

# V THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL

*God's Garden*

Page 13

*Cavemen*

Page 22

*Your Spiritual  
Birthday*

Page 36

*Choices*

Page 63

*THE SIN OF SODOM*

Page 65

*Born to Die!*

Page 79

*Partial-Birth  
ABORTION*

Page 81

*...To Be  
Gods*

Page 84

*New Zealand*

Page 102



# The Man I Want to Be

J. Randal Matheny

The man I want to be  
Is full of Joy,  
The panoply of peace  
In full deploy.

The man I want to be  
Is full of Praise,  
Whose voice proclaims His gifts,  
And homage pays.

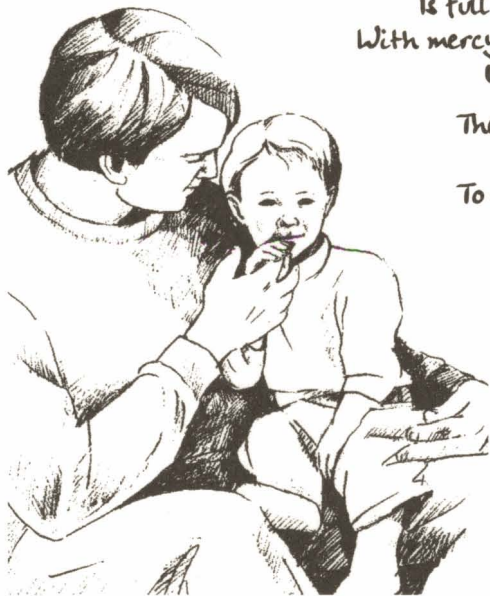
The man I want to be  
Is full of Fear,  
With trembling knees and heart,  
For God is near.

The man I want to be  
Is full of Grace,  
With mercy deeply stamped  
Upon his face.

The man I want to be  
Is full of Fire  
To do the will of God  
And never tire.

The man I want to be  
Is full of Love,  
Found anchored in the  
Lord's  
Protected cove.

The man I want to be  
Is full of God,  
To walk the golden path  
That Jesus trod.



# THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL

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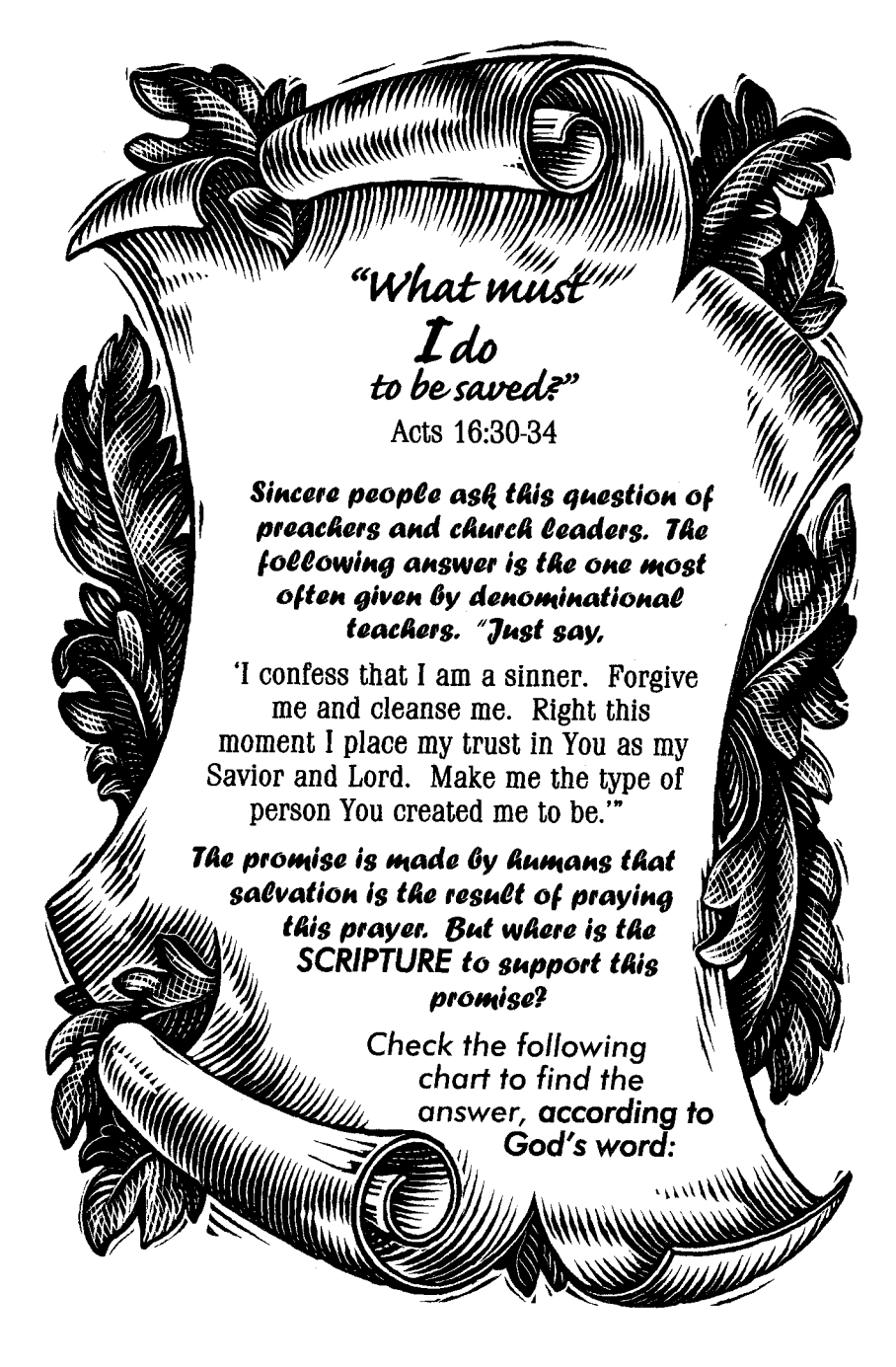
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## 23 EDITIONS

**"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).**

**THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU (ROMANS 16:16).**



*“What must  
I do  
to be saved?”*

Acts 16:30-34

*Sincere people ask this question of preachers and church leaders. The following answer is the one most often given by denominational teachers. “Just say,*

*‘I confess that I am a sinner. Forgive me and cleanse me. Right this moment I place my trust in You as my Savior and Lord. Make me the type of person You created me to be.’”*

*The promise is made by humans that salvation is the result of praying this prayer. But where is the **SCRIPTURE** to support this promise?*

Check the following chart to find the answer, according to God’s word:

## Examples of Conversion

Matthew 28:18,19; Mark 16:15,16

<b>Preaching</b>	<b>Believed</b>	<b>Repented</b>	<b>Confessed</b>	<b>Baptized</b>	<b>Saved</b>
<b><i>Pentecost</i></b> Acts 2:14-41		Repent v. 37,38		Baptized v. 38-41	Remission of sins v. 38,41,47
<b><i>Samaria</i></b> Acts 8:5-13	Believed v. 12			Baptized v. 12	
<b><i>Eunuch</i></b> Acts 8:35-39	Believed v. 37		Confessed v. 37	Baptized v. 38	Rejoiced v. 39
<b><i>Saul</i></b> Acts 9:17,18				Baptized v. 18	Sins washed away v. 22:16
<b><i>Cornelius</i></b> Acts 10:34-48	Believed v. 43			Baptized v. 48	Remission of sins v. 43
<b><i>Lydia</i></b> Acts 16:14,15	Attended v. 14			Baptized v. 15	
<b><i>The Jailer</i></b> Acts 16:30-34	Believed v. 31			Baptized v. 33	
<b><i>Preaching</i></b> Romans 10:14	<b><i>Faith</i></b> Hebrews 11:6; 5:8,9	<b><i>Repentance</i></b> Luke 13:3	<b><i>Confession</i></b> Matthew 10:32	<b><i>Baptism</i></b> Galatians 3:27	<b><i>Salvation</i></b> Romans 6:3-5





## TRAINED IN NEGATIVISM

**J. C. Choate**  
Editor-in-Chief

In the first century the gospel was taken into all the world in less than 30 years. It is true that the population was small, the Apostles and their converts were few in number, most were poor, transportation was slow, and they did not have the New Testament in written form, but still, with the help of God they

accomplished that great feat and the world has never been the same since.

Even though the gospel has not been taken into all the world, year after year, since that time, man is still enjoying the benefits of that accomplishment. The judicial system, arts and music, literature, science, education, printing, the calendar dates, the work ethic, social justice, human rights, culture — every area of human endeavor has been affected by Christianity. Can we even begin to imagine what the world would be like today had it not been for those influences? Would it not probably have perished long ago, because of the burden of sin and evil?

Today there are more than 6 billion people, and it is said that within a few years that number will double. How will we deal with those masses of souls? Of course the answer offered by many people, including governments, is to limit the number of children a couple can have and to abort babies by the millions. In time, euthanasia and selective killing will likely be additional answers. Of course wars and diseases can also wipe out millions. These, however, are not the solutions we are looking for. God is not pleased with such murderous logic, and the guilty will be punished.

If humanity was so dramatically changed by the gospel being taken to every creature in the first century, can we even begin to imagine what the world might be like today if that work had been repeated year after year and

century after century, right on up to our time? If that had been done, surely our world today would be entirely different. There might not have been a World War I and World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Killing Fields of Cambodia, the massacres among the various tribal groups of Africa, or the Bosnian conflict, the Palestine/Israel struggles and the many other wars and terrible things that humans have done to humans. There might not have been an atomic bomb or a hydrogen bomb or other destructive weapons, because there would have been no need for them. Love for one another and peace in the world do not encourage the development and the deployment of such destructive weapons.

All of this is not to say that we would be living in a world without sin, that all people would have obeyed the gospel, and that all would be Christians; but it is to say that if the gospel had been taken to all of the world, generation after generation, on down to our time, enough people might have obeyed the Lord that, through them and through the influence of the principles of Christianity on the world as a whole, everything would have been changed for the better.

But that didn't happen. Since the first century, the world has not been fully evangelized and mankind has suffered the consequences physically and spiritually. Does that mean that it can't be done, that it will never be done again? Not at all. In every generation the Lord has not only been commanding His people to take the gospel to every person in all the world, but He has also provided the necessary tools to enable them to obey Him. He makes the same requirement of us, and the same provisions for obedience.

But how can we reach such a goal, since we are so few in number and there are so many people? In fact, CAN IT BE DONE? Yes, certainly, we *can* evangelize the world because the Lord would not ask us to do something that *cannot* be done.

Don't you imagine that God knew that there would be more than 6 billion people in the world today? Knowing this, He has provided us with the tools we need to obey Him. There are enough Christians to do the job. We have sufficient wealth, transportation, and means of communication to do it. The Lord has provided us with printing presses, literature, phones, radios, tape recorders, audio tapes, TVs, videos, satellite and cable systems, faxes, E-Mails, automobiles, trains, planes — EVERYTHING WE NEED to quickly get the message out.

Then why don't we do it? Because we look at all of this with a negative frame of mind. We say that **we can't**. We don't have enough people who will go, we don't have enough money to send, we don't have enough trained workers to do the job. We reason that the world would not be receptive, that

they wouldn't read our literature, they wouldn't watch our TV programs. We think in terms of there being too many religions, too many denominational churches, and too much evil to contend with. WE have believed the Devil's lie, that no one is interested, and most Christians are not actively trying to teach anyone. We have been so negative for so long that *we are well trained in negativism*. As long as we reason this way, and refuse to get up and work, we will never obey our Lord. In the mean time, **we are dying and don't even realize it**. *Where there is no sowing of the seed (the word of God), there will be no harvest (of souls)*.

Brethren, we need to quit being so lazy, making excuses for our failures, and get up and go to work for the Lord. We need to quit wanting to be the big boss and become servants for the Lord. We need to get out of our homes, our offices, to quit expecting the people to come to us and go to the people. We need to quit spending our money on luxuries and conveniences and put it on souls. We need to quit being so selfish with the gospel and share it with the poor, rich, and every race. We need to get away from all of our negatives and to get into the positives and to go out and do the job God has given us to do.

When we begin to look for opportunities we will find them. If we don't see opportunities, we should make them. When we go through one door, other doors will open to us, and soon we will be looking for help to take advantage of all of the opportunities we have.

