

PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

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

INTERNATIONAL EDITION • FEBRUARY 1984 • 25 CENTS

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Past understanding

*Through valleys of His leading
I've come to realize
I may not understand all
The answers to my whys;
And I may not find comfort
In tribulation's test;
But as I keep on trusting,
I find His way is best.*

*I may not comprehend how
Pure healing waters spring,
Nor how a white Dove hovering
Can heart contentment bring,
And how can wounded spirits
Find solace in a name:
No, minds of clay can't grasp what
The soul redeemed can claim.*

*How precious is the altar
In some small humble place;
How sweet to trust my all to
His great amazing grace;
I seek not world's allurements
Nor gold nor vast renown,
Just let me take His message
Where hurting souls are found.*

*How matchless is the wisdom
That grants us power to win;
We fall, but in compassion,
He lifts us up again.
How precious is my portion
When Spirit winds blow free;
I may not understand it—
But faith's enough for me.*

—BETHELL WHITLEY HICE

Photo by Dana Bodnar



Photo by William P. Sterne, Jr.

Our God is heavenly minded

Job's friends thought they knew the exact reason why Job was suffering. If only he'd confess his sin and repent, he'd recover both health and prosperity.

But they were wrong.

Paul thought he knew the procedure in the case of illness. Since God was his physician, he need only seek Him. But on the occasion of the thorn, even seeking God three times still left him buffeted.

Peter and Paul each enjoyed supernatural deliverances from prison. The Early Church might have felt they were assured God's special protecting and delivering power so that even Roman civil power was no threat. But James was summarily dispatched by Herod's swordsman.

These Bible examples show clearly that physical deliverance is not always guaranteed for God's people, nor is it necessarily the achievement of the greatest faith. In fact, in the very heart of the Bible's faith chapter is the account of those who were "tortured . . . stoned . . . sawn asunder . . . slain with the sword." (See Hebrews 11:33-37.)

God is God—the sovereign Ruler of the universe. Rarely are humans invited to instruct Him or to

challenge His wisdom as He rules His people.

God instructed even so great a leader as Moses, "Let me alone." And He responded to his plea to enter Canaan, "Speak no more unto me of this matter" (Deuteronomy 3:26).

God has given a rich assortment of promises assuring us of His care, His loving concern, and His provision for this life on earth. Indeed there is much for the Christian to enjoy. Yet God's promises in relation to this life have their limits. He doesn't promise heaven on earth, nor fleets of money trucks, nor secret escape hatches.

God's prime business is transforming sinners into saints in preparation for the life to come. Heaven is there and not here, and it's in that realm God will manifest His ultimate wonders, goodnesses, and sublime blessings. God's goals and purposes focus grandly in the New Jerusalem, not in a split-level home in suburbia.

God provides blessings in this life primarily as a side effect of His major project of preparing His people for future splendors. His interest is not to make us comfortable in this sin-cursed world, but to shape, mold, and mature us in preparation for a glorious eternity. God's government is primarily by love, not by mathematical formulas; and love includes chastening.

Abraham, the man of the tent, didn't presume to tell God how to do things on earth. Rather, he pursued a city "which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

In this preliminary round of events, God needs a free hand to do what He thinks best. After all, could you think of any project more demanding than getting you and me ready for heaven?

—L. THOMAS HOLDCROFT

The Father's gold

*A golden strand that weaves through tapestry
Goes sometimes, so it seems, so far astray
To pick up threads whose beauty we can't see,
Until the master weaver has his way.
The picture, woven then with artist's hand,
Delights the eye with colors rich and bold;
The threads we thought so gray—each neutral
strand—*

*Are interlaced with beauty, touched with gold.
Our Father weaves His plan in wisdom's way
And sometime the whole pattern will unfold;
The treadle He will still, the shuttle stay,
Then Jesus Christ shall be revealed as gold—
The Shining Strand who interlaced our grays
To lift, to hold, to beautify always.*

—ESTHER B. HEINS

A righteousness that will stand

When Calvin Coolidge returned from a Sunday morning service in Vermont, his wife asked what the minister preached about. Coolidge, not given to profuse wordiness, replied, "Sin."

"But what did he say about it?" persisted his wife.

"He was against it," answered Mr. Coolidge.

The tragedy of America today is that the great majority of her preachers and teachers are no longer "against sin." Expedience, custom, and common conscience have become the standards for human action. But God hates sin!

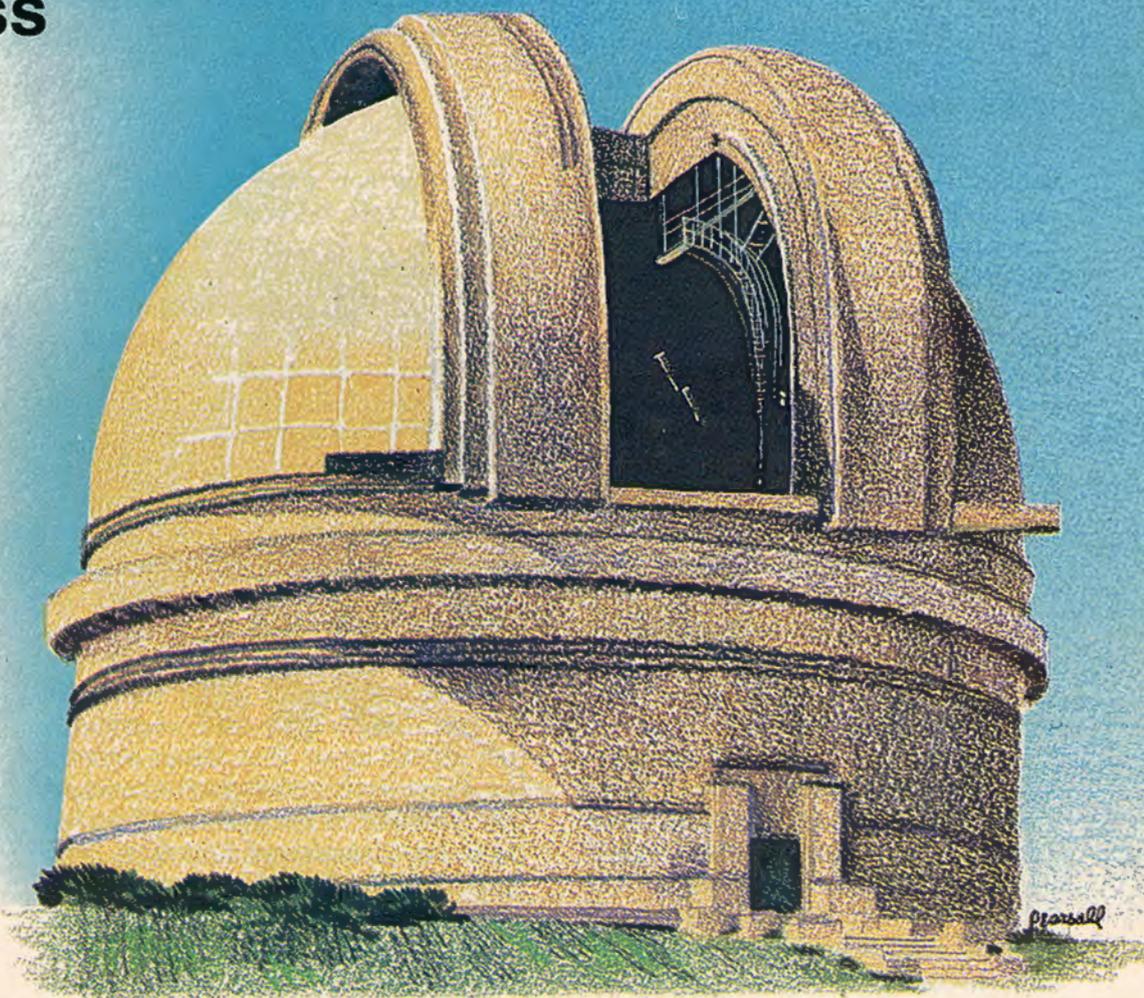
When I graduated from high school, our principal took the boys aside for a little fatherly talk. He said that the day was gone when people could be kept in line and scared into doing right by talk of heaven and hell. He said we must find some other means of moral guidance, some other standards than those of the Bible.

