83
Evergreen Christian Center	Olympia, Wash.	Glen Cole	763	1081



Wirachai Kowae

Less than one percent free

WIRACHAI KOWAE
is superintendent of the
Assemblies of God in Thailand.
On a recent visit to Springfield,
Missouri, he was interviewed
by Home Secretary
DAVID A. WOMACK.

WOMACK: Brother Wirachai, sometimes we hear Thailand referred to as Siam. Is this correct?

WIRACHAI: No one seems to know where the name *Siam* originated or what it means. We call our country Thailand because it means *free land*. Thailand is the only country in Southeast Asia that has never been under colonial rule.

WOMACK: Thailand is a very old kingdom, isn't it?

WIRACHAI: Yes, it is. The king has supreme authority. People in olden times dared not even look at the king's face. Even though the government has changed to a democracy, the people still have respect for the king.

WOMACK: The revolutions that have torn Southeast Asia in the last few years seem not to have affected Thailand. What has given the country this strength?

WIRACHAI: One thing is that the Thai are a very religious people. Another is that the king is very secure. It would not be easy to take over the country.

WOMACK: In spite of the strong religious feeling of the people, do you sense a spiritual hunger for something besides their traditional Buddhism?

WIRACHAI: Of course, there is spiritual hunger among the Thai. They are seeking reality and help in the midst of rapid change. They live

Thai young people are enthusiastic evangelists. A Bible school to provide training is one of the major needs of the field.

Photo by Loren McRae



ethical lives, but they need to know the true and the living God.

WOMACK: Were you born into a Christian or a Buddhist family?

WIRACHAI: My grandparents were Christians, but my mother was a Buddhist.

WOMACK: What lies beyond this life for a Buddhist?

WIRACHAI: They believe that if you do good, you will have an easier life in the world to come. It may take a hundred years, or a million, but finally there will be an ending—a nirvana.

WOMACK: How would you describe this nirvana?

WIRACHAI: It is not being bound by natural things. It is a spiritual state.

WOMACK: How does Buddha himself fit into all this?

WIRACHAI: The word *Buddha* means "enlightened." Buddha grew up in a palace surrounded by peace and abundance. When he left it, he saw disease and suffering. He asked if there were a way to escape the problems of life. He finally determined to meditate under a tree until he found the truth. Then he went to teach the people what he had learned.

WOMACK: How do the people view the statues of Buddha?

WIRACHAI: To the people the real Buddha is not a god. God is nature, not a personal God as we believe. When they worship the image, they are just reminding themselves of Buddha, the enlightened one. It is not real worship.

WOMACK: Brother Wirachai, how did you become a Christian?

WIRACHAI: Although I went to a



David Womack and Wirachai Kowae

mission school, I did not become a Christian until I was 15 years old. Two young men came to my hometown preaching the living Christ. I felt God speak to my heart and I accepted Christ and was filled with the Holy Spirit.

WOMACK: As the superintendent of the Thailand Assemblies of God, how do you present Christ to a Buddhist population?

WIRACHAI: First, we must not be negative. Preaching against Buddhism is against the law. We tell them that the problem is within man himself. When Christ came to this earth, He did not oppose any religion, but He wanted to help men to become *new*.

We present Christ—who He is, why He came, and what He can do both now and in the future.

WOMACK: This is similar to the way the Early Church approached Judaism, so there is a Biblical precedent for this procedure.

I know that for the Assemblies of God work to grow, we need more pastors located in strategic areas. Would a Bible school help fill this need?

WIRACHAI: Yes, we badly need one! If we are to work with educated people, we need the fitness that a training center would provide. At present I am training Christian workers in my own house. If we wait until the Bible school is built, we will not reach many areas *now*. So I teach them when I have time and then send them out to work.

WOMACK: What are the plans for the Bible school?

WIRACHAI: We want to locate the Bible school in Bangkok where the government and business affairs are conducted. This way we can influence the educated and upper classes with our program as we train Christians for full gospel ministry.

WOMACK: Do we have property for the school yet?

WIRACHAI: No, not yet. To put the school in Bangkok will take a great deal of money.

Thailand has 40 million people. Ninety-five percent are Buddhist, 4 percent are Muslim, and only one-half of 1 percent are Christians. This is a great harvest field, but we need the help of people with a burden for the lost.

WOMACK: The greatest thing we can do for the Thai people is to introduce them to Jesus Christ and train pastors for their churches. We are praying that God will send a great revival in Thailand.

**Special Offerings for
FOREIGN MISSIONS**

should be sent to:

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
Division of Foreign Missions
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802**

Testimonies of Healing

Infant healed of seizures

ON JANUARY 7, 1974, our world seemed to collapse when we heard that one of our twin grandsons had been stricken with myoclonic seizures. Six-month-old Jonathan suffered as many as a hundred seizures a day.

The doctor predicted massive retardation and a very short life-span. The infant was hospitalized and a treatment initiated to help control the spasms.

The doctor tried to prepare us for the future—to teach us and our son and his wife to accept the prospect of having a retarded child in our family. He held out almost no hope for Jonathan.

In desperation we began to call upon God to spare our grandson's life and to heal him for His glory. We called upon our pastors and church friends near and far to pray with us.

One day a dear friend asked if our children would accept a prayer cloth from her pastor, Virgil Conger. I assured her they would. We soon received a tiny piece of cloth which had been anointed by the pastor and prayed over, with instructions that Jonathan wear it constantly as a prayer covering until he was healed.

It seemed the devil hated this plan from the beginning, because when I wanted to mail it, I had misplaced it. When I found it, I quickly put it in the mail. Then when it was re-

ceived, it was promptly lost. After it was found again, a number of other things happened to slow up God's plan. At last with prayer and faith it became a constant part of Jonathan's wardrobe.

In the latter part of February the seizures stopped as abruptly as they began. We praised God for this and continued to pray for complete healing.

Jonathan then began to turn over, something he had not done for a long time. He gradually began using his left arm again which had been practically useless. Soon he could go places around the house by rolling. He still could not crawl like his brother Justin, but he was happy with his accomplishments.

He became more and more alert. It became obvious to everyone that he was a normal child.

Recently the neurologist took an electroencephalogram to determine the progress that had been made. He reported, "Jonathan's test was perfectly normal. There is no sign he has ever had myoclonic seizures."

When our daughter-in-law called from Portland to tell us the news, joy welled in our souls because God had answered prayer and we had witnessed a miracle in our grandson's life. Our love and thanks go to all the faithful ones who prayed with us.

Jonathan continues to make very unusual progress, both in mental and physical accomplishments. He has caught up with his twin brother in almost all things and has no signs whatever of his past problem. We continue to praise God daily for His great love and mercy to us.—Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Stratton, Roseburg, Oreg.

(Endorsed by Virgil L. Conger, former pastor, Assembly of God, Roseburg, Oreg.—now residing near Springfield, Mo.)

Healed of kidney infection and other chronic problems



I SUFFERED constantly with kidney infection for about 15 months. At times it became so severe that the spasms caused obstruction so I was unable to empty my bladder.

On Monday, March 4, 1974, I had an appointment with my doctor. He said I would continue to have infection and the accompanying difficulty until I had an operation.

Evangelist William Caldwell began special meetings in our church the following Wednesday night. I went forward for prayer, simply believing that God would heal me as He had in the past.

The following day I was still weak in body but able to function normally again. Since then I have taken no more medication. Praise the Lord!

God has given me several other healings.

My son, who was born deaf, was healed instantly in May 1971 at a Bible study outreach I attended.

I had chronic knee problems. My right knee had been swollen. It was painful and inflamed for 3 years.

The doctor told me to come for an appointment on January 11, 1973, and be prepared to have major surgery.

I took this problem to the Lord and asked the ladies of the outreach group to pray.

When I went to the doctor as scheduled, he was surprised at my condition. He said my right knee was in better shape than the other!

I continued to have some pain in both knees for a while, but during a revival at church soon afterward, the Lord healed me completely.

In the past 2 years my husband, a brother, two sisters, my father and

If God has healed you recently, we invite you to write out your testimony for publication. This can encourage others who need healing to believe and receive the Lord's healing touch. Please make your testimony as brief as possible, and ask your pastor to sign it. Then mail it to: *Pentecostal Evangel*, 1445 Boonville Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65802.

a sister-in-law have accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour. I love the Lord and know He can do anything!—Linda Walker, Tulsa, Okla.

