

PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

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

JUNE 17, 1979 • TWENTY CENTS



Every day is the Father's day
He struck a light in unnumbered lives
My legacy from Dad
'What shall I do for my son?'

Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts

How to be a great father

Mark Twain described a child as an "inestimable blessing and bother." Bringing up children has many problems, but it also offers tremendous joy and satisfaction. Children need good fathers, so here are some helps.

1. *Make love visible in your home.* A child who sees his parents love each other and who hears them expressing words of love for each other needs little explanation about God's character of love or the beauty of sex. When a child knows his parents love each other, he gains security, stability, and confidence about life which he gains in no other way.

True love shows, and children know when they see it. Be more free to let your love show in the little loving things you do for each other.

2. *Be a good listener.* It is estimated that the average child asks 500,000 questions by the age of 15. Think of it! A half million opportunities to help him understand the meaning of life! By 15 the child knows what his parents really believe.

Most fathers find it hard to listen. A survey quoted by *Eternity* magazine found that the three most frequent statements fathers made to their children are: "I'm too tired"; "We don't have enough money"; and "Keep quiet!"

The father who listens to his child when he is small will find that his child will listen to him later in life.

3. *Spend more time with your children.* A father promised to take his two boys to the circus. At lunch time the phone rang, and the boys braced themselves for a disappointment. Then they heard their father say, "No, I won't be down. It will have to wait."

The mother smiled and said, "The circus keeps coming back, you know."

"I know," said the father, "but childhood doesn't."

One of these days our children will be grown, and we are going to wonder where we were while all this was happening.

4. *Set a good example.* There seems to be a vital correlation between the father's dedication to God and how his children turn out. Good fathers show there's a lot more to being a Christian than a one-time salvation experience. It's a day-by-day living in God's will. Good fathers make religion natural to their families. They don't give the impression that their faith is a pain. They demonstrate that life in Christ is a joy!

—M. P. HORBAN

Heavenly parent

*Earth's best fathers
Are the ones
Who are ever aware
That they are sons.*

—SUSAN TAYLOR CROMARTIE

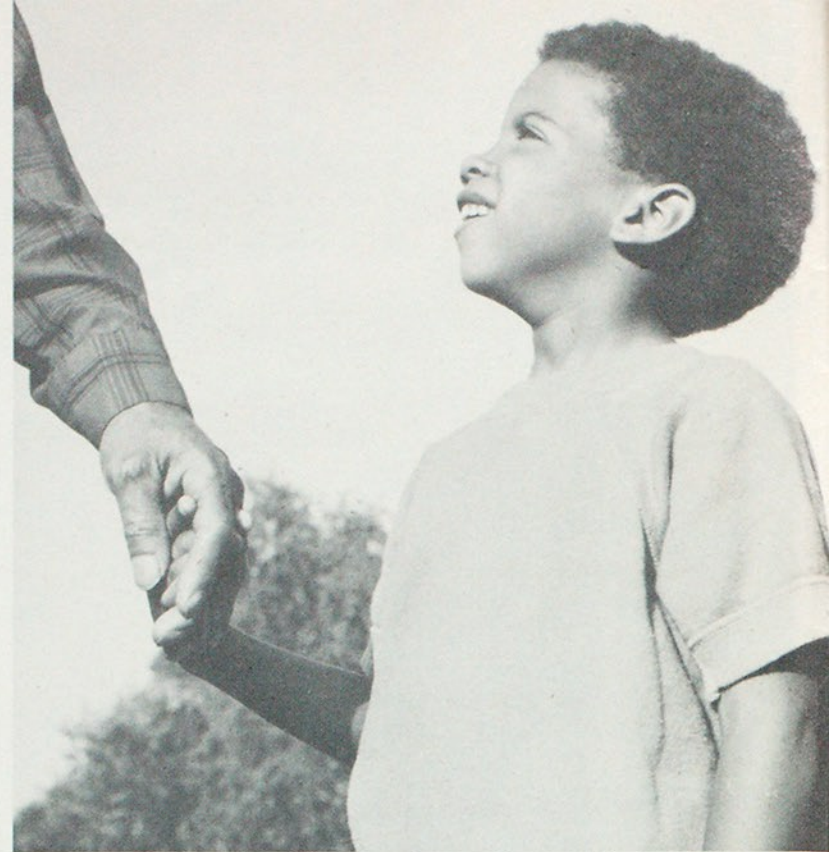


Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts

Trust

*He takes my hand, my little boy,
As we begin to stroll and see
The world, and talk of many things
And what he will grow up to be.*

*I take my Father's hand which leads
Through changing scenes of mystery,
And know that faith supplies the need
To trust Him as my child trusts me.*

—WILLIAM WALTER DE BOLT

A father's prayer

*Give me, O God, the wisdom that I need
To mold the tender lives within my care;
Give me the power that I may subtly lead
Them into righteousness—true joy is there.
I ask for them no rainbowed path of ease;
I ask for them no store of wealth or fame;
I only ask that by their lives they please
Thee and the world with an untarnished name.
I know that man is weak, and life is strong,
And sometimes honest roads look very drear;
That winning laurels often takes too long
And luring vistas from all sides appear.
But while my young are still beneath my wing,
God, help me guide them right in everything.*

—Sawdust Trail

June 17, 1979 • Number 3397. The *Pentecostal Evangel* (ISSN 0031-4897), published weekly © 1979 by The General Council of the Assemblies of God, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Mo. 65802. Official organ of the Assemblies of God. Subscription price (USA): \$7 a year. See back pages for bundle and other rates. Second-class postage paid at Springfield, Mo. Printed in the USA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Pentecostal Evangel*, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Mo. 65802.

WHAT'S A FATHER WORTH?

No one appreciates the value of a father and husband as much as the family that has lost one—and then it is too late to do all the things you wish you had.

Consider his multiple roles. To the children he is a loving dad, provider, counselor, companion, and friend. To the wife he is not only a loving companion but also protector, handyman, mechanic, and helper who does so many things for which most women have no skills.

When my husband became ill, I took over his job as bookkeeper and general office person. I learned firsthand some of the problems in balancing the family budget.

I saw that besides the daily workload that always seemed to be greater than could be handled in a single day, there were conflicts with disagreeable employees, escalating demands of employer, and problems he never mentioned to me. In addition, he was constantly exposed to ridicule because of his firm Christian testimony and scriptural standards.

I now understood why at times my husband came home in a gloomy and uncommunicative mood—and wished I had been more understanding and patient.

But it was not until his death a year and a half later that the children and I realized how much he meant to us.

We miss his affection. He was a considerate, caring person and the children loved him dearly. As grade-schoolers they miss the prestige of his presence at school functions. As teenagers they miss his firmness and strength.

We find a change in status. Despite the kindness of people, a widow and fatherless children do not have the same place in society as before.

Of course, the financial loss also is considerable. Mother may be obliged to work at a smaller income. The fam-

ily no longer can enjoy the little luxuries—or, in some respects, even all the necessities.

When there's yard work to be done or when the car won't start, we miss Dad.


Going to church without him and taking a vacation without his presence brings a sense of loneliness. If you still have your father or husband, be thankful. I write these words of woe to jar you into a greater appreciation. I hope you will realize his worth and give him the affection and respect he deserves as head of the house.

On Father's Day there is nothing you can do to make him happier than to express your appreciation and give him deference and affection. In so doing I am sure this will bring

By ANNE SANDBERG

greater happiness to the wife and more joy to the children and family life.

Moreover, children who honor their parents can expect other rewards, for the Bible promises to those who honor their father and mother that it shall be well with them and that their days shall be long upon the earth (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1,2).

If you are inclined to disagree with anything I have said, or if you think I have exaggerated, why not talk to a widow or to children who have lost their father. Ask them how they would treat him if they had him back again. 

My daddy prays for me

*When Daddy prays, the house gets still;
His voice is slow and deep;*



Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts

*We shut our eyes, the clock ticks loud,
So quiet we must keep.*

*When Daddy prays, he doesn't use
Those words the preacher does;
There's different things for
different days,
But mostly it's for us.*

*He prays that we may be good boys
And, later on, good men;
It makes us squirm and wonder if
We'll ever scrap again.*

*You'd never think, to look at Dad,
He once had tempers too!
If Daddy needs to pray, I'm sure
We younger fellows do!*

*His prayer sometimes gets awful long
And hard to understand;
So I just wiggle up real close
And let him hold my hand.*

*I can't remember all of it;
I'm little yet, you see;
But one thing I cannot forget:
My Daddy prays for me.*

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

HE STRUCK A LIGHT IN UNNUMBERED LIVES

I have seen the callouses of Christ on his tough yet gentle hands—the carpenter hands that fashioned a score of churches across the American prairie and shaped six lives at home.”

So wrote Clayton Johnson of his father, Herman G. Johnson, in a tribute entitled, “Swede Hands.”

We honor Herman Johnson this Father's Day not only as the father of a fine family but as spiritual father of numerous congregations. He has devoted 55 years to ministry in the Assemblies of God fellowship.

When the old North Central District (North and South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) was formed, he was asked to be its first secretary. When North Dakota became a district in its own right, he was chosen its superintendent, a position he filled with distinction for 17 years.

Today, at 82, he is minister of visitation at the Assembly of God, Spanaway, Washington. He still travels some 25,000 miles a year in visiting hospitals, praying with the sick, and helping new Christians.

Herman Johnson is the father of six children, three of whom are Assemblies of God ministers: Joseph, an evangelist; Sam, a missionary to Portugal; Daniel, pastor of Central Assembly, Peoria, Illinois; two other sons, David and Clayton; and a daughter, Esther Hanson.

Two of Herman's older brothers became Swedish Baptist ministers. Herman might have, too—except that about that time Pentecost came to the Dakotas via such pioneers as A. H. Argue, Sister Reckley, and Blanche Britain. Herman was filled with the Spirit and called to preach the gospel.

In February 1924, in the dead of winter, he went by bobsled to Bismarck and by train to Kulm, North Dakota, to speak and then to become pastor of the Assembly of God



Ellen and Herman Johnson with their six children (left to right): Clayton, Daniel, Sam, Joseph, David, and Esther.

there—beginning his 55 years of ministry.

During a pastorate at Brainerd, Minnesota, he met, fell in love with, and married Ellen. And as their son David said: “In all these years we have never heard them argue. Each lives for the other, and together for God.”

As a district official Herman Johnson helped form many new churches. A host of pastors, evangelists, and missionaries went out with his encouragement to help evangelize the world.

Early in his ministry he promised the Lord he would go anywhere he was asked to speak and never ask about finances—a promise he has

kept in spite of personal sacrifice and inconveniences. Ellen's dedication has matched that of her husband's.

Along with myriad duties and responsibilities, he always found time for his family. Writing in “Swede Hands,” his son Clayton said:

“Great God, bless these giant hands that . . . taught young boys to weed their father's garden, that nourished and blessed the tiny and the old. . . . Like Yours, a father's hands. . . .”

“These dutiful, thoughtful, willing hands taught boys to become men. They knew how to become unyieldingly firm when punishment was

due . . . but they were always open to people."

One son recalls that after he had entered the ministry and was having some problems and doubts, he made the long trip home. When his parents met him at the door, he said simply, "I just have to hear my father pray once more."

Herman led his son to an upstairs bedroom and poured out his heart in prayer for that son. "When father prayed, God was there in the room with him. We all covet father's prayers."

After leaving the district office, Herman Johnson became administrator of a church nursing home—and was disappointed because so much of his time was taken up with administration that he had little time for personal ministry. So each night he would kneel by his bed and pray, "Please, Lord, just let me preach again."

The Lord opened for him his present ministry of visitation. It provides opportunities for helping and encouraging a multitude of people.

Now at 82, when lesser men would be thinking of retirement and rocking chairs, Herman Johnson confides that there is still something he would like to do before the Lord calls him home. He would like to pioneer one or two more churches!

No wonder his children—his five sons, his daughter, and the multitude who have come to know Christ through his ministry—say with his son Clayton:

"Can any proper tribute be made to these hands? I think so, for these fingers hated darkness and struck a light in unnumbered lives. These hands were honest in a dishonorable generation; integrity made them blister and devotion made them bleed. He knew in his pioneering way that houses of worship are built by men of service.

"A proper tribute—can it be? I think so, for these hands have locked in prayer to God, then opened in loving generosity to men. Is there any greater thing we could say for any man?"



SOME DOS AND DON'TS FOR PARENTS



Photo by Robert Maust

DON'T crush a child's spirit when he fails. Never compare him with others who may have outshone him.

DO remember that a child is a gift from God. Let him be himself. He is an individual and should not be pushed into the mold of a parent, a brother, a sister, or someone else.

DON'T hand a child everything his little heart desires. Permit him to learn the thrill of earning, the joy of achieving.

DO discipline a child lovingly and firmly, and explain why. If he knows you are fair, he will continue to love and respect you.

DON'T set yourself up as the epitome of perfection. It will be easier to communicate with the child if you admit that Dad and Mom are fallible too.

DO remember that anger and hostility are natural emotions. Help the child find socially acceptable outlets for these normal feelings.

DON'T make threats in anger. Don't make impossible promises when you are in a generous mood. To a child, a parent's word means everything, so never make a threat or a promise you won't keep.

DO present a united front as parents.

By **DON FRANKLIN**

If you join with your child against your mate, it will create emotional conflicts in the child. It may result in feelings of guilt, confusion, and insecurity.

DON'T smother a child with superficial manifestations of "love." The purest and healthiest love expresses itself in day-in, day-out training that breeds self-confidence and independence. Love can be expressed in denying, as well as permitting.

DO teach a child there is dignity in hard work. Let him know a useful life is a happy life, while a life of ease and pleasure is empty and meaningless.

DON'T protect a child against every little blow and disappointment. Adversity strengthens character and makes us compassionate.

DO teach a child to love God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength. Show him that prayer, Bible reading, Sunday school, and church attendance are important. Example is a powerful force. The best gift you can give a child is training that will develop a deep and abiding faith in Christ.



MY LEGACY FROM DAD

By BEVERLY BROWN RANSELL

I didn't puzzle over a Father's Day gift this year. I didn't need to. For Dad is gone, and this Father's Day he is enjoying the gift of eternal life from his Saviour. He is at home with his Heavenly Father.

Instead of giving some token of love to him, I am enjoying a wonderful legacy he has left for me. I am enjoying many precious memories and the blessed hope that some day I, like him, will be forever with the Lord.

This legacy is mine because of his faithful example as a Christian father.

I have a snapshot of him sitting in his easy chair by the living room window. His glasses sit characteristically on his nose as he leans forward, elbows resting on his knees. He is poring over the Bible that lies open in his hands.

The Holy Spirit ministered to me so graciously as I stood beside Dad's open casket aching with grief. I saw with unclouded mind that only his body rested in the casket. His spirit has gone to be with his precious Lord. In the strength of that knowl-

edge I was able to endure the following weeks.

Later I sat reading First Corinthians 15, and verses 36 and 37 caught my eye. "That which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain."

I thought of every spring I can remember. From the time I was a small child I followed Dad to the garden and "helped" him do the planting.

There was something powerful in the ritual. Dad would slowly turn the rich sod, breaking the large clumps into powdery crumbs. Then, using the hoe, he would make a straight furrow. Into that narrow ditch we pitched the seeds. Some were round and white, some long and black, but none pretty. Some were smooth; others were prickled; and some so tiny they blew away if we weren't careful.

After we laid them to rest, we covered them with soil. We blanketed each long furrow, and waited.

Spring rains and warm sunshine

fell on the dirt. After a while, tiny green shoots appeared, and there was excitement as I saw them poke through the soil. Beans lazily lifted their leaves, often with a cap of dirt. Those ugly seeds had become beautiful, living plants.