He failed, however, to make any very satisfactory suggestions. When he had finished, he had succeeded only in admitting that the modern attempt to ignore sin had rendered sin more rampant and ravaging, more pressing a problem than ever before.

While teaching ethics I was further impressed by the contradictory nature of human standards of conduct. Customs change. Unforeseen circumstances arise. Things proper in one part of the world are considered wrong somewhere else. We in America are shocked when we read of the Hindu mother who looks first at her sickly child, then at the robust one, and then throws the well child into the Ganges River to appease her god, as her conscience tells her she must do.

What is wrong with the standards of the world? When a 200-inch telescope was built, it could not be placed on famed Mt. Wilson. Although Mt.

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By **STANLEY M. HORTON**

Wilson was a mile high, the smoke and the fog of about 40 cities below clouded the atmosphere. So the great mirror was finally set up in the high, clear air of Mt. Palomar.

The best of human standards are relative, contradictory, and clouded by sin. They are all *too low*.

Only God's Word gives us an absolute and unchanging standard for ethics and for human conduct. Here it is in Matthew 5:48: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Now the universal human reaction to this standard is that it is *too high*. But is it really too much to ask that man, the image and likeness of God, reflect the character of his Creator?

Look at the genealogy of Jesus found in Matthew. Did you ever notice that all four women mentioned

either were foreigners or had some kind of disgrace connected with them?

Jesus was not born with a specially protected heredity. The doctrine of the immaculate conception* of Mary is a horrible heresy, for it makes it impossible for Jesus to be truly touched by the feeling of our infirmities.

Notice also that the environment of Jesus was that of any ordinary child of the poorer classes in Palestine. Through heredity and environment Jesus faced life as we must face it. He was in all points tempted or tested just as we are, *yet without sin*.

Thus by His sinless life Jesus showed what the image of God is ca-

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*This is not to be confused with the Virgin Birth. The Immaculate Conception doctrine is that Mary herself was born without original sin. It has nothing to do with the doctrine of Christ's virgin birth.



February 5, 1984 • Number 3639. The *Pentecostal Evangel* (ISSN 0031-4897), published weekly © 1984 by The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Gospel Publishing House), 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Mo. 65802. Official organ of the Assemblies of God. Subscription price (USA): \$8 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.

You may be near the end of your 39th year. Deliverance may be just hours or moments away.

The 39th year

Righteousness continued

pable of. He used nothing for himself that is not available to every Christian—prayer, the Word of God, and the power of the Spirit. No longer can we use the old excuse that we are doing “the best we can.” For Christ has condemned sin in the flesh, and we are without excuse.

The church at Thyatira used its good works as an excuse for tolerating false doctrine and sin. But God’s holy character cannot excuse your sin on the basis of the good in your life.

You would not accept a glass of milk because it was 99 percent good milk and only 1 percent arsenic. Sin is the poison that has caused all the death in the world.

If you say, “You know I am only human!” when confronted with your gossip, criticism, or other sins, you only apply to your conscience a salve that cannot heal.

Does it seem hopeless? Just remember that Jesus not only showed us how far short we fall of the capabilities God created within us; He not only showed what the image of God can do; He also showed what God himself can do.

The love and grace of God are revealed in Christ. On the cross He became our sin offering and then arose in victory to glorious new life.

One of the great works of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Christ in us; to give us His new life, not a reform. So often when men reform they merely turn over a new page in the same old book.

Paul knew what that meant. If anyone could have had any dependence on heredity, environment, and training, it should have been Paul. But he counted all the good things of his old life mere refuse to be swept out with the trash so he might stand, not in his own righteousness, but in the righteousness of Christ which is by faith.

The Scriptures tell us that our own righteousness is as filthy rags. I once quoted this verse in a sermon outline I handed in to a professor of an interdenominational school known as fundamental. He returned it with a note that I had better not use that verse, because good church people

The Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Robert Frost, labored without notice until his 39th year when he finally sold his first volume.

When I read that, I thought of Moses who endured the solitude of shepherding in Midian for 40 years before being brought back to Egypt and his foreordained position of prominence. I say 40 years because that’s true to the traditional agenda given to us for Moses, the man who spent 40 years thinking he was something, followed by 40 years facing the fact he was nothing, then 40 years finding out God was everything.

Some may question the tightness of this dispensational arrangement, but all will agree that Moses spent a long time waiting before God opened the door out of his exile and into his new day of meaningful ministry. His experience offers insights and instructions for us concerning the disciplines of delay. So let us look together at the scene and let it be illumined by the apostolic exhortation, “Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9).

A dramatic experience

Notice the account of Moses’ experience in Exodus 3. “Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he

do not like to be told that the good things they are doing are filthy rags in the sight of God!

In one of our Bible institutes it fell my lot to organize the library and to classify and catalog the books. I will never forget the little note that came with the catalog cards we ordered: “These cards are made from all new rags. If soiled rags were to be used, the fibers would be weakened in the process of bleaching, and it is necessary that library catalog cards be made to stand up for a long time.”

Hallelujah! Christ gives us a righteousness that will stand up for eternity—a salvation that lasts, and lasts forever! The Holy Spirit brings us

By **STEPHEN V. REXROAT**
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led the flock to the west side of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.”

To understand Moses’ experience we must examine with care the language used and the information available concerning the culture in which the event took place. But if our research is to result in something more than dust-dry data and if it is to live, we must allow our imaginations to take us back in time and translate the human element of the story.

Think how Moses must have felt during this burning bush experience. Can you put yourself in his place? What would you have said and done if you had encountered an angel in the desert and heard God speaking

eternal life *in Christ*.