(Endorsed by Pastor J. W. Ellsworth, Eastland Assembly, Tulsa, Okla.)

Recovers from kidney failure

ON FEBRUARY 19, 1974, we took my mother, Mrs. Opel Sanders, to the hospital with what we thought was pneumonia and acute diarrhea. However, examination and X rays showed that her kidney had stopped functioning. Twenty years earlier she had one kidney removed and the other partially removed.

Now the poison count in her body had reached a critical level. Three specialists were called to assist her doctor. They performed surgery to bypass a large stone that had blocked her kidney and put her on a kidney machine, but they gave us no hope of her survival.

I called my pastor and he came to pray with my mother. Her pastor and church members and friends also prayed.

For 5 days the doctors continued to tell us there was no hope because the kidney would not start to function.

I began to believe them because they were so insistent. But my pastor never gave up because each time he prayed the Holy Spirit assured him she would get well. Others who were praying had the same assurance.

On the sixth day one of the doctors came to me with one of the most beautiful smiles I have ever seen. He said my mother's kidney had begun to function and the poison was gone.

I began to praise God right there in the hospital hall. I know God did the work because her doctor told us our only hope was prayer.

About a week later the doctors said it would be necessary to operate to remove the stone before my mother could be completely well.

The church again joined us in

special prayer. Sometime during that Sunday night the stone slipped into the bladder where the doctor said it could remain indefinitely without causing harm.

I praise God for these two marvelous healings. After 28 days in the hospital, Mother came home, and was back in church 2 weeks later.—Mrs. Sue Wilson, Adairsville, Ga.

(Endorsed by Pastor Robert A. Johnson, First Assembly, Rome, Ga., who adds: "When an urgent request is given to our church, we immediately notify members who will pray with us. This is Biblical. We know God honors His Word, and this testimony is one of many that have caused the friends and members of our church to rejoice.")



Mrs. Judith Whittum
with her family.

Delivered from mental illness

AT THE AGE of 12 I accepted Christ as my Saviour. On my 13th birthday I was gloriously filled with the precious Holy Spirit.

I dedicated my life to God and began attending East Broadway Assembly, now known as Norton Shores Assembly of God.

God had called me to be faithful to work in this lighthouse. Whatever I was asked to do, the Lord helped me do it. He wrought some fantastic experiences in my life. Because of these, one would expect me

to stay completely true to God, but I did not.

So the Lord began to deal with my soul through sickness. I was taken to the hospital with a severe attack of gallstones. I doubted God, and wouldn't listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit telling me that all doubt was of the devil.

I became critically ill when my daughter was 3 weeks old. Again I was rushed to the hospital. The gallbladder was ready to burst. After being fed intravenously for 3 days, I had emergency surgery.

Afterward I developed a severe infection, similar to surgical pneumonia, that did not show up on X rays.

While still in the hospital I began hallucinating from all the morphine and other pain killers I had taken for almost a year.

Soon, for my own welfare, I was placed in a mental hospital. I cannot tell you what I went through, but God knows. My Jewish psychiatrist told my family and pastor that I had the same disease in my mind that happened to King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4).

While I was in the sanitarium, my pastor brought a friend and my husband to visit. They took me for a ride in the car. Then they laid hands on me and prayed for God to restore my mind. Right there in the car Jesus came and delivered me.

Five doctors were trying to get me committed to a state mental hospital for life, but Jesus delivered me. I was home and back in church the following Sunday. I had spent less than a month in the mental hospital.

I am more determined than ever to do whatever God wants me to do. When someone asks me to do something for Him, I feel it is He who is indirectly asking me to serve Him. I want to use whatever talents the Lord has given me, for His glory.—Mrs. Judith Whittum, Muskegon, Mich.

(Endorsed by Pastor Edward Froats, Norton Shores Assembly, Muskegon, Mich.)

Christian attitudes

Sunday School Lesson for February 2, 1975
1 PETER 4:7-19

By J. BASHFORD BISHOP — South-Eastern Bible College
Assistant Professor of Bible and Religion

EVERY spiritual defeat or victory begins in the thought life. This means it is a matter of right or wrong attitudes.

ATTITUDES IN VIEW OF THE TIMES (vv. 7-11)

Peter said, "The end of all things is at hand" (v. 7). Exactly what he had in mind we may not positively know. But one thing is clear—to Peter the times were urgent and called for special attitudes and conduct.

1. "Be ye therefore of sound mind" (v. 7, ASV). "Keep sound-minded and self-restrained and alert," the *Amplified Bible* reads. Such an attitude fortifies the Christian in days when it is easy to become panic-stricken, confused, and unbalanced on the one hand; or reckless, careless, and frivolous on the other.

2. "Be sober unto prayer" (v. 7, ASV). Peter spoke of sound-mindedness as a prerequisite to effective prayer and as necessary to communion with

God. Those whose relationship to God is right will eagerly do all that is asked regarding others.

3. "Above all things being fervent in your love among yourselves" (v. 8, ASV). The word *fervent* literally means "stretched out, put to full strain, exerted to the limit of its strength." Though other Christians may treat you in such a way as to test this love, it will stand the strain!

This love in our hearts will cover a "multitude of sins." That is, if we love our brethren as Christ has loved us, that love will cause us to "hide" others' faults rather than expose them.

This does not mean we should hide criminality or conceal what ought to be exposed. It does mean that just as the love of a parent will cause him to seek to palliate the sins of his children, so we should love and bear with each other, recognizing our mutual frailty and weakness.

4. "Using hospitality one to another without murmuring" (v. 9, ASV). In Peter's day travel was difficult, and Christians were often forced to flee from one place to another. Many were poor, so this hospitality was important.

Hospitality was to be gladly offered, without grumbling; for "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

5. "Ministering . . . as good stewards" (v. 10, ASV). Just as Christian love is needed in expressing true hospitality, so love is the motivating force in using one's talent. According to Peter, every Christian has received a "gift" to be used for the mutual edification of the body of Christ. (He was speaking of God-given talents and abilities.)

Stewards are "those to whom property is entrusted, to be administered according to the owner's will and directions" (Lenski). (See Luke 16.) All Christians are "stewards of the manifold grace of God." This statement points to two considerations: First, everything given us in the way of natural ability or spiritual endowment is given as a completely undeserved favor and should be regarded and used as such; and second, God's grace is manifold in that all do not possess the same abilities; what one cannot do, someone else, by the grace of God, can do.

ATTITUDES IN VIEW OF SUFFERING (vv. 12-19)

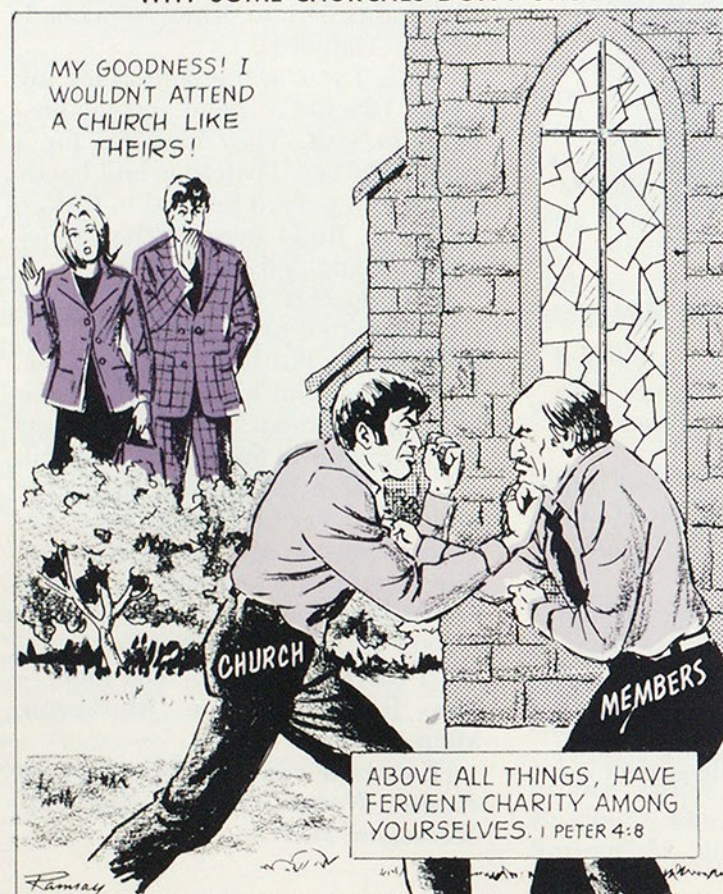
Christians should not be surprised or upset if they are allowed to suffer persecution and loss. For if their suffering or loss is due to their loyalty to Christ, they become partakers of His sufferings. Since such suffering is a privilege and will be rewarded, they are to rejoice.