Paul explains that a similar process occurs upon the death of a Christian. "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body."

The excitement of this passage rumbles like distant thunder! A transformation! Dad labored so hard and honestly in life, yet never received much in a material way. He always had such a thirst for knowledge, both natural and spiritual; yet there was little money to pursue formal training.


Often he lamented the restraint he felt when he worshiped. He longed to see Christ face-to-face.

Then, during his final years, he struggled with problems brought about by deteriorating health. There was frustration from the crippling of his vigorous life-style.

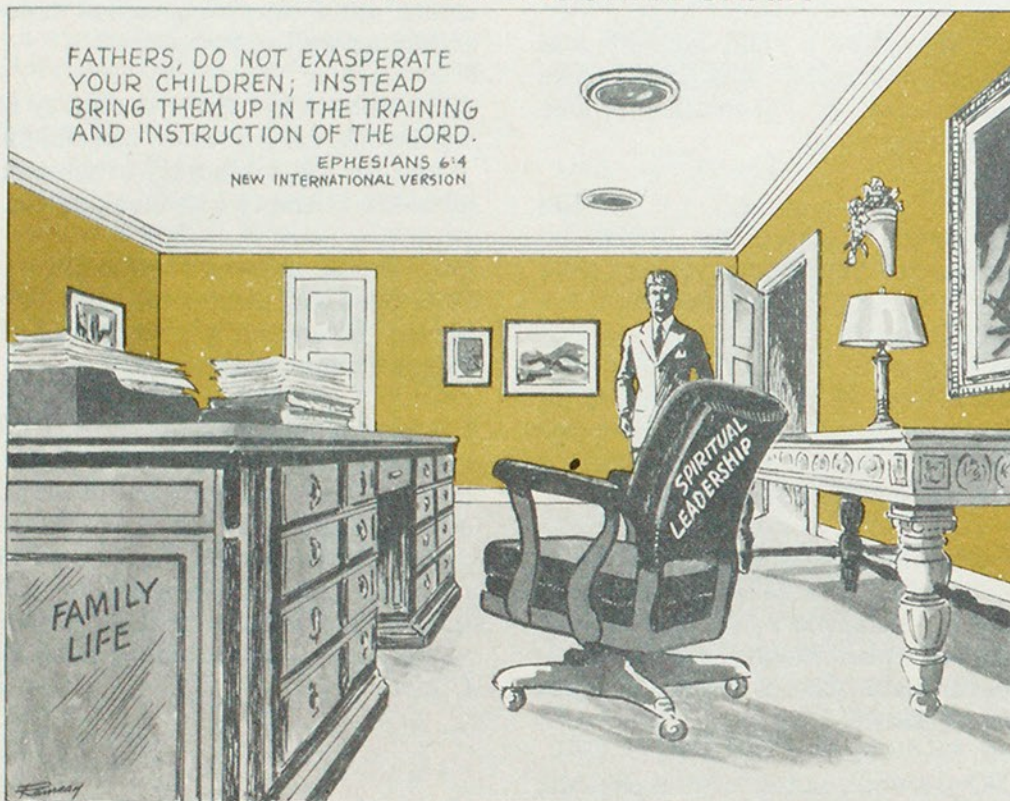
But now he has found fulfillment. All his limitations are behind him.

An incredible sense of joy and peace came over me as I contemplated Dad's new potential. His old frame that was laid in the ground was only the seed. He has a spiritual body now, and he is experiencing a wonderful dimension of existence that is only known by those who have gone to be with Christ.

I weep no longer. I treasure the memories and rejoice in the blessed hope of immortality. I can shout with Paul, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

I miss Dad's presence, his strength, his humor; but his passing has given me an even greater longing to follow Christ as he did and some day see Him face-to-face. 

EVERY DAD'S PERSONAL CHAIR

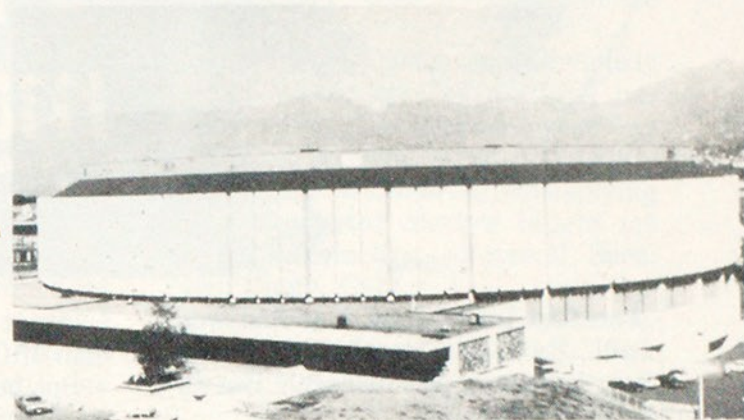


12th PENTECOSTAL WORLD CONFERENCE



Theme:
The
Holy Spirit
in the
Last Days

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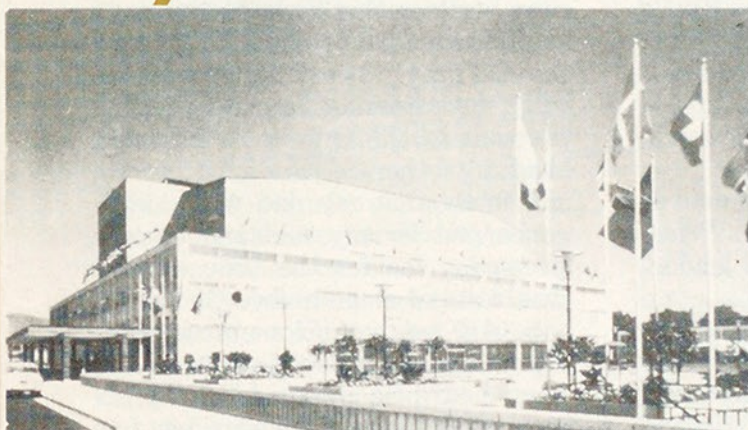
and from **The United States:** Dan Beller, Dennis Bennett,
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- **The Holy Spirit's manifestations worldwide**

For the first time at World Conference, the first daily session will include panel discussions conducted by leaders from 20 countries with a testimonial review of Pentecostal happenings today.

- **Sharing and worship**

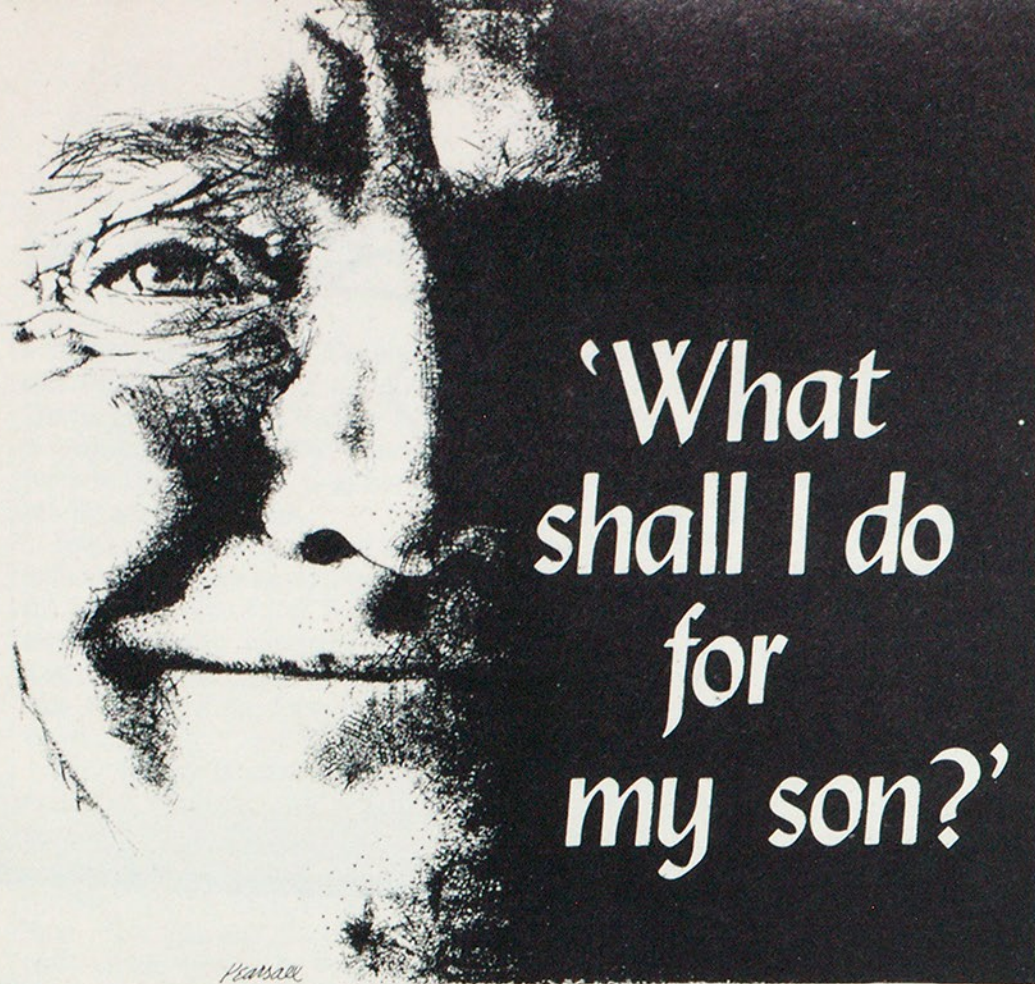
In morning services, special emphasis will be given to the ministry of worship, sharing and receiving God's blessing, and opportunity for prayer for the sick, and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.



Queen Elizabeth Theatre - morning sessions

Information

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'What shall I do for my son?'

Hammall

The first king Israel ever had was Saul. By every standard he could have been a mighty monarch. But he failed disastrously.

His story began so brightly. He was the chosen leader of Israel, "head and shoulders" above any man in the nation. (See 1 Samuel 9:2.) But by the end of his reign he was a consorter of witches, seeking in mediums what he never sought in God. (See 1 Samuel 28:3-25.)

How could such a thing happen? What was there in the makeup of the man to evoke such tragedy?

I think some of the blame has to be laid at the feet of Kish, Saul's father. Kish was a rancher. He bred donkeys and made a good living selling them. One morning he found a number of the animals had wandered off, so he sent Saul and a servant to look for them.

When Saul was about to give up and return home, his servant said, "Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can show us our way that we should go" (1 Samuel 9:6).

The servant was talking about Samuel. For decades Samuel had been in the public eye. He was the greatest leader in all Israel. There was hardly a person in the land who

was not familiar with this mighty man of God.

But here is the tragic truth of the matter: *Saul had never even heard of Samuel.* As a matter of fact, when he finally stood right in front of him, looking at the great leader face to face, he hadn't the faintest idea who the prophet was! (See 1 Samuel 9:18,19.)

So here was the fatal flaw: Kish had taught his son the family business well. *But he had never made his son really familiar with the things of God!*

At this time when we honor fathers everywhere, I ask the Holy Spirit to bring forcefully to your mind a question asked by Saul's father: "What shall I do for my son?" (1 Samuel 10:2). By the word *son* I am referring to your entire family. You, Dad, are to be king and priest in your home.

King refers to your direction over the activities of your family. *Priest* has to do with the spiritual leadership of your home.

As *king*, do you give that precious family the attention and time they crave? There have been many kings in this world—some of them kind and

The most important work a father can do

By DAN BETZER
Revivaltime Speaker

effective. What kind of king are you to your family?

As *priest*, do you give your family outstanding leadership in the things of God? Are you a dad who is deeply concerned with the spiritual level of his home?

No preacher can replace you spiritually as the head of your home. Your wife is not equipped for the job, and it is not fair of you to ask her. No one else can do the work God has called you to do.

See how well you can answer these questions:

1. *What does your family know of eternity?* Are they aware that this life is not all there is? Do your children realize they possess never-dying souls that will be even more alive a hundred thousand years from now than they are at this moment? Have you ever made your children aware that they will stand before God to give an account for their lives?

You say, "That's the church's job. They have my children in Sunday school each week. Let a good teacher tell them about eternity."

Will you really turn over the eternal destiny of your child to an outsider? Has your child ever heard you pray fervently to God, tears coursing down your cheeks because of concern for his soul?

When my father passed away some years ago, he didn't leave much for probate. It was hardly worth the effort to process the papers. But he left me a heritage that has stood by me in the crisis moments of my life. I heard my dad pray! I heard him pray faithfully, day after day, from deep within his soul to the One he loved more than any other.

I knew that my dad was deeply concerned for my soul and he was preparing me for the time when I would stand alone before God.

2. *Are your children aware that Jesus Christ is the only way to God?* I have heard so many dads say, "I want my child to make up his own mind without my intervention." It's probably the only facet of your child's life that you don't touch—the spiritual part. You insist that he eat

properly, rest sufficiently, attend school regularly, obey the laws of the land faithfully.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Jesus Christ is not one of many ways to God, sir; He is the *only* way. In the light of that fact, what relationship does your son or daughter have with Jesus Christ?

Have you ever offered to pray with your children? Have you ever opened the pages of God's Word and read to them the most vital truths of all time? Have you taken time just to talk out of your heart about Jesus Christ to those you love so much?

3. *Are your children aware that they must personally decide to live for God—that you cannot make that choice for them?* Do your children see in your life the values that make Christ attractive to them? When your son says, "I want to be just like Dad," is he also saying, "I want to serve Jesus just like Dad does"?

A father once took his little boy on his lap and described what a Christian was. When he was through, the little boy asked a question that pierced his father's heart: "Daddy, have I ever seen one?"

Dad, your son desperately needs you. Your daughter desperately needs you. And your wife is waiting for you to take the spiritual headship of your home.

Many fathers will be honored by their families today. You might get a lovely tie and a card. You will enjoy the accolades.

As you do, ask yourself these questions: "What am I really doing for my son or daughter? Is my fatherhood only a short-term investment? Or am I building the eternal destiny of my children, block by block, stone by stone? My business associates may consider me a success, but does God think so? And does my son or daughter think I am successful?"

I really feel this may be the most important decision you have ever faced. I ask the Holy Spirit to touch your heart so you can touch your family.

Diseased kidneys are healed

I WAS born again on December 27, 1967, at the Assembly of God in Encanto, Calif., pastored by Lloyd J. Marlow.

A month before this I had been told I had a kidney that was not functioning. It had already created deposits. The other kidney was diseased. So I had begun taking medication—two injections a week and 15 to 20 pills daily. I was to have one kidney removed in March 1968, by which time the diseased kidney was expected to be restored.

After I had been a Christian for about 6 weeks, one morning I asked the Lord how, if He had shed His blood for my salvation and received the stripes for my healing, could He give me one and deny the other? I made up my mind that as I had accepted my salvation by faith, so would I accept my healing.

From that moment I stopped taking medication. My wife, my mother,

and everyone else in the family were against this decision, but I felt I should.

I notified the urologist who was treating me. He said I would not last 6 months. My family doctor gave me 3 months. They tried to talk me into resuming the medication, but I told them Christ was my Saviour and also my Healer, and I would not be moved.

That was 11 years ago. Obviously God's Word, not the doctors', has proven true. For the past 5 years my wife and I have been serving the Lord in Mexico, sharing and applying all that Pastor Marlow taught me under his ministry.—Frank M. Baca, San Diego, Calif.

(Endorsed by Lloyd J. Marlow, former pastor, Glad Tidings, San Diego, Calif.)

You've Heard the Media . . . Now What Does the Bible Say?

COUNTERFEIT

By

Revivaltime Speaker Dan Betzer

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The sound of the clock ticking seemed so loud, and its melodious chimes made me flinch.

Pain pounded through my head like the roar of a sea on a rockbound shore, crashing and ebbing.