**Vision is needed among our leadership.** We need to open our eyes and see where we are. We need to print and distribute literature by the millions and billions of copies. We need to use radio stations, TV and the satellite and cable systems to preach to the masses. We need to use our talents and abilities to spread the cause of Christ. We need to give ourselves to God, physically, mentally, financially, and spiritually, and get up and go to work for Him. We need to quit whining that *we can't* and say **we can**. We need to quit being negative about everything and believe that **with the help of God all things are possible**.

Oh what a difference we can make in this old world if we will **work** to do it! What a blessing we can be to mankind! We can change the world — or we can leave it as it is and let it continue to get worse and worse, and finally to be lost ourselves. What do you want to do? As for me, my belief is that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Our goal must be to evangelize the world now. Unless we make plans and set goals, we will never do anything. This is an eternal life and death matter. Let's live and help others to live. Let's evangelize the world — not **tomorrow but today**.

†





# GOD'S PRIESTS TODAY

**Byron Nichols**

Peter was one of the Lord's bravest and most vocal followers, yet he denied the Lord three times, even with an oath. Peter was a great servant of Christ, but he had some maturing to do.

In his more mature years Peter penned these words, *"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"* (1 Peter 2:5,9).

We need to restore this teaching regarding the priesthood in the church today. In general, we make very little application of this New Testament doctrine.

## **The Concept of Priests Has Been Neglected**

We seldom talk about priests in the church. We may talk about various church members being a teacher, an elder, a sacrificing servant, a preacher, a songleader, etc., but we could talk all day and the thought of the role of a Christian as a priest would likely never come up.

We don't have a very good picture of a "priesthood" in our minds. The word "priest" makes us think of the blood sacrifices that the priests offered under the Law of Moses, and we don't like blood or burned meat. We think of those who wear their collars backward and take confessions of sins from people, standing between those people and their God. In our minds, **those** religions have priests, not the Lord's church, not the church we read about in the New Testament.

However, according to Peter, who was inspired by the Holy Spirit in what he wrote, the priesthood of Christians is a scriptural truth that we must live.

### **The Concept of Priests Can Be Understood**

Old Testament priests were consecrated to God. They were set apart to do service for God. They were required to be clean, separate from all defilement, clothed in priestly garments. As a "*holy priesthood*," Christians are consecrated to God, and we are to be clothed in the priestly garments of holiness and righteousness.

The priests of long ago went into God's presence in behalf of the people. They stood between the people and God — **they** could enter the tabernacle or temple, but the people could not. As a part of the "*royal priesthood*," the Christian has no one who stands between him or her and the Father. Christians, as priests, have direct access to the throne — "*For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father*" (Ephesians 2:18).

Priests of old served the people by offering their gifts before God. God has never allowed anyone but priests to offer sacrifices. As priests today, we do not offer up sacrifices of the bodies of animals — rather, our sacrifices are to be **our own bodies**. Paul made this clear in Romans 12:1, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you pre-*

*sent your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*”

No one offers sacrifices for us. We must do our own studying, thinking, believing, obeying, and serving.

### **The Concept of Priesthood Can Be Applied**

The New Testament concept of the priesthood can be applied to our daily lives. Being a priest has always required holiness. An unholy man could not be a priest, and neither can we be a priest today if we are unholy. Remember Paul’s words in Romans 12:1, “...*present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God....*”

This priesthood concept can also be applied to our worship. A priest worships. Sometimes folks sit and think about a worship service that has taken place, and they may think to themselves, “The preacher did a good job...the songleader did better than he usually does...the prayer leaders led some nice prayers....” We are like spectators — somebody else sings, preaches, prays...and we evaluate. However, priesthood requires action, participation. The Bible says, “*Therefore by Him (Christ) let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased*” (Hebrews 13:15,16).

Friends, a critically important point needs to be made. In Ezra 2:62 we have a record of some who were claiming to be priests, but who were excluded or expelled because they did not meet the qualifications. We all need to ask ourselves, “Am I fully qualified? Is there any way that I could be disqualified as a priest? Am I truly serving as a priest?”

As priests, we must each one be personally and actively involved in worship and the Lord’s work. Otherwise, we are unfaithful priests and risk being eternally rejected. †

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## GOD

Our God Forever.....	12
God's Garden.....	13

## EVIDENCES

The Holy Bible Is of God.....	15
The Christian and the Humanist ..	18
Cavemen.....	22

## THE WORD OF GOD

Who Can Quote the Red. . . ?.....	24
Reflective Reading.....	25

## DOCTRINE TO LIVE BY

The Value of Small Things.....	28
Taking God at His Word.....	31
Baptism.....	32
Conscience Was Not a Safe. . .	33
Justification by Faith.....	34

## SALVATION

Your Spiritual Birthday.....	36
The Eternal Loophole.....	38
The Good Confession.....	40

## CHURCH GROWTH

We Are Losing the Church. . .	42
Some Things I Learned. . .	46
Training to Teach.....	49
Once Upon a Time.....	51

## CHURCH HISTORY

Burnings and Persecution.....	52
-------------------------------	----

## CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

Agonize for Souls.....	56
Am I Serious about Evangelism? .	57
Evangelizing Personally.....	59

## DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

How Can Christians Discern. . . ?	61
Choices.....	63
The Sin of Sodom.....	65
Ezra's Grief.....	68

The Way of the Lord Is Not Fair... ...Is No Longer a Sin.....	70 72
Why Masculine and. . . ?.....	74

## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Born to Die!.....	79
Partial-Birth Abortion.....	81
When People Make Themselves .	84

## PROVERBS 17:22

Humor.....	92
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## CHARTS AND OUTLINES

Fellowship in Christ.....	95
Condemnation by Example.....	96

## BIBLE CHARACTERS

The Man Who Said, "Tomorrow" .	98
A Man Named Moses.....	100

## POEMS AND WRITINGS

The Man I Want to Be...Inside Front	
The Lord God Planted. . .	14
If Evolution Is True.....	23
Peaceful Co-existence.....	26
Fill Your Heart with. . .	30
A Father's Advice.....	35
The Power of a Visit.....	48
What Must I Do to Be Saved?.....	50
What Price Bitterness?.....	62
The Devil Don't Come Ugly!.....	69
Full and Empty Boxes.....	71
The Highway of Holiness.....	77
How?.....	90

## FEATURES

What Must I Do?.....	X
Examples of Conversion.....	XX
Choate Editorial.....	4
Nichols Editorial.....	7
Verse Search.....	27
Walking by faith.....	60

How Do You Measure Up? .....	91
Quick Commentary .....	94
Who Am I? .....	97
Puzzle Page .....	96
Puzzle Answers .....	Back Page

### FROM THE HEART OF . . .

New Zealand .....	102
Pictorial .....	105

## THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL

Recently we were visiting with a congregation that takes several boxes of **THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL** for use among its membership as well as in the community. After the service we were thrilled with the positive comments: how much everyone liked the magazine, how useful the articles were, and how much they looked forward to receiving each issue.

One sister said: "I was visiting a couple; she is a member of the church but is not very regular in attendance. He was not a Christian. At the end of the visit, I was thinking, 'What can I do that will be of some spiritual encouragement to them?' I remembered having a copy of **THE VOICE OF TRUTH** in my purse so I gave that to them. The following Sunday I was so surprised when both of them were present for worship, and he was baptized! I asked what had caused him to do that and he said, 'I was reading that book you gave me!'"

**How wonderful! — JCC**

## The Chapel

The desperate need  
 — Deep-down —  
 For a little time alone with God  
 Crushed my soul —  
 But WHERE  
 'Mid anesthetic smells,  
 Emergencies,  
 Hospital halls and death  
 Could such a place be found?

Oh, but it was there!  
 A little chapel in a quiet spot  
 Complete with stools to kneel  
 And solitude for prayer  
 And no one else was there...  
 I went inside  
 And rested in God's peace,  
 Drinking to my soul  
 Of living waters;  
 And all the fears  
 And needs and hurts and hopes  
 And tears  
 Spilled from my heart,  
 Falling at His feet.

When I rose, reluctantly,  
 I left them there  
 And turned again  
 To comfort hurting hearts  
 Who needed me.

But I've wondered many times  
 Since then:  
 How could it be  
 That in those rooms of pain  
 and death  
 Few there were  
 Who seemed to need that place  
 And time alone with God?

— Betty Burton Choate

# Our God Forever

Bill Dillon

Do you want to hear one of the secrets to great living? Listen to Psalm 48:14:

*“For this God is our God for ever and ever:  
He will be our guide even unto death.”*

The above truth gives strength to the weak, comfort to the wearied, soul-healing to the sin-broken, peace to the troubled, and hope to the dying.

Who is this God? He made heaven and earth, and controls the march of events. He fashioned the stars, the moon, and the sun. Without His knowledge, not one sparrow falls to the ground, and by Him the very hairs of our head are numbered (not a difficult task in my case!). He feeds the birds and supplies men with their daily bread. He is capable of taking better care of us than we can of ourselves. Yes, “. . . it is He that made us . . . and we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture” (Psalm 100:3). He is a holy, just, gracious, and loving God — our God.

On nothing can we trust, save in this great God. One day this earth and all that is within it shall pass away, but God will remain, imperishable through the ages.

The life God has given is not fixed or stationary. We are tending toward somewhere at all times. In life, move we must. But in what direction do we move? Are we going upward or downward? God is our guide. He is the Light that knows no darkness. His ways are sure and certain. His counsels are sound. He is the God of knowledge. He knows us. He knows our trials. He cares for each of us as if there were in the world no other than you yourself.

Let this God be your guide throughout life, and even unto your dying hours. He will graciously lead you in the path of righteousness by His own loving hand. Guided by Him, you shall never perish.

Our changeful lives are ebbing to an end,  
Onward to darkness and to death we tend;  
O conqueror of the grave, be Thou our Guide,  
Be Thou our Light in death's dark tide;  
Then in our mortal hour will be no gloom,  
No sting in death, no terror in the tomb.

†

Bill Dillon is editor of *Gospel Gleaner* and preaches for the Lord's church in Mountain Home, Arkansas, USA.



# God's Garden

Allan E. Flaxman

## “And the Lord God planted a garden”

(Genesis 2:8).

To me, this seems remarkable! The fact that God Himself — the Great Creator of the universe, should turn to the lowly task of gardening speaks loudly of God's love for man. And God did not do this for Himself, but rather to provide man with food, and for man's pleasure. Well may we sing, “How Great Thou Art.” (Genesis 1:29; 2:9)

Do we sometimes overlook, or perhaps forget, that the whole creation process (recorded in Genesis chapters one and two), from the introduction of light on day one to the creation of cattle and creeping things on day six, was all pressing toward that great climax, the creation of man himself? And, everything was being done in preparation for the introduction of man and for his sole benefit! But the work didn't end there.

God “*breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life*” making man a “*living soul*” (Genesis 2:7).



Taking a rib from Adam, God created for the man a “*help meet*” — a woman. After these astounding activities, God decided that there was yet more to be done. It is here that we read, “*The Lord God planted a garden.*” He did this, not for Himself, but for Adam and Eve. How remarkable. What marvelous love and what wonderful care!

In the New Testament it is interesting to note that following Christ's resurrection, Mary, one of Jesus' close associates during His

earthly ministry, “*supposed Him to be the gardener*” (John 20:15). Why? Bible commentators give various explanations, but since God’s Word itself offers us none, we’ll never really know this side of eternity. Does it matter? No, or God would have revealed it to us. Yet, in view of our text (Genesis 2:8), we are tempted to speculate, as well we might about other Scriptures.

However, there is a sense in which God does the work of a gardener as His Word impacts upon the souls of faithful Christians even today. God’s great love for His church (Ephesians 5:25) and for the individual faithful Christians in it (Titus 2:13,14) calls loudly and urgently for reciprocal love from His church and from its members individually (1 Corinthians 13).