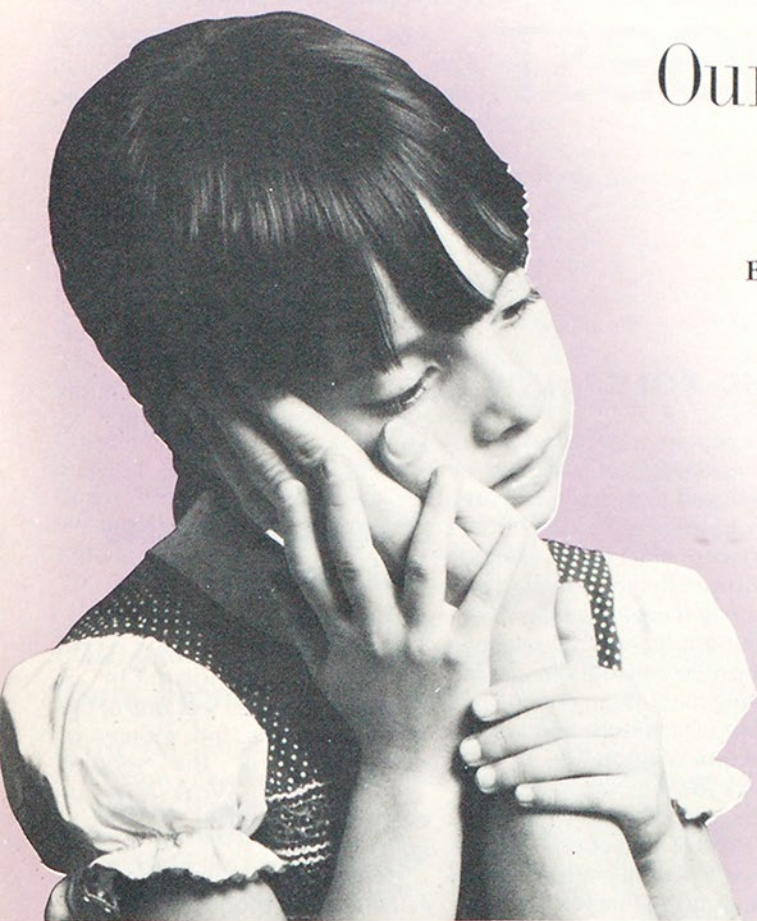
Christians must be careful that their suffering arises from their faithfulness to God rather than from their sin (v. 15).

The Christians' sufferings may be viewed as a sign of the judgment to come upon the world when Christ returns. If Christians are suffering now, what then will be the judgment of the wicked?

Since God has the world situation in His hand and will judge all men, Christians can afford to commit their lives to a Creator so great and so faithful.

WHY SOME CHURCHES DON'T GROW





Our children need love

By VERNON COOPER
*Administrator
Highlands Child
Placement Service*

Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts

ONE OUT OF 12 American families seeks medical attention for mental problems.

More than 3 million children run away from home each year.

One-fourth of all marriages end in divorce.

These facts reveal that the family and the home are very seriously threatened. Some believe the family is on the verge of obsolescence.

Many, from laymen to professionals, are attempting to evaluate the greatest need in today's home. Is it education? Discipline? Recreation? Affluence? Psychology?

The real answer is not found in any of these alone.

The solution to the family's greatest need is found in God's Word. In God's plan the family is the basic unit of society. God gives structure, organization, and authority to the home.

Notice how clear the Word is; "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18).

"But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (1

Corinthians 11:3).

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church" (Ephesians 5:23).

"Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Psalm 127:3).

"Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). This is the basic principle for child rearing.

One of the greatest needs in today's home is love. In my counseling ministry at Highlands Child Placement Service the message constantly comes through that love and affection are missing in many families.

The home is one place children should experience love and receive affection. But family members become so busy they have no time for one another.

The result of this neglect is often tragic.

Carol's experience illustrates what can happen when family members have no time for each other.

At the age of 15 Carol ran away to search for the love she didn't get at home. She joined a group of "flower children," hoping to find the affection she craved in alcohol, drugs, and sex.

At 17 she was referred to Highlands by a concerned pastor because she was pregnant out of wedlock. In 2 years she had wasted much of her life away. Instead of being an attractive young girl with a life of unlimited potential ahead of her, she was malnourished, anemic, deteriorated, ugly.

When Carol first arrived in Kansas City, she was rebellious and belligerent toward authority. She stated her disbelief in God.

After being in the Highlands program for about 3 weeks, Carol joined a small prayer group. She noticed the other girls had something she didn't, a smile on their faces and love in their hearts.

Carol's statement, "I wish I could be like that," brought the response, "You can, by accepting Jesus as your personal Saviour."

God saved her and changed her life.

Carol's story could have had a tragic ending. But because Highlands was there in her hour of desperate need, today Carol is attending Bible college preparing for a life of service to God.

Highlands Child Placement Service is a ministry of the Assemblies of God Department of Benevolences. Its functions include placing children for adoption and foster care and working with unmarried mothers.

The unmarried mothers counseling program is designed to help women who are pregnant out of wedlock and who desire to place the children in adoptive homes.

The foster-care program is designed to meet the needs of children who are not legally free for adoption.

Perhaps the most delightful and exciting ministry of Highlands is the adoption ministry. Daily, Highlands receives inquiries from couples across our Fellowship who are unable to have children or who desire to add to their family by adoption.

In placing children Highlands emphasizes the spiritual development of the child and obtains a commitment from the parents that the child will be raised in a Christian home.

Highlands Child Placement Service believes the home is sacred in the sight of God. May we each recognize this in our own families and strive to make our homes the places of love and security God intended them to be.

NEWS OF OUR TIMES

UN AGAIN FINDS IT CAN'T HANDLE RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

NEW YORK—The United Nations has delayed action on "religious tolerance" for at least another year.

It did so for the 13th year in a row by approving 67 to 1, with 29 abstentions, a proposal by Bulgaria and Byelorussia which would refer this question again to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

The General Assembly would inscribe this item on its agenda for 1975 with a view to "considering, completing, and adopting, if possible, such a declaration, provided that a single draft has

been completed by the Commission on Human Rights."

During the debate, Chile and the Soviet Union clashed over religious freedom, with Chile's Ambassador Sergio Diex charging that a declaration on religious tolerance would allow the Soviet Union to "humanize" its legislation on this subject.

V. M. Zenkyavichus of the Soviet Union replied that Soviet citizens were "fully independent to determine their attitudes towards religion."

Leila Takla of Egypt told the committee that "there are no

chosen people or religions."

In an apparent allusion to Israel, she said that "religions are chosen by people," adding that "the concept of a chosen people would mean that the Creator had discriminated against others. The chosen people are only those who chose to serve and assist in alleviating the suffering of others, not those who torture and kill in the name of religion."

Patrick Bascio, representing Grenada, one of the newest U.N. members, said that church structures have become entrenched in the status quo so that they can no longer deal with radical changes of the times.

He said that a church could unite itself with vested interests to become an obstacle to the development of the people. The problem of religious intolerance, he said, often arose as abuse of religion rather than as an expression of religion itself.

Jamil Barood of Saudi Arabia asked who could be the arbiter of what is freedom or nonfreedom. He said religious conscience was a variable which depended on the individual.

What is right is what does not hurt any human being, he said, adding that the right to freedom includes freedom to change religion or belief, but he acknowledged that this was a "utopian aspiration."

U.S. Ambassador Barbara White expressed her country's "deep sympathy" with the concern of some countries regarding the misuse of objects of religious veneration for commercial and publicity purposes.

She was referring to a statement by Sri Lanka that Buddha figures in the form of soap and Buddha special liquor were examples of such exploitation.

The U.S. delegate, in reference to these, said that tolerance should be more than noninter-

ference with the other person's religious beliefs. She said true tolerance was based on respect for the other person's religion and belief and for his right to hold it.

Evangelicals' workshop backs women's ordination

CHICAGO—Feminism, in an evangelical sense, was one of the major concerns and sources of controversy at the second Thanksgiving Workshop of evangelicals held at the Chicago YMCA.