A man had a dream in which he found himself mired in a deep, dark pit with slippery sides that made it impossible for him to climb out. In his despair he looked upward and saw a bright star. As he gazed upon it, he felt himself begin to rise. But as he turned his eyes away in an attempt to scramble to safety, he slipped down to the bottom again.

Learning the lesson, he fixed his eyes once more upon the star, and soon felt his feet on solid ground.

Christ is our Star, our Dayspring from on high. We are changed from one degree of glory to another as we behold *His face*.



to you out of a burning bush?

One day I engaged in that mental exercise, focusing on the burning bush experience. Then after sorting out the sensations that must have come with that 40th year encounter, I found my thoughts slipping back into the 39th year.

Questions began to come concerning what it must have been like in those dry, dull days just before Moses discovered his destiny. What must his thoughts have been during that last year before his isolation ended? Were there any indicators he was soon to be taken off the shelf? Did he have any premonition that his isolation was about to end? Or were those last days as dreary and unpromising as the first he spent in Midian?

Only Moses himself could answer those questions for us, and he isn't here to do that. So we can only guess at what it was like for him. But from our own experience with dreary days, we might well assume that the moods of Moses during this time were many and varied. If he was anything like us, his mood swings reached from the heights of hoping to the depths of despairing.

The discipline of delay

You may wonder why I'm making so much of this matter. I do so be-

cause it hits home for many of us today. The struggle for spiritual survival is won or lost during the days when delay tests our determination. Sam Johnson was right when he declared time to be the greatest test of a man's faith. That's why it is so important for us to take hold of the truth and learn how to hold onto the hope when there seems to be nothing else to hold on to.

We have a tendency to take matters into our own hands and to get ahead of God. Like Moses, we so easily violate the will of God concerning what and when. That brings on consequences that prove to be so painful, but God is faithful. In the fullness of time He comes to our rescue. But when? How long is it from the time we get into trouble until we are delivered out of trouble?

To those questions there are no easy answers; for God moves at His own speed, and we can only await His time.

This is not easy to do. We can identify with the Psalmist who cried out, "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long shall mine enemies be exalted over me?" (Psalm 13:1,2).

Perhaps you are asking questions like that. You know that God has a deliverance day scheduled for you,

but you wish you knew how long you must wait until it arrives. If only you knew, you would make the necessary arrangements and settle in for the duration! But what makes it so hard is not knowing how soon. Right up to the moment of change, all things seem to continue with no promise of change.

That's the trouble with the 39th year. That's the trouble with the 12th month of the 39th year. That's the trouble with the last day of the 12th month of the 39th year.

But that's the way it is; and because God is sovereign, He will not be pushed, pulled, or manipulated into rearranging or revealing His schedule.

In the meantime He makes us wait in our wilderness, learning the disciplines of delay.

The tensions caused by the mystery of divine movement are evident in doctrine as well as personal disciplines. Doctrinally we are pushed by a passion to know eschatological details. We know the Lord has promised to return, but the time is a closely-guarded secret. So we set ourselves to get past the guards and find the formula. Like spiritual sleuths, we sift through the Scriptures for clues; then we jump to our conclusions.

Of course, only the kooks set exact

continued on next page

dates. We wouldn't think of doing that. And yet there are some among us who say that the Lord must come "at least by" or "no later than" 1985 or 1990 or whatever date they have decided on.

And aren't we just as foolish to set deadlines for the Lord to take us out of our troubles? I say we are, and we should think seriously regarding our posture before Him. We have not been called to keep God on schedule. We have been called to walk before Him in obedience and patience. So we must resist the ever-present pressure of our need to know.

The time may be near

You may well be in your 39th year. Deliverance may very well be just a matter of hours or moments away. Only God knows. So leave the calendar to Him, and concentrate on those disciplines that will keep you going until He calls you. Remember, it's what you do when there seems to be nothing to do that gets you ready to really do something great for the glory of God.

But what are the disciplines of delay? What are the behaviors called for when we have to wait for God's timing? We find our answers in the Scriptures. The context of God's Word gives us the principles, the constant principles, which Moses' actions revealed. We can take those principles and build upon them the disciplines for daily living that make us able to wait and to survive the days of delay.

I believe there are two principles that we see in the experience of Moses and all the sacred writings. They have to do with labor and looking.

The pathway of duty

The first strategy for survival we see in Moses is labor. In other words, he did what he had to do to get by after he had to get out of Egypt.

We must admire Moses for his willingness to work. And we should see that 40 years of shepherding helped get him through this trying

time and brought him eventually to the burning bush.

God works with those who work. The primary discipline of delay, it seems, is to do whatever you can until a greater opportunity comes along. Unfortunately too many people today don't seem to see this, and they refuse this discipline. They are determined, it seems, to do nothing until the big thing, the exciting thing, comes along. They despise the day of small things.

You know the kind of people I mean. They bore you to tears with their boasting about what they will do someday, but they do nothing today. They are so busy talking about the big things they are going to do for God someday they don't have time for the little things. That's why the burning bush never appears and why they come to death in the oblivion of the desert of doing nothing.

Despise not, we are told, the day of small things. For it is by one small step after another a journey of a thousand miles is made. It is by the faithful laying of one brick atop another that a great wall is built. And it is by doing the best you know to do, by doing your duty day after day, that a great life is made.

We need to realize that such revelations come to those who labor faithfully at the task at hand, doing the best they can until a greater opportunity comes along.

George Washington Carver, one of the great men of all time, told in his inimitable way how God brought him to an appreciation for the discipline of coming to greatness through the slow but faithful steps of labor. Listen to his words as he describes an early morning prayer time in the woods:

"Oh, Mr. Creator, why did You make this universe?" I cried.

"And the Creator answered me. 'You want to know too much for that little mind of yours,' He said. 'Ask me something more your size.'

"So I said, 'Dear Mr. Creator, tell me what man was made for?'

"Again He spoke to me, and He

said, 'Little man, you are still asking for more than you can handle. Cut down the extent of your request and improve the intent.'

"And then I asked my last question. 'Mr. Creator, why did You make the peanut?'

"That's better!' the Lord said, and He gave me a handful of peanuts and went with me back to the laboratory; and, together we got down to work."

Before Carver died, he had discovered more than 300 products in that little peanut.

Such a small thing, you say? No, my friend. These are no small things or small tasks, only small people.

What is a small person? He's the man who thinks he's too good or too big for a small job, so he ends up doing nothing.

Moses wasn't this sort of man. He did what he could. He was doing it that day when he encountered the burning bush and received his bigger and better opportunity.

Like Moses, let us learn that the waiting time is not for inactivity, but for taking hold of the small opportunities and doing what we can.

The horizon of hope

There is a second discipline of delay which is suggested by the fact that when the bush burned, Moses saw it. That makes me believe that our labor must be done with an eye on the horizon of hope, for duty is to be done in anticipation of the upward calling.