"Oh, God," I groaned as I huddled deeper into my recliner chair. If I could only find some measure of relief from the familiar migraine headache that was beginning its inexorable buildup, filling me with the sickening dismay I had known so long. . . .

I really didn't expect any answer from God; for as far back as I could remember these blinding, pulsating headaches had struck me frequently, often incapacitating me for days.

My children and husband suffered with me, for they had long ago come to recognize the symptoms and did their best to surround me with the quiet, the darkness, the isolation that the affliction seemed to demand.


Since my husband's work required frequent moves, I had been treated by some of the best doctors in the nation and had been in and out of emergency rooms in the biggest hospitals. But nothing they could offer had helped. Pills, shots, treatments, or advice about "changing your lifestyle" had never done much good.

Indeed, except for brief and unexplained periods of freedom, the attacks seemed to have increased in intensity over the years. My dread of them was so keen that I tensed into anxiety and despair each time I felt the familiar tightening of the muscles of my head, neck, and skull.

Although I was by nature inquisitive and searching, my attempts to chart the onset of the attacks and to take defensive measures had been unsuccessful.

One doctor had suggested that my "perfectionistic" tendencies were a cause. Recognizing at least a partial truth in his analysis, I struggled to let things go, tried not to be so conscientious and goody-goody.

For a time there seemed to be some relief. I learned to muffle my conscience. I had drifted far from God: still believing that He lived, died, and rose again, but somehow



To set the prisoner free

never realizing that He really cared about me—or my head.

My children, though reared in the church, had drifted too, experimenting with worldly and seductive temptations. They had succeeded in making a pretty big mess of their own lives and bringing sorrow and anxiety to mine.

But God had touched my youngest son, snatching him from the morass of drugs, hallucinations, Eastern religions, and other efforts to "find himself."

Only a few months ago Jim had found Jesus. Shortly after his conversion. Jesus filled him with the

Holy Spirit. Quickly Jim had discovered that God can do anything if you only believe.

A few days ago he and his young wife and child had arrived, all of them radiant with new life, bubbling over with God's goodness, and on fire with zeal to convert everyone in the family.

For months he had been writing to me of his experiences: exhorting, pleading, preaching, and putting me under conviction.

After all, I told myself, *I'm not some heathen woman. I'm a Christian. I believe in God. I've gone to church all my life, until the last 10 years.*

"But," I told Jim, "there are billions of people in this world. God doesn't have time to hear all those prayers. He never heard any of mine. He's out there, I guess, but He

doesn't care about me as a person.

"Haven't I prayed for years for Him to heal my headaches?"

"Mom," Jim said softly in my ear, kneeling beside my bed of pain. "Do you believe Jesus can heal you of these headaches?"

"Oh, son," I muttered angrily, "I guess He could if He wanted to."

There was silence. Jim knew how many years I had suffered. He had seen and experienced it firsthand. As he took a deep breath, he trembled, and his heart cried out: "Oh, Jesus, if You ever are going to manifest Yourself to my mother, do it now. Let her accept Your healing touch. Help her believe that You do care."

To me he said: "Mom, would you let me pray for these headaches to be healed?"

Pray for me?

In all the years of pills, treatments, doctors, shots, hospitals, and pain, no one ever had offered to pray for me.

It's worth a try, I thought wearily. Poor Jim, he's so sincere. He really thinks all this is real.

But aloud I said: "That's fine, son. You can pray for me if you want to."

Inside me a tiny hope stirred. What if it were true? Maybe He really would!

But doubt and resignation laughed bitterly in my soul.

Even if such healing were possible, I wasn't worthy. I hadn't even tried to live a Christian life for years. I hadn't been to church. Sunday had become just like any other day. I had sinned deliberately and defiantly.

I became aware that Jim was praying softly. Though my eyes were closed, I thought I felt warm tears splash on my face as his hands, trembling slightly, were laid on my head.

Then I heard him saying something in a foreign language. Startled, I strained to catch the sounds.

This must be that "speaking in tongues." I had heard it mentioned once or twice. Had my son gone off into some weird cult?

Then I felt him kissing my cheek, his soft mustache brushing my face and his hands patting me. "Mom, I know you are going to be healed. Try to sleep now." Then he was gone.

I lay there, and the pain seemed to intensify. Red hot hammers pounded my brain; my nerves screamed with the familiar agony. I clenched my teeth and choked back a groan.

Oh, if only it could be true! Oh, if only I could be healed!

"Oh, God help me!" I shrieked inside myself. "Let it be true! Please!"

It was early afternoon, and despite the agony I drifted off to sleep, a prayer in my heart.

"For my son's sake, God, let it be true, so his newfound faith won't be shattered. God, he'll be so disappointed if You don't heal me. It might discourage him. And God, I'm so glad he has found You, even if I haven't."

When I awoke, it was dark. My head still hurt, though the ache seemed to have eased a little. From another room I heard a sound of soft voices—some of my son's friends, come to visit.

As my consciousness returned, a verse of Scripture wrote itself across the blackboard of my mind: "And she rose, and ministered unto them. . . ."

What? Who? My numbed thoughts stumbled among the many verses of the Bible I had memorized as a child, the many Bible stories I had read to my children, and the Sunday school lessons I had studied when I taught children's classes years ago.

The Apostle Peter's mother—or was it his mother-in-law? What had happened to her? Then I remembered.

Jesus had healed her!

Yes, the Bible said she was "sick of a fever," and Jesus came and took her hand, and "she arose, and ministered unto them." I guessed that meant she got up and cooked supper or something.

Hope stirred faintly. Acting on that dim hope, I struggled out of my chair, holding to the back to steady myself. Slowly, dizzily, still feeling

pain in my head, I made my way to the kitchen.

Some chocolate chip cookies, fresh from yesterday. A pitcher of iced tea, some glasses, lemon, sugar. I carefully placed my little repast on my best silver tray. With growing determination I made my way into the dining room where Jim and his friends were seated around the table, conversing in low voices.

At the sight of me they jumped up, protesting: "Oh, you shouldn't do that. Jim said you were sick."

"Mom?" There was anxiety and hope in my son's voice. "How do you feel?"

"Fine," I lied. "I'm just a little shaky yet."

"Mom, is the headache gone?" Joy flooded his voice. His eyes searched my face.

Sudden courage flooded my soul. Looking him full in the face I repeated: "It's gone."

"Oh, praise be to God! Thank You, Jesus!" He hugged me, at first exuberantly, then a little more gingerly. "Mom, you'd better go back and lie down. Can I get you anything?"

"Won't you join us?" asked one of his friends politely.

"No, I think I'll just go to bed and get a good night's sleep," I replied, afraid I couldn't keep up my brave front too long.

"That's a good idea, Mom. God bless you. Sleep well." My son hugged and kissed me again, and he escorted me to my room.

As he returned to his friends, I heard him relate: "She has had these terrible headaches since she was a little girl, but I know Jesus wants to heal her."

And it was true. Jesus had healed me.

It took an act of total willpower for me to lie down on the bed, for lying down had been one thing I couldn't do with one of these headaches. It seemed to make the pain worse.

"But I will go to bed," I com-

continued on next page

The idea of ministry as 'serving others in life' was virtually new with Jesus and His followers.

A THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY

Prisoner free continued

manded myself. "I will lie down and go to sleep." And I did.

I didn't know it yet—for this was my first encounter with the living Christ by whose stripes we are healed—but I was exercising the faith needed for healing—determining to believe even though I hadn't yet seen the physical evidence and acting as though what had been prayed for had come to pass.

These are two of the cardinal rules for receiving one's healing. (1) Believe and you shall receive. (2) You shall have what you say.


I had said, "I am healed," in front of witnesses. To my carnal mind that was a lie, but to those who know God it's called "walking by faith and not by sight."

Later I learned that God calls those things which are not as though they are. That's what I had done in claiming my healed condition, despite the presence of the pain in my head.

For when I awoke the next morning, all pain was gone. Although it has been 6 years, never again have those migraine headaches returned!

A week or so later I met Christ for the first time as my own personal Saviour, knowing at last that He really cares about me. I learned that no matter how many others were talking to Him at the same time, He, in His omnipotence, hears my prayers too—and answers them.

About 2 weeks after that He came to me as my Baptizer, filling me with the Holy Spirit, giving me a new language in which to pray for healing for others. As a Christian believer I can lay my hands upon them and believe, even if they don't, that Jesus can heal them, deliver them, and set them free.

For He said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor: he hath sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18,19, ASV). 

There are five words in the New Testament translated "ministry." They are used variously depending upon the particular stress of meaning desired. But they all refer to *ministry* in one way or another.

There is *douleuo* which means "to serve as a slave." The emphasis is upon subjection—"to serve in absolute subjection to a master." The noun form *doulos* is the exact counterpart of the word *kurios* (lord). Paul used *doulos* of himself in almost every one of his letters.

Second, there is *therapeuo* which means "willingness to serve." It places stress upon the respect and concern expressed by that willingness. This is used in relation to God. It emphasizes a willingness to minister to God.

Third, there is *latreuo* which means "to serve for wages." Strangely it is this root that came to produce the word for "priestly service" or "service in the temple." It has a variant, *leitourgeo*, from which comes "liturgy."

The fourth word for "minister" in the Bible is *hupereteo*. It literally means "to steer" and is used of the oarsmen of the ancient Greek ships which plowed the seas of Asia Minor. A leader would yell or beat a drum, and every oarsman would pull the oars in cadence for top speed—or else he might be whipped to death and thrown overboard.

This word for ministry signifies "unquestioning allegiance." Paul used it in 1 Corinthians 4:1 of himself, Apollos, and Peter: "Let a man so account of us as the *ministers* [*huperetas*] of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God."

The fifth word for "ministry" is *diakoneo*. This word signifies ministry as an act and is the most used word for the act of ministry in the

New Testament. It is a word that is personal—and it always involves *service given in love!*

Its original meaning was "to wait at table." It involved at various times the following: "to taste"—for a master—as Nehemiah was cup-bearer and taster for the king of Persia; "to direct a marriage feast"—as the servants (*diakonoi*) at the marriage feast in Cana (John 2); or "to provide and care for"—as the seven were appointed to administer the affairs of the Early Church (Acts 6). Hence, *diakoneo* means "to serve in love."

Now this understanding of ministry as "serving others in love" was virtually new with Jesus and His followers.

The Greeks of Jesus' day knew nothing of this concept of "serving love." The Sophists said: "How can a man be happy when he has to serve someone?" And again, "The only service which is acceptable is serving my own desires boldly and cleverly." Even Plato said at one time: "A servant is nothing but a contemptible flatterer."

In short, the Greeks, humanists that they were, knew nothing of "true self-emptying love for others." It was "folly to the Greeks." For them service never led to self-sacrifice.

As Kittel put it: "For the Greek in his freedom and wisdom there could never be any question of existing to serve others."

First-century Judaism was not much better off. The Septuagint (the Old Testament in Greek) does not even use the word *diakoneo*. It, in fact, uses only two words to translate the entire concept of ministry: first, *douleuo* meaning "slave service," and second, *leitourgeo* meaning "cultic (temple) service."

It is true that the Jews wrestled with Leviticus 19:18: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." But they neatly got around its demands in three ways. First, they drew a

By RONALD E. COTTLE

Pastor, Evangel Temple, Springfield, Missouri

sharp distinction on "who is my neighbor." He is only the righteous, not the unrighteous. (See Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan which was given in answer to a scribe's question, "Who is my neighbor?") Second, they viewed service to others as *a work of merit before God* and not as self-emptying love for others. And finally, a true Jew served only the worthy—never the *unworthy*. The Jews' most caustic criticism of Jesus was that He "ate with sinners."

In His own personal ministry Jesus took this central *ethical* Old Testament "Torah-command" in Leviticus 19:18, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," and joined it to the central *theological* Old Testament "Torah-command" in Deuteronomy 6:5, "Thou shalt love the Lord God with all thy heart, . . . soul, and . . . might." (See Mark 12:28-34; Matthew 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-28.)

By doing this Jesus purified "ministry" from Judaism's distortion of it as "an act of merit before God" and made it to mean a self-sacrificing love for others. Such "ministry" as "self-sacrificing love" became the mark of Jesus' life and work and the badge of His disciples!

One of the classic statements in Scripture on a theology of ministry is Luke 22:24-27:

"A dispute also arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he [Jesus] said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among

you as one who serves [hodiakonon]' " (Revised).

The Synoptic Gospels do not tell the whole story of what happened in that room. We must see John 13 for the insightful details.

The setting is immediately following the Passover meal and the foretelling of Peter's denial. Here John adds the footwashing ceremony. The disciples argued about who was greatest, and none would perform the slave ministry of washing the dust from the others' feet.

Jesus observed this and "rose from the supper table, took off his outer clothes, *picked up a towel* and fastened it round his waist. Then he poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel around his waist" (John 13:3-5, Phillips).

After He finished He said: "Do you realize what I have just done to you? You call me 'teacher' and 'Lord' and you are quite right, for I am your teacher and your Lord. *But if I, your teacher and Lord, have washed your feet, you must be ready to wash each other's feet. I have given you this as an example so that you may do as I have done. . . .* The servant is not greater than his master and the messenger is not greater than the man who sent him. *Once you have realized these things, you will find your happiness in doing them!*" (John 13:12-17, Phillips).

Happiness (*makarios*) means "joy or inner blessedness." This joy comes through self-sacrificing love in service to others!

Remember that ministry is "self-sacrificing love in service of others." It is the mark of Jesus and the badge of the Christian.

It is accompanied by two promises direct to the servant (minister) from Jesus himself. First, He promises us himself: "I am in the midst of you as the one who ministers." Second, He promises us joy: "You should serve others as I have served you; and if

you realize these things, you will find joy in doing them."


In Africa a man named John was a successful businessman but was unhappy because he felt a special call to minister Christ's love to lepers. Occasionally he would go to the leprosarium and preach, but he always felt awkward and unaccepted. Few came to his services.

Finally, he became so concerned that he began to spend many hours there each week helping the lepers, cleaning their sores, and doing odd jobs for them.

John contracted leprosy. At first he was devastated. Why would God allow this to happen? But he found that, when he was admitted to the leprosarium, he was free to move among the 450 patients as he wished. They accepted him and now would listen to him speak of Jesus.

He started a Bible study. Just a few came at first, but soon there were 300 regularly attending. And nearly all of them accepted Jesus and began to grow in Christ.

The missionary who told me John's story said that in contrast to other leper colonies in Africa, this one was a place of joy and light and singing.

The last sight the missionary saw on his final visit to that leprosarium was John's happy face shining through the gate as he waved goodbye with nubs where his fingers once were. And the last words John said to him were, "Thank God for making me a leper." 

Is it possible to undergo the pressures of life without going under?

WHAT TO DO AT THE BREAKING POINT

Many people are coming to the end of themselves. Their burdens, worries, and problems are literally taking them to the breaking point. As a result, increasing numbers are taking their own lives. Others are institutionalized.

Even Christian people sometimes come to the point where they feel all their resources are exhausted and they have nowhere to turn. Problems at work, at school, or in the family have brought them to the breaking point. Sickness, financial reverses, or fear through insecurity have driven them to distraction.

They are asking, "How is it possible to undergo the pressures of life today without going under?"

The source of the problem, in many cases, is that people are looking to their own strength and human resources and are finding that in themselves they are inadequate to meet the need.

Does not the Bible tell us, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee"? (Psalm 55:22). In another place it says, "Casting all

your care upon him, for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Every believer needs to recognize that the Lord cares about all his needs. He needs to reassure himself that the God who has loved him and cared for him through all the days that are past still cares about what is happening today and wants to help him.

Some may be saying, "If He really cares, why hasn't He done something?"