Held as a follow-up to the 1973 gathering that produced "A Declaration of Evangelical Social Concern," the meeting brought together some 135 evangelical leaders to develop specific proposals for implementing the principles of the declaration.

Although many of the proposals passed almost unanimously, the proposal on evangelical feminism found a large minority in dissent, largely due to a section calling for the ordination of women.

MOST MURDERERS, VICTIMS ARE AGES 15-29

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A new study by the National Center for Health Statistics reveals that persons between the ages of 15 to 29 are more likely to be murderers or murder victims than persons of any other age group.

In 1972, some 40 percent of murder victims and 60 percent of those arrested for homicide were between 15 and 29, according to A. Joan Klebba, statistician.

She said that if this trend continues, a downward turn in the homicide rate will probably not occur until the 1980s when the "population bulge" born in the post-World War II baby boom passes age 30. This group is now in the 15 to 29 age bracket.

WASHINGTON CHURCHES FORCED TO INCREASE SECURITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Increasing theft, robbery, and vandalism are causing metropolitan Washington churches and synagogues to lock up tight—and divert funds from benevolences to security.

In 12 months, 209 robberies, burglaries, and other crimes involving churches were reported in the District of Columbia, the *Washington Post* said.

Churches and synagogues are installing alarms, hiring security guards, and installing floodlights in attempts to protect property.

"It bothers me greatly that the churches, which need to be open to anybody, have to be fortresses," said Dr. George Hill, pastor of Calvary Baptist in downtown Washington.

Washington Cathedral (Episcopal) spends \$189,000 annually for a security force of 24.

St. Gregory's Byzantine Roman Catholic Church ended evening activities after a holdup during a Communion service in October.

The congregation of Charles Wesley United Methodist Church in McLean, Va., has ap-

pealed to neighbors for cooperation in fighting vandalism.

A secretary at Beth Tikva Synagogue, Rockville, Md. is afraid to sit in her office when the doors are open. Windows in the synagogue have been broken, classrooms smashed, and a fire set.

"Suburban Maryland and Virginia churches," the article said, "also report glue-sniffing, dope-smoking, and beer-drinking parties in their churches at night, fires set in dumpsters installed to collect paper for recycling, theft of copper downspouts, and the dislodging of a safe from a concrete base."

One church is paying \$1,200 annually for a fire and burglar system. "I'd rather put that money into meaningful programs, but we have no choice," the pastor said.

George Young of First Presbyterian Church, Arlington, Va., believes the only solution to the problem is "respect for each other, for the rights and property of others, a sense of honesty and forthrightness as a mark of character in our nation."

NATIONAL PAGEANT OF PEACE FEATURES THREE NATIVITY SCENES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Not one, but three nativity scenes appeared this year near the national Christmas tree in the capital.

A court ruling last year removing the government from sponsorship of the religious aspect of the annual Christmas Pageant of Peace here has opened up new problems. How many private groups should be issued permits for nativity scenes at the national celebration?

Permits were issued by the National Park Service to three groups: the Christian Service Corps, the American Christian Heritage Association, and an American Legion post.

Until last year, the national Christmas Pageant of Peace, an annual observance sponsored by the government, had included the nativity scene as one of its displays. The best-known portion of the pageant consists of the national Christmas tree which is illuminated each year by the President of the United States.

In September 1973, however, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia reversed a lower court decision in ruling that the government may not sponsor the nativity scene because that excessively entangles the government in religion in violation of the First Amendment.

Hunger, famine are 'more explosive' than atomic weapons

BETHESDA, MD.—Hunger and famine are "more explosive than all atomic weaponry possessed by the big powers," Sen. Mark O. Hatfield told the congregation at the Fourth Presbyterian Church here.

In a sermon titled "World Hunger and Christian Responsibility," the Baptist layman said, "We hear so much about the threat to our national security, and we measure that threat by comparing the number of war planes, bombs, and warships to other great powers."

But the senator added: "Hunger and famine will do more to destabilize this world; it's more explosive than all atomic weaponry possessed by the big powers. Desperate people do desperate things; and remember that nuclear fission is now in the hands of even the developing countries," in many of which, he said, hunger and famine is most serious.

Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the 1971 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in agriculture, said the world hunger crisis is so acute that without massive aid millions will die in the coming year.

He also charged that the recent World Food Conference in Rome was "just talk" and "nothing tangible was done" to forestall the pending starvation of masses in such countries as India and Bangladesh.

Dr. Borlaug, widely known as the "father of the Green Revolution,"

developed strains of high-yield wheat which won him the Nobel Prize.

He called the current food crisis the worst since World War II.

PARABLE EXPERIMENT YIELDS \$3,200 FOR CHURCH

LATAWANA, IOWA—The United Methodist Church here is \$3,200 richer today because its minister spurred his 155 members to participate in a "parable of the talents."

David Finestead put \$1,000 of his own money in the collection plate Sept. 15, asking his people to take out whatever they thought they could successfully invest.

"The congregation brought back \$3,220.13, 73 days later," the 30-year-old minister told EP News Service. "What's more, we had many new volunteers to teach Sunday school classes and to participate in other church offices."

One lady reluctantly took a dollar bill out of the collection plate as it passed. She used it to buy sugar and make apple jelly from fruit in her own back yard. She sold the small jars and made \$80.43 profit for the church.

"We needed something like this," said Mrs. Tom Willis. "The church had been kind of drifting along. This has really brought the people together."

AT A GLANCE

- • • The newest portion of Scripture to appear in Today's English Version is the Book of Ruth. The American Bible Society reports that, like the New Testament in the TEV, the Book of Ruth is a faithful translation that seeks to express the meaning of the Hebrew text in vocabulary and style accepted as standard by people everywhere who use the English language.

- • • A Scripture Courtesy Center has been set up in the office of the Kentucky District superintendent of the Assemblies of God. James C. Ellis, district superintendent, is actively promoting the establishment of Scripture Courtesy Centers in the churches of his district.

- • • The new Chinese translation of the Bible, a project supported by \$50,000 from the Assemblies of God, is progressing and the four Gospels in Today's Chinese are now at the printers. The American Bible Society reports the first draft of the New Testament has been completed and is now being carefully checked by the committee. The Bible Society plans to have the New Testament published by late 1975 and the complete Bible in late 1977 or early 1978.

- • • Between 1968 and 1973, arrests for women for "serious" crimes, ranging from auto theft to murder, went up 52 percent—compared with an 8 percent increase for men. While arrests of males still outnumber those of females by almost 6 to 1, the gap has narrowed significantly. Not only are more women being arrested for serious crimes, but more are being convicted and going to prison. In federal prisons alone, the number of women inmates has gone up 81 percent in the last 5 years.



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Mr. Glades directs in his will that \$100,000 be placed in a charitable income trust fund for his granddaughter. When she is 25, the trust principal will go to her. For 20 years, 6 percent of the fair market value of the trust assets are paid by the trustee of Mr. Glades' estate to the Assemblies of God to be used in the Lord's work. This provides an additional benefit by reducing estate taxes.

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Please send me information on how I can create a charitable income trust fund for a child.

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1445 Boonville, Springfield, Mo. 65802

1/26/75

Church colleges still require chapel attendance

LOS ANGELES—The tradition of mandatory chapel for students remains strong among some 200 small church-related colleges in this country, according to a research study.

Some 27.5 percent of these schools, mostly Protestant, continue to maintain regular, required chapel assemblies, it was found by Robert H. Thomas, dean of student life at Pepperdine University. He made the survey to earn the Doctor of Education degree at the University of Southern California.

Of those having chapel, 82 percent do so daily, once, twice or three times a week. Sixty-one percent of the programs are religious, 15 percent address secular issues, another 15 percent are for institutional purposes, and 8 percent are purely for entertainment.

Required chapel has been dropped by 52 percent of the colleges questioned.

Students, faculty, and alumni of three colleges were asked about their attitudes concerning chapel attendance requirements.

All who replied expressed great confidence in the future of their colleges, and saw the vitality of chapel programs as proportional to their school's commitment in training for distinctive religious leadership.

Positions Open at Headquarters

The General Service office at Assemblies of God Headquarters has openings for qualified keypunch operators. Applicants should have a typing speed of at least 45 WPM and have had at least a year's experience using an IBM Model 129 keypunch or similar key entry device.

There is also a position vacancy for a systems analyst. Applicants should have at least two years' experience in overall systems development including a working knowledge of IBM 370/135 DOS.

Replies will be held in confidence. Write: Personnel Officer, Assemblies of God, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802.