We must not read too much into the story regarding Moses' vision. The text does not strongly suggest he was looking forward to such an encounter, and we have no evidence that he was promised a return to his place of prominence. We can only guess as to the hope that was in his heart. Whether or not he thought something like this would happen is a secret that died with Moses. But we know that the bush burned, and that Moses saw it; so at least he had his eyes open.

That's more than can be said for some folk I know. They have closed their eyes to the possibility that God



Photo by Pamela Mitchell

There is no way to describe the loneliness at that moment when your own mother doesn't know you!

Can a mother forget?

The phone rang. It was the nursing home calling again. These calls are coming more and more frequently these days as my mother's condition makes her more difficult to manage.

It's been just over a year since she went to live in the home. She is suffering from Alzheimer's disease—a cruel, dehumanizing disease that destroys a person's brain to the point he or she is unable to function in a normal manner. She is deteriorating mentally the same way her mother did several years ago.

Mother lived with us for a year prior to her admission to the nursing home. We cared for her as long as we could, but she began to have such high levels of frustration, such a high aggression level, that it was impossible for us to keep her. She was ex-

By LARRY THOMAS

periencing the wide range of emotions common to these victims when they sense they are losing control of their lives. She required 24-hour supervision, so we had to move her to a nursing home.

The process has involved all of us in many emotional battles. My wife, our two boys, and I have had to learn to cope with painful feelings. Each of us hurt in his unique way as we watched the disease daily changing Mother into a totally different person from the one we knew and loved so dearly.

My most difficult moment came one afternoon when I walked into the kitchen where Mother was standing. She looked at me with a puzzled

could come to them and offer them something better. In their 39th year, they have perished for lack of vision. They have lost faith, which is bad enough; and what's worse, they've lost hope.

Don't be one of those people. Keep hoping in the faithfulness of God. Remain open-eyed, even in your 39th year.

How long until your burning bush will come? I don't know. How long does the 39th year go on? I can't say. What will the divine breakthrough

be like for you? Only when your day of discovery dawns can you know that.

But God knows. And though you can't see Him, He sees you. He knows exactly when the fullness of time arrives. He knows when the time is right to bring you the big opportunity that comes to those who are faithful in the disciplines of delay.

Until then, I urge you to live every day of your 39th year with your feet on the pathway of duty and your eyes on the horizon of hope.

expression and asked, "Now who did you say you were?"

There is no way to describe the loneliness at that moment when your own mother doesn't know you! I didn't know what to say. I made some surface conversation, then walked away, crushed.

Many thoughts traversed my mind at that moment. Satan took full advantage of the opportunity to depress me further and to create doubt by calling to my attention the question in Isaiah 49:15 (NIV), "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?"

Over and over during the next few moments that question mocked me. But then the Holy Spirit did a remarkable thing, and I experienced the sufficiency of God's grace. He recalled to my mind the next statements my mother had made. "You should meet my son," she said. "You would really like him." I am an only child. I knew then she hadn't forgotten.

Even though she did not recognize me, she was very much aware she had a son, and she was ready to brag about him at a moment's notice. How comforting it was!

This incident greatly increased my faith and confidence in God. When He wanted to illustrate to His captive people just how deeply they were etched in His mind, God chose the most unlikely thing in all the world to happen—a mother forgetting her child.

I saw firsthand just how much a part of a mother's existence her child is. It is nearly impossible for her to forget.

A young lady I know gave her child up for adoption many years ago. She shared with me how often she thinks of that child. How does he look? What's he doing? Does he like baseball?

But God went a step farther, leaving no room for doubts or questions about His unfaltering concern for His children. "Though she [a mother] may forget," He said, "I will not forget you!"

Tribute to a missionary teacher

Below the towering pinnacle of the inactive volcano Mount Matutum near General Santos City, the Assemblies of God Bible Institute in Mindanao (AGBIM) trains young Filipino men and women to reach their people with the gospel.

Missionary Mayme Williams served as interim president of AGBIM for a year during 1982 and 1983. "This has been one of my hardest assignments, yet the most rewarding," she told me. "I think the most thrilling thing that older people can do is to work with young people."

Her association with the Bible institute continued in various degrees over 2 decades. Having begun her Philippine work at Bethel Bible Institute in Manila in 1949, she served 14 years as teacher and assumed some administrative duties. From 1954 to 1963 she also preached in open-air evangelistic meetings throughout the Philippines. She spent 1956 in charge of Immanuel Bible College in Cebu. Since 1963 she has been active in raising money to build churches and Bible school buildings.

AGBIM was started in 1963, and Sister Williams first became associated with it in 1965. Again in 1968 she came to AGBIM while Missionaries Glenn and Pauline Dunn were on furlough. Then some 15 years later she returned as president to work

with students, faculty, and staff in the Lord's vineyard.

Throughout her last 6 months at AGBIM she directed the renovation of termite-infested dormitories and the modernization of the lighting system. She raised money 15 years ago to construct the dormitories. More recently she supplied money for building maintenance.

Now the dormitories have been refurbished, and the chapel and library have received new coats of paint. All faculty housing is also being remodeled and repainted. The campus has come alive in pleasant pastel colors.

Sister Williams always knew how to make sure the job got done. In her mid-seventies, she would get out early each morning to check on progress of the summer work crews. Some students were paying off the previous year's school bills; others were working to have funds applied toward their next school year's expenses. Both men and women students scurried around quickly in their work assignments when she appeared.

One of her favorite pastimes was teaching the students to use a paintbrush. The final result attests to her

By **CHARLES T. CLAUSER**
Philippines

diligence, patience, and perseverance with inexperienced paint crews. The present Southern Mindanao district superintendent's wife, Mrs. Eleanor Bercero, recently spoke of learning this skill 15 years ago from Sister Williams.