We might answer that with a question: "Have you really turned the situation or the need over to the Lord to care for it?"

The reply to this could be, "I have tried and tried, but nothing happened!"

In turning our burden over to the Lord, there are three things we must realize about ourselves; that is, that our abilities, our strength, and our knowledge may not be enough for the situation we face.

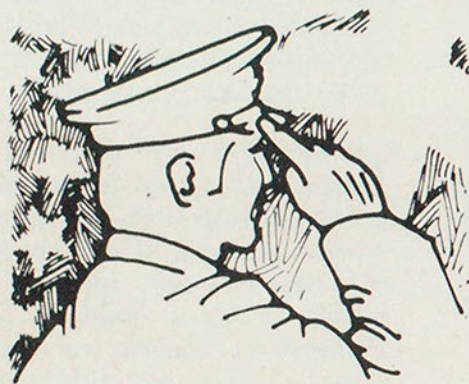
FIRST, we must realize that we have done all that our abilities will permit

or we would not be at the breaking point. Upon realizing we can do no more, we have to trust the Lord to do what we cannot do. When we cast our burden upon the Lord, we are recognizing that His abilities are truly sufficient for the situation.

One of the best examples of this attitude of trust can be seen in the Book of Daniel, chapter 3, when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were about to be thrown into the fiery furnace. They knew they could do no more, other than reject God, so they put their trust completely in Him. They told the king, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us . . . and he will deliver us out of thine hand." And God delivered them. We can trust God whatever difficulty we face, knowing He can do the seemingly impossible.

NEXT, we must realize that our strength is not enough. When we come to the breaking point, we have simply come to the end of our own strength.

A fine athlete in a race or other



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**MILITARY
PERSONNEL
DAY**

JULY 1, 1979

By HOMER L. KEENER
 Pastor, Bethany Assembly
 Mauldin, South Carolina

contest sometimes comes to the end of his strength and collapses because he pushed himself to the extreme. Yet we do not think worse of him as an athlete, but only know that his competition was better for that particular moment of time. So many of us push to the end of our strength and grow discouraged, when all we need do is to reach out for the Lord, casting our burden upon Him who is able to carry it.

Our Lord on the way to Calvary was weakened because of His trial and the torture by the soldiers. Along the way He fell under the load of His cross, and the soldiers compelled Simon of Cyrene to carry it the rest of the way. Do we hold the Lord in contempt for that moment of weakness? Why then do we blame ourselves in our moment of weakness? We must admit that our strength is limited, and we must learn to lean upon the Lord.

FINALLY, we must realize that we don't know enough to take care of the problem or situation. Those at the breaking point have already tried everything they know to do, yet the burden is not resolved. Here again as we cast the burden upon the Lord, we must realize He is all knowing. He knows exactly what to do and how to do it.

When people are sick, they try all the home remedies first; and if those remedies don't work, they go to a doctor. They do this because they believe the doctor has knowledge and will prescribe the right medication for that particular need.


Why then don't we trust the Lord to handle our every need? He knows how to do it, does He not?

As we cast our burden upon the Lord, He will sustain us. That word *sustain* means to keep from falling or sinking, to endure or underwrite.

Are you about to fall or sink? Are you about to go under? Are you at the breaking point? Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will carry you through the burden, trial, or difficulty.

You have done all you can do, and

your strength is not enough; you don't know what else to do. That's the time to trust the Lord. The Bible says, "Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:4).

Whatever situation, burden, or problem you may face, cast it upon Him in full trust that He will take care of it and will keep you from the breaking point. 

Rusty hauls them in!

continued from page 32

all mankind. For 3 years Christ performed His earthly ministry bringing joy and happiness to the people. By living what He preached, He provided a practical demonstration of God's love and showed the holy kind of life God wants us to live. Nevertheless, Christ knew we could never be saved until He gave His life on the cross as a ransom for our sins.


So when the time of His death drew near, Christ did not shrink from His duty or face it as an unexpected twist of fate. Instead He said,

"My soul is deeply troubled. Shall I pray, 'Father, save me from what lies ahead'? But that is the very reason why I came! Father, bring glory and honor to your name" (John 12:27).*


In the years I've known Rusty Bussing, he's called me quite a few times and said, "I've got something over here you'd like to see." By now I know what's up. I know he's got another mess of fish all cleaned and ready for the frying pan.

But that's where he draws the line. It's up to me to cook them if I'm going to eat them.

In much the same way God also draws the line with us. Even though He planned our salvation before the world began and provided the price of our ransom through His Son's death on Calvary's cross, God does not force His gift of eternal life upon anyone. If we reject Christ, God will also reject us. If we receive Christ, God will receive us and give us eternal salvation.

Friend, it's yours for the asking. If you are not saved, I hope you will accept Christ today. 

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**'We are Pentecostal.
That is the secret of our success—
we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.'**

Pentecost came to Nigeria in a unique way; it was not brought by missionaries. A group of believers in the late 1920s were thirsting after righteousness. They began to seek the Lord. God honored their faith in a mighty way, and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

They learned of the Assemblies of God through reading the *Pentecostal Evangel*, and asked for missionaries to come and teach them. There were no available workers at that time, but in 1939 Everett and Dorothy Phillips came to Nigeria under appointment by the Division of Foreign Missions of the Assemblies of God.

The missionaries instructed our people concerning this gift God had given them. The missionaries had love, compassion, and a burden to see people grow in Christ.

That is how the Assemblies of God work in Nigeria began; it was founded on the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We are Pentecostal. That is the secret of our success—we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

How DID the Lord find me? He found me out of my curiosity. In 1955 Missionaries Walter and Elsie Kornelsen came to my area. I am from the Ekumtak-Mbube clan in the Ogoja area of southeast Nigeria.

When the Kornelsens began preaching in Mbube, things began to happen. Lives were changed. Even the smallest child knew something strange was going on. People who had given themselves to worshiping jujus, idols, fetishes, and ancestral stones were suddenly embracing the gospel. When they received the Lord Jesus, they would burn their jujus.

Stories were circulated about the Assembly of God in our village. The building had half walls, and for fun we children would stand outside to watch the people put on what we called a "play." We were curious.

The people would raise their hands and pray and pray until something strange came in their midst; then they would begin to speak a different language. Some would fall on the

ground and roll, and they would still be smiling.

In 1957, when I was 13, Brother Kornelsen and the local pastor conducted a week of outdoor meetings and showed Bible films. One evening my family was eating by the fireplace in the open compound when the missionary came by driving a sound truck. The pastor's singing blared over the loudspeakers: "*Come, oh come! Jesus is calling you, oh come!*"

How would Jesus be calling me? I thought. Do they have Him in the truck, or what?

The pastor announced, "We want everybody to come and listen to the Word of God." As the truck came nearer to us, the pastor sang another chorus: "*Think whether you are for Jesus. The judgment is now near.*"

That was a very serious question. In my language it means, "Sit down and consider; check your heart and know." *The judgment is now near*—this had an urgency, like the next day something very great would happen.

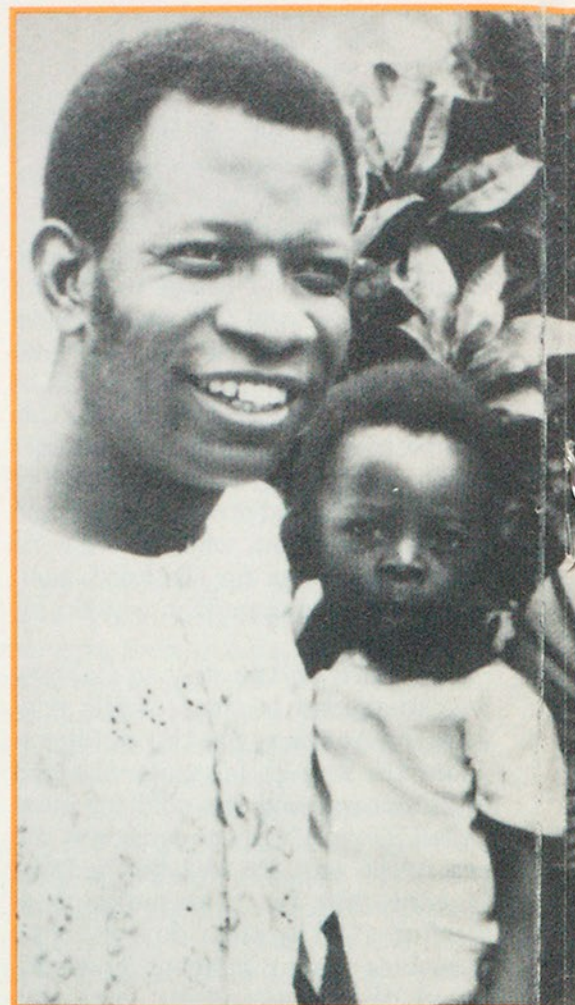
I went to see the gospel movie, and afterward the pastor invited all of us to come into the church. I thought, *Oh, that is good! I will watch them put on that "play" again. I will see how they do everything!*

I stood outside the half walls, and the man began to preach about the love of God and Jesus' death on the cross. He said Jesus would deliver from fear.

That struck me. I lived in fear. We had no concept of God as a loving Father. We thought of Him as an impersonal spirit to be feared.

My parents had been married 10 years without a child and had consulted witches to learn why my mother did not conceive. Even after I was born, they lived in fear of evil spirits. Every month my father would cut the neck of a chicken and let the blood run around the ancestral stones. We wanted to be sure we had the protection of our forefathers.

I forgot that I was there to laugh, and began to think very, very seriously about my life. Before I knew



John and Theresa Nenji with sons Joseph Abud and Joseph Abud at Central Bible College in Springfield, Mo., and his post at Eastern Nigeria Bible Institute.

EVERY DAY IS TH

From information submitted by
Instructor at Eastern Nigeria

it, I had gone through the door and was standing in front of the pastor. I became very ashamed of my past, and I said, "Jesus, whoever or whatever You are, I want You in my life."

I WAS a changed boy. My parents did not know what had happened except that I started going to church often. In Nigeria the Assemblies of God churches have morning prayers; at 5 each day the believers gather to seek God and read the Word before going to their farms. I would not miss that.

In the evenings we would gather and sing several hours, just rejoicing in the Lord. Sometimes we dismissed very late.

Before long I was in trouble. My parents would want to know where I had been. I would explain, but they



uo, age 1, and Michael Ejaro, 4. John is studying and will return to Nigeria in August to resume

THE FATHER'S DAY

by JOHN NENJI

Bible Institute, Ogoja, Nigeria

could not understand. "John, do you mean you are *serious*?"

I was serious. I would no longer worship the jujus. My father realized that if he didn't do something, I would be of no use to him. As the firstborn of five children I was to inherit all my father owned, including his ancestral worship. My parents treasured me very much.

They began to lock me out of the house. Sometimes they beat me and let me go without food. Finally they said, "Since all your life is in church, we don't want you in the home again."

I was disowned. All friends left, and the name "John" spelled a fool in my village.

One Sunday morning very early my uncle came from his village 5 miles away. "Well, John," he said, "I

have come so that you and I can go together to that church today."

At first I didn't know what to believe; but when I looked at his face, I knew he meant just the opposite of what he said. I got dressed, and my uncle said, "We will have our church here today."

He took a stick he had hidden by the door and beat me to the point that I was no longer able to cry. Then he stayed to make sure I didn't leave the house until church was dismissed. In the darkness of my room I cried, "Oh, God, why don't You break this wall so I can escape!"

As soon as my uncle let me out, I bolted straight to the pastor's house.

The saints were ready to eat lunch when I dashed in with tears and dust all over. Everyone began to weep before the Lord, then started singing and praising God. The Lord arranged a special service just for me!

I experienced many such things, but I continued to grow in the Lord.

WHEN the Lord baptized me in the Holy Spirit, it was the most glorious night of my life! Others were baptized in the Spirit that night, and we were so enveloped in the presence of God that we spoke in tongues until time for the morning service. The Lord said to me then, "I want you to spend your life helping others to know Me."

At that time I was going with my pastor to other villages for ministry. We would go by foot many miles to visit churches. We also made trips far away to the missionary's home, where we would study the Word of God and learn new choruses.

In 1962 I went to Eastern Nigeria Bible Institute in Ogoja for a year of study. Already I was preaching. Our Bible school program is 3 years, and students usually pastor for some time between each year of study. My second year of school was 1964, and my last was 1969. I later studied at West Africa Advanced School of Theology in Lome, Togo.

In 8 years I have pastored three churches, two of which I pioneered.


With the Lord's help, the first church I started has expanded into seven churches.

For the past 9 years I have worked with the Bible school in Ogoja, teaching my African brothers how to build churches and prepare men for heaven. This has been the greatest joy of my life. I teach courses in Pentateuch, historical books, homiletics, and English language. Our enrollment this year is 67 students.

I have nothing to regret in being a child of God. When I was younger, many people said to me, "John, you are wasting your life. You have put your parents to shame. You will never be anything."

But the Lord has blessed. He gave me one of the most beautiful girls in the world for a wife. We met when I was a senior in Bible school and were married in 1972. Theresa is a graduate of Eastern Nigeria Bible Institute and is involved in women's groups. She is attending teacher training college in order to teach in a Christian day school.

God is blessing in Nigeria. Though missionaries are still needed in the area of education, and the Lord has raised up many, many young people in Nigeria to evangelize and plant churches. *That is our job.* God has given to the leaders of our work a vision to push the gospel to areas that have not yet been evangelized.

We still need the support of your prayers. Many people still live in bondage to fear, as I did. Many do not know that Jesus made it possible for them to have free access to the Father. They need to learn of "the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). Every day is the Father's day. 

Special Offerings for FOREIGN MISSIONS

should be sent to:

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Division of Foreign Missions

1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802



This is a road—not a field, which obviously vehicles could not travel.

HOME MISSIONARIES FELT BRUNT OF PAST WINTER WEATHER

Reports coming from across the nation indicate that many Assemblies of God home missionaries felt the brunt of this past winter because of its unusually severe weather.

Some felt alone in the constant bombardments of storms. Having to be away from posts added to hardships and financial strain. Not a few churches were closed for a month to 6 weeks. Insufficient support and sickness in some instances added to discouragement.

The Southwest with rains, mud, and snow; the Northern States with frigid temperatures and snow; the Midwest with ice and snow; and later the South with floods—in all these areas our missionaries acutely felt the results of severe weather.

SOUTHWEST

A missionary-pastor on an Indian reservation of the Southwest wrote:

“Roads have been closed with deep snow and ice packs for more than a month. We barely make it in and out. Some people were reached by helicopter and Red Cross. We have had to close the church for a month.

“We are not living in the city but in

an isolated area where help is needed. Monday night I was stuck in deep mud. It was dark, snowing, and there was freezing wind. There was no help. My gas tank was empty. I had to walk home and wait until Tuesday to dig my truck out of the mud.

“Sometimes I reach the point where I would like to resign. Thank God, the race soon will be over.”

The wife of another Southwest pastor of an Indian church tells of her family’s having to be evacuated on March 1. That family was unable to return home for a month because of the mud.

In one place near the home of those missionary-pastors, a man sank to his waist in mud, requiring 4 hours for rescuers to get him on solid footing.

Cars were buried in deep mire for as long as 4 weeks. Mud pulled boots from people’s feet. Deep ditches were washed across roadways. Cars and trucks went into ditches trying to pull other cars from ditches. Livestock losses were heavy.

“A person just had to be in it to understand,” one commented.

The son of an administrator of the American Indian Bible Institute narrowly escaped drowning. Swirling floodwaters swept his car downstream. He managed to get out the rear window and climb on top of the car—then jumped to a bridge as he was carried by the current.