An apology

THE DECEMBER 15 issue of the *Evangel* (page 30) carried a testimony by Renee Hibma entitled, "Pinched Nerve Relieved." Unfortunately the photo accompanying the article was not that of Sister Hibma but of Dorothy Lenderman whose healing testimony appeared in the December 29 issue (page 30).

We apologize to Sister Hibma and Sister Lenderman. Both received healing in the same evangelistic campaign and somehow the wrong name was placed on the photo.

NEWS OF OUR CONGREGATIONS



First Assembly in Cambridge, Minn., has a new look after extensive remodeling.

CONGREGATION DEDICATES NEWLY RENOVATED FACILITIES

CAMBRIDGE, MINN.—After six months of sacrificial labor, the congregation of First Assembly here has dedicated its newly renovated property to the Lord.

The church interior, including the sanctuary, has been completely renovated, as well as the exterior. New pews and carpet were installed.

When the project started, there were no funds in the budget for this, but the Lord provided. Pastor Terry Wilson reports every need has been met. Total cost of renovation was \$30,000.

"The Lord has blessed the congregation with His presence," Brother Wilson states. "Lives

have been changed and filled with His Spirit."

BIBLE SCHOOL AT HOME

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1975 Prophecy Edition of the Pentecostal Evangel

An innovation for 1975 will be a full-color Prophecy Edition of the Pentecostal Evangel, the first issue of the new year. This 16-page edition will contain articles related to prophetic subjects and will stress the second coming of Christ—in keeping with the Assemblies of God theme for 1975: "Come, Lord Jesus."

The Prophecy Edition will be designed for wide circulation and is appropriate for both personal and mass evangelism. Special features are planned to attract the attention of the unconverted and the complacent—and to encourage the Christian to "keep looking up."

SPECIFICATIONS: Ready for shipment now. Evangel number 3165 may be ordered at the following rates: 10-99 copies, 10c each; 100-499 copies, 9c each; 500 or more copies, 8½c each (postpaid in the U.S.; minimum order, 10 copies). Church orders may be billed; please include payment with personal orders.

PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL
1445 Boonville, Springfield, Mo. 65802

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EVANSVILLE, IND.—West Side Assembly here recently was blessed during a week's Bible Prophecy meeting with the William Van Winkles of Cloverdale, Ind.

Pastor John Pastore reports several accepted Christ as

Saviour and were strengthened by the ministry of the Word as Brother Van Winkle preached.

RICHMOND, MO.—Three were saved and five baptized in the Holy Spirit during recent services at First Assembly here. Tom

Waggoner of Springfield, Mo., was the evangelist.

Pastor Conway Huffman reports that many who were spiritually cold and indifferent rededicated their lives to the Lord and the entire church was blessed by Brother Waggoner's ministry.

EVANGELISTIC EVENTS

STATE	CITY	ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
Ala.	Ashford	First	Jan. 29-31	Mike & Linda Murdock	J. W. Wooldridge
	Birmingham	Huffman	Feb. 2—	Mike & Linda Murdock	Dan Ronsisvalle
	Montgomery	Westside	Jan. 29-Feb. 2	John Pratt Family	Stanley Broadus
	Prattville	First	Jan. 21-26	Jim Snyder Family	Oscar Maddox
Ariz.	Wilmer	Georgetown	Feb. 4-9	R. J. Snyder Family	H. C. Oswalt
	Chandler	First	Jan. 29-Feb. 9	David & LaHoma Sasse	George Sutherland
	Phoenix	First	Jan. 31-Feb. 2	Bob Lundstrom	Ernest J. Moen
	Phoenix	N. Freeway	Feb. 5-16	Joe Peterson Team	Tommy Anderson
Tombstone	Lighthouse	Jan. 29-Feb. 9	Ken & Christy Young	George Branscom	Robert Midyett
	Tucson	Faith	Feb. 2-6	Charles J. Aaron	R. S. McGarity
	Tucson	Flowing Wells	Jan. 29-Feb. 9	I. D. Rayborn	F. Ray Thomas
	Yuma	First	Feb. 5-16	Mike & Mary Purkey	C. A. Eversole
Ark.	Yellville	First	Feb. 5-16	Lawrence & Patty Posey	B. F. Armstrong
	Bakersfield	Fairfax	Feb. 5-16	Keetah Jones	David G. Joyner
	Bakersfield	Greenfield	Feb. 5-9	Leo S. Gaston	Eugene Spears
	Ceres	Glad Tidings	Jan. 29-Feb. 9	Loyd & Rebecca Middleton	Carroll Martin
Calif.	Chino	First	Feb. 2-8	Lee Block	Bruce Taylor
	Corona	Calvary	Jan. 26—	Lee Block	Manuel Shoults
	Covina	A/G	Feb. 2—	Mike & Mary Purkey	Spencer Weddle
	El Cajon	Central	Jan. 28-Feb. 2	K. L. Claycomb	Richard Pruett
Fontana	First	Jan. 29-Mar. 2	Gene Forrest	Mike & Mary Purkey	Richard Cagle
	Fullerton	First	Jan. 22-26	Charles J. Senechal	David Hood
	Marysville	Linda	Feb. 2-7	Cho Yonggi	Harold Steward
	Richmond	Full Gospel	Feb. 2-5	Frederick E. Stettler	V. L. Harper
San Diego	Linda Vista	Jan. 28-Feb. 2	Murphy Family	Norman Field	Eugene R. Paul
	Santa Maria	First	Feb. 2-9	Arnold & Anita Segesman	Bernard Browne
	Whittier	S. Whittier	Jan. 28-Feb. 9	Don & Darla Railey	Vester Rayburn
	Clewiston	AG	Feb. 5-16	Curtis A. & Mrs. Barfield	A. H. Salter
Kissimmee	Calvary Chap.	Jan. 26-Feb. 2	Dave & Jan Olshevski	Robert Rieben	James Dykes
	Melbourne	Bethel	Feb. 3-9	Esther Palmer	Donald Jolley
	Palm Beach	Cathedral	Jan. 29-Feb. 2	Parker Evang. Party	James Raleigh
	Tarpon Spgs.	First	Jan. 28-Feb. 2	Norman McCutchen	Quentin Edwards
Titusville	First	Jan. 29-Feb. 2	Levi & Alma Storms	Charles Leverett	A. D. Garnto
	Wauchula	First	Jan. 29-Feb. 9	Musical Vann-derploegs	Cameron Stanton
	Winter Garden	First	Feb. 2-5	Jesse & Barbara Ray	Jackie Marshall
	Winter Haven	First	Feb. 2-23	Nettie Parham	Robert Schall
Ga.	Dawson	First	Jan. 29-Feb. 2	David Hargis Trio	Allen Lehmann
	Hawkinsville	First	Jan. 29-Feb. 2	Warren D. Combs	Keith Lloyd
	Savannah	Bacon Park	Jan. 26-Feb. 2	Ken & Diane Alder	T. W. Eaves
	Boise	Calvary	Feb. 5-16	James & Ruth Hyllberg	Gene McClain
Idaho	E. Alton	AG	Feb. 5-16	James & Ruth Hyllberg	Woody Drost
	Mattoon	First	Feb. 4-9	Jack & Sharon Malone	W. R. Booth
	Pawnee	AG	Jan. 28-Feb. 2	A. D. & Mrs. Elledge	Ronnie Frazier
	Warsaw	AG	Jan. 28-Feb. 2	B. R. Minton	S. M. Cheshier
Ind.	Morgantown	AG	Feb. 2-9	Benny & Sherri Ferguson	T. L. Stephens
	New Albany	First	Feb. 2-9	Luis Torres	George Hicks
	Cedar Rapids	Central	Feb. 2-16	William Caldwell	N. E. Haupt
	Chetopa	AG	Feb. 5-9	David & Paula George	Mike Ivey
Kans.	Bastrop	First	Jan. 28-Feb. 2	David & Paula George	Alfred Medlock
	Denham Spgs.	First	Jan. 26-Feb. 2	Thurman-Phillips	Joseph Spence
	Ruston	First	Jan. 19-24	Jim Snyder Family	John Primrose
	Frostburg	AG	Feb. 2—	John Pratt Family	T. W. Stark
Miss.	Gloster	First	Jan. 28-Feb. 2	William Caldwell	Andrew Enochs
	Ocean Spgs.	AG	Feb. 4-9	Jack & Sharon Malone	Wayne A. Hall
	Pascagoula	Bethel	Feb. 4-9	Milo Harmon	I. Wayne Barnard
	Brookfield	AG	Jan. 31-Mar. 2	R. I. Stewart	George Gray
Mo.	Missouri City	AG	Jan. 21-26	Lloyd Portin	Doyle Crane
	St. Peters	AG	Feb. 4-9	Ray & Jan Hodges	Felix Coyle
	Lexington	AG	Feb. 4-9	Esther Palmer	John Swint
	Deming	First	Feb. 5-16	Ken & Martha Pilkenton	L. V. Lebsack
N. Mex.	Haverstraw	Full Gospel	Jan. 28-Feb. 9	Charley Hudspeth	Doyle E. Davis
	Franklin	AG	Feb. 9-14	Charley Hudspeth	Richard Large
	Franklin	AG	Feb. 4-9	H. A. & Ruth Strange	Tom Hill
	Bethel	AG	Jan. 26-Feb. 23	Bob & Elizabeth Abbott	Edwin Wilcox
Ohio	Miamisburg	AG	Jan. 27-Feb. 2	Bob & Mary Swope	J. Paul Joyner
	Ravenna	AG	Feb. 2-7	Corbett & Miriam Berthelot	J. J. Krimmer
	Henryetta	First	Feb. 5-16	Bob & Sandy Parker	Edwin Cann
	Muskogee	Hillcrest	Jan. 27-Feb. 2	Paul & Nancy Williams	David Hunter
Okla.	Norman	First	Feb. 5-9	Bob & Mary Swope	Floyd Jennings
	Myrtle Creek	AG	Feb. 4-13	Tommy Calk	Larry Myers
	Austin	Heights	Feb. 9-13	Dave E. Laughlin Family	Don Davis
	Baytown	Trinity Tab.	Jan. 29-Feb. 2	Corbett & Miriam Berthelot	Kenneth Barney
Oreg.	Bloomington	First	Feb. 5-14	Dave E. Laughlin Family	Jimmie Weems
	Corpus Christi	Glad Tidings	Jan. 26-31	Homer Peterson	C. L. Gillock
	Crane	First	Jan. 26-30	B. P. Carroll	B. R. Mills
	Denison	Evangel Tem.	Jan. 29-Feb. 9	Jerry Morgan Family	Kenneth Myers
Tex.	Grand Prairie	Shady Grove	Feb. 5-16	Paul & Nancy Williams	Billy Armstrong
	Houston	Heights	Feb. 5-9	Stefan Gulyas	Walter J. Keller
	Lone Star	First	Jan. 29-Feb. 2	Gordon C. Hofer	Robert Chaffin
	Odesa	Hiway Temple	Feb. 5-16		
Waxahachie	S. Park	AG	Feb. 2-16		
	Weslaco	AG	Feb. 2-9		
	Yoakum	First	Feb. 2-7		
	Fairfax	AG	Jan. 28-Feb. 2		
Va.	Douglas	AG	Jan. 29-Feb. 9		