As we pursue this process of thought, searching His Word and letting God, as it were, “garden” in our souls, we are called to ever higher and nobler standards of Christian behavior. Casting away the burdening weights and the besetting sins (Hebrews 12:1) and embracing even more warmly the noble standards called for by the greatest of all Gardeners,

we set our goals even higher. As the apostle Peter tells us, it is thus that we become partakers of the Divine nature by adding to our lives virtue and temperance and patience and Godliness and brotherly kindness, and, of course — love (2 Peter 1:4-8). Yes, and the soul’s spiritual growth never ends while it remains in the care of the greatest Gardener of all — He who planted Eden’s Garden. †

**Allan E. Flaxman preached for many years for the church in Lakemba and is now active in the church in Blacktown, Australia.**

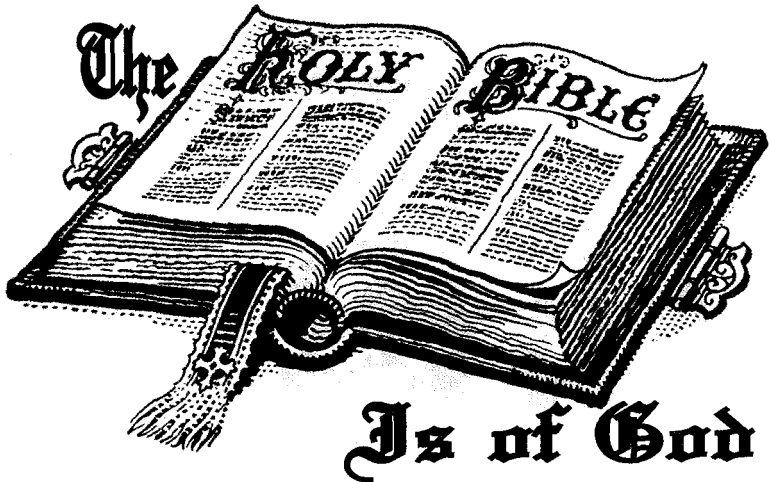
### The Lord God Planted a Garden

The Lord God Planted a garden  
In the first white days of the world,  
And He set there an angel warden  
In a garment of light enfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,  
That the hawk might nest with the wren,  
For there in the cool of the even’  
God walked with the first of men.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth —  
One is nearer God’s heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.

— Dorothy Frances Gurney



**Is of God**  
**Eugene S. Smith**

God has given us a book, yea **the** book, the Bible, to guide us home to heaven. Sixty-six books make up this Book of Books and they were given to us by about forty writers. However, these men were *not* the authors of what they have written down for us to read. Over a period of fifteen hundred years these men "*spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit*" (2 Peter 1:21).

This book, the Bible, is that scripture "*inspired of God*" and it is "*profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete*" (2 Timothy 3:16,17). It is the book which is to us, as it was to David in the long ago, "*a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path*" (Psalm 119:105).

There are two kinds of proof of the fact that the Bible is inspired of God. The first is the internal proof, *the evidence within the book itself*, which shows that it is of God. The second is the external proof, *the evidence outside the book*, which declares it to be inspired of God. We want to consider briefly some things from each of these, so that our faith may be strong to stand in the midst of the skepticism and infidelity which flourish in today's world.

### **Internal Evidence**

Internal evidence is the most valuable in the examination of the claims for any subject or object. The best way to determine the nature of anything is by the examination of the thing itself. Therefore

## EVIDENCES

we turn first to the internal evidence of inspiration of the Bible to show that it is a book from God.

**First, the unity of the Bible declares its inspiration.** Beginning with Genesis, we follow the central theme throughout its sixty-six books. Christ and man's restoration to God is the crimson thread running through each book, and we find accuracy in foretelling Christ and His work, and in showing His accomplishment of that work.

Infidels have searched for contradictions in the Bible and have found no more than slight variations of words which are, in fact, no contradiction but are harmonious when they are carefully and fairly examined. Thus, the fact that forty men, over a period of fifteen hundred years, produced a series of sixty-six books which actually make up one entirely harmonious book is one of the greatest internal evidences of the inspiration of the Word.

**Second, the prophetic accuracy of the Bible declares its inspiration.** Throughout its sixty-six books, prophetic statements are made in which not only major events are predicted but even the minor details of such events are set forth. On the pages of history, both secular and divine, we have the fulfillment of these prophecies, including even minor details. Men have prophesied, but the high percentage of error in

their predictions makes the accuracy of the Bible stand out even more clearly in contrast, and forever shows that inspiration was necessary for the production of such a book.

**Third, we have the historic and geographic accuracy of the Bible to declare its inspiration.** Although this book does not profess to be a historical or a geographical treatise, yet in all of its pages not one error along these lines can be discovered. When the Bible speaks of a place, geographically, it is found to be correct. Geographers have marvelled at its accuracy, and this is even more remarkable when we know that some of the writers never visited the land about which they wrote.

So also it is with history, for though men thought in times past they had found the Bible to be in error, subsequent archaeological discoveries exposed their own mistakes. Nations, cities and people named in the Bible were challenged by its enemies as being contrary to historical facts, but in excavations of recent years data has been unearthed which has substantiated the biblical record and has put to flight its critics. Thus its inspiration is declared, for how could men, unfamiliar with the land and events of which they wrote, have been so accurate without the guiding hand of God upon them?

## External Evidence

Now let us turn to the external evidence of the inspiration of the Word, for here even the enemies of the Word bear witness of its inspiration of God.

**First, the popularity of the Bible declares its inspiration.** Whereas the books written by men are soon revised and then discarded, the Bible has come through the ages as the "best seller" in every age and is loved and revered by millions of men and women throughout the earth. Man has, in every age, accorded the Bible a place which has been denied to all the writings of men and, thus, has borne witness that this Book of Books is inspired of God.

**Second, the strength and power of the Bible in overcoming its enemies and its critics have shown its inspiration.** No other book has had such enemies, such coalition of powers against it, and yet it has stood. The combined forces of apostate church and civil authority have sought to destroy it and rid the hearts of men of its influence, but it has withstood them all. Infidels have sought to ridicule and laugh it into oblivion, but today they are dead and their books are found only in libraries and museums, while the triumphant Word is still the world's best seller. Thus, again, the inspiration of the Bible is shown to the world.

**Third, the superiority of the Bible in every field declares its inspiration.** In *literature* it is unequalled, as a *code of laws* it stands supreme, as a *way of life* it is superior to all the philosophies of men, and as a *source of comfort* and consolation to the weary of heart it stands alone. Man, yes, even infidelic man, has accorded the Bible superiority in all of these fields, and freely confesses that it is not within the ability of man to produce its equal. Thus men have borne witness to the inspiration which is claimed for the Bible and admit that it is not and cannot be from man but is indeed and in truth from God.

Therefore, in view of these facts, undeniable and unquestionable, let us put our trust in God and build our hopes upon the promises of His Word. Since we know that "*the way of man is not in himself*" (Jeremiah 10:23), let us turn to God that He may direct our footsteps *into and along His pathway that leads home to heaven.*

Thus, being what He says for us to be by doing what He says for us to do, we can find full comfort and assurance in the knowledge that He will one day fulfill to us every promise which He has made in this Word, which we know is not of men but is of God. †

**Eugene S. Smith, now deceased, was a faithful preacher of the Gospel.**

# The Christian and the Humanist

James W. Farris

When man forgets God, he has automatically appointed himself as god. Humanism is the teaching that pushes man to the forefront of the universe and declares that he is the highest order of intelligence and the "measure of all things." This "ism" does not however change the truth that all men everywhere are to be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10,11). With the swelling medical, technological and social advances of this present age, man is becoming increasingly drawn into the concept that God is dead or else does not and has never existed. Some seek to take God away, and with the prideful boasts of mankind, it seems that we are more and more falling into a world where the ideals of the ranting humanist are becoming more accepted. For this cause, it has also become increasingly more necessary for the child of God to be able to recognize and defend the Christian faith from the prideful, arrogant claims of the humanist.

Brethren, there is a battle being waged by the infidels, skeptics, agnostics and atheists. It is not for the soldier of Christ to stand by idly

on the sidelines and suppose this is "someone else's fight." May the soldier of Christ arise and wage the good warfare (1 Timothy 1:18).

**Understand that humanism is a religion.** It possesses tenets and has had perhaps millions that have devoted their entire lives to it. The humanist proudly declares, "*There is a great danger of a final, and we believe fatal, identification of the word religion with doctrines and methods which have lost their significance and which are powerless to solve the problems of the twentieth century.*" The basic idea is that world religions, including Christianity, are useless, powerless and obsolete for solving the problems that our world faces today. The irony is that most of those who are so skeptical and militantly opposed to God have never tried to apply the principles of true Christianity to their own lives.

In this study we are interested in going directly to the source of the humanist doctrine. In so doing, let us look at several of the affirmations provided in the *Humanist Manifestos I and II*. This "manifesto" is a small paper published in



## EVIDENCES

the late 1970's and is a damnable product of the human mind. Reading it, you will be readily aware that its proponents will not rest until they eradicate "traditional religion", including Christianity. Obviously, the humanist requires others to believe that man possesses the quality of omniscience.

1. *"Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created."* (Assertion #1) As with any doctrine that exalts man to the position of God, there is the denouncing of Jehovah God (Romans 1:21-23). Religious humanists realize that there must be some explanation for their existence, so they attribute the cosmos with eternity. To the humanist, the universe was not created but has always existed. According to this philosophy, since the universe has always been, each member of this planet owes his or her existence to dirt, rock, and other lifeless, material objects. To them, everything came from something but that something has always been. Rather than God being the eternal One, matter has always been and will always be. Ultimately, then, all of the personality and intelligence of humanity came from that which is non-personal and non-intelligent.

Life however has never generated spontaneously from that which is not living. The truth is that the

humanists' decree violates the Second Law of Thermodynamics which states that the universe is going towards entropy or "heat death." Since the universe is winding down, that alone implies a point of beginning. Therefore, the universe is not "self-existing" as humanists would suggest.

2. *"We are convinced that the time has passed for theism, deism, modernism and the several varieties of "new thought."* (Assertion #6) It is once more obvious that the individual who upholds this philosophy believes that we should rid ourselves of any mention of God or a greater power. On one hand, the writers of this booklet are very subtle and eloquent in speech. But a deeper study shows the contradictions involved with their positions. Previous to assertion #6 they had declared, *"Obviously humanism does not deny the possibility of realities as yet undiscovered..."* While they declare their belief that God does not exist, on the other hand they accept the possibility of "realities yet undiscovered." Is it not then possible that these individuals have yet to discover that God *does exist?*

God and the Bible are not "anti-science or anti-philosophical." God is the giver of science and logical reasoning. When Paul warned the Colossians to beware of "...philoso-

## EVIDENCES

*phy and vain deceit after the traditions of men,*" (Colossian 2:8) we need to consider that the thing Paul was warning against was "philosophies of man." It is these false philosophies and teachings, contrary to God and His revelation, that we must beware of. The universe has certainly provided enough evidence that God does exist. "*The heavens declare the glory of God*" (Psalm 19:1). Those who refuse to see God in the entirety of creation are simply denying the obvious.

Our own Dr. Thomas B. Warren was involved in three debates with renowned world atheists throughout the late 1970's and early 1980's. While neither of those men could provide adequate evidence to disprove God's existence, Brother Warren did prove philosophically that God — the God of the Bible — does exist. But so deep was their unbelief that those men still continue to uphold the humanistic, atheistic assertions they had espoused. This is simply ongoing proof that man "*...when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish hearts were darkened*" (Romans 1:21).

3. "*In place of the old attitudes involved in worship and prayer the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a*

*heightened sense of personal life and in a cooperative effort to promote social well-being.*" (Assertion #9) Anyone who reads this manifesto will be quickly impressed at how the authors have turned attention inward to the self. The prideful boasts remind the student of God's word that, "*Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall*" (Proverbs 16:18).

One must ask an underlying question in relation to their assertion: the laws of the humanist are self-oriented yet they "require" that we pursue social well being. They declare that love and friendship must be included if their doctrine is to survive. But why must we love? Why must we desire to help others? Who is the conscience behind these requirements, and who has the moral authority to require *anything* of *anyone*? While humanists declare the necessity of love and friendship, they also say that "ethics is autonomous and situational."

Do we not see the contradiction in this teaching? Without God, all values such as love, friendship and service have no objective value whatsoever. Without God there is no right or wrong, no good or bad, no righteousness or evil. All of us are simply progressive rocks or slugs, and we amount to nothing more than physical matter that has somehow begun to breathe. If that

## EVIDENCES

is true, there can be no such thing as moral values. They are a figment of the imagination. **Or are they, perhaps, an unadmitted carry-over of biblical principles that work too well and make absolutely too much sense to be ignored?**

The humanist wants to maintain the *ideals* that Christianity is founded upon while at the same time denying the Giver of those ideals. They know as well as we that without these foundational principles, the world would be in a state of anarchy. So humanism gives credit to *man* for the origin of these vital truths, denying vehemently that they came from *God*.