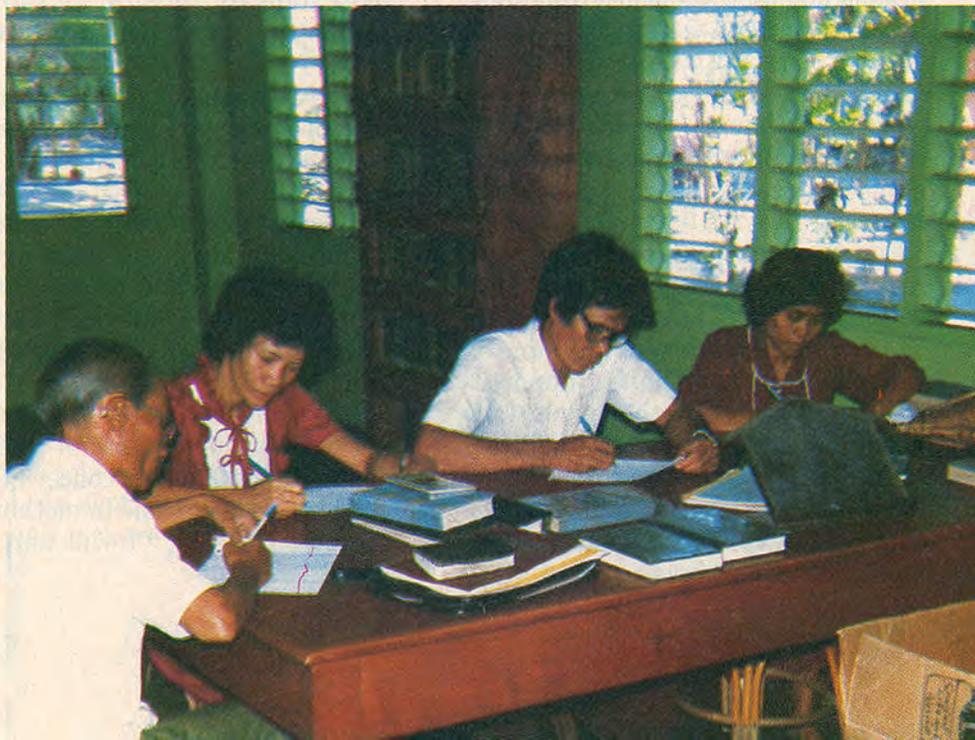
Sister Williams showed me AGBIM's vocational training program under the direction of head custodian Rudy Panaguitan. Some students learned electrical work as they and Brother Ladura, the school's registrar, rewired staff housing. Others were learning plumbing and cement work as they constructed new rest room facilities.

All gained experience in carpentry by repaneling walls and reconstructing beds. Any student could work up to 19 hours per week each semester to help pay expenses. "These young people will pioneer churches and build them!" Sister Williams said proudly.

The work program (vocational training) has changed lives and attitudes. Students are walking taller and straighter. One student, drip-

Right: Spiritual Life and Worship class with its instructor, Dr. Charles Clauser.

Below: Students at AGBIM during their midterm exams.





Missionary Mayme Williams and one of the young women on her paint crew.

ping with perspiration as he looked up from sawing a board, exclaimed to her, "Mom, I'm learning how to build my church!"

I was privileged to have several "upper room" chats with Sister Williams in her office throughout May 1983. Almost daily as I brought her the morning paper, we discussed various facets of Philippine Assemblies of God Bible education and training. It was an honor for me to be assigned as a teacher to the Far East Advanced School of Theology (FEAST) extension program held at AGBIM and to receive the kind of first-hand orientation and knowledgeable counseling available only from an inspiring person like Mayme Williams.

She undoubtedly will have, God willing, many more teaching assignments in the Philippines. And as she

would say, "To God be all the glory!"

During the school year she conducted a 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. daily hour of prayer for all students. She told me this was the one activity responsible for a positive spiritual change in the campus life this last year.

Sister Williams also required students to start each weekday with a 7 to 7:50 a.m. chapel service. She feels this contributed to a healthy spiritual climate on campus. "Having chapel services later in the morning would not prepare us adequately for the affairs of the day," she explained.

Sister Williams' presidential message in the 1983 *Beacon* (school yearbook) included these inspiring words: "God has not changed. Your ministry will succeed or fail on the kind of prayer life you cultivate."

The fruit of her prayerful ministry truly is exemplary. 

Child healed of convulsions

Joshua, our younger child now 5 years old, suffered with convulsions from the time he was 1½. He had 12 convulsions before God healed him.

We had taken Joshua to several hospitals over the years. The prognosis was always the same: "Your son has fever convulsions and will outgrow them in time." The doctors put him on phenobarbital which seemed to help for about a year.

The convulsions were worse in summer, because Joshua was unable to perspire.

One time he had a severe convulsion. We live in a rural area so our local rescue squad took him to a large hospital about 25 miles away.

On the trip Joshua's vital signs appeared to cease functioning. The attendants administered life-saving procedures and were able to get his heart revived.

At the hospital the doctors performed numerous blood tests, X rays, and spinal tests. We were then sent on to a large facility in Toledo for further tests. After several brain studies, the doctors reported that Joshua's convulsions were caused by an irritation to the brain itself.

Soon the phenobarbital dosage had to be increased because the convulsions were still occurring. It was apparent we needed God to intervene in the situation. We knew He could minister healing to our son.

One evening at church, when Joshua was about 4, we had our pastor pray for Joshua to be restored to perfect health. Joshua immediately began to perspire. We knew God was healing him.

We gave him his medication the first day following prayer. Then we realized God wanted us to trust Him completely.

Our son has been off medication for over a year now with no recurring convulsions. We are so thankful to God for this healing.—Dave and Linda Larry, Hicksville, Ohio

(Endorsed by Pastor David P. Koch, Assembly of God, Hicksville, Ohio)



Spencer Library in the background; construction in the foreground.



The gate to paradise

By FRANCES BEVAN

the hidden paradise of God souls are passing while on the earth, through Him who is the Gate—Christ, only Christ.

Take heed to the warning: "He that climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." 

Photo by Derald Musgrove

When Ezekiel was brought in the visions of God to see the temple of the Lord's glory, the first thing he saw was a gate. It was a gate in a wall, a way of entrance into the sacred enclosure.

We hear of only one gate in this wall. The man who was to be Ezekiel's guide "stood in the gate," but not with a flaming sword to guard the way. He was there to guide into the courts of the Lord's holiness, the secret place of the Most High.

Had there been no wall, there would have been no gate. But "behold a wall." It shut out from view the space within.

Is there now for us a temple of God? Is there that which is the habitation of God through His Spirit? Does the house now exist of which Peter wrote, "Ye also, as lively [living] stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifice, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ"?

And around this holy temple is there a wall? Is there an enclosure within which are those who have "washed their robes," and outside of which are the unclean, and the lovers and makers of that which is a lie?

But before the Lord spoke of the wall, He spoke of the gate. If the Lord is the wall of fire round about His sanctuary, He is the gate also. Christ has told us: "By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved."

The wall is there, but the Lord di-

rects the eye first to the gate before He gives the measure of the wall. He shows the open door, and He does not measure it. It is one of the many parables of His immeasurable love.

Is it by entering the gate of heaven after death that a man is saved? No, for the Lord says, "Behold, now is the day of salvation." Paul could say, "According to his mercy he saved us."

So before the wall is mentioned, the gate is shown—the Gate that is none other than He who says, "I am the door."

And entering in we learn a further lesson of His grace. The wall exists as the defense and security of those who have passed within. From the outside it is a barrier; but from within it is salvation—salvation to him who has entered.

There is one way only into this place of safety, this house of defense, this strong habitation, this fortress of the redeemed. Christ said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

Having entered by the gate, we know that as the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people. He has enclosed them in the secret place of the Most High—in the shadow of the Almighty.

Eternal peace is within His walls for all who are sheltered there. For it is to "any man" that the Door stands open—even to the thief who passed from the cross to paradise. And into

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Michelle touched me

Michelle was our neighborhood "Bible thumper." The first thing I noticed after we met was her happy enthusiasm.