A missionary-pastor of a desert area of Arizona writes: “December and January brought us a lot of rain and floodwaters; however, we were able to ford the water to bring our people in from the reservation for most services. Sometimes our attendance was small.”

Still another reported from Arizona: “Fall, which was unusually mild, turned into one of the coldest winters we ever have experienced. With snow and continuing subfreezing temperatures, the highway leading to the reservation and the streets remained icy.”

EAST

“We have tried to save energy, but during these colder months the heating oil bills keep going up. Though we wear heavier clothing indoors at the Teen Challenge center, our fuel cost still increases,” was one report from Massachusetts.

NORTH CENTRAL

From Illinois comes this observation: “It has been a hard winter. Everyone has felt it in a financial way. We are no exception. The last few months our support has been down. We still have the large fuel oil bill to pay. The heating system has needed several hundred dollars of repairs. The electric bill has gone up again. As we try to pay off the old bills, we are gearing up to take new people into the [Teen Challenge] center. We really need to do more remodeling and painting.”

ALASKA

From our northernmost state it was reported: “This winter has been a hard one to get out to villages.” Added to that statement was this ob-

MISSOURI CHURCH GROUP MINISTERS TO APACHES

By LYNN L. WERTZ

The Apache language has no word for *love*. But words were unnecessary last summer for the Apache children of the San Carlos Indian Reservation to show 18 members of North Side Assembly, Springfield, Mo., their appreciation and happiness.

Our North Side Assembly group traveled 1,200 miles to Bylas, Ariz., to help with vacation Bible school. On June 23 we loaded the church bus and a van with VBS materials, playground equipment, clothes, sleeping bags, and enough food for 300 meals. Besides all the supplies, we carried a

washing machine, a gift from North Side's VBS to Eugene and Peggy England, missionary-pastors of Bylas Indian Assembly on the San Carlos Indian Reservation.

Amid all the excitement and anticipation of this adventure, a certain apprehension rode with the group across the desert. What were Indian children like? None of us had ever taught Indian children! Would the children accept strangers for teachers? Could we live through weather 105 degrees in the shade?

After nearly 2 days' travel we arrived in Bylas hot, tired, and still apprehensive, but eager to get started.

On Monday morning 67 Apache children were divided into four groups, and VBS began. The theme, "Power of Love," was used for each day's classes. This theme was interpreted to the children by showing how we care for (love) each other, how we should care for (love) God, and how God cares for (loves) us.

"Loving Others," "Praising God," "Forgiving," "Doing Our Best," and "Using Our Talents" were the daily session topics. With a few adaptations, the classes were much like classes the North Side group had taught in their own VBS in Springfield.

Actually the Indian family, we found, is closely knit, so it was not difficult for the children to learn the meaning of love. But the children wanted to learn more about Jesus and His care (love) for them. That was incentive enough to cause us to work hard to do our best.

The week's life-style and the daily routine were somewhat of an adjustment. Each day breakfast was served at 6:30 a.m. which meant the 10 girls sharing two bathrooms had to get up at 5:00 a.m. to make that breakfast line!

Classes were from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Afternoons were spent doing chores

continued on next page



Above: Women and men of North Side Assembly, Springfield, Mo., (Alvin G. Blackard, pastor), who journeyed to Bylas, Ariz., in June 1978, to minister to children in a vacation Bible school. Below: Pastor and Mrs. James E. England of Bylas.



reservation from another outpost (Ft. Yukon): "Because of severe cold and a problem with the Speed-the-Light van, we were unable to run the van 2 weeks last month."

Costs in the Lower 48 were high but in Alaska much higher. Some villages ran out of fuel.

But difficult though it was for many, no mail has been without notes of spiritual victories. There have been physical healings. In some places where services could continue, increased attendance has been observed. There have been revivals; souls have been brought into the Kingdom. Men have become interested in the gospel. Families have been reunited.

With summer and fall ahead, there is time to recuperate from financial and physical losses. Through prayers and efforts of the entire Fellowship, full recovery can come.

At Chattanooga, Tennessee

TEEN CHALLENGE CENTER FOR MEN OPENS

Apaches continued

and getting to know the Apache children on a more personal basis.


The North Side group enjoyed volleyball and basketball. An even greater pleasure for some was walking and talking with the children and learning more about the Apache way of life.

Evenings were filled with a worship service and afterwards volleyball; and 10:30 meant "lights out."

Seeing these Apache children receive Jesus as their Saviour, watching them learn the meaning of His love, and experiencing their love and friendship toward the "strangers from Springfield" made any little inconvenience we might have encountered insignificant.

On the last day one of the teenage boys asked the group to promise to come back next year. Everyone of these hot, tired VBS workers immediately responded, "Lord willing, we'll be back next year."

Together the group prayed, "Lord, thank You for this opportunity; thank You for this blessing." Each one of them has experienced joy from giving his or her vacation time to ministering for Jesus.

On the return trip we visited the Grand Canyon, but for the group the canyon's grandeur faded when compared to the week of friendship and ministry on the San Carlos Indian Reservation. 

Children and VBS workers assembled in the church in Bylas, Ariz.



A major goal of Chattanooga Teen Challenge (CTC) was realized on February 14 when formal announcement was made of the acquisition of a large 2-story brick house in a heavily populated area of Chattanooga.

Purchase of the property is enabling Teen Challenge to expand its ministry and rehabilitative program to young men with alcoholic or drug addiction problems.

The first young man, in his 20s, was waiting to be received on February 6, a week before the property was acquired, according to a story carried in the *Chattanooga News-Free Press*.

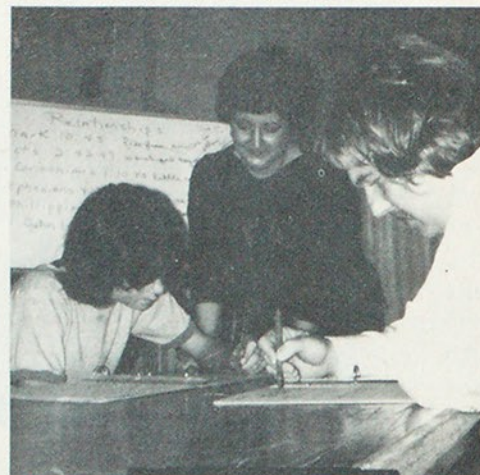
Through generous contributions from individuals, churches, and other organizations throughout the metropolitan area, as well as grants from philanthropic foundations, CTC was able to purchase the building at Bailey Avenue and South Willow Street from Central Presbyterian Church for \$16,000 plus closing costs.

The property, valued at \$35,000, was obtained at the low figure because it will continue to be used for the work of the Lord.

Formerly the house was used as a fellowship manor. Included in the sale were household furnishings and appliances.

In conjunction with Teen Challenge's announcement of property

acquisition in a February ceremony, Dr. Maurice Rawlings, noted local heart specialist, popular lecturer, and author of *Beyond Death's Door*, donated to CTC a substantial portion of his royalties from his nationally acclaimed best-seller. The event received much publicity from the city's



Classroom scene at the Teen Challenge center in Chattanooga, Tenn. Pat Pickett (standing), administrative assistant, is directing the work.

media, including a feature on a local TV program.

The Executive Board of Teen Challenge had agreed to pursue purchase of the property as early as October 1978. By last January \$42,000 had been raised toward the purchase and operating cost for 1979.

The house shows wear and tear of its years of use. Part of the Teen Challenge program, however, is to keep days and nights completely filled and programmed, so work on the house will give the young man something to do for their work assignments.

Monthly cost to operate the center

**Special Offerings for
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Division of Home Missions
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By DEXTER CLEM
CTC Minister of Evangelism



Sideview and entrance of the two-story brick house purchased from the Central Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, Teen., to be used as a Teen Challenge residential center for men.

at full capacity—10 to 12 male students—will be near \$3,500. CTC offices also will be housed in the building. The organization will be dependent upon contributions for operating expenses.

An experienced staff is being assembled to minister to those in residence. Presently, besides the director, Wayne Keylon, four other men and one woman are connected with the center.

A long-range goal of CTC is to move the men's residential center to a suburb complex, yet to be acquired, and to use the present property as a residential center for women.

IN NOVEMBER 1977 the film, *The Cross and the Switchblade*, was introduced in Chattanooga's school system to more than 6,000 youth. Concerned citizens subsequently began looking to Teen Challenge to solve the problems of the city's delinquent youth.


In January 1978 CTC became incorporated with Wayne Keylon as executive director. Since February 1978 he has given full time to the work.

THE BEGINNINGS of Chattanooga's Teen Challenge, however, go back to

1975 and a mobile classroom program for neglected inner-city children. It was called "Ark Challenge" or "Ark Ministries."

AC was founded by Jim Lee, associate pastor of Evangel Tabernacle; where Charles O. Lee is pastor. (See February 20, 1977, *Evangel.*) In 1977, through AC, as many as 1,250 decisions for Christ had been recorded. The aim of AC has been to get the Word of God to children before they became addicts requiring the ministry of Teen Challenge.

A one-room adaptation of Noah's Ark, pulled through the streets by a church van, attracted children. That missionary effort has touched the lives of hundreds of children, ages 4 to 14, with the gospel.

During the past months other outreach ministries also have been coordinated and supported by Chattanooga's Teen Challenge in such areas as juvenile and adult detention units, jails, churches, schools, and civic groups. The hand of God has been evident in all the work. 

Brain tumor disappears

IN December 1971 the doctor discovered a large tumor on my brain. I had surgery immediately, and God brought me through safely.

After 6 years some symptoms appeared which indicated another tumor on the brain. So on November 2, 1977, I had a brain scan and X rays. These indicated a tumor behind the right eye. The doctor wanted to perform surgery immediately, but he could not guarantee this tumor would be the last one. If a tiny cell were left, the tumor could grow again.

The following Wednesday night I asked the pastor to anoint me with oil and pray. God's power was manifested in me, and I knew He had touched me.

As soon as I got home, I looked to see if the swelling had gone down. It hadn't. I prayed some more and believed in my heart. I looked in the mirror again, and the swelling was still there.

I said to God, "As long as the swelling is there, no one is going to believe I'm healed. My children won't believe, and the doctor won't believe."

The Lord spoke to me, "What do you believe?"

I said, "Your Word."

That's what He wanted to hear. Instead of looking for physical evidence, I needed to stand on what God said. I claimed Mark 11:23,24.

On November 8 at 8:30 p.m., I was in our living room reading Scripture verses on healing. Suddenly something happened in my head. I felt a release of faith, and I knew I had complete victory. I looked at my husband and said, "Praise the Lord, I'm healed."

I went for more checkups on December 1, 1977. The doctor believed me when I witnessed to him. All the tests checked out perfect. All glory to Jesus!—Wilma Hoffman, Paola, Kansas

(Endorsed by Pastor Dwight D. Dozier, Assembly of God, Osawatomie, Kans.)

Testimonies of Healing

Healed of chronic illnesses

AFTER we moved to Newberg, Oreg., in 1976, I had my second heart attack. Three years earlier I had my first one which caused a blockage. From that time on I suffered with severe attacks of angina, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

In earlier years I had many operations, chronic strep throat, and rheumatoid arthritis.

For all these physical problems I was taking many kinds of medicine. At times I was deeply depressed because of pain and weakness.

Following my second heart attack, it took me months to get any strength back. Each morning as I walked, I talked to the Lord. One day He said, "Why don't you act like you want your healing?" I didn't know what to think, much less what to do.

Soon after that I was asked to help in a preschooler Sunday school class. I thought my husband would be opposed since he had babied me

through all my illnesses, but he said he had turned me over to the Lord. If I felt I should help in the class, I should go ahead, he said.

A week after I started, the regular teacher left and I was elected to lead the class.

By the time we were through each Sunday, perspiration would be pouring off me. Sometimes I would go to bed for the rest of the day. Still I felt good in my soul.

About this time it seemed I could not get enough of God, yet my physical condition was getting worse. The saints prayed for me many times.

On May 5, 1977, at the ladies prayer meeting, our pastor's wife gave a prophecy which I knew was for me. I was to give everything over to the Lord. To me this meant all my life-sustaining medicine. (I had never failed to take my medication. After all, the doctors had told me if I didn't take it, I would be gone in a short

time. But I felt I must obey God.)

At lunch that day I didn't take my pills. My husband noticed, so I told him I wasn't going to take them and I wasn't going to bed either as I usually did after each meal.

Instead I prayed all afternoon and into the evening. What a wonderful experience! I will never forget that night. God refilled me with the Holy Spirit, gave me a new tongue, and also healed me. I have taken no medication since, not even an aspirin. I feel wonderful and do things I hadn't done for years.

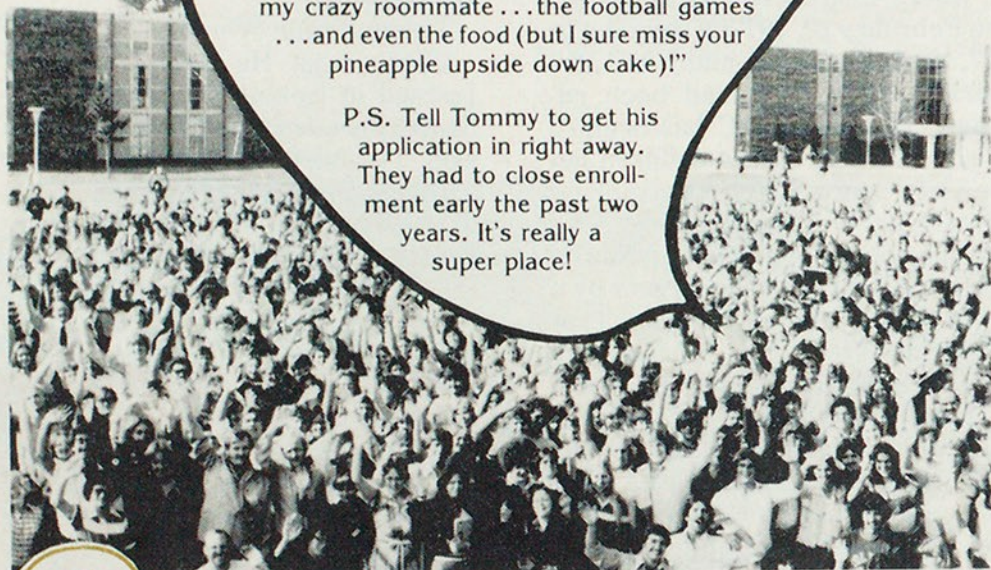
At the doctor's request I have twice had examinations. Everything is stable, and my blood pressure is normal. I praise the Lord for His wonderful goodness to me.—Emmarine A. Wright, Newberg, Oreg.

(Endorsed by Pastor Gordon E. Myers, First Assembly, Newberg, Oreg., who added, "Emmarine Wright is now superintendent of the Beginners Department of our Sunday school and also Women's Ministries coordinator. She is a marvelous example of God's healing power.")

Hi, Mom!

"I'm here with 1,460 great students at Evangel! I don't have a major yet, but there are 42 to choose from. And did I tell you they awarded over \$1,700,000 in financial aid this year and mine was approved? Everything's great... the Spirit-filled faculty... my crazy roommate... the football games... and even the food (but I sure miss your pineapple upside down cake!)"

P.S. Tell Tommy to get his application in right away. They had to close enrollment early the past two years. It's really a super place!



evangel college
springfield, missouri 65802

National College of Arts and Sciences of the Assemblies of God

Tumor disappears in answer to prayer

ONE MORNING in 1977 I got up and found I was bleeding profusely. I was rushed to the hospital where X rays showed I had a small tumor in my colon. The doctor decided to operate.

On Wednesday I asked my pastor for the church to have special prayer.

On Friday the doctors took X rays again in preparation for surgery. That afternoon I was told the tumor was gone. I told the doctor a lot of people were praying for me. He said he wanted me to come back in 6 weeks for more X rays.