¹Children's Revival

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



Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts

FREE Baby Calendar

More than 200 homeless children have been united with Christian parents through the ministry of highlands Child Placement Service, Kansas City, Missouri.

Only 20 percent of the cost of operating Highlands is recovered through adoptive fees. The other 80 percent of the budget must be raised by contributions.

Highlands would like to send you a free 1975 baby calendar to help remind you to support this important Benovolences ministry with your prayers and gifts.

Highlands Child Placement Service
1445 Boonville Ave.
Springfield, Mo. 65802

Here is my gift of \$ _____ for Highlands' ministry to needy children. Please send me a 1975 Baby Calendar.

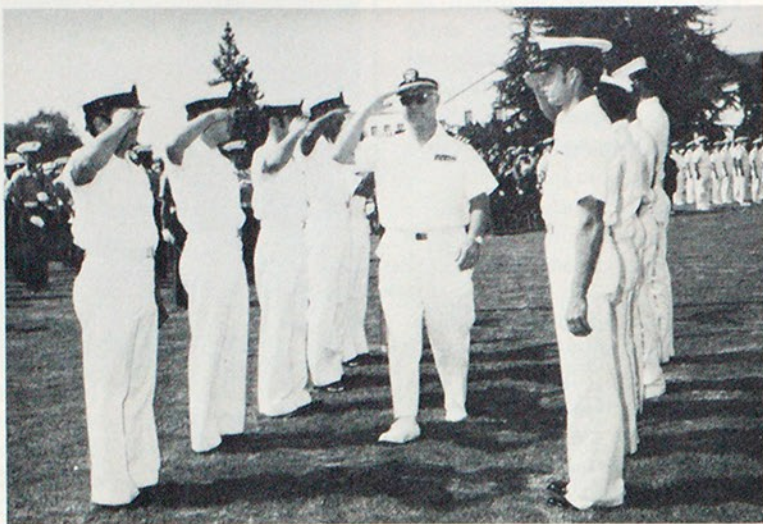
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Church _____



Chaplain Stanford E. Linzey, Jr. retires from active duty in the Navy to pastor an Assemblies of God church in Vista, Calif.

NAVY CHAPLAIN GOES 'OVER THE SIDE'

SAN JOSE, CALIF.—Chaplain Stanford E. Linzey, Jr., the first Assemblies of God chaplain in the regular Navy, recently retired from active duty.

Chaplain Linzey was among five Navy men and their families honored by the Naval Air Station Moffett Field in colorful traditional ceremonies by "piping them over the side."

During his years as a chaplain, Captain Linzey was used of the Lord to lead more than 5,000 men and women to Jesus Christ. Some 3,000 have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit under his ministry.

When Chaplain Linzey retired on Oct. 1, 1974, he terminated a Naval career that began in 1939 as an enlisted musician. He was graduated from the U.S. Navy

School of Music in Washington, D.C., and served in Navy bands for eight years.

Chaplain Linzey was in the ship's band aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown* when it was badly damaged in the battle of the Coral Sea and later sunk by the Japanese in the battle of Midway in June 1942.

After leaving the Navy in 1947, he attended college and seminary to prepare himself for the chaplaincy. He entered the Navy again in 1955 as a lieutenant junior grade in the Chaplain Corps. He was the first Navy chaplain from the Assemblies of God to attain the rank of captain.

Captain Linzey has accepted the pastorate of the Assembly of God in Vista, Calif.

and personal counseling, the chaplains leave them with something—more accurately, Someone—to live for: Christ.

For one young inmate of the Brooklyn House of Detention, it

was almost too late. Convicted of the charges against him and sentenced to more than 50 years, he hung himself.

Spotted by someone who ran for the correction officer, he was cut down still alive, though unconscious and barely breathing. Chaplain Nieves visited him later, prayed with him, and helped to relieve his spiritual distress.

One of the inmates attending Chaplain Caraballo's weekly worship service at the Adolescent Remand Shelter on Riker's Island was a young man referred there by a correction officer after every other type of treatment had been tried unsuccessfully. The officer thought maybe "religion" would work where other therapies had failed.

After the service Brother Caraballo prayed for the inmate, and help did come—not from formal "religion," but from Christ.

The chaplains spend much of their time distributing literature. NYIBS pays about \$40,000 a year to support the ministry of these chaplains.

Vandals strike Hebrew-Christian center

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Detectives began looking for the culprits who vandalized a Hebrew-Christian house of worship recently, according to Gertrude Clonce, home missionary.

The Jewish Friends, a Hebrew center of the Assemblies of God, located at 1410 Coney Island Ave., suffered \$750 in damages on a Sunday night when vandals broke a plate glass window and painted slogans on the building and sidewalk.

It was the sixth act of vandalism at the center in the past year.

"Let Jews be Jews," read one slogan. A swastika was scrawled on the sidewalk. The Jewish Friends is an organization for Jews who believe in Jesus.



A lady from Cayuse Indian Assembly witnesses to Indians at the Pendleton Roundup grounds.

PRISON CHAPLAINS HAVE VARIED MINISTRIES

NEW YORK CITY—Two Assemblies of God prison chaplains sponsored by the New York International Bible Society have had outstanding success, according to a report from "Bible World."

Felipe Nieves and Jose Caraballo both minister to inmates of New York City penal institutions.

At the Bronx House of Detention recently, a prisoner in solitary confinement proudly showed Brother Nieves an altar he had constructed to a statue in his cell. Looking at the altar

of fruit, cigars, a Bible, candles, and "holy" water, the minister asked the inmate to get his Bible.