Vacation Bible school beckoned, and each morning she stuffed her VW bus with neighborhood children. Kids bored with summer holidays reached out for a new experience. Their mothers eagerly sought a few mornings of peace. Michelle served those needs with spiritual fervor.

After my daughter and I attended a VBS session, I realized this woman differed from my other friends. We had spent 3 hours together, and not one bit of gossip, not one four-letter word or critical comment, had escaped her lips. She did not conform to the neighborhood pattern.

As our friendship deepened, I examined her critically. Expecting weirdness, I found instead compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

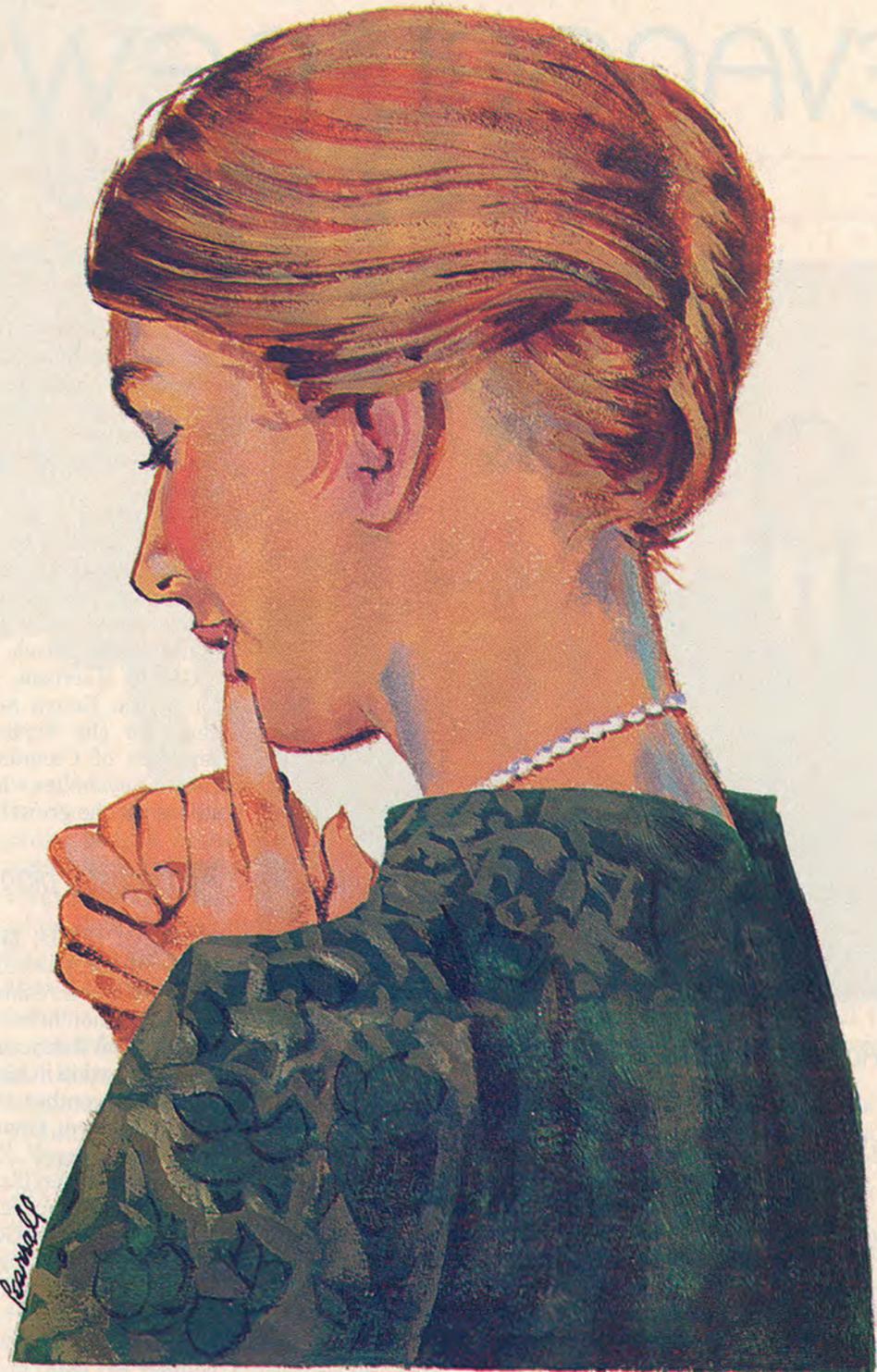
I also acquired a stiff neck watching the VW bounce in and out of her driveway. She and her husband attended church twice on Sundays and also on Wednesday evenings. They drove their children to and from Christian school daily, visited the hospitalized, delivered meals to people in need, and led Bible studies. They taught in Sunday school, played the organ, and sang in the choir.

I was to discover that their lives "set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12, NIV).

One afternoon Michelle's son barged through the door dripping with angry tears. He gasped out a story of neighborhood bullies pelting him with stones and taunting, "Jesus freak! Jesus freak!"

As Michelle calmly comforted her son, I waited for an explosion of motherly indignation. Instead she held Doug's hand and quietly prayed for the souls of the bullies!

In amazement I questioned her serenity. "I'm so angry I can hardly talk," she said. "But Romans 12:14 tells us, 'Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.'" That incident haunted me for days!



By BARBARA ROBIDOUX

As the summer lazed by, I looked for fanaticism and discovered only love. I listened for pious posing but heard spiritual wisdom. I expected hypocrisy and found honesty. The family focused on a living God who met people's needs. Their life-style stood solidly on truth.

I don't know if the neighborhood children were touched by Michelle. Two of the boys died in their early teens. Only God knows if they found Him that summer. But I know that I did.

I found Him because one family

lived Christianity. They lived it in my neighborhood, and they lived it daily.

Now I am trying, in my way, to emulate Michelle. I do not relate to the severely persecuted. I am unable to duplicate unselfish service to hurting masses in faraway places. I cannot evangelize millions. But perhaps I, like Michelle, can touch people around me if I act on Paul's advice: "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers" (1 Timothy 4:16, NIV).

EVANGEL NEWS DIGEST

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Photo by James P. Allen

Roy Wead honored for 26 years' service as executive presbyter

Roy H. Wead, who recently concluded 26 years of service to the General Council as a member of the Executive Presbytery, was honored at a banquet in November. Shown here during presentation of a plaque are: G. Raymond Carlson, assistant general superintendent; Brother Wead; and Thos. F. Zimmerman, general superintendent.

Brother Wead's career has included pastorates in Ohio and Indiana, 14 years as Indiana District superintendent, and 38 years as a general presbyter.

In 1968 he became president of Trinity Bible College, Ellendale, N. Dak. Under his leadership the college acquired a new campus, received accreditation, and increased in enrollment from 143 in 1968 to 321 in 1982 when he retired from the presidency.

He now resides in Springfield, Mo.