I went back 12 weeks later for them. There was still no tumor. I praise God for healing me.—Martha Tullis, Shreveport, La.

(Endorsed by Pastor Ronald W. Dunn, Northview Assembly, Shreveport, La.)

EVANGEL NEWS DIGEST

FROM EVANGELICAL PRESS NEWS SERVICE, CORRESPONDENCE, PERIODICALS, PRESS REPORTS
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NEWS OF OUR TIMES

EMPHASIS ON INDIVIDUAL SEEN AS REASON FOR FAMILY FAILURE

IOWA CITY, IOWA—A Columbia University professor of sociology pointed to the great emphasis on the individual in today's society as a primary contributing cause in the family's breakup.

Amatai Etcioni, guest scholar at the Brookings Institute here, said, "One reason families are coming apart more than ever before, above and beyond the changes in economics, the changes in law, and the changes

in acceptance of divorce, is the fact that about half of the healing professions—psychiatrists, social workers, sociologists, and psychologists—have chosen the individual as their client and have committed themselves to the idea that the full happiness of the individual is the ultimate meaning of life."

Dr. Etcioni said even the most sacred human relationship, that of a mother and her child, will not survive the pres-

sure if she is repeatedly asked concerning the care of her child, "Is that in line with your complete happiness?"

He said, "What a family is all about is the deep, unlimited bondage of sharing of affection and commitment. Every lasting relationship involves a measure of commitment and sacrifice. By definition, that does not allow for maximization of self."

Dr. Etcioni predicts there will be no family units left by the end of the century if the divorce rate continues at the pace it has kept since 1965. (He holds a conservative definition of a family as a father, a mother, and their children.)

"Indeed, we'll run out of families about a year or two before we run out of oil," said the professor.

Man loses lawsuit against parents

BOULDER, COLO.—A 25-year-old man has lost a suit against his parents whom he charged with "malparenting."

Boulder District Judge Murray Richtel, in dismissing the suit, said there was no evidence Tom Hansen had been psychologically or physically harmed by his parents. The man had sought \$350,000 for "intentional infliction of emotional distress."

The judge, however, said the record of the mother's actions shows "a parent motivated by her child's best interest using every reasonable means at her disposal to perform the task of parenting in a decent and responsible manner."

According to depositions

from Mr. Hansen and his mother, when he was 17 he insisted on staying in his room, meditating, and playing the guitar. His father said he had to get a job, or return to school, or see a psychiatrist. When the son refused to do any of the three, the parents drove him to a hotel, paid a week's rent, and left him there. When the money ran out, Tom went back to living on a beach.

The mother's attorney said, "This case comes down to the issue of whether a parent is acting willfully and wantonly in not allowing a 17-year-old to sit home and do nothing." Tom, now 25, is unemployed, according to Evangelical Press news service.

Billy Graham declares arms race of \$400 billion a year is madness

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—Billy Graham said he was "rather late" in coming to the conviction, but he now regards the \$400 billion-a-year global arms race as "insanity" and "madness." He believes his thoughts typify "a vast change" of thinking now taking place among conservative evangelicals in the U.S.

"I don't think that they were

aware of the potential horror of what a nuclear war with present weapons could do to the human race," Mr. Graham said, in a recent interview on the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite. Mr. Graham said he opposes unilateral disarmament but favors agreements to eliminate nuclear weapons.

"Why," he asked, "should any nation have atomic bombs?"

Five Soviet dissidents exchanged for spies

Soviet dissidents respond to questions during a press conference in New York. The former prisoners were suddenly released from Russian jails and flown to New York April 27 where they were exchanged for two Russian spies who had been sentenced to 50-year terms in the U.S. From left to right the dissidents are Alexander Ginzburg; Valentyn Moroz; Eduard Kuznetsov; Georgi Vins, a Baptist pastor; and Mark Dymshits. Mr. Vins attended the First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. with President Carter and delivered the benediction on April 28. (RNS photo)

EPISCOPAL PAPER REFUSES AD OF GAY RIGHTS GROUP

RICHMOND, VA.—A hard-hitting editorial titled "Gay Is Not OK" recently appeared in the *Virginia Churchman*, official newspaper of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. It has triggered a dispute among Virginia Episcopalians.

The editorial explained why an advertisement in behalf of homosexuals had been pulled by the paper's new editor, David W. Virtue. It was the first

editorial by the new editor.

A group known as Integrity, which promotes the concerns of homosexuals in the diocese, had placed the ads removed by the new editor. Virtue demanded the ads be withdrawn before he would accept the editorship of the newspaper.

Within the first few days after the editorial appeared, Virtue said he received 40 letters, 32 for his stand.



NEW LODGE DEDICATED AT MARANATHA VILLAGE

SPRINGFIELD, MO.—Maranatha Lodge, the newest addition to Maranatha Village, the Assemblies of God health care center and retirement complex here, was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, April 22.

Maranatha Lodge is a part of

the 40-acre complex which has apartments for retirement living in addition to a licensed, professional nursing care facility. The new lodge is a 120-bed nursing care building which also includes staff apartments, a dining room, beauty shop, assembly rooms, and a large lodge room featuring open beams and a large fireplace. The lodge increases the health care capacity of the Village from 180 to 300 beds.

General Superintendent Thos. F. Zimmerman, chairman of the Maranatha board of directors, outlined the purpose of Maranatha Village at the dedication ceremonies. He said: "We dedicate these new facilities to the physical comfort

and spiritual enrichment of our aged ministers and missionaries. They have toiled faithfully through the heat of the day, and the church acknowledges its debt to them. . . ."

In addition to Brother Zimmerman, other church leaders participated in the service. The Evangel College Band, under the direction of John Shows, presented a musical package, and Merlin Mitchell, a member of the music faculty of Central Bible College, sang a solo.

Following the dedication, an open house of the new facility was sponsored by the Maranatha Auxiliary.

Ralph A. Durham is administrator and Charles Davis is associate administrator of Maranatha Village.



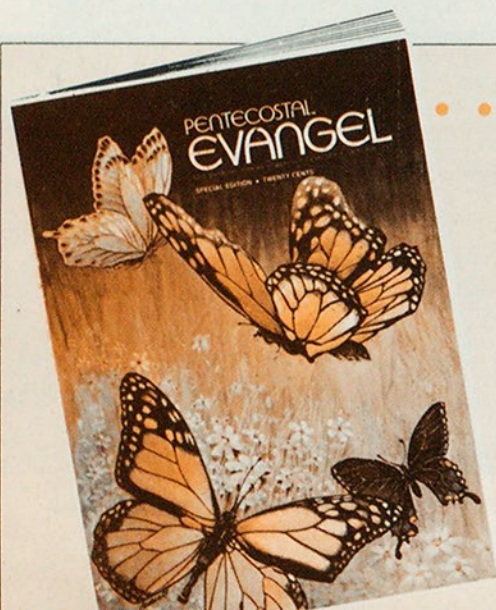
Above: The lodge room of the newest building of the Assemblies of God health care center and retirement complex, Maranatha Lodge. Right, top: Exterior view of Maranatha Lodge. Right, bottom: General Superintendent Thos. F. Zimmerman speaks at the dedication; Maranatha Village nurses at left of picture.



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EVANGEL EDITOR NAMED CBC ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

SPRINGFIELD, MO.—Robert C. Cunningham, editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel*, was named 1979 Alumnus of the Year at Central Bible College here.

A plaque was presented to the editor by Robert E. Cooley, president of the CBC Alumni Association, at the annual alumni banquet May 1. The citation read by Dr. Cooley called attention to the fact that the *Evangel* has a worldwide circulation now totaling 275,000 copies a week and that Robert C. Cunningham has been the editor for 30 years.

Born in Canada, the 1979 Alumnus of the Year graduated from business college in that country before enrolling at CBC. Upon graduating in the CBC class of 1937, he joined the editorial staff of the Gospel Publishing House. In 1939 he became Editor of the *Christ's Ambassadors Herald*, serving in that position until 1946. In 1943 he also was named associate editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel*, working under Stanley Frodsham.

When Brother Frodsham retired in 1949, the Alumnus of the Year was named acting editor of the *Evangel*. A year later he was appointed editor and the circulation of the magazine has continued to increase steadily since that time.

During the years of his editorial ministry, one-third of a billion *Evangel*s have been distributed. Each magazine has a projected readership of almost 3 persons, which means that the cumulative readership has reached nearly a billion, according to the citation.

"He has guided the magazine through all sorts of technological advances—moving from hot type to offset to web press to full color. But even more commendable, he has maintained a high spiritual level in the content of the publication. . . ."

"His editorial achievements have been widely recognized by his colleagues. He was elected president of the Evangelical Press Association in 1962 for a 2-year term. He helped organize and was chosen president of the International Pentecostal Press Association in 1970, a position held until 1976.



Robert C. Cunningham, left, chosen 1979 Alumnus of the Year, receives plaque from Robert Cooley at the CBC alumni banquet.

"But his editorial duties have not detracted from his involvement in other projects. From 1948 to 1950 he served as president of the CBC Alumni Association. He has traveled overseas extensively, providing lucid insights through his eye-witness articles. He has written numerous tracts, articles, booklets, and is a frequent contributor to other Assemblies of God publications. . . ."

GALION, OHIO—First Assembly enjoyed great victories in a Praise Revival led by Evangelist William (Bill) Morris.

Pastor K. C. Keene writes: "Through the evangelist's gifted ministry there was a breakthrough in praise and worship that turned us into a praising church.

"Healings took place, as well as many rededications as Brother Morris ministered the Word and his family ministered in music. Revival is continuing."

MAGNOLIA, KY.—Pastor Dennis Peace of Christ Tabernacle Assembly of God reports a revival with Evangelists Don and Doris Carver. The meeting was originally planned as a 5-night Easter crusade, but as the move of the Holy Spirit grew and the attendance increased each night, the meeting continued for 12 nights.

At least 15 souls were saved, many were filled with the Holy

Spirit, and 14 joined the church. Many reported healing, including a man who was born blind. Ricky French, a new member of the church, said that before prayer he could see nothing, but after prayer he was able to see lights and shadows moving, and his vision is improving each day.

Pastor Peace says this revival has brought the church into one mind and accord, and he believes this spirit of revival will last.

MUSKEGON, MICH.—Evangelists Harold and Shirley Saunders conducted a 9-day revival at Norton Shore Assembly recently.

Four were saved and eight were baptized in the Holy Spirit. One man had an eardrum restored, and a lady was healed of sinus problems.

"We praise God for reports of solved problems, new commitments, and deeper faith as a direct result of these meetings," says Pastor Larry M. Camp.



Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts

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Family escapes harm as parsonage burns

CLEVELAND, TEX.—A revival under way at Macedonia Assembly of God here was interrupted by a disastrous parsonage fire on March 4, but continued nevertheless. In fact, it went on until March 14, a week longer than scheduled.

Pastor Michael Lee McDaniel and his family were wakened at 4:30 a.m. by smoke. They found the parsonage on fire and alerted Evangelist and Mrs. D. F. Lusk who were sleeping in the back bedroom. All managed to escape without injury, but the house and its contents were destroyed before the fire department arrived.

Kind friends came to the ministers' help with donations of clothing, food, money, household goods, and with prayers.

The pastor says: "I found out later that my dad, R. E. McDaniel, who was in Dallas, felt a burden for us that night, and prayed and cried himself to sleep in the early hours of the morning."

There were many visitors in the revival meetings and the Lord moved by His Spirit in a gracious way. A number returned to God and were filled with the Holy Ghost. A number received healing.

WEST POINT, ILL.—Evangelists Don and Doris Carver led an outstanding revival at the Assembly of God here. Several came back to the Lord, and many testified of healing in their bodies.

Pastor Charles Allen states that the people were richly blessed through the ministry of the Carvers.

"We are looking forward to having them back," writes Pastor Allen. "The church is experiencing growth."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Homecoming—Assembly of God, Cedar Run, N.J., July 4. Guest speakers and musicians.—James Occhipinti, pastor

Homecoming—College Heights Assembly, Bryan, Tex., Aug. 5. H. D. Vincent, pastor of West Side Assembly, Palestine, Tex., will be morning speaker.—Tom Proctor, pastor