Nieves showed him the curse God has pronounced on idolatry. Later in a chapel service the man came to Brother Nieves and told of throwing the whole thing in the garbage can and of being happy solely in God.

The chaplains sometimes encounter men who threaten to take their own lives. Prison is often perceived as a dead end with no hope. Suicide is not an uncommon way of "escape." Through the ministry of the Word, prayer,

INDIAN CHURCH MINISTERS AT TEPEE VILLAGE

CAYUSE, OREG.—The Indian Assembly here recently ministered to almost 1,500 American Indians in one service at the Tepee Village of the Pendleton Roundup grounds.

The church holds a service at the roundup each year, ministering to Indian people from many parts of the country. Home Missionary Elwin Johns is pastor of the church.

People from the church set up a

public address system as the Indians at the roundup were tearing down their teepees on Sunday morning, Sept. 15, 1974. The congregation sang and gave personal testimonies and Pastor Johns preached a simple message of salvation.

After the service, Christians distributed hundreds of tracts especially provided for Indian evangelism by *Evangelism Literature for America* of the Men's Department.



Residents of Arizona's correctional facilities at Alpine hear a member of a Teen Challenge team tell about God's power to change lives. A number of the men have been saved.

TEEN CHALLENGE OF ARIZONA

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—Thirty-two men were saved recently at the State Department of Corrections facility at Alpine during a visit by Teen Challenge personnel.

According to John Sanchez, director of the Phoenix branch of Teen Challenge of Arizona, 179 young men have been saved since Teen Challenge personnel began holding meetings at Alpine in 1972.

A Teen Challenge team ministers regularly at the correctional facility. Meetings are held on a weekend, allowing two days for proclaiming the gospel.

The weekend of ministry usually begins on Saturday night with the showing of "Our High Society," a Teen Challenge film. Testimonies of deliverance from drugs and the power of sin follow.

After team members share with the inmates what God wants to do in their lives, the men are invited to accept Christ. Inmates who do not respond receive a gospel tract and are dismissed.

Team members talk with those who respond to the altar call, making sure they understand the gospel.

They counsel the new converts about the new life they have received and their personal lives and encourage them to attend church.

On Sunday the Teen Challenge team conducts a service at the local Baptist church. New converts usually attend the service, where they receive additional encouragement through the preaching of the Word. There is no Assemblies of God church in Alpine.

The Baptist church does

follow-up work with the new converts. They instruct, help, and encourage the men to grow in the Lord.

Teen Challenge of Arizona, Phoenix branch, also ministers at the Maricopa County Detention Home, Arizona State Girls School, and Maricopa County Jail. According to Brother Sanchez, thousands of young people have been saved since this institutional ministry began in 1968.

MISSIONARY PERSONALIA

Glenn and Pauline Harris transferred to Chinese missions from the American Indian field. They are ministering at Stockton, Calif.

Betty Ayers has moved to Payson, Ariz., to begin a work among the Tonto Apache Indian people on a newly formed reservation which has no organized church.

Robert Goetjen has become pastor at Houck (Ariz.) Navajo Assembly of God.

The Alvin Boohers have transferred from Indian ministry to deaf work. He has been appointed as Arizona representative of ministries to the deaf.

Roger Davis has been appointed as a full-time evangelist, filling in at stations where missionaries are on furlough.

Jack Bruton is now the senior missionary at Cuba, N. Mex. He was previously assisting.

The Jerry Holders and Dean Jackson, missionaries to American Indians, are now itinerating.



ACROSS AMERICA

UTAH—The parsonage in Blanding, where missionary pastor Dorothy Bear lives, recently received a new roof. Churches of the Rocky Mountain District donated money. J. W. Carlile, pastor of Durango (Colo.) Assembly; Linden T. Curtis, pastor of Moab (Utah) First Assembly; and men from their churches put on the roof.

WASHINGTON—Jerome and Ellen Bowers, new pastors at the Pentecostal Indian Assembly in Wellpinit, have been well received by the people of the community, according to C. L. Hobson, district secretary-treasurer.

ARIZONA—Teen Challenge workers from Phoenix spent 18 days at the state fair in November 1974. They distributed more than 50,000 pieces of gospel literature, including Scripture portions, tracts, and brochures.

ALASKA—According to Pastor Clive Walton, Hydaburg Assembly, which ministers to Tlinget Indians, has purchased property and is looking forward to building in the spring.

ARIZONA—John Bell, pastor of Caruthersville (Mo.) First Assembly, directed the construction of a baptistry and a steeple which lights up automatically for the Bethel Navajo Assembly in Houck. Brother Bell was assisted by Indian people in the congregation. The Kennett, Mo., section provided funds for the project.

ARIZONA—Betty Wheeler, missionary to American Indians, reports that several have been saved through Sunday school ministry at a rest home in Golden Mesa.



Attend the
HOME MISSIONS
RALLY
in your area

'As is!'

By RUTH COPELAND

"AS IS!" The first time I heard it was in used car talk.

If you buy some cars, the dealer will fix them up—install seat covers or better tires. Or do a ring job and guarantee the car for so many miles.

The "as-is" car carries a lower price. You take it as it is. It may turn out to be a peach or a lemon. The dealer won't furnish a warranty.

It may need a new clutch tomorrow. The brakes may go out next week. But when you buy an "as-is" car, you take that risk.

It reminds me of the way we come to God. He takes us "as is" with all our sin and our problems. He doesn't ask us to fix ourselves up. He knows what we are, but He wants us "as is."

God never bargains for goodness. Whatever assets we might think we have, He doesn't need. The Bible says, "There is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Romans 3:12). In the divine appraisal we are a total loss—ready for the junk heap. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews, a member of the exclusive Sanhedrin, the supreme court of the Jewish nation. He was a man of means. He commanded the highest regard of his peers. But Jesus offered him no exemptions. Beneath that respectable exterior, Jesus saw a heart "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). He made it plain to Nicodemus that there is little in any of us worth salvaging. Only a complete transformation can bring us up to the divine requirements. "Ye must be born again!" He said (John 3:7).

Nicodemus had to strip himself of all his religious veneer and come "as is." The most refined members of the human race harbor in their hearts roots of the most horrifying corruptions. Each of us must come to the Creator and ask Him to make us a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

While Nicodemus had to clear the hurdle of respectability, others ran into the barrier of their overt sinfulness. One was Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2). Another was the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-11). Then there was the Publican (Luke 18:9-14). Zaccheus (Luke 19:1-10). The woman at Simon's feast (Luke 7:36-50). The woman at the well (John 4).

The divine prescription was the same for all, "Come as you are!"

God assumes all the deficiencies and makes us "his workmanship created in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:10). He fixes us up *after* we come to Him.

How pitifully inadequate are our efforts to "fix up" the old human nature! It is like "whitewashing a sepulcher," Jesus said—beautiful on the outside, but rotten on the inside (Matthew 23:27, 28).

God is in the business of transforming sepulchers into temples (Ephesians 2:12, 13, 21, 22). But He must start with you right there where you are—with all your sin and shame!

Then there are the problems that need straightening out—a messed-up marriage, an involvement in shady business, or an enslaving habit.

So many people, when invited to accept Christ, will reply, "Oh, I'm going to come to Him alright, but there are some things I must work out first." They're going at it backwards. God says, "Accept Christ first, then I will work things out for you."

He is the Master Problem-Solver! He knows exactly how, and He has the power to cut right to the heart of that Gordian knot that comprises all your problems, frustrations, and enslavements. He can free you with one divine gesture—but only if you come to Him by faith and put Him in full charge!

"Come to me as you are!" He says.



FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Read a chapter a day!