SOVIETS INCREASE EFFORTS TO WIPE OUT RELIGION

MOSCOW—According to United Press International, young parents in Russia still go to church and mark religious holidays, despite the state's intensive propaganda efforts to wean them away from religion, the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* said.

It blamed incompetent propagandists for failing to convert all the country's 270 million cit-

izens to the state doctrines of atheism.

The front-page editorial called for increased vigilance, including more instructive publications and radio and television broadcasts.

A recent Soviet study reportedly found 97 percent of the people between 14 and 30 years of age said they were atheists.

Most of the 7,500 onion-domed

REVIVAL CONTINUES IN SEYCHELLES

SEYCHELLES—In *The Pentecostal Testimony* (June 1982), Missionary John F. Lynn reported on the revival which is being experienced in Seychelles, islands off Africa's east coast.

Since that time the great move of God has continued under the leadership of Mrs. May Fernandez, who was saved some years previously at Nairobi Pentecostal Church.

Gerald Morrison, field director of the Kenya and Uganda fields for the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, recently visited Seychelles where he was amazed at the growth and bless-

ing in the work. While there for 1 week he saw many saved and he baptized over 300 in the Indian Ocean.

Mrs. Fernandez introduced Brother Morrison to a government official, second in power to the president. He gave a sincere welcome to the PAOC to minister in Seychelles. This government official received a healing touch from the Lord recently after Sister Fernandez had prayed for him.

The PAOC Overseas Missions Committee has approved the appointment of a missionary family to reside and minister in Seychelles.

Pentecostal pioneer celebrates 100th birthday

SPRINGFIELD, MO.—Frank M. Boyd, an Assemblies of God minister and a resident of Maranatha Manor here, celebrated his 100th birthday on December 24. A reception in his honor was held on December 19.

At the event General Superintendent Thos. F. Zimmerman presented a certificate of recognition and appreciation from the Assemblies of God and read a telegram of congratulations from President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan.

Brother Boyd was born December 24, 1883, in Pittsburgh, Pa. He came to Central Bible College in Springfield as principal and administrative dean when the college was located in the basement of Central As-

sembly. He assisted in moving CBC to its present location. He served the college until 1929, and again from 1948 to 1963, retiring at the age of 79.

During the interim between his two terms at CBC, Brother Boyd taught at other Assemblies of God colleges in California.

In 1968, Boyd Hall, an apartment building for married students, was dedicated on the CBC campus.

He authored a number of textbooks on Bible prophecy and other subjects. He founded Berean School of the Bible, a correspondence school under the direction of the Education Department, and authored many of the original texts for the school.

He has made his home at Maranatha Village since 1975. His wife died in 1980.



Frank Boyd

Widows encourage churches to care for them as God's Word instructs

ZAMBIA, SOUTH AFRICA—Widows in Zambia are traditionally mistreated.

Recently four Zambian widows wrote a letter to the women of the church, encouraging them to practice Biblical care for widows during their times of bereavement.

The letter read:

"The wife may have cared for her husband and nursed him

through a long illness. At the time of his death she is not only heartsick, but desperately tired. Yet for custom's sake she must sit for days and nights outside her house, without food or drink. Should she partake, she is likely to be accused of the death of her husband. . . .

"It's a great sorrow for any woman to lose her husband . . . but the Zambian

woman usually loses most of her possessions also. . . . Within a week or two, relatives of the husband arrive. She must put all her belongings, furniture, bedding, everything except her personal clothing, in one place. The husband's relatives divide all this between them, leaving her with only a few essentials. . . . Everything is taken, even the Bible, if she and her husband shared one. The house is taken, and she must return to the village where she got married. If that was many years ago, there may be no village left."

The four women who signed the letter—Lina, Esita, Lem-

beka, and Jesefina—had personally experienced these traditions. So they urged the women to be thankful if they have been spared such treatment and encouraged them to pray for and help poor widows in practical ways. They pointed to Scripture's injunctions that the leaders of the church should care for the widows.

Finally Jesefina closed with these words: "Don't feel fear. In your trouble look to God to help you. He who looks after the birds will look after you. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Sing in your heart to the Lord, 'His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me!'"

Political unrest sparks witness by students in the Philippines

MANILA, PHILIPPINES—Christian students associated with Campus Crusade are taking advantage of the unrest on Manila's college campuses to share Christ with fellow students, according to Missionary News Service.

During the last few months, many of the 1,800 students in Manila Campus Crusade groups have participated in rallies and distributed Christian "position papers" stating that true peace is not the result of political reforms, but of changed lives through Jesus Christ.

Christian students have attended anti-government rallies at their own universities, distributing Christian position papers and tracts, and sharing Christ with fellow students.

Others have participated in Jesus marches, where they have chanted, "One way—Jesus way" or "Change lives; change society." Informal rallies are held on campus following the marches. Such marches and rallies have for many years been a part of Campus Crusade evangelism strategy in the Philippines.

PENTECOST AROUND THE WORLD

CHILE—An Inter-Varsity Christian group at the Technical University in Chile baptized about 250 converts in a single service last summer. The charismatic group, begun 5 years ago by an engineering student named Christian Casanova, now numbers 600. Assemblies of God missionaries Paul Hoff and John Mazurek are teaching the Bible to 40 university students who are group leaders in the Inter-Varsity movement.

WEST GERMANY—Eurasia Teen Challenge is developing music and drama ministries with Missionaries Nick and Ruth Wilson as coordinators. The teams are being trained at the Teen Challenge Training Center in Wiesbaden. Brother Wilson describes the gospel presentations as "attractive, 20- to 30-minute programs of special music and theatrical sketches." Street corners and coffeehouses are the focus of the ministry which involves extensive personal evangelism.

PORTUGAL—Portuguese Bible College at Mount Hope in Fanhoes-Loures dedicated a new auditorium in September 1983. The school, which opened in 1975, graduated 11 students last year. Missionary Sam Johnson is president; Missionary Roland Dudley is director.

YUGOSLAVIA—Christ's Pentecostal Church in Ljubljana set a goal of distributing 1,000 Bibles or portions of it during 1983. By November 20 when funds for the project had been depleted, 1,742 pieces of Scripture had been given out. During 1984 the church hopes to print and distribute 10,000 Macedonian-language New Testaments.



Photo by Mandala

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GREATNESS IS ALWAYS JUST A PRAYER AWAY

This is the month we do homage to greatness. We celebrate the birth-days of two great Americans—one the father of his country, and the other the preserver of its unity.

As we recall the strength and wisdom with which Washington and Lincoln led our nation in two of its most crucial periods, we may be tempted to wish for more leaders with similar qualities today.

Where such leadership is lacking, it is not for want of mental genius. It is Christian integrity that so many office seekers lack today—and a firm reliance on God.

"Ascribe ye greatness unto our God," Moses sang (Deuteronomy 32:3). God is great, and greatly to be praised, and it is He who imparts to men those qualities that can make them great in whatever positions He may have chosen for them.