EVANGELISTIC EVENTS

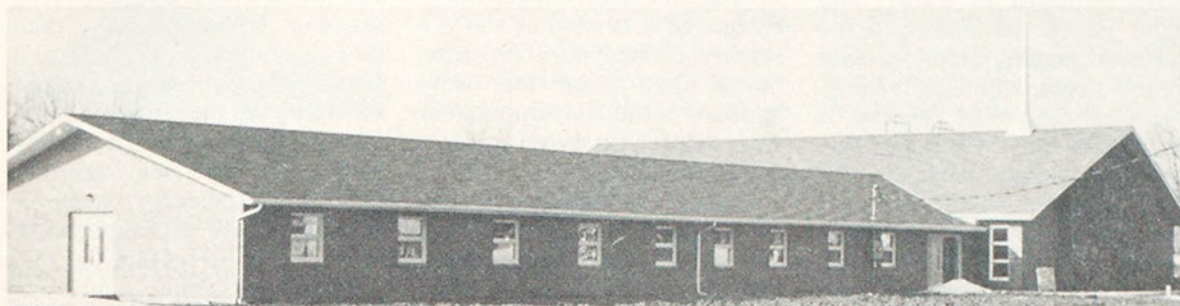
STATE	CITY	ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
Ala.	Bay Minette	North Side	June 24-27	Glynn & Gay Lynn Dickens	Lance Faylor
	Millport	Liberty	June 19-24	Esther Palmer	Oscar Maddox
	Mobile	Calvary	June 24—	Charles Rutledge	C. L. Turner
	Saraland	Calvary Tem.	June 17-22	Charles Rutledge	Charles Sharp
Alaska	Angoon	A/G	June 24-28	Paul & Myrtle Hild	Gordon Olson
	Clarksville	First	June 24-July 1	Ronnie Dean McRaven	Glenn Dorsey
	DeWitt	First	June 18-20	William Caldwell	Bob J. Fant
	Heber Springs	First	June 20-July 1	Dennis D. Thrasher	Bob Perry
	Hot Springs	Kids Camp	June 18-22	3 Ms for the Master	D. Nye, Dir.
Calif.	Pine Bluff	First ¹	June 17-21	Aunt Jo & Her Helpers	Tommy Wilborn
	Ceres	Central	June 24-July 1	C. L. Vermillion	Randy Osborne
	Hollister	A/G	June 17-24	C. L. Vermillion	Vernon Harper
	Long Beach	Christian Life	June 17-20	John Jacob	Ray Rachels
	Modesto	Community	June 17-22	Les & Sandra Merrick	Fred Sondeno
	Salinas	Alisal	June 24-29	John Jacob	W. S. Bishop
	Santa Clara	Glad Tidings	June 21-July 1	Lester L. Lowry	Esther Brady
	29 Palms	First	June 17-20	Gene Forrest	Bob Kennedy
Colo.	Willows	First	June 24-July 1	Les & Sandra Merrick	Gene Huffman
	Clifton	First	June 17-20	"Al" Eden	H. H. Davis
	Fruita	First	June 18-25	Edwin & Mrs. Burris	Lawrence Langley
Del.	Westminster	A/G	June 18-24	David A. Baker Crusades	Larry Ansel
	Wilmington	Calvary	June 17-24	David & Sherrill Fulton	Robert Eastlake
Fla.	Apalachicola	First	June 17-20	Bob McCutchen	Lois Long
	Graceville	First	June 24-28	Tony & Pam Garland	Kenneth Collins
Ga.	Graceville	Friendship	June 17-24	B. R. Minton	Robert Miles
	Forsyth	Youth Camp	June 18-22	Tony & Pam Garland	J. Elder, D-CAP
Idaho	Idaho Falls	First	June 17-22	Jimmy & Charlene Palmer	Russell Umphenour
	Carlville	Kids Camp	June 18-22	Don McGarvey	R. Olson, D-CAP
	Decatur	Calvary	June 24-27	Steve & Bridget Davis	W. E. Risner
Ill.	Lincoln	Faith ¹	June 24-28	Don McGarvey	Van Frownfelter
	Marion	Calvary	June 17-19	Vernon & Ruth Ann Dean	William Lewis
	Bettendorf	First	June 24-27	King's Daughters	Douglas R. Rose
Iowa	Des Moines	Kids Camp	June 18-22	Betty Jane May	D. Decker, D-CAP
	Indianola	First	June 24-July 1	Len & Judy Meyers	Richard Buck
	Louisburg	A/G	June 24-29	Paul & Nancy Williams	Laurence Rose
Kans.	Downsville	Pleasant Val.	June 17-20	Sam Farina	Nel McCraw
	Jacksonville	Kids Camp	June 18-22	Charles J. Aaron	C. Durham, Dir.
	Shreveport	Linwood	June 17-22	Jim Snyder Family	Frank Andrews
Me.	Caribou	Pentecostal ¹	June 17-20	Jim Waldron	Delbert Pickens
	Hancock	A/G	June 17-22	Michael & Rita Jo Amico	David Berquist
Md.	Laurel	First ¹	June 17-22	Gordon & Esther Preiser	Paul Boyce
	Midlothian	Trinity	June 17-20	C. T. Chegwin	R. W. Collette
	Oakland	Rocky Dreaan	June 24-29	Michael & Rita Jo Amico	Robert Stanleyfield
Mass.	Leominster	A/G	June 24-27	Ken & Martha Pilkenton	Otis Mayfield
	Atlanta	Full Gospel	June 17-22	Louie Calaway	Donald Potter
	Kalkaska	New Life	June 20-24	George & Marguerite Mandel	Mike Mitchell
Mich.	Perry	Evangel	June 20-24	Dale & Jerri Robbins	Tim Johnson
	Ravenna	A/G	June 17-20	David & Vera Wilcox	Hugh Duncan
	Pine City	A/G ²	June 17-22	Victor Etienne	Edgar Sornberger
Minn.	Prior Lake	A/G	June 24-28	Bob & Elizabeth Abbott	Norm Whitney
	Escatawpa	A/G	June 17—	Glynn & Gay Lynn Dickens	James Coleman
	Hattiesburg	First ¹	June 24-28	Aunt Jo & Her Helpers	Dennis Polk
Miss.	Picayune	Christian Life ¹	June 17-21	Melody A. Williams	John Watkins
	Chillicothe	First ¹	June 17-24	Stephen & Louetta Grace	Orville Grace
	Lathrop	A/G	June 22-24	R. C. & Karen Amer	Warren LaRose
Mo.	Neol	A/G	June 17-21	James A. & Eula Call	Gary Thomas
	Springfield	Eastland	June 24-29	Stan & Sherry Welch	Mike Fitzgerald
	Upton	Peace Chapel	June 24-July 1	Joe & Ada Combs	W. E. Campbell
Mont.	Superior	A/G	June 17-21	Guil & Donna Mandigo	Joseph Barnett
	Mescalero	Campmeeting	June 17-22	J. W. Farmer	S. Bruton, Chm.
N. Mex.	Thomasville	First	June 10-15	Merel Thornton Family	George Beavers
	Akron	Springfield	June 24-27	Charles L. Mooney	Joseph Serbin
Ohio	Grove City	Abundant Life ³	June 24-July 8	J. Anthony & D. Arlene Silva	Larry Lockhart
	Medina	Pentecostal	June 24-27	Joe Peterson Ministries	Ron Dress
	Middletown	Christian ¹	June 24-28	Ray & Jan Hodges	Dan Crouch
Okla.	Mt. Vernon	Trinity	June 17-27	Mike & Marigold Cheshier	Russ Hylton
	Anadarko	First ¹	June 24-29	George & Karen Clymer	Eugene Howeth
	Blanchard	First	June 22-24	William Caldwell	Grady Smalling
	Claremore	First	June 17-24	Jesse K. & Donna Moon	Ralph Reddout
	Hugo	First	June 19-27	Jennie L. Powell	Ben O'Dell
	Jenks	First	June 17-20	Steve & Bridget Davis	Bob Potter
	Muskogee	Westside	June 17-22	George & Karen Clymer	Roy L. Walkup
	Oklahoma City	Park	June 24-29	James Walter Family	Everet Holder
	Okmulgee	Northside	June 20-July 1	Sammy & Judy Hayes	Dean Moore
	Oologah	First	June 24-27	Jesse K. & Donna Moon	Bob Rhoads
S. Dak.	Sapulpa	June Rose	June 24-July 1	Jim & Pam King	J. R. Ballard
	Tulsa	Lewis Ave.	June 24-27	Luis Torres Crusades	William Tims
	Tulsa	Maranatha	June 17-22	Paul & Nancy Williams	H. R. Gabriel
	Valliant	First ¹	June 17-22	Helen Steele	T. C. Burkett
	Welch	A/G	June 17-22	James Walter Family	Roger Ortlieb
	Sisters	Kids Camp	June 18-22	Gene & Esther Fiddler	Al Davis
	Duncannon	A/G ¹	June 11-17	Lloyd & Bonnie Bates	Paul Parrish
	Jeannette	A/G	June 10-15	Glynn & Gay Lynn Dickens	Laverne Clute
	Windber	First	June 24-27	Samuel & Beulah Clutter	James Lowans
	Campgrounds	Youth Camp	June 17-22	F. R. McAdams Evang. Tm.	V. Smith, D-CAP
	Alters	A/G	June 24-29	F. R. McAdams Evang. Tm.	Tom West
Tenn.	Aberdeen	First ¹	June 17-21	Bob & Elizabeth Abbott	David Nelson
	Miller	A/G	June 17-22	Larson-Stiver Team	Richard Tuft
Tex.	Trimble	A/G ¹	June 17-22	Ray & Jan Hodges	Ronald Burcham
	Athens	Zion Hill ¹	June 24-July 1	Helen Steele	Odis Munns
	Baytown	Gospel Lighthse.	June 17-22	Von & Kathi Lombard	Carroll Lansford
	Bedias	First	June 20-July 1	Singing Martin Family	Joseph Helms
	Brownwood	First	June 17-24	Jim & Brenda Sluder	Dwaine Martin
	Denver City	A/G	June 24-July 1	Robert & Jean Teel	Calvin Newton
	Grand Prairie	East Side ¹	June 17-22	The Presleys	Bob Skipper
	Houston	Lindale	June 24-27	David & Paula George	James McKeehan
	Keller	A/G	June 24-29	Hobart Casteel	Calvin Wiley
	Kerrville	Pearl Wheat	June 18-22	David & Paula George	L. Parnell, D-CAP

EVANGELISTIC EVENTS

STATE	CITY	ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
	Lake Dallas	A/G	June 17-22	B. P. Carroll	James Fellers
	Lubbock	Bethel Temple	June 24-29	Mark & Sandra Little	Roy Love
	Mesquite	First	June 10-15	Dale Sexton	Hulon Hood
	Roaring Spgs.	Kids Camp	June 18-22	Louis & Mary Smith	H. Wampler, D-CAP
	Waxahachie	Evangel Tem. ¹	June 24-28	Charles J. Aaron	Gaylan Claunch
Va.	Purcellville	A/G	June 20-24	D. J. & Anna Mary Paglia	Samuel Beiler
Wash.	Tonasket	A/G ¹	June 24-28	Frank & Helena Shier	Ray Weaver
W. Va.	Ranson	Calvary ¹	June 18-24	Lloyd & Bonnie Bates	William Reed
Wis.	Dodgeville	Bible	June 13-24	Lloyd & Neoma Blake	Wayne Kennedy
	Tomah	A/G	June 24-29	Kathleen Jennings	David Pillow
	Waupaca	A/G	June 17-22	Kathleen Jennings	Jennings Millsaps
Wyo.	Rock Spgs.	First	June 24-29	"Al" Eden	Don Gatlin

¹Children's Revival ²Youth Crusade ³Abundant Living Crusade

Due to printing schedule, announcements must reach the *Pentecostal Evangel* 6 weeks in advance.



Exterior and interior views of the new building of Abundant Life Assembly; dedication service in progress in photo at left. Pastor and Mrs. Ezzo, above.

Assembly in New York State dedicates new building

NORTH TONAWANDA, N.Y.—The congregation of Abundant Life Assembly has dedicated a new sanctuary and educational unit.

According to Pastor and Mrs. Domenick Ezzo, the facilities and nearly 5 acres of land are valued at \$350,000.

The new structure, which covers 8,800 square feet of floor space on one level, houses a sanctuary seating 400 and 13 classrooms, a prayer room, pastor's study, Sunday school office, and kitchen.

Contemporary in design, the building exterior makes use of Old Forge brick and artificial stone. Laminated exposed arches and white walls are featured in the sanctuary along with a stained-glass cross above the platform, blue and gold

glass in the windows, and gold colored pew cushions. Light fixtures are contemporary design.

Future plans call for another educational unit and a larger sanctuary, said Pastor Ezzo. The present auditorium will eventually become a fellows' lip

hall and gymnasium.

More than 300 attended the dedication service. New York District Superintendent Almon Bartholomew spoke and Pastor Ezzo led in the dedication ceremony. City mayor, William Wittkowsky, offered com-

MAYO, FLA.—Pastor James E. Griffin reports God is blessing the Assembly of God here. The average Sunday school attendance increased from 133 in December 1978 to 184 in March 1979.

During the first 3 months of this year, 43 have been saved, 31 baptized in the Holy Spirit, 45 baptized in water, and 31 new members added to the church.

Evangelist Harley Ulrich conducted a 3-week revival in which 17 were saved, 24 received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, 27 were baptized in water, and 15 new members were added.

"We give God the glory, and praise Him for His wonderful blessings upon our church," writes Pastor Griffin.

BUFFALO, OKLA.—Pastor William A. Raiford reports an outstanding revival at First Assembly with Evangelist Billy Raiford from Tulsa, Okla.

Eight were saved, many were reclaimed and refilled with the Holy Spirit, seven were baptized in water, and seven were added to the church membership. Sunday school attendance reached a high of 113.

One of those saved and baptized in water was an 85-year-old man.

The church was brought closer together and the revival spirit still prevails.

plimentary remarks.

The church was begun in 1919 by a group of Italian Pentecostal people. In 1948 English services were begun. A theater building was purchased and renovated for occupancy in 1956.

The Ezzos came to Abundant Life Assembly in 1976, following the ministry of the Homer Coopers who pastored the congregation for 25 years.

Disaster Can Strike Anytime

This year millions will be affected by natural disasters—tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, snowstorms, or earthquakes. Not even Assemblies of God churches are immune. But the next time a struggling new congregation discovers a flood has damaged its building, they can know help is on the way—if you give.

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HAMILTON, OHIO—Pastor Larry R. Davis of Miami Valley Assembly reports a good revival was conducted by Evangelist Ron Davis. Three were saved, and two were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

"In my estimation a revival is a two-part effort on the part of the church and the evangelist: to win souls for Christ and to renew or create a spirit of enthusiasm in the church itself. This revival did both," said Pastor Davis.

"The anointing of the Holy Spirit was evident each night from the moment the service began. The Word was preached with fervency and zeal, and the people responded with a desire to find God. Several people, including two families, are now attending regularly."

The church began Sept. 1, 1978, as an Ohio missions effort. Last Sunday there were 52 in attendance in Sunday school

and the week before 62.

"We are making plans to begin building, hopefully this spring or early summer," Pastor Davis reported.

BRINKLEY, ARK.—Evangelist Tom Waggoner held a successful revival at First Assembly recently.

People from almost every denomination attended.

Four were saved, 16 were baptized in the Holy Spirit, nine were baptized in water, and eight joined the church. Some received healing from varicose veins, ulcers, and back trouble.

Pastor Sam Witt reports: "I was impressed with the consistently high attendance and the way in which the Holy Spirit moved in every service. It was beautiful to watch the Lord confirm His Word with signs following."

"In my 20 years of ministry I have never seen such a baptism

of love upon a congregation. Neither have I seen people flow so beautifully with the Holy Spirit. Our church will never be the same, for which we give God the glory.

"God is continuing to work miracles in our regular church services, and the people are continuing to allow the Lord's love to flow through them to others."

PLAINWELL, MICH.—Evangelist Harold Saunders conducted a revival at the Assembly of God here recently. Seven were saved, four were baptized in the Holy Spirit, four were baptized in water, and two joined the church.

During the meeting, a man was healed of hearing problems, and a lady was healed of arthritis.

"This meeting blessed and revived our church," writes Pastor Richard Linderman.

"Many first-time visitors attended.

"We are planning to add on to our present structure to accommodate the congregation."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Calvary Temple enjoyed the meetings with Evangelist Hansel Vibbert from Evansville, Ind.

Not only was the church strengthened and encouraged, but souls were added to the kingdom of God, and more than 30 people in all age groups and from many denominational backgrounds received the infilling of the Holy Spirit. While some were receiving the infilling at the altar, others were receiving while sitting in the pews.

"Calvary Temple continues its growth and progress for the glory of God," says Pastor M. C. Johnson.

NEWS OF OUR HOME MISSIONS

Compiled by the Assemblies of God Division of Home Missions

David H. Cyr is commissioned chaplain

SPRINGFIELD, MO.—The chairman of the Assemblies of God Commission on Chaplains, T. E. Gannon, who is also national director of the Division of Home Missions, announces the

David H. Cyr



commissioning of David H. Cyr as chaplain for extended active duty in the Air Force.

The chaplain has had 5 weeks of temporary duty at the Air Force Chaplain School, Maxwell, Ala., and is now assigned to the 71 Air Base Group, ATC, Vance AFB, Okla.

Born in Patten, Maine, Chaplain Cyr attended Northeast Bible College (now Valley Forge Christian College of the Assemblies of God, Phoenixville, Pa.), and Bangor Theological Seminary, Bangor, Maine, earning his M.Div. degree. He was ordained by the Eastern District of which he remains a member. He pastored in Pennsylvania.

T. J. Davis receives Alaska appointment

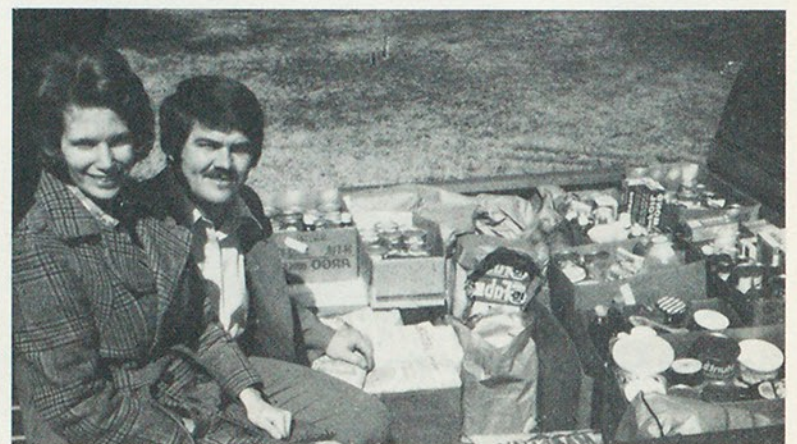
SPRINGFIELD, MO.—The Assemblies of God Home Mis-

sions Board has approved Tommy Joe Davis, Slocomb, Ala., for missionary service in Alaska. He plans to begin his itinerary immediately.

The new appointee was ordained by the Alabama District on April 17.