DAY	CHAPTER
1	The appointed feasts ... <i>Leviticus 23</i>
2	Korah's rebellion ... <i>Numbers 16</i>
3	Sin and the lifted serpent ... <i>Numbers 21</i>
4	The great commandment ... <i>Deuteronomy 6</i>
5	The Lord's wonders and Israel's obedience ... <i>Deuteronomy 11</i>
6	Conditions of blessing and chastisement ... <i>Deuteronomy 28</i>
7	Moses' vision and death ... <i>Deuteronomy 34</i>
8	Joshua becomes the leader ... <i>Joshua 1</i>
9	Rahab hides the spies ... <i>Joshua 2</i>
10	Israel crosses Jordan ... <i>Joshua 3</i>
11	The walls of Jericho fall ... <i>Joshua 6</i>
12	Achan's sin; fall of Ai ... <i>Joshua 7</i>
13	The Gibeonites trick Joshua ... <i>Joshua 9</i>
14	Israel defeats the Amorites; the sun stayed ... <i>Joshua 10</i>
15	Joshua's farewell and death ... <i>Joshua 24</i>
16	Barak and Deborah defeat Sisera ... <i>Judges 4</i>
17	Gideon defeats Midian ... <i>Judges 7</i>
18	Manoah's vision; Samson is born ... <i>Judges 13</i>
19	Samson asks a riddle; kills a lion ... <i>Judges 14</i>
20	Delilah betrays Samson ... <i>Judges 16</i>
21	Ruth accepts Naomi's God ... <i>Ruth 1</i>
22	Ruth meets Boaz ... <i>Ruth 2</i>
23	Boaz marries Ruth ... <i>Ruth 4</i>
24	Hannah prays; Samuel is born ... <i>1 Samuel 1</i>
25	God calls young Samuel ... <i>1 Samuel 3</i>
26	Saul disobeys God ... <i>1 Samuel 15</i>
27	David anointed king ... <i>1 Samuel 16</i>
28	David slays Goliath ... <i>1 Samuel 17</i>

GREAT CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

Clip and save this Bible reading guide.

The hymnwriter has given you the right words to use as you come to Christ in prayer for salvation:

*Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee!
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

Don't wait another moment. Come "as is!" He will give you a new life starting immediately. 

The birth-pangs of the new age

THE NEARER we come to Christ's return, the greater will be the crises mankind must face on various fronts.

One area of crisis that is developing rapidly is the world food shortage. A number of factors in the past 3 years have reduced the world's total output of food; and this, combined with exploding populations and distribution problems, has brought millions to the point of starvation.

Time magazine is not given to quoting Scripture, but in its November 11, 1974 issue (page 66) it began its report on the world food crisis by citing the words of Jesus:

"For nation shall rise against nation... and there shall be famines and troubles; these are the beginnings of sorrows" (Mark 13:8).

The rendering of Christ's words in the New English Bible is more explicit: "For nation will make war upon nation, kingdom upon kingdom; there will be earthquakes in many places; there will be famines. With these things the birth-pangs of the new age begin."

Of course, there have always been famines. Every generation has suf-

fered through food shortages in one place or another, but never has the world been aware of so much starvation in so many places at the same time, as today.

Assemblies of God missionaries in numerous lands are feeding the hungry, but their hearts ache because the needs are so much greater than the supplies. In Calcutta, thousands of men, women, and children are famished and destitute. In Bangladesh, multitudes are starving to death. In Upper Volta, the food shortage is acute. Funds for famine relief in these and other areas are being used by our missionaries to give help directly to persons who are suffering with hunger.

(When you send contributions to the Division of Foreign Missions for this purpose, be sure to mark them "For Overseas Famine Relief," and state whether you wish the funds to be used in Calcutta, Bangladesh, Upper Volta, or elsewhere.)

A leading U.S. food expert states that the world's resources of grain have reached a 22-year low equal to 26 days' supply, compared with a 95-day supply in 1961.

Nearly half a billion people are suffering from hunger. Ten thousand die of starvation each week.

Delegates to the World Food Conference at Rome in November were extremely pessimistic. Clearly the food shortage is one of the world's greatest peacetime problems.

Norman Borlaug, winner of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for developing high-yield wheat, predicted that between 10 and 50 million could starve to death in India within the next year.

He pointed out that hunger often leads to revolution. Shortages or high prices of food have contributed to the toppling of several governments recently.

The situation would drive us to despair if we did not know that the world's travail will usher in a new and better day. Jesus warned that disastrous and tumultuous times would come, but He said, "With these things the birth-pangs of the new age begin"—an age in which there will be food for everyone; for Christ will reign and He will redeem all creation from the corruption of evil (Romans 8:19-21). —r.c.c.

PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

January 26, 1975 Number 3168

Official Voice, Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville, Springfield, Mo. 65802

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Single subscription: U.S., its possessions, and U.S. servicemen abroad: \$5 a year; \$9.50 for 2 years. Introductory offer: 6 months for \$2.50. Canada and foreign: \$8 a year; \$15.50 for 2 years.

Bundle subscription (minimum of five subscriptions, all mailed to one address; prices quoted are for each subscription): U.S.: \$1.10 for 13 weeks; \$4.30 a year. Canada and foreign: \$1.50 for 13 weeks; \$5.80 a year.

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Subscribers outside the U.S. only may receive the International Edition (one copy a month) for \$1 a year, postpaid.

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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, in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years.

... in the Blessed Hope—the rapture of the Church at Christ's coming.

... the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

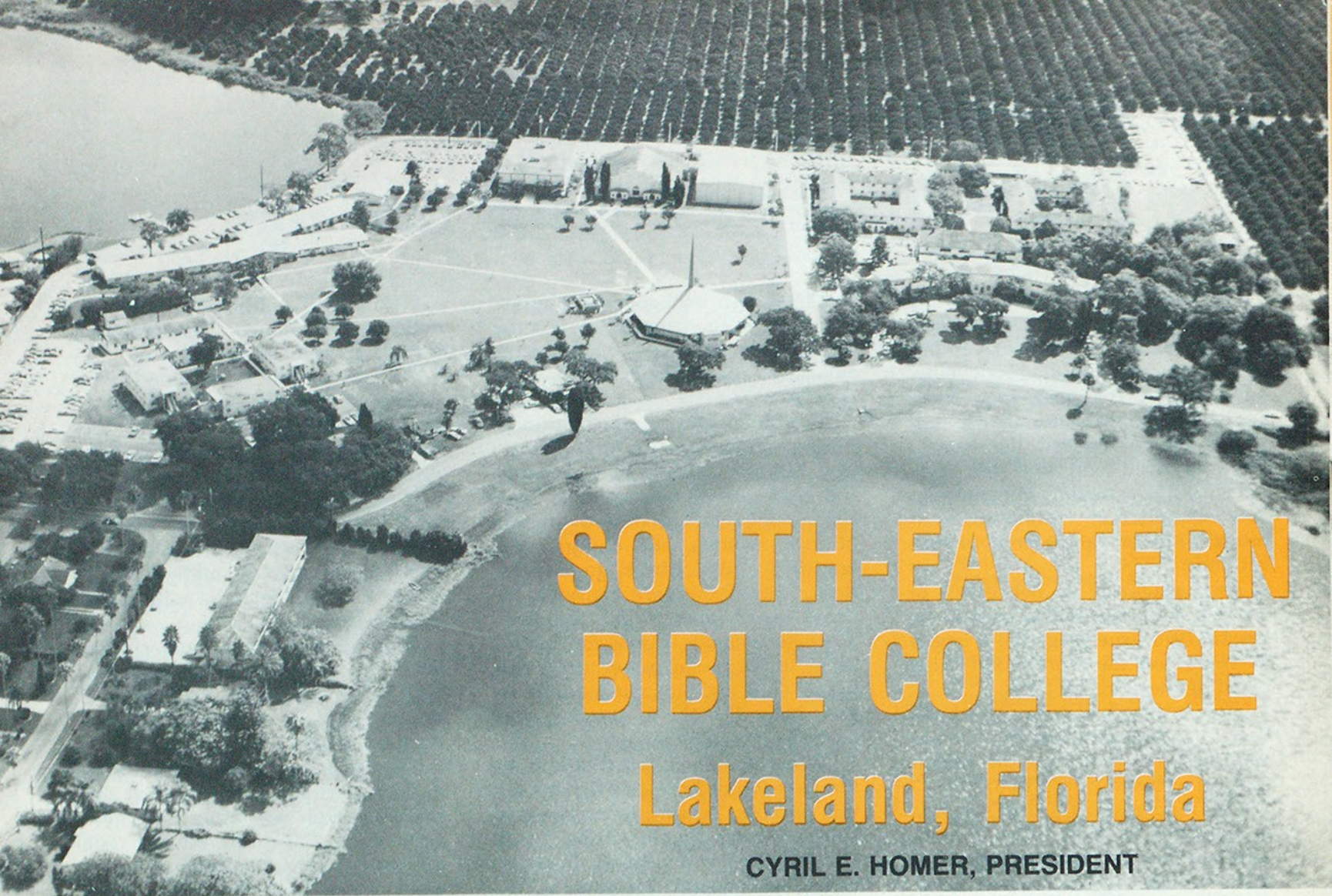
... regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

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

... the baptism 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.



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