Every member of the Lord's church would do well to look into the broader teachings and implications of the *Humanist Manifesto I &*

*II*. Those who investigate will likely be saddened and even shocked by the supposed scholars of the educational world who have attached their signatures to this document. Decorated scholars from every area of thought have boldly affirmed the basic atheistic declarations of this book.

About three thousand years ago the writer of Psalm 14:1 stated, "*The fool hath said in his heart there is no God*" May the Christian arise and "*sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be always ready to offer a defense to those who ask us a reason for the hope that is within us, with meekness and fear.*" (1 Peter 3:15). †

**James Farris preaches for the Lord's church in San Augustine, Texas, USA.**

**Q. What do a dead atheist and a dead Christian have in common?**

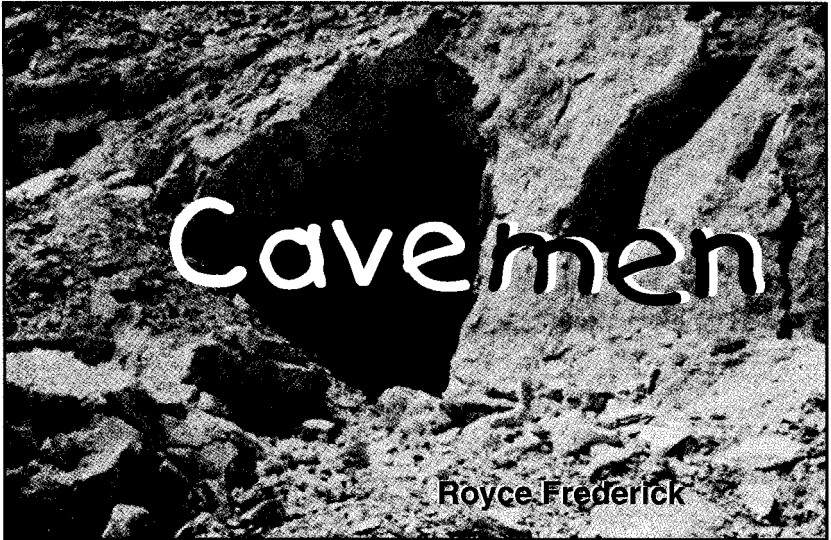
**A. They both know that there is a God.**

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**C.S. Lewis said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe in the sun; not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."**

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***The saddest thing that can befall a soul is when it loses faith in God. — Alexander Smith***



### **Did cavemen really exist?**

Yes! Evidence of cave dwellers has been found in countless places in the world.

Does the fact that people have lived in caves support the Theory of Evolution? No! Mankind has taken temporary and permanent refuge in caves throughout history. For example, caves were used as dwellings by Lot (Genesis 19:30) and by some of the Israelites (Judges 6:2). In recent years, isolated tribes of cave dwellers have been found in the Philippine Islands. It has also been reported that there are people living in caves in northern Mexico today.

When evidence of ancient cave dwellers is found, evolutionists try to convince us that the inhabitants were not fully developed humans

like modern man. But some of the ancient cave dwellers were highly skilled artists, able to prepare paints and to make drawings which have been preserved on cave walls for many centuries. That fact argues strongly against the theory that the cave dwellers were inferior, animal-like creatures.

Evolutionists tell us that "early man" began communicating with a variety of grunts and growls before spoken languages developed. But scientists have no way of verifying those claims. The shapes of the jawbones of ancient skulls do not reveal the degree of speaking ability. Parrots, minas, and other birds do not have a human-shaped mouth, yet some of them can mimic words such as "Good morning", "Hello",

and many other sounds — even entire songs.

Evolutionists sometimes claim that the size of the brain indicates the amount of evolution which has occurred. However, many of the old skull fragments reveal that the ancient people had brains which were as large, and sometimes larger, than the brain size of some present-day men. Also, evolutionists seem to ignore the fact that merchants today sell a wide range of hat sizes, so what does size alone prove?

The Bible says that God made the first man and woman on the sixth day of creation (Genesis 1:26,27). They were immediately able to understand and speak a language (Genesis 2:16,17,19,23). Their sons cultivated crops and cared for livestock (Genesis 4:2). Their grandchildren and their early descendants built cities, developed musical instruments, and learned to make copper and iron. They were certainly not “primitive, ape-like creatures”, but fully developed humans with a high degree of intelligence.

A person cannot believe the Bible and, at the same time, believe that mankind evolved from a lower form of life. In His word, God clearly tells us that He created the first man and woman fully grown. Our human existence is not an accident of nature. We are not merely a bundle of molecules which somehow

became alive and then fell into a complex pattern by chance. We are unique creatures made in the likeness of God, designed for the purpose of glorifying Him, and with the potential of living with Him forever. †

**Royce Frederick is the editor of *International Gospel Teacher* and lives in Lufkin, Texas, USA.**

### **If Evolution Is True. . .**

**If Evolution is true** and man is only an accident, an aimless wanderer in time and space, moving futilely between points of illusionary happiness, tragedy, achievement and pain;

**If man is, himself,** the greatest power over his existence and yet in the multitudinous causes and effects surrounding him, even he has almost no control;

**If man's hope** is no more than to exist until, by chance, he ceases to exist —

**If Evolution is true,** then there is no existence of life more pathetic than man's because, of all living beings, he alone has the mentality and consciousness to know the ultimate hopelessness and miserableness of his condition. . .

**Who would champion such a depressing belief, and who would want to convert others to it?**

—Betty Burton Choate

# Who Can Quote the Red Letters?

Dan Jenkins

One topic which troubles so many is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and individuals. One of the reasons for this is the failure to approach the Bible using fundamental rules of interpretation.

Consider the teachings from John 14, 15, and 16. These chapters abound with promises regarding the Holy Spirit of God, whom Jesus said He would send.

1. The Spirit was to be a comforter (14:16).
2. He was to abide forever (14:16).
3. He was to teach all things (14:26).
4. He was to bring to man's remembrance everything Jesus had said (14:26).
5. He was to testify of Jesus (15:26).
6. He was to guide men into all truth (16:14).

The fundamental rule that often is not applied is, "To whom were these words said?" There is no doubt about the fact that the promises were made, and there is no doubt about the fact that our Lord keeps His promises. The issue is whether these promises are limited in scope or universally promised to all believers.

Now if the promises are universal, then all of them are for believers today. Note especially the fourth promise in the list above. **If this promise were for all believers, then there would be no necessity for Bible study. Those who claim to have these promises given to them could, without looking at a Bible, quote every "red" verse in a red letter edition of the Bible.** If the proof of a pie is in the eating of it, the proof of the reception of the Spirit promised in John 14-16 would be in the quoting of it!

The truth is that these promises were made to the apostles. When Jesus ascended into heaven the Holy Spirit was sent to the apostles and the Spirit revealed to them every spiritual truth. The Spirit gave them perfect recall of all that Jesus had said. You could have asked them to quote the "red words" and they could have done it perfectly! It is important to always ask, "To whom was this said?" †

Dan Jenkins preaches for the church in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA.



# REFLECTIVE READING

*“How readest thou?”  
(Luke 10:26)*

**W. Douglass Harris**



This question was Jesus' reply to a lawyer who had asked Him the greatest question ever asked by mortal man, *“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”* (Luke 10:16,26). Since they were living under the Mosaic law, Jesus referred him to that law, which the lawyer was supposed to know. He then followed with a question to determine how well the lawyer had read the law. This introduces the subject of *reflective reading*.

## **The Importance of Reading**

In 1 Timothy 4:13 Paul told Timothy to give attendance to reading. He also told him to study (“give diligence” ASV) to show himself approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15). **One of the most disturbing traits today of the average professing Christian is the little reading he does to increase his understanding of God’s Word.**

It is by reading that the mind is

developed and expanded. “Reading makes a full man,” once said Francis Bacon. Joseph Addison observed, “Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. As by one, health is preserved, strengthened, and invigorated; by the other, virtue (which is health of the mind) is kept alive, cherished, and confirmed.” If some professing Christians would use half as much time in reflective reading of God’s Word as they do reading much less valuable material or watching television, we would be a much better-informed church.

## **Reflective Reading**

It is one thing to read, and it is another thing to read reflectively, or with meditation. Meditation is to the understanding what germination is to the planted seed (Psalms 1:1,2; 119:97; Joshua 1:8). (We wonder how many readers of this article will bother to find these references in their Bibles and read them.) “To

## THE WORD OF GOD

read without reflection, is like eating without digesting,” said Edmund Burke. It is one thing to read words, not understanding the thought, and another thing to read the thought of words. Spending too little time in reflective reading can cause professing Christians to have a shallow perception of God’s Word. We may be content to wade in the shallows around the edges, rather than launch out into the depths of the treasures of the Bible. We need to ponder what Jesus said about the shallow soil in Luke 8:13.

### The Proper Motive for Reading

We should always read the Bible with “honest and good hearts” in order to learn the saving truth with the intention of obeying it, regardless of the cost (John 8:32; Proverbs 23:23). This should be our primary motive in reading the Bible. As another has said, read “to improve your minds in useful knowledge, to establish your hearts in virtue, to prepare yourselves for a right performance of the duties of life, and for a joyful acceptance with God on the day of account.” Proper motivation for Bible reading is expressed well in the following poem:

It is one thing to read the Bible through,  
And another thing to read to learn to do.  
Some read it with desire to learn to read,  
But to the subject pay but little heed.  
Some read it as their duty once a week  
But no instruction from the Bible seek;  
While others read it with but little care,  
With no regard to **how** they read or **where**

—Anonymous

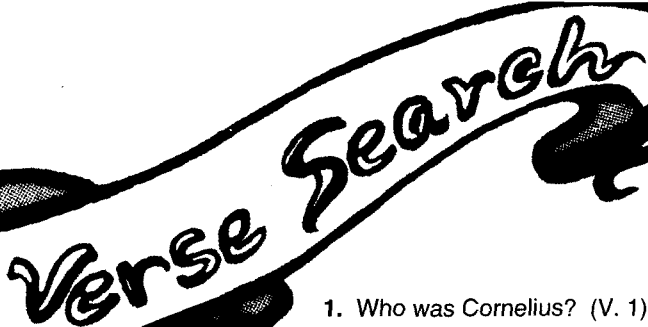
†

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**PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE:** The story is told of a Russian named Ivanovich who visited the Moscow Zoo for the first time. To his amazement he found a little lamb sharing the cage that held a big fierce bear.

Ivanovich expressed surprise to his communist guide. The guide smiled and said, “That is peaceful co-existence.” When Ivanovich doubtfully shook his head, the guide explained, “Of course, we have to put in a fresh lamb every morning.”

Peaceful co-existence between right and wrong, freedom and slavery, God and the devil, is not possible either. — *Selected*



# Verse Search

Supply the missing information from the book of Acts, chapter ten, NKJV.

1. Who was Cornelius? (V. 1).
2. Cornelius was "a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ who gave \_\_\_\_\_ generously to people, and \_\_\_\_\_" (V. 2).
3. In response to his prayers, what did he see and hear? (V. 3).
4. What did the angel tell him to do? (Vs. 4-6).
5. As Cornelius' servants neared the house of Simon, what happened to Peter? (Vs. 7-16).
6. What was Peter told to do concerning the men who had come to find him? (Vs. 19,20).
7. In preparation for Peter's coming, what did Cornelius do? (V. 24).
8. Did Peter accept Cornelius' worship of himself? (V. 25).
9. Of what did Peter remind Cornelius? (V. 28).
10. How earnestly had Cornelius prayed? (V. 30).
11. What was Cornelius expecting to hear from Peter? (V. 33).
12. "In \_\_\_\_\_ is accepted by Him" (V. 35).
13. What word did Peter say Cornelius already knew? (Vs. 36,37).
14. About whom did Peter then preach, saying that He had been anointed with the Holy Spirit, had preached and done miracles, had been crucified, and resurrected from the dead? (Vs. 38-41).
15. What happened as Peter was preaching, and why? (V. 44,45).
16. What was done after Peter asked, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" (V. 47, 48).

**[See inside of back cover for answers.]**

# The Value of Small Things

Reuben S. Emperado

*“For who hath despised the day of small things?” (Zechariah 4:10).*

Julia Carney, in her poem, **Little Things**, wrote:

Little drops of water,  
Little grains of sand  
Make the mighty ocean  
And the pleasant land;

So the little minutes  
Humble though they be,  
Make the mighty ages  
Of eternity.