He and his wife, Barbara Ann, have four children.

Tommy Joe and Barbara Davis



Pastor and Mrs. Bolt with truckload of groceries from shower.

Arkansas church aids Mississippi home missions pastor and family

DEWITT, ARK.—First Assembly here under the leadership of Pastor and Mrs. Bob J. Fant recently contributed a truckload of groceries to the pastors of a Mississippi District home missions work. Along with more than \$600 worth of groceries went \$367 in cash.

Richard R. Bolt, pastor of Canaan Assembly, Booneville, Miss., and his wife were invited to the DeWitt church that the congregation might become acquainted with them. During their visit, they were presented the food supplies and offering.

To the pastor of a small church currently in a building program, the gifts were most welcome. The Richard R. Bolts have three daughters.

Pastor Fant says DeWitt First Assembly will continue to help the Booneville church. It will provide a work crew of approximately 15 men to assist with finishing the church building when it is ready for Sheetrock.

The Canaan Assembly in Booneville was established in 1973; its building is 40 percent complete.

CHAPLAIN GEORGE F. HOLLAND WITH CHRIST

HUNTINGDON, PA.—George Fleming Holland, 51, a correctional chaplain who served the



George F. Holland

Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Huntingdon, went to be with the Lord on April 11 after a brief illness. Paul R. Markstrom, Institutional Chaplaincy representative of the Division of Home Missions, reports that Chaplain Holland, suffered a pulmonary embolism in March which led to a massive coronary thrombosis.

Chaplain Holland, born in Cleveland, was ordained to the ministry in 1962, and a member of the Eastern District. He was Department of Religion chair-

man at the Correctional Institute at the time of his death. He served that facility with distinction for 16 years. He also was copastor of Neff's Mills Assembly of God, Petersburg, Pa.

He was secretary of the American Correctional Chaplains Association and a member also of the American Correctional Association, the Pennsylvania Association of Probation, Parole, and Corrections, and the Pennsylvania Prison Chaplaincy Association. A Navy veteran of World War II, he served the American Legion as well as the local Ministerial Association and Lion's Club in official

capacities at various times.

A graduate of Bethany Bible College, Chaplain Holland earned his B.A. degree in San Francisco and his M.Div. degree at the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School. His first pastorate was in California.

He is survived by his wife Marjorie and five children. Mrs. Holland, an ordained minister, served with her husband as copastor at Petersburg, Pa. She is religious coordinator of the Huntingdon County Jail and teaches classes at the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Huntingdon. She is vice-president of the Pennsylvania Prison Chaplaincy Association.

CREW OF SKILLED INDIANS WORK ON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

KESHENA, WIS.—A crew of skilled Indian builders from Wisconsin recently assisted in the construction of a Bible school facility in North Carolina.

John E. Maracle, missionary-pastor of the Assembly here, and a group of workers responded to an invitation from Rodger A. Cree, president of the Eastern Indian Bible Institute, Shannon, N.C., to help with the construction of that school's administration building. Using a Speed-the-Light vehicle, Pastor Maracle took the crew of skilled Indians from the Menominee Indian

Reservation in Wisconsin to Shannon, N.C. Making the trip were: Lee Webster (Oneida), Marvin Wilber (Menominee), Henry Hoff (Oneida), Charles Unson (tribe unknown), and Pastor Maracle (Mohawk). The superintendent of the job under whom they labored was a retired contractor—a menominee.

The tradesmen labored 8 days on walls, trusses, roof, and sheeting of the 40- by 60-foot building.

They plan to return to North Carolina for the dedication of the building later this year, said Brother Maracle.

Crew of skilled Indian builders of the Wisconsin Menominee Indian Reservation who assisted in the construction of a new administration building for Eastern Indian Bible Institute.



ACROSS AMERICA

NORTH CAROLINA—Missionary-pastor Ralph W. Buchanan writes from Lumberton: "The last week in January, we were privileged to have Robert Lundstrom with us for five services. The Lord blessed with 13 souls making decisions for Christ. All of the people were strengthened and encouraged."

NEW YORK—A news release from the American Bible Society points out: "The Gospel of Mark was the first Scripture portion ever published in Paiute, a language spoken by 7,000 Indians living on 19 reservations in Nevada, Idaho, and California." Assemblies of God missionaries who minister regularly to Paiutes are grateful for these Scriptures.

HAWAII—William Ashpole, Hawaii District assistant superintendent, reports, "Our District Home Missions Seminar was a great success. Featured speaker was T. E. Gannon, national director of the Division of Home Missions."

OREGON—Alex C. Shevchuk, missionary to Russian people, writes: "I thank the Lord for the privilege of being on two radio stations in British Columbia where there are many Russian-speaking people. Each Sunday we have a 30-minute broadcast in Nelson, B.C., also one in Creston, B.C."

ALASKA—"The spirit of revival continues here in Barrow," says David S. Wilson, missionary-pastor of Inupiat Assembly of God, Barrow. "There have been 10 decisions for Christ. We have seen families reunited."

NEW MEXICO—"Since the first of the year, we have had seven decisions for Christ. Our attendance is increasing. We had 102 today," Pastor and Mrs. Roy L. Nelson report from the Indian Assembly of God in Gallup.

ARIZONA—Pauline Mastries, registrar of the American Indian extension of the National Correspondence Institute, reports that Juanita Murietta, a member of the Indian Assembly at Eloy, Ariz. (Leroy J. Miller, pastor), has been teaching NCI courses to Maricopa Indians. She had the privilege of teaching her own mother, Anita, who accepted Christ and received a course certificate last November 22. On December 22 Anita went to be with the Lord.

EVANGELLETTERS

EXCERPTS FROM THE EDITORS' MAIL

'Perils of a Church Kid'

The article, "Perils of a Church Kid," in your April 15 issue, was very good. Its message is so true; I've had some of the same feelings. This is an article I will keep to read and re-read from time to time.

I also have kept all the articles you have had on deaf people or sign language. Thank you.

LYNDA L. BUFFALO
Florida

'Sharpening Our Focus'

I enjoyed the article "Sharpening Our Focus" in the April 8 *Evangel*, for it brought to mind many memories of the past 65 years. I was especially thrilled to see the picture of the first organizational meeting in Hot Springs, Ark., in 1914.

My husband W. F. Hardwick

was there and is in the picture. (He passed away 13 years ago.)

Thank God for the Assemblies of God and His blessings in this present time.

IRENE HARDWICK
Alabama

'The Shoplifter'

Thank you for the article, "The Shoplifter," in the March 4 *Evangel*. I am a Christian and also a police officer and, contrary to some people's beliefs, I know a person can still serve God and wear a badge.

LOU TAMAGNI
California

'A Sign to the Unbeliever'

The Spiritual Life edition (April 22) came today. I had just tried to explain to someone how tongues is a sign to the un-

believer, and the *Evangel* gave me a further explanation in the article, "A Sign to the Unbeliever," by Esther M. Tahmazian.

I have come to realize that some who are Christians also need this sign that they might believe in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Tongues was a sign to Peter and his companions at the house of Cornelius. Many believe for salvation and healing, but others of us believe for all God offers.

In 1921 at Findlay, Ohio, as A. H. Argue preached in a tent, I saw the Lord. Later that year as Aimee Semple McPherson was preaching in Canton, Ohio, I saw Jesus standing beside her. Now I will soon be 82, and I am looking forward to seeing Him again soon.

ARTHUR J. NELSON
New York

Article inspires Easter sermon

I wouldn't want to be without this fine, spiritually uplifting magazine. It's the best that comes to me, and I share it with others.

Our Methodist minister was inspired by L. A. Steller's article, "Mary Saw the Angels" (April 1), and our Easter sermon came from it—"Why we don't all see angels." Praise God for your publication ministry.

BONNIE PROFIT
Michigan

'Lot Was a Just Man'

I was interested in the letter in the April 15 *Evangel*, "Lot

Was a Just Man." He was a just man, but he made a choice out of selfishness. He "lifted up his eyes, and beheld," and chose. (See Genesis 13.)

When Abraham was offered goods by the king of Sodom, he refused. If they had been offered Lot, he probably would have taken them all, just as he took the best land.

He didn't have to move into Sodom; he could have stayed outside. He lost his self-respect and most of his family through compromise.

ELLEN SHANHOLTZ
West Virginia

In my opinion the article by George Holmes, "The Magnetism of Jesus Christ" (Feb. 4, 1979) was the best short sermon I have ever read in my 65 years.

I think the person who wrote to "Evangelletters" (April 15) should read the article again. Mr. Holmes, I feel, was simply using Lot as an example of what the devil and sin can do to any of us. The author was not putting Lot down—just warning about Satan's ways.

HENRIETTA MENDIBLES
Arizona

Book reviews appreciated

I praise God for those who write the fine books that are reviewed in the *Evangel*. Lately I read *Living by Faith*, by Don Mallough. I would recommend it to every reader.

I am grateful for the *Evangel*. Each issue brings blessing from the first page to the last.

JEAN STONEBURNER
California



You Never Need to Change Your Will Unless...

- you move to another state
- your children grow up
- you get richer or poorer
- your charitable interests change

How long has it been since you checked over your will to see if it still meets your desires?

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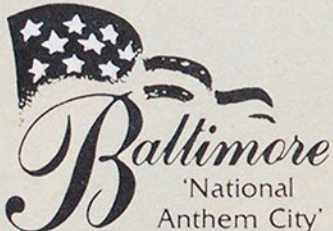
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38th General Council

The General Council is an all-church and all-family convention. Pastors and lay delegates guide our church's future course in the biennial business sessions, but there are abundant activities scheduled to make the Council a highlight for everyone.

**August
16-21
1979**



Baltimore
'National Anthem City'

IN THE HEART OF AMERICA'S HISTORY

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU

There are some matters about which you may have doubts as to God's will for your life. The Scriptures do not speak on all subjects, and on some they seem to be unclear—you may have to search the Word and pray diligently to determine what God wants you to do in certain situations—but God has made some matters very clear.

Two of these are: (1) He wants you to be saved, and (2) He wants you to help others be saved. There can be no doubt about these matters, if you believe the Bible.

If you are not yet saved, God is sparing your life for one special reason and that is to let you become acquainted with His Son, the Saviour of all who will repent and believe.

If you are already saved (and the Bible does say it is possible to know for certain that you are saved) the main reason why God is prolonging your earthly life is that you may help to lead your loved ones, friends, and others into the marvelous light of the gospel.

There's no joy as great as the joy of knowing Christ, except the joy of sharing Him with others.

There are hundreds of men and women in U.S. prisons awaiting execution (130 on death row in

Florida alone) and even if they do not suffer the death penalty, their future is very dark. How would you like to have the privilege of visiting death row and delivering a pardon to one of these condemned persons?

How would you like to see the light of hope rekindled in the prisoner's eyes? How would you like to hear the sobs of gratitude, and to witness the happy reunion with family and friends?

What a thrill it would be—and yet that thrill is small compared with the sight of a penitent sinner kneeling before God and receiving pardon through Christ.

It seems inconceivable that anyone could have in his hand an official pardon for a condemned man and be so calloused that he would refuse to hand it to him!

Yet there is such a case in English history. It concerns a man who had once served as governor of the Isle of Man.

This man who had served as a good governor was found guilty of treason in a civil war, and was sentenced to die. The king granted a pardon. But the pardon fell into the hands of a bitter enemy, and was never delivered. So the governor was executed.

Are you shocked by such

heartlessness? Yet every Christian holds in his hands the gospel of pardon for whosoever will accept Christ's grace; and, tragically, some men and women die without that pardon because no one ever shared the gospel with them.

Back in 1890, Dr. A. B. Simpson wrote:

*A hundred thousand souls a day
Are passing one by one away
In Christless guilt and gloom;
Without one ray of hope or light,
With future dark as endless night,
They're passing to their doom.*

World population has increased greatly since then. The total now is over 4 billion, and to bring the poem up to date the words should be:

*Three hundred thousand souls a day
Are passing one by one away
In Christless guilt and gloom.*

God's will for every person on earth is to know Christ and to make Him known to others. This is the primary purpose of our existence. We must not let the changing times dim this changeless truth which is taught so clearly in the Bible.

—r.c.c.

PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

June 17, 1979

Number 3397

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: \$7.00 a year; \$13.50 for 2 years. Introductory offer: 6 months for \$3.50. Canada and foreign: \$11.50 a year; \$22.50 for 2 years.

Bundle subscription (a bundle is 5 or more copies of an issue all mailed to one address; prices quoted are for each subscription; for example, a bundle of 5 would be 5 times the price listed; 13-week bundle orders are available only to churches): U.S.: \$1.61 for 13 weeks; \$6.35 a year. Canada and foreign: \$2.39 for 13 weeks; \$9.47 a year.

International Edition (Monthly)

Subscribers outside the U.S. only may receive the International Edition (one copy a month) for \$1.75 a year, postpaid.

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WE BELIEVE . . .

. . . the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written 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 in 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.

RUSTY HAULS THEM IN!

Do you like to fish? Imagine what it would be like to get your stringer full every time you went out!

There isn't a man alive with that ability, but Rusty Bussing comes closer to it than anyone I know. Over the years I've never heard him tell a single story about the big one that got away. He brings the big ones home.

Much of Rusty's success lies in his knowledge about fish. He knows when they will bite, where they are, and what bait to use. The rest comes from the skill he's acquired in handling his tackle after many years.



He's a professional; no doubt about that!

Rusty offered to take me fishing, but I couldn't go. I hadn't purchased a fishing license for over 10 years! When I declined the invitation, he shrugged his shoulders and said, "That's OK."

A few days later he called and said, "Hey, I've got something over here you'd like to see. Why don't you come over and take a look?"

I went, expecting to see an extra large fish, but what I found caught me completely off guard! Sitting on his kitchen table was a large kettle of fish, all cleaned and ready for the frying pan.

"They're yours—if you want them," he said. "You said you like to eat fish, so I thought you might enjoy these."

I sputtered around trying to find the right words to thank him and in the process found myself asking questions instead of expressing thanks.



By ROGER L. CULBERTSON
Pastor, First Assembly
Defiance, Ohio

"Where did you catch all these fish? You must have been on a week-long fishing trip! Only this morning? What did you catch them on?"

To this day I don't remember if I ever said thank you, but I did learn quite a lot about the art of fishing.

Unlike the novice who fishes only when he's in the mood, Rusty goes fishing when he knows the fish will bite. He prepares his bait in advance and knows the rivers and lakes in the area better than most of us know our own backyards.

In short, everything he does is planned in advance. He went out expecting to have some fish for me that day!

Like Rusty, who planned that nice surprise for me and then carried out his plans, God formed a plan for our eternal salvation a long, long time ago. The apostle Peter wrote about it.

It was a costly plan! Peter said: "God paid a ransom to save you from the impossible road to heaven which your fathers tried to take, and the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. . . . He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sin-

less, spotless Lamb of God" (1 Peter 1:18,19).*

Then Peter told when God decided to do this: "God chose him for this purpose long before the world began" (verse 20).*

Just think! Long before the world began, thousands of years before you and I were ever born, God was thinking about us. He made the plans for our salvation even before He created the earth!

As you read the historical account of Christ's life in the Gospels, you discover He was the One through whom God fulfilled this plan of salvation.

Galatians 4:4-7 clearly states that the things that happened were all planned by God. It says:

"When the right time came, the time God decided on, he sent his son . . . to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law so that he could adopt us as his very own sons. And because we are his sons God has sent the Spirit of his son into our hearts, so now we can rightly speak of God as our dear Father. Now we are no longer slaves, but God's own sons. And since we are his sons, everything he has belongs to us, for that is the way God planned."*

Yes, God sent His sinless Son into the world to reveal His great love for

continued on page 15

*Living Bible paraphrased.