Next time you feel weak or inadequate, think of the greatness of your God. In His hand is power and might, and to those who have no might He increases strength. When you begin to feel faint is just when He wants to give you a new release of power (Isaiah 40:29).

Turn to Psalm 145 and read David's song of praise. As you think of the majesty and power of the Lord—

of His great creation, His marvelous works, and His bountiful goodness to mankind—you undoubtedly will end up saying with the Psalmist, "My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever" (v. 21).

The song "How Great Thou Art" expresses it so well. Perhaps no song is more widely known than this one, penned originally around 1885 by Carl Boberg, a Lutheran minister and editor in Sweden. It's reported that Boberg was inspired to write "O Store Gud" (O Great God) as he viewed with awe the sparkling beauty of Sweden's lakes and meadows after a summer thunderstorm.

The hymn was translated into German, Russian, and other languages. The version that lifted it to worldwide notice was the English translation by Stuart K. Hine. George Beverly Shea sang it at the Billy Graham Crusade in Toronto, Canada, in 1955 and from that time on it skyrocketed in popularity.

When you're tempted to sing the blues, sing this song instead. Your discouragement will vanish. You will be lifted out of weakness and doubt, and some of the greatness of God will enter into your soul.

There's blessing in singing hymns of worship. There's inspiration and help in reading the Psalms, for unlike some songs that are sung in churches today they draw attention away from oneself and fix it on Him who is strong and mighty.

Greatness is always just a prayer away. If you will take time to get quiet each morning and evening just to meditate on the Word of God, you will catch a sense of His majesty.

As you communicate your prayer to Him, He will communicate His power to you.

Great Christians are great worshipers. They commune with their Maker until His strength enters into their spirits and makes them strong.

So study to be quiet. "Be still, and know that I am God," Jehovah says (Psalm 46:10). Spend much time in His presence. Then you shall prove the all-sufficiency of the Almighty to satisfy your heart and make you adequate for each daily task.

Let your spirit rest in the strength of your Lord, singing with the hymn writer:

"Jesus, I am resting, resting
In the joy of what *Thou* art;
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart."

R.C.C.

PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

February 5, 1984 Number 3639

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

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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.

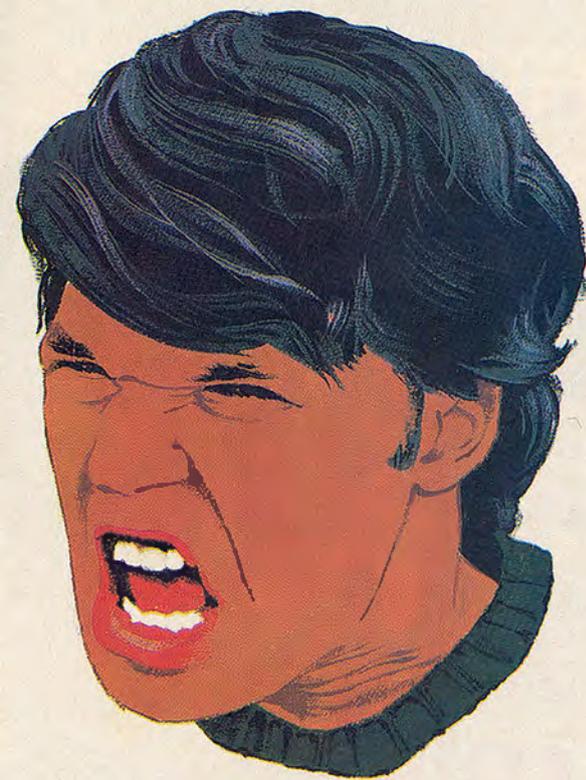
. . . regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

. . . 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.



By MICK OWINGS

Associate Pastor, Assembly of God
Oregon City, Oregon

Words can hurt

I recall standing on the school playground, shouting back at a few other children who were hurling taunting remarks: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me."

I walked away haughtily, but actually their words of rejection and ridicule cut deeply. My face flushed; hot tears welled in my eyes.

Similar scenes have been enacted by countless other children at play. What turns a lovely innocent child, frolicking joyfully in the sunshine, suddenly into a destructive monster, vehemently pouring forth hateful words?

Spoken words can do much more damage than physical blows. How

many can forget the words spoken by a frustrated, angry parent: "I wish you had never been born"?

Family relationships that God intended to be joyful have been destroyed by a few hasty words. "I'm sorry I ever married you," or, "I hate you," can inflict wounds that are slow to heal. As a result, the most beautiful relationship designed by God can begin to wither and die.

How tragic when those who claim to be Christians lash out, cut down, and ruin people's lives with words! No doubt we have all hurt someone or been in trouble because of something we have said. Words can pacify or start wars. Words can impart knowledge or lead astray. Words can build up or tear down.

Words are a determining factor in our interpersonal relationships. The very nature of our society demands greater and greater technology be developed in word processing and communication equipment. What a pity that our choice of words does not keep pace with our technological progress!

Someone has said, "We need to place our mind in gear before we put our mouth in motion." Many problems would be avoided if we would practice this simple proverb.

The Epistle of James gives us these impressive words: "If any man offend not in word, the same is a per-

fect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. . . . The tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. . . . But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:2-10).

The ability to control one's speech is a crucial test of his progress toward Christian perfection. Are we gaining ground, or do we need to work harder in this area?

Without a bridle in the mouth of the horse, it is impossible for a rider to command his steed.

Similarly, without a bridle on the tongue, a man is unable to govern himself. David said: "I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me" (Psalm 39:1).

Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land because he "spake unadvisedly with his lips."

Jesus said: "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in this day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:36,37).

Oh, the power of the tongue. Let us use our mouths to glorify God and bring eternal life to ourselves and those that hear us. Let us earnestly seek God that our tongue may be delivered from the deceit of the world.

If we guard our lips so that no unkind, slanderous, or unlovely words may carelessly pass from them, the world will know that we have been with Jesus and have learned of Him. The Pentecostal "tongue of fire" is given to purge our tongues from the "strange fire" that is "set on fire of hell."

Enlarged varicose veins healed

IN November 1981, during my yearly examination, I asked the doctor about the veins in my right leg that looked so bad. He said they were varicose veins and nothing could be done about them.

In March 1982 they were worse. In one area there was a knot, and the veins formed a circle around it, causing it to look like a big bruise. The bottom half of my leg felt like it was asleep, as if the blood was not circulating right.

I made an appointment with my doctor for Monday, May 24.

On Sunday, May 23, I was anointed

with oil according to James 5:14 in the morning service at our church, and special prayer was offered for my healing.

By Sunday night the knot was gone. I called the doctor the next day and cancelled my appointment. The Lord had taken care of my problem.

Today there is hardly a trace of varicose veins and I am praising the Lord for healing me.—Betty Garza, Sonora, Tex.

(Endorsed by Pastor Louis Halford, First Assembly of God, Sonora, Tex.)

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