Little deeds of kindness,  
Little words of Love,  
Help to make earth happy  
Like the heaven above.

Arthur Conan Doyle said:

“It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important.” (**A Case of Identity**).

Many times the Lord used small things to teach great and enduring spiritual lessons. Let us take a look at some of the little things that illustrated greatness:

✦ **The Lord used a Little Child to Teach True Greatness and Humility (Matthew 18:1-5).**

*“At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the*

*greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*

*“And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receives me.”*

In God’s kingdom true greatness is always preceded with humility.

✦ **The Lord used the Widow’s Mites to Teach Sacrificial Giving (Luke 21:1-4).**

*“And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say to you, that this poor widow has cast in*



*more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her poverty has cast in all the living that she had."*



◆ **Dorcas Used Her Needle to Serve the Poor and Needy (Acts 9:36-39)**

*"Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber... and all the widows stood by him [Peter] weeping, and showing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them."*

◆ **God Used a Wooden Staff to Teach Moses of the Greatness of His Power (Exodus 4:2-5)**

*"And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.*

*"And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand and take it by the tail... That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee."*

◆ **The Lord Used the Five Barley Loaves of Bread and Two Fishes of a Boy to Feed 5,000 Men (John 6:9-13)**

*"There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."*

◆ **God Used the Ants to Teach Unity, Industry, and Preparation (Proverbs 6:6).**

*"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; Consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no chief, Overseer, or ruler, provideth her bread in the summer, And gathereth her food in the harvest."*



◆ **The Young David Killed the Giant Goliath with a Sling and a Stone (1 Samuel 17:50).**

*"So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him, but there was no sword in the hand of David."*

## DOCTRINE TO LIVE BY

### ❖ Our Lord Used the Mustard Seed to Teach the Growth of the Kingdom and Faith (Matthew 17:20; 13:31-32).

Among the smallest seeds in the plant world, Jesus used the mustard plant in a parable to symbolize the rapid growth of the kingdom of God and its seed as a simile for faith which can grow to produce great things.

The apostle Peter wrote:

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace*

*in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10 — NIV).

Neglect of small things could be fatal and dangerous. Benjamin Franklin, in his **Poor Richard's Almanac**, wrote:

"A little neglect may breed great mischief ... for the want of a nail the shoe was lost; for the want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for the want of a horse the rider was lost." †

**Reuben S. Emperado is a Gospel preacher, teacher, and radio speaker in Cebu City, Philippines.**

## Fill Your Heart with Thanksgiving

Take nothing for granted, for whenever you do  
The "joy of enjoying" is lessened for you;  
For we rob our own lives much more than we know  
When we fail to respond or in any way show  
Our thanks for the blessings that daily are ours...  
The warmth of the sun, the fragrance of flowers,  
The beauty of twilight, the freshness of dawn,  
The coolness of dew on a green velvet lawn,  
The kind little deeds so thoughtfully done,  
The favors of friends and the love that someone  
Unselfishly gives in a myriad of ways,  
Expecting no payment and no words of praise.

Oh great is our loss when we no longer find  
A thankful response to things of this kind,  
For the joy of enjoying and the fullness of living  
Are found in the heart  
That is filled with thanksgiving.

— Selected



I cannot prove with empirical evidence that God created the heavens and Earth. I can however, by logic, show that such is a reasonable explanation for its existence. I believe that He did because the Bible tells me so. I stake my earthly life and my eternal soul upon this faith. I accept by faith that the Bible is the Word of God and is true — 100% true. I take God at His word.

There are a lot of things I do not understand in the Bible. I do not know why water is wet or birds fly. It is just the way God created things. I might suggest some possible explanations, but I cannot know for sure.

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways’ declares the Lord” (Isaiah 55:8).*

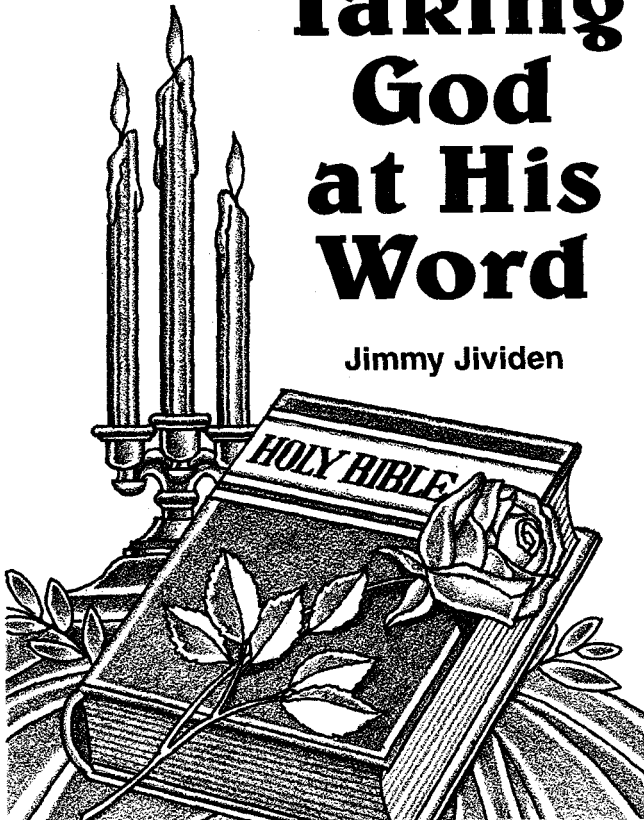
# Taking God at His Word

Jimmy Jividen

There are some things which God wants me to do and I do not know the reason why. I can suggest some possible reasons, but I cannot know for sure. My reason for doing them is not a rational understanding, but a committed faith. I take God at His word.

That’s what faith is all about. †

Jimmy Jividen is a writer and preacher living in Abilene, Texas, USA.



# Baptism

— Roger E. Dickson

The word “baptize” (verb) or “baptism” (noun) is used in the New Testament over one hundred times. Thousands of people were baptized in the first century. This subject, therefore, is very important in reference to our covenant relationship with God.

The Greek word *baptizo* that is used in the New Testament is transliterated with the English word “baptize.” In a transliteration, the equivalent sounds of the Greek letters are brought over into the English language. *Baptizo* was thus transliterated, “baptize.” The original definition of the word *baptizo*, however, is “to dip, plunge, immerse, or overwhelm.” The most common definition is “immerse.” Therefore, when the words “baptize” or “baptism” are read in the English Bible, immersion is the primary meaning that must be understood. When people were immersed in the first century, they were immersed in “much water” (John 3:23).

Because the Greek word *baptizo* was not translated in early editions of the New Testament, many religious groups today have the practice of sprinkling or pouring and calling it baptism. They have sprinkled either infants or adults,

and then taken the words “baptize” or “baptism” from the New Testament and applied them to what they presume to be an action that is sanctioned by God. In doing this, they have affirmed that individuals have been properly baptized, though they have not. This is an unfortunate practice by many religious groups today.

## The One Baptism

Throughout the New Testament, six baptisms are mentioned. (1) John’s immersion (baptism) unto repentance (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:4). (2) Immersion into the responsibility of leadership (Matthew 20:22,23). (3) Immersion with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5). (4) Immersion with fire (Matthew 3:11). (5) Israel’s immersion in the cloud (1 Corinthians 10:1,2). (6) Immersion in water for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). When Paul wrote the Ephesian letter in A.D. 62, he proclaimed that there was only one immersion at that time (Ephesians 4:5). This is the immersion in water for forgiveness of sins which we are to obey today. †

**Roger Dickson is President of the International School of Biblical Studies, based in Cape Town, South Africa.**

# Conscience

## Was not a Safe Guide for Paul

Basil Overton

**Conscience was not a safe guide for Paul.** Before he became a Christian he persecuted Christ by persecuting His church (Acts 9:1-4; 8:3). *“For ye have heard of my manner of life in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God and wasted it”* (Galatians 1:13). *“I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And this I also did in Jerusalem: and I both shut up many saints in prison, having received authority from the chief priests, and when they were put to death I gave my vote against them. And punishing them oftentimes in all the synagogues, I strove to make them blaspheme, and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto foreign cities”* (Acts 26:9-11).

*“And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prison both men and women”* (Acts 22:4). *“Though I was before a blasphemer and a per-*

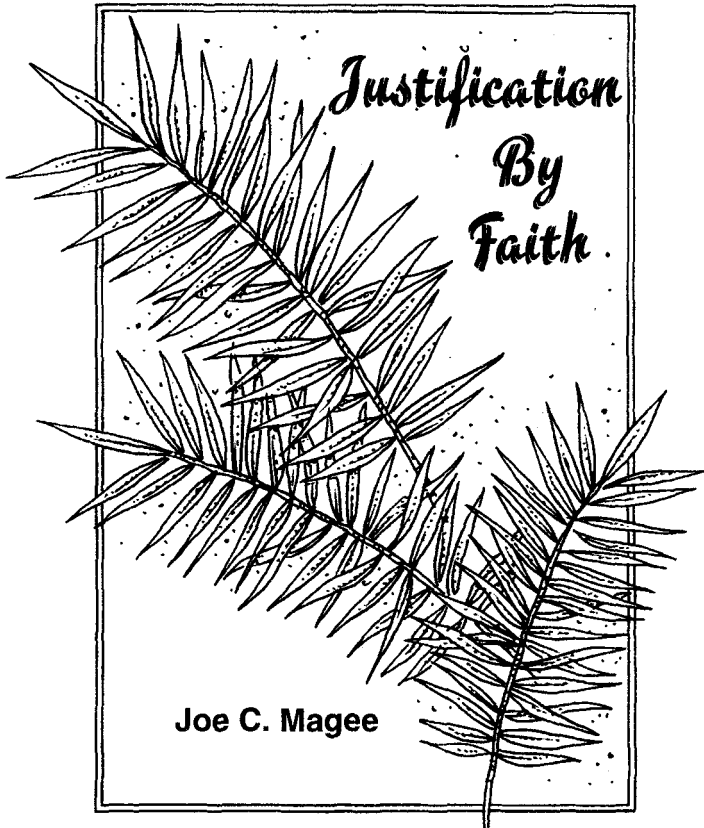
*secutor, and injurious: howbeit I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief”* (1 Timothy 1:13).

Many more passages describe the awful action of Paul (Saul) against the church of Christ before he became a member of the church. But these are sufficient to show that he was a devastating character. While he was all this,

- he was very religious;
- he was a Jew according to the strictest sect, called the Pharisees (Acts 26:3-5);
- he was well educated while he persecuted the church (Acts 22:3,4);
- he had a good conscience (Acts 23:1);
- he thought he was right in killing Christians (Acts 26:9).

All of this proves that **one’s thinking he is right** (one’s having a good conscience) **does not prove that he is right.** †

**Basil Overton is editor of *The World Evangelist* and lives in Florence, Alabama, USA.**



*“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:1,2).*

Paul, having made his argument for justification by faith by the example of Abraham (chapter 4), brings forth the reasons why

Christians should be filled with happiness and confidence.

We should review, however, that justification by faith does not suggest or uphold a “faith only” doctrine. Abraham, being our example of faith in active response to God’s promises and His requirements, convinces us that His grace does not exclude responsibility on our part. Moving past this funda-

mental truth, we are prepared to accept with assurance the blessings found in faith:

**Peace with God!** Man, in the state of sin, is at enmity with God. He must come to realize that *God did not leave him*, but that *he left God*. The return to the Father, while provided through His grace and Christ's blood, must be accomplished by and through the will of the person who left God. We realize also that this peace spoken of is not a life without trouble but, rather, it is a life that provides strength in times of trouble and comfort in times of sorrow.

**Access into His grace!** To know that through Jesus Christ we have found undeserved favor with God entails more than man's mind can fully comprehend. Release from our sins, comfort in sorrow, power in prayer, fellowship with those of like precious faith, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit are subjects that come to mind, each of which is worthy of volumes.

**Rejoicing in hope!** Hope has been defined as "desire coupled with expectation". The aura of contentment surrounding the faithful Christian (which may seem mysterious to a person of the world) can be identified as hope. It seeks not the things of this world, but may use the blessing of this life as part of the stewardship that prepares one for

the life beyond. Such contentment looks for blessing even in hardships. This is part of the great mystery found in Christ.

**The glory of God!** Everything we know or ever will know of God is bathed in glory. His creation of the worlds, His eternal scheme of redemption, His providence, His promises, His irrefutable revelations hold us in awe. The ascendant longing of every Christian is to live eternally in the presence of God's glory.

**Justification by faith!** Do not let it escape you. †

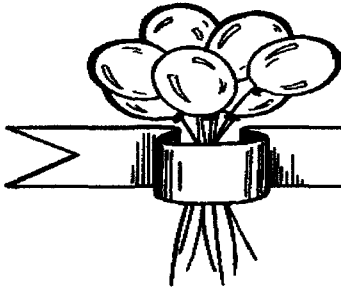
Joe C. Magee is the preacher for the Elm Road Church of Christ in Carthage, Missouri, USA.

## A Father's Advice

On the birth of his first daughter, Lt. Commander J.P. Carr received a letter of advice from his father: "Teach her as many of the seven thousand words of the English language as you have time to, but be sure she knows that:

the greatest word is **God**;  
 the longest word is **Eternity**;  
 the swiftest word is **Time**;  
 the nearest word is **Now**;  
 the darkest word is **Sin**;  
 the meanest word is **Hypocrisy**;  
 and the deepest word is **Soul**."

— Selected



## Your Spiritual Birthday

Stephen Eckstein

Our world remembers physical birthdays nearly every year. It is time for parents to rejoice as their children celebrate their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. birthdays. After children reach 6 or 7, they begin to remember in later years their birthdays augmented by photographs when they were 1, 2 and 3. And then as they become older, birthdays become less significant. Some even regret passing 30 and refuse to tell others when they were born. They are perennially 29 and counting.

Remembering your physical birthday and advance in age and physical growth is appropriate and profitable. **But**, I am suggesting we all recount our **spiritual birthday** as immeasurably more important. Let us examine some ideas and concepts about it.

### Your Spiritual Birthday

First, each Christian can remember and know the day he or she was "born again", of water and of the spirit. That reality is not dependent on what your parents or

others may say. The Christian knows what he experienced.

### Paul

A marvelous example of the new birth is Saul of Tarsus. As the "chief of sinners" he would always remember the graphic experience recorded by Luke in Acts 9:18 (about 37 A.D.). It was probably twenty years later that Paul recounted to a host of Jews in Jerusalem the events which led to His spiritual birth into Christ. How indelibly were the words of Ananias impressed upon his mind: "*Why do you tarry? Arise, wash away your sins calling upon the name of the Lord*" (Acts 22:16). How marvelous that he was cleansed of every sin by the precious blood of Christ whom he had persecuted! What a tremendous transformation had taken place over those years as he was becoming more like Jesus.

Several years later, Paul recounted the events of his spiritual birthday before King Agrippa, governor Festus, military personnel and

city officials, as recorded in Acts 26, climaxing in v. 29: *"I would to God that not only you, but also all that hear me this day were both almost and altogether such as I am except these bonds."* It is probable that Paul referred to his spiritual birth on many other occasions which are not recorded in the Scriptures.

### You

It seems to me that each Christian could once a year rejoice again on his spiritual birth into Jesus and thank Him afresh for the privilege to stand before God — robed in the righteousness of Jesus, a new creation in Him. It could be a time of evaluation: how much more am I like Jesus than last year?

The reason this is so significant is that physical growth continues until about the age of twenty, and then the aging process sets in, becoming more pronounced with each passing decade. Growing old, physically, is inevitable. Paul was right when he said that the outer man is wasting away day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16). **But** hopefully, the inner man (the soul that has been born again) is being renewed day by day, is being changed into the likeness of Jesus from one degree of glory to another (2 Corinthians 3:18). Thus, while your spiritual birthday is important, **today** is actually the greatest day of

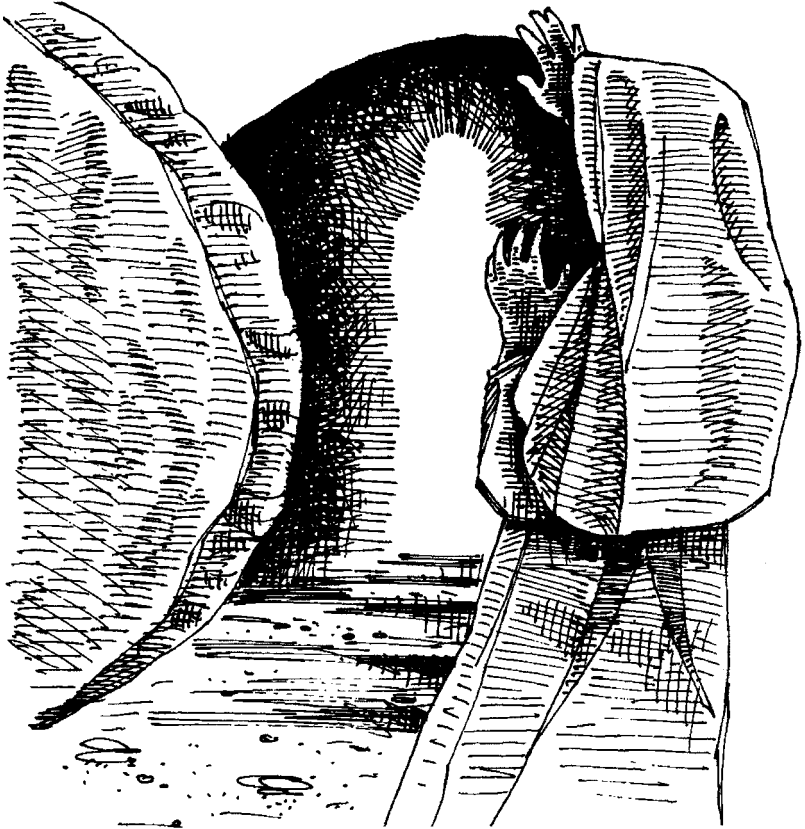
your life!

In remembrance of the day of your new birth, you could ask other Christians to gather for a time of song, prayer, Bible study and admonition. This would not only encourage you, but it would stimulate, challenge and uplift the other saints as they anticipate the celebration of the anniversary of their own spiritual birthday.

All who have been born into Jesus, who live in Him and ultimately experience physical death in Him, can look forward with great joy and expectation to the consummation of the new birth in its final and eternal reward. The life in Christ does not end at the grave. The soul simply continues on in Paradise (Luke 23:43; Revelation 2:7) until it is placed in its resurrected **spiritual body** at our Lord's second coming.

If each Christian makes every day a celebration of his **spiritual birthday**, the yearly remembrances will simply enhance his growth and appreciation of Jesus. And what a day when as glorified **ones** like **Him** (1 John 3:3) we shall behold His glory (John 17:24)! That will be an **eternal spiritual** birthday without calendars! Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen. †

**Stephen Eckstein is a Christian writer living in Rochester Hills, Michigan, USA.**



## The ETERNAL Loophole

Ancil Jenkins

*"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty'"* (John 6:35).

A newspaper advertisement for an evangelistic crusade in a major

city recently used this theme: **"YOU ARE BORN, YOU SUFFER, YOU DIE. FORTUNATELY THERE IS A LOOPHOLE."**

This theme captures so much of the frustration of so many. No amount of enjoyment, escape, and dissipation can quieten the ever-pre-



sent thought, "You are going to die." The loophole is man's hope and is simple, even as easy as knowing the difference between "one" and "two". The Bible teaches:

**There are TWO births.** Jesus tells us that there are two ways of being born. **One is physical** — Flesh gives birth to flesh (John 3:6). The natural birth has come to all; we cannot deny or escape it. Yet, Jesus told Nicodemus of **another birth**, "*I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.*" . . . "*I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit*" (John 3:3,5). We are born once *without choice*. We are born the second time *of our own accord*.

**There are TWO deaths to die.** All will die **physically**. This is inevitable since man can lengthen life, but he cannot escape dying. How sad when a soul leaves a body. The body is prepared, put in a casket, and buried in the ground. There is, however, something worse than this. There is a death to be feared far more than this physical death. "*But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death*" (Revelation 21:8). The eternal, conscious suffering of the souls

of the wicked is called **the second death**.

**There are TWO resurrections.** Jesus also clearly taught of **a coming resurrection of all men from the dead**. "*Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice*" (John 5:28). Just as all die (Hebrews 9:27), so all will be raised. This event also is without our choice. Jesus taught of **another resurrection**. "*I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live*" (John 5:25). This is not a resurrection of **physical dead ones**. Those **dead in sin** can choose to hear the voice of Jesus and live in Him. This living involves a resurrection from the grave of baptism (Romans 6:3,4). This resurrection is one which *mankind chooses*.

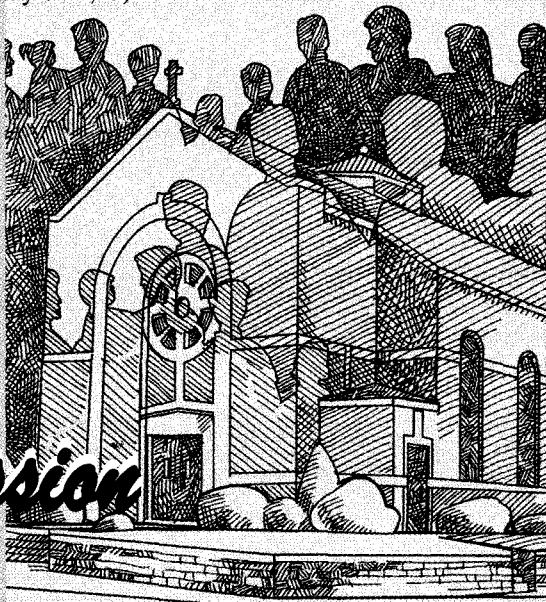
What is the loophole? The loophole is to go beyond what naturally happens. *We are born without choice, we die without choice, and we will be raised without choice.* However, if we choose to be **born again** and **raised again**, we will die **only physically**. Someone said, "**He who is born once will die twice. He that is born twice will die only once.**" Don't miss this loophole. †

**Ancil Jenkins preaches in Jamestown, Tennessee, USA.**

*"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate" (1 Timothy 6:12,13).*

# The Good Confession

Harvey Porter



Most Bible commentators say that the confession to which Paul was referring in 1 Timothy 6:12,13 was the confession Timothy had made at the time of his baptism into Christ. The eunuch from Ethiopia made the same confession just before he was immersed by Philip in Acts 8.

The Lord Jesus Christ had taught the apostles that everyone who followed Him must confess Him before men. Matthew recorded Jesus' statement, "Whoever ack-

*nowledges (confesses) me before men, I will also acknowledge (confess) him before my Father in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).*

The Greek word is "homologeo", which can be translated by our English words as promise, assure, confess, declare publicly, or acknowledge.

It is interesting that Paul said that Timothy was "called to eternal life" when he made the "good confession in the presence of many witnesses." Timothy was stating that

## SALVATION

he believed that Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. In a very real sense, he was making a pledge that he would always place his trust in Jesus as Lord of his life. It was and is like a marriage vow by which we promise that we will keep ourselves to Him only. He is now the love of our life, the center of our devotion and service. It is fitting that the confession is made at baptism, for baptism unites us with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection, so that we may walk in newness of life with Him.

Jesus testified to the same truth, confessing that He was the Son of God, before Pontius Pilate when He was on trial. We join Him in making a statement of our most fundamental belief in life — that Jesus is the Christ. This is the world's greatest truth. We are to live our whole Christian life with that confession ringing in our heart. We dare not forsake Him. We cannot compromise our faith in the validity of that confession. All of life and eternity are determined for us by the way we live this truth that we have confessed when we became one with Him. Paul concluded, *"That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Romans 10:9).

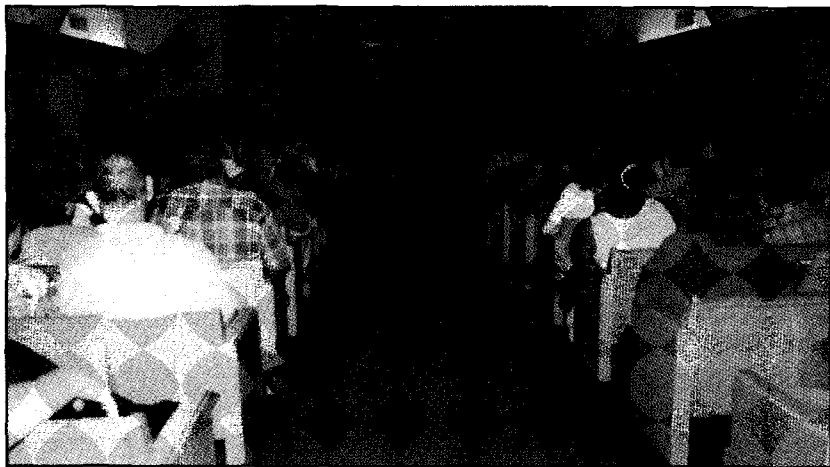
This confession cannot be made

without faith. It must come from deep conviction and great dedication. This is the truth for which we must be willing to die. Baptism has no meaning without the confession, for baptism alone is nothing without faith. The apostle John wrote, *"And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges (confesses) that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God"* (1 John 4:14,15). God does not dwell in anyone who does not confess that Jesus is Lord. The Holy Spirit does not dwell in anyone who has not confessed Jesus and been buried with Him in baptism (see Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

The repentant believer in Jesus will always confess Christ and join Him in baptism. We make the choice of our own accord while in life, but in judgment every mortal will make the same confession. Paul wrote, *"...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Philippians 2:10,11).

Confess Him now while you have opportunity! †

**Before his death, Harvey Porter had served as a staff writer for *The Voice of Truth International*.**



# Why We Are Losing the Church in the Pew

Clayton Pepper

It has been well said that the standard of faithfulness has been lowered so much that there is no such thing as lukewarmness any more.

Almost all congregations have a shortage of workers even though there may be an abundance of *potential* workers. Churches have difficulty finding teachers for classes, qualified elders to lead, and qualified people to do the various types of work in the Kingdom. According to one writer, 65 percent of the church have no interest in people *outside* the church, 25 percent have a medium commitment, and only 10 percent have a high enough commitment to win souls — yet only *one percent* is actually doing it.

These figures are saying that we would have had only one percent fewer soul winners if we had studied American history in the Bible class! Consider how much money we have invested in buildings, classrooms, educated preachers, Bible class literature, and how many years most of the members have been in a Bible class.

### SOME LESSONS FROM THE HEBREW CHRISTIANS

*“Of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

*“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, or resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits”* (Hebrews 5:11-6:1-3, NKJV).

Hebrews 6:1 says in the paraphrased version of the Living Bible, “Let us stop going over the same old ground again and again, always teaching those first lessons about Christ” (Hebrews 6:1, LB)

The New Living translation says, “So let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again. Let us go on instead and mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start all over again with the importance of turning away from evil deeds and placing our faith in God” (Hebrews 6:1).

Was the problem of the Hebrew Christians a lack of teaching? Evidently not. Was it that they never received anything but the milk of the word — the elementary principles? They could not grow if they were not offered the meat of the word. While the Hebrew writer indicates that they were still babes, he also said that they needed to stop going over and over the same thing again and again. They must move ahead and be taught the *meat* of the word.

Our approach to Bible school had its roots in the Protestant Sunday school movement. Originally the Sunday schools were largely a mission effort that went ahead of the organized church. Later a Sunday school became a church. With the passing of years and the adoption of the Sunday school by most churches, the same approach continued to be used, with little planning for equipping the church for the ministry or, as some versions say, “works of service” (Ephesians 4:11,12).

The education program has largely ignored Paul’s writings concerning training the churches. And the over-all preaching and teaching has ignored a major hindrance to growth: “going over the same thing again and again.”

## CHURCH GROWTH

This failure to focus on *where teaching should take the church* has resulted in a failure to bring Christians to the mature point of fruition. There is no realization, in most hearts, that the goal for which congregations and individuals must be striving is **bearing fruit**. Therefore, *the mission* has mistakenly become *having Bible study at the church building*, and *constructing buildings* in which to *hold classes is the achieved goal*. Unfortunately this has caused the church to have an inward focus, forgetting the lost souls around us and the critical need for us to evangelize.

### THE PROBLEM OF BOREDOM

Certainly we think that a Christian should not become bored in a class or church service. Why are we so time-conscious? Because everyone wants to keep their Christian obligation to be present at least on Sunday morning but some feel that they have all they want in that allotted time. Someone said that he arrived at 11:00 *sharp* and left at 12:00 *dull*. In such cases, members have fulfilled what they have been taught to do: attend, contribute and..behave!

What are the contributing factors for boredom in the adult Bible class? Methodically, we go through one book, then another, back and forth through the Bible, no matter how many times we have already been through it. In a college class, if a student went over the same material year after year, he would grow dull and bored. In the church, **we must graduate, and move on out into life — teaching others the gospel and how to live for eternity. Or else our inactivity will eventually cause us to die, sitting right there in the pew!**

What about the mission: “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* (If we do this there will be babes who must receive the milk of the word, guaranteeing that the teaching of these principles will not be neglected.)

The plan is simple:

1. “**Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations.”
2. “**Baptizing** them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”
3. “**Teaching** them to observe all things I have commanded you.”

We can easily see that the “*Go therefore and made disciples*” would be passed on to the disciples if they were taught **all things** that Jesus commanded.

Paul gave the plan to Timothy: “*And the things that you have heard*

## CHURCH GROWTH

*from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2 NKJ).*

These references show what the Hebrew Christians were expected to do but **did not do**. We can see that the same problem plagues the church today.

Our government, in holding Congressional hearings a few years ago on public education, found many faults with it. Some of there were:

1. “The well-being of its people, the educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of **mediocrity.**”
2. “...For too many people, education means doing the minimum work **necessary for the moment.**”
3. “...We tend to express our educational standards and expectations largely in terms of **minimum requirements.**”
4. “...Where there should be a coherent continuum of learning, we have none but, instead, an often **incoherent, outdated patchwork quilt.**”

**Mediocrity limits the church too. Instead of God’s word being like a carpenter’s tool chest whose owner knows his tools and how to use them, the average Christian’s knowledge of the Bible is more like a scrambled puzzle — bits and pieces, but no over-all understanding of its chronological history or of its procedures and goals in the development of individual followers. Because there is no planned program of putting the lessons to work in lives, Christians remain unskilled in the use of the word of righteousness.**

Two of the greatest handicaps in achieving the church’s mission are:

1. Most of the church, including the elders and preachers, is **untaught** on the subject of **evangelism and church growth.**
2. **Apathy.** There is not one area of human endeavor in which laziness and unconcern are appreciated or are assets. Yet they plague the Lord’s church, rendering it an immobile and non-functioning body in too many cases. Yes, “housekeeping” exercises are done, there is “fellowship” and “entertainment”; there is even some concern about the lack of local numerical growth. But the ills will never be cured until we “graduate” and move from a “learning” mode to a fruit-bearing stage in the Christian life. †

**Clayton Pepper participated in many areas of service in the Lord’s church until his death in July of 2001.**



Mike Hinton

# Some Things I Learned from the Red Ant

*“Go to the ant you sluggard, consider her ways and be wise, which having no captain overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6-8).*

Right in the middle of a heavily traveled road on my property there is a thriving red ant den. I’ve been fascinated by these industrious creatures since I was a child, and have spent many hours observing their activities.

Yet this particular den caught my interest because of its rather hazardous location. It is remarkable that the den has managed even to survive for several years, much less thrive. Although I have begun avoiding the den as much as possible as I drive through, it is impossible to miss all the ants going and coming on their trails. And of course, no one besides myself gives any thought to their well-being whatsoever. Consequently on most days

there is a substantial mortality rate.

I found myself wondering, “How can they stand the loss day after day and still grow and prosper? Why don’t they abandon the den in favor of a safer location?” Could this “*people not strong*” (Proverbs 30:25) have learned a truth or two that could benefit the church?

Those ants are able to grow and multiply in a hostile environment for one simple reason: more ants are born than are crushed by the wheels of my forklift. We in the church ponder among ourselves why our numbers are growing less, when the answer is equally simple: *there are not enough people being “born again”* (John 3:3) *to replace those who die either physically or spiritually.*

It is not enough that we are baptizing the children of members and occasionally the husband or wife of a long-time faithful Christian who finally won them by their example. (1 Peter 3:1,2) If we are once again to thrive in an increasingly hostile



## CHURCH GROWTH

world we must find a way to reach into the communities around us.

Our problem in accomplishing this is rooted in the world we live in — fast food, instant credit, and speed surfing the web indict us as a people who are no longer willing to invest *the time* it takes to transform a person from the world into the Divine Nature of a Christian. Most of the soil out there is not fertile enough that the seed of the Word will grow and take firm root without a great deal of cultivation. Those who seem easily converted are sometimes also easily blown away when a new wind of doctrine comes along. Just as those ants recognize that while the firmly packed dirt in the middle of the road may be hard to dig in, the tunnels are much more durable than those made in soft sand. We need to realize that sometimes the most committed Christians are formed from those people most difficult to convert.

Now, no one is suggesting that you should make yourself odious to your neighbors by attacking them with the gospel every time you meet at the back fence. However most of us will admit that we have let many opportunities go by almost unnoticed. Each of us has friends and relatives whom we are better equipped to teach than any other because we know their needs better — yet when in conversation they espouse some false teaching as truth, we often say

nothing, or — worse yet — nod in half agreement to avoid a conflict. Why not rather use this “open door” and gently and lovingly ask. “Are you sure that is what the Bible teaches about that subject?”

Why are we so reluctant to approach those we love, when the stakes are so high and the time so uncertain? Often it is maintained that our “good example,” (attending worship regularly) fulfills our obligation in this matter. However, I know of no one brought to Christ without some measure of evangelism in addition to the “good example.” Could it be that our insecurity about just how “good” our example really is to those who know us the best is at the root of our failure to evangelize?

Don’t get me wrong. I am not trying to diminish in any way the value of others seeing Christ living in us. Our walk of life has the potential to lend credence to our teaching in a similar way that the miracles confirmed the word in the first century. But none of us is perfect in our walk. Truthfully, sometimes those outside of Christ may conduct themselves better than we, but they still need the Gospel for the salvation of their souls. If we wait to speak until no one can ever cry hypocrite, we will never teach a soul.

It’s true that if we speak up, trying to teach acquaintances as well as loved ones, we run the risk of perse-

## CHURCH GROWTH

cution. Sometimes our friends and neighbors will reject our every effort to reach them, and some may retaliate in some way. But if we accomplish nothing else we will have fulfilled our obligation to be a "watchman" (Ezekiel 3:17-21).

If we hope to reverse the decline in membership numbers that has plagued the church for years, we must be willing to move into the "road" like those ants in my yard.

The danger may become great, and the work will be hard, but the church has always flourished under trying conditions. So grab your sword and put on your armor (Ephesians 6:13-17), and let's find some replacement troops for the Lord's army. They're out there somewhere! †

**Mike Hinton is a Christian living in Hobart, Oklahoma, USA.**

### The Power of a Visit


One day I rang a doorbell  
In a casual sort of way,  
'Twas not a formal visit,  
And there wasn't much to say;  
I don't remember what I said...  
It matters not, I guess...  
I found a heart in hunger,  
A soul in deep distress.  
He said I came from heaven  
And I often wondered why;  
He said I came to see him  
When no other help was nigh.  
It meant so little to me  
To knock a stranger's door,  
But it meant heaven to him  
And God's peace forevermore.

— Author Unknown

# TRAINING TO TEACH

Jane McWhorter

## Which Religious Name Is Acceptable?



As Christian women, we are often asked questions by our friends. Sometimes it is difficult to remember the necessary verses of Scripture. It can be quite helpful to mark our Bibles in a chain reference. In the front of your Bible write the word **name**. Under that heading write Isaiah 62:2, the first verse in the chain. In the margin by that verse, write the second reference. Beside the second verse, write the third, and so on throughout the entire list.

### Individual Names

- (1) Isaiah 62:2 — A new name would be given
- (2) Acts 11:26 — Disciples called Christians first in Antioch
- (3) Acts 26:28 — King Agrippa — *“Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian”*
- (4) Acts 20:7 — Disciples came together to break bread
- (5) 1 Corinthians 1:2 — Saints
- (6) Romans 1:7 — Beloved of God — Saints
- (7) 1 John 3:1 — Sons of God
- (8) Romans 8:16 — Children of God
- (9) 1 Corinthians 15:6 — Brethren

## Scriptural Names for the Church as a Collective Body

- (1) Acts 8:1 — The church
- (2) Matthew 16:18 — My (Christ's) church
- (3) Romans 16:16 — Churches of Christ
- (4) Ephesians 4:12 — Body of Christ
- (5) 1 Corinthians 1:2 — Church of God

### Conclusions

- (1) Ephesians 5:23 — Just as a bride wears the name of her husband, so should the bride (the church) wear the name of the bridegroom (Christ).
- (2) 1 Corinthians 1:13 — Human names were condemned by Paul.
- (3) Acts 4:12 — Christ is the only name wherein we must be saved.

### Religious Leaders' Pleas

- (1) Charles Spurgeon (Baptist) — "I say of the Baptist name, let it perish, but let Christ's name last forever ... I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name endure forever."
- (2) Martin Luther (Lutheran) — "I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians." †

Jane McWhorter is a Christian writer living in Fayette, Alabama, USA.

## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? TURN AROUND.

In order to be saved, we must believe that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. But are we forgiven of our sins and born into God's family at that point? Some say that stating "The Sinner's Prayer" — a confession of one's sins and asking Jesus' forgiveness — brings salvation. But we read in James 2:19,20, "*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*"

Simple belief in our hearts is not enough to save us. Faith must move us to *hear* and to *obey* all that God's word says to us. In Luke 13:3, Jesus said, "*I tell you... unless you repent you will all likewise perish.*"

To repent means that we change our lives, turning away from sin, and that we begin to live after the pattern of Jesus' life, in purity, devotion to God, and service to others. When our hearts are changed, our speech, morals, values, priorities, and day-to-day behavior will also be changed.

But belief and repentance **alone** are not enough...

**NEXT:**

*What must I do to be saved?*

**SPEAK.**

Once upon a time in a land faraway the elders of the church which I attended instituted a personal-work program and asked each member to participate by making one call every two weeks. Strangely enough, some of the members did not participate.

"Ah well," I said to myself, they are undoubtedly busy winning souls on their own."

But to my surprise I discovered that they were actually making no calls and converting no souls.

"Still," said I, "they are probably involved in helping the sick and needy." But no one knew of any sick or needy whom they were helping. So they were given a special opportunity as an announcement was made for interested Christians to help a sick lady and her family. Many volunteered, but — isn't it odd? — they didn't.

"Anyway," I thought, "even if they don't teach others or help the needy, surely these are they who show hospitality to others."

But the years went by, and we never knew of their having anyone — brethren or strangers — into their homes.

"Yes, that may be so," I said, seeking an excuse for them, "but they love to worship."

Since we were sure that all Christians enjoy worshipping, we decided to have a special prayer meeting. "After all," we reasoned, "NO one could find anything wrong with a prayer meeting." They didn't come.

"But at least they worship at our regular services," I argued. Then I observed that they didn't attend services on Sunday night or Wednesday night, and often missed Sunday morning. "They are all too sick," I said.

But I learned that the sickness that kept them from worship never kept them from work or from attending football games.

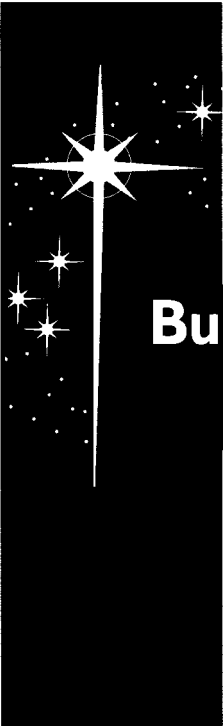
"But surely," I thought, "they uphold the church with their generous contributions."

Then one Sunday I helped count the contribution and learned that they were not even among the most liberal givers.

And so I prayed, "Oh Lord, I am glad that You will judge these, your professed disciples, in the last day, for it seems to me that their religion is a matter of convenience or habit." I had finally decided that they were not really interested in serving Christ at all.

After all, what else could I conclude?

†



**Editor's Note:** It is not our purpose to use the pages of **THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL** to create hatred, bitterness, or a divisive spirit among our readers. Our stated intention is to present the Gospel of Christ in its purity, without prejudice or accusation, believing that as people read God's truth, honestly presented, surely they will want to accept its blessing in their lives.

# Burnings and Persecution

Keith Sisman

Yet, historically, there have been real enemies of the truth. To publish accounts of that enmity is an attempt to show the true story of the development of "Church History".

Jesus established His church on the first Pentecost after His resurrection. *That church exists today and will continue to exist, to be caught up to meet Him in the air when He returns.* But during those early centuries, as the majority in the church grew away from the simple truths of the New Testament, a church developed which was in actuality the apostate form of Jesus' people. As the apostate church gained strength, it turned on those who were still trying to follow the New Testament only and labeled them as "heretics". During the centuries that followed, the Roman Catholic Church persecuted these branded heretics to imprisonment and often to death.

*In his research in the ancient libraries of England, Keith Sisman has found these records of "heretics" and their "heresies", and the price they paid for their commitment:*

**O**ver the centuries devout men and women have sought to maintain the purity of the scriptures, and enraged the religious authorities of the time.

In 1428, Abraham, a monk from the abbey at Colchester, was apprehended on a charge of heresy, along with Milburn White and John Wade,

both Catholic priests.

These three men were held guilty of rejecting **transubstantiation**, claiming that the elements used in the Lord's Supper remained unchanged. The Catholic doctrine declared that the wine became the blood of Christ and that the bread became the flesh of Christ. These men objected to these beliefs, stating that Christ was sacrificed only once, and not at each mass. They asserted that the Lord's Supper is a *memorial*, not a *sacrifice* as it had become under Catholicism.

**worshiped.** That **prayer in all places is acceptable to God.** That **saints are not to be prayed to.** That **the ringing of bells only served to fill the purses of the priests**, as in this time period the Catholic Church claimed the ringing of bells frightened away devils who lurked beside the beds of those who were dying.

They **renounced the Catholic Church**; teaching that the true Church is the congregation, the faithful of Christ, those that had been added by the Lord through

Jesus established His church on the first Pentecost after His resurrection. *That church exists today and will continue to exist, to be caught up to meet Him in the air when He returns.*

They had rejected **their positions within the Catholic Church**, teaching that all Christians are priests, upholding the universal priesthood of believers. For this they quoted from the book of Revelation: "*He hath made us kings and priests unto our God.*"

They taught that **no man is bound to keep Lent and other Popish holy days.** That **the Pope is the antichrist.** That **'priests' may marry.** That **pilgrimages are not found in the Scriptures.** That **images and relics are not to be**

baptism into His one Church. *These were the "heresies" espoused and taught by the three who had formerly belonged to the priesthood.*

It would seem that Milburn White first shared these beliefs with the other two men, who had then adopted them. They were found preaching the Gospel and arrested.

Milburn White had resigned from the Catholic Church and married a lady called Joan. He was burned alive by the Bishop of Norwich. When he tried to preach at the stake to those watching, a ser-

## CHURCH HISTORY

vant of the Bishop injured him sufficiently to prevent him talking further by hitting him in the mouth. He had refused to recant and died for his "heresy".

Soon after this Abraham suffered the same fate at Colchester, along with a man named John Waddon. John Wade was taken to London where he was also burnt alive.

field's, London and was burnt alive. In 1439 another priest, Richard Wick, was burnt on Tower Hill for preaching "heresy".

In the year 1499, a gentleman called Brabram was caught preaching the gospel in Norwich. He was not a member of the Catholic Church. He, too, died in the flames of Popish arrogance, remaining

Finally, the atrocities committed during those dark years culminated in the rebellion of masses of people in what has come to be known as the "Reformation Movement".

At the same time thirty-six others were found guilty of the same "crimes". They were taken to St. Giles' Fields, London (where Lord Cobham had been burnt alive). They were hung on gibbets and slowly strangled, whilst fires were lit below their feet. Catholic priests looked on, triumphant in the deaths of those who would not recant. Among this group who suffered, only one name has come down to us, Sir Roger Archer. He was dealt with differently in that he was stripped naked first, and then executed in the same manner.

In 1431, Thomas Bagley, a priest who was based in Malden, Essex was caught preaching the gospel. He was brought to Smith-

steadfast to the end.

Under such persecution the Lord's Church survived. Congregations, being autonomous, were able to meet in secret. But Catholic priests knew their parishes well. Those not attending mass were sought out. After arrest, torture would follow to encourage the unfortunate victim to abjure. When this failed, they would be offered to the flames. Sometimes death was quick. Sometimes a kind executioner would knock the brains out of a suffering victim. Other times, if the wood burnt slowly and the wind blew in the wrong direction, death could take many hours.

An example of the cruelty meted out is the case of Mr Collins



## CHURCH HISTORY

in 1538. Collins was a Catholic and mentally subnormal. He was known as an idiot without common sense. He had no religious affiliations other than being a Catholic. During mass at a church in London, when the priest lifted up the host, Collins lifted up his dog. He was arrested, along with his dog, and taken immediately to Smithfield's. Both were burnt alive.

People recognised that Collins was wrong, the feeling at the time being that he should have been tied to a cart and whipped, or sent to the madhouse. But many felt that there was no excuse for the scene of cruelty that took place.

Questions were asked which were never answered: For the dog to be burnt, legally, under Church law it had to be excommunicated first, but no one (nothing) can be excommunicated unless it has first been baptised!

The same applied to poor Collins. Whilst he had been baptised into the Catholic Church, he was not excommunicated before being killed. His burning, therefore, was murder according to the laws of the time. Yet the church was so powerful it could murder in this way, without trial, and then laugh at the questioning of its illegal act.

It was normal practise in these cases for the spouse or children of the victim to be forced to light the

faggots, and then watch their relatives suffering close up. There is no evidence that the priests and church hierarchy were anything other than thoroughly gratified by the suffering of their victims, making them graphic examples to any who might be tempted to follow their beliefs.

This was the Popes' greatest mistake, because right thinking people who saw the suffering of the victims learnt the importance of the gospel through the sheer cruelty the "heretics" were willing to endure. Far from being extinguished by the flames of persecution, the Lord's church won fervent sympathy throughout Britain. Finally, the atrocities committed during those dark years culminated in the rebellion of masses of people in what has come to be known as the "Reformation Movement".

It is shameful that today most Catholic historians tend to dismiss this savage and cruel time, while defending the actions of the church, arguing "heresy" rather than admitting from their own evidence that many of these people were doing nothing other than following scripture. †

**Keith Sisman worships with the Church of Christ in Ramsey, England. Having been given permission to use the ancient Cambridge Library, he is doing extensive research and writing on the records he is finding concerning the church in Europe, particularly in England.**

Let us pray God that again "*the knowledge of the Lord will fill the land*" and there will be a harvest of souls. I sense a revival of interest in personal evangelism.

How would you define "personal evangelism"? It is as broad as all the combined influences brought to bear upon leading a soul to Christ.

And everyone can have a part in the process. The one who does the personal teaching is only one link in the chain.

What is personal evangelism? It is taking the time to send, grade, and answer questions through World Bible School. It is talking to a neighbor, a friend, or a co-worker about Christ and His church. It is taking enough interest to give or send someone you know an article that deals with a subject of expressed interest. It is demonstrating before your fellow workers, neighbors, and friends the joy of being a Christian. It is inviting your postman, plumber, grocery clerk, or pharmacist to come to worship with you. It is getting together a number of interested people for a Bible

study. It is handing someone a religious tract. It is going on a campaign and knocking doors to find a

soul. It is planting a thought in someone's heart which may in time blossom. It is having someone in your home for food and showing genuine concern for someone who has experienced a tragedy. It

is using your automobile to transport people to worship. It is being involved with the bus ministry. It is sharing a burden someone is bearing. It is lifting and encouraging a new member. It is showing your confidence in a youth by a pat on the back or a hug. It is being available in time of sickness and death.

And on and on we could go! Personal evangelism is not one thing, but many. To cultivate the environment makes the actual teaching more effective.

Let's learn to be soul-conscious. Let's agonize for souls! Remember, **one soul is worth more than all the world.** †

**Clarence DeLoach preaches for the Walnut Street congregation in Dickson, Tennessee, USA.**

**"agonize  
for  
souls"**

**Clarence DeLoach**

# Am I Serious about Evangelism?

Charles Box



The church of the first century turned the world upside down by daily teaching and preaching God's word. *"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ"* (Acts 5:42). The gospel was preached to every creature under heaven by the early church of Christ (Colossians 1:23). An honest answer to the following questions might cause us to see whether we are helping or hindering the cause of Christ in evangelism.

● **Do I honestly believe that all who are outside of Christ are lost?**

The Bible is clear in teaching that those in Christ are new creatures. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old*

*things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Bible is just as clear in teaching that those outside of Christ are lost. *"As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:10,23).

● **Do I honestly believe that the lost will go to hell?**

Sometimes our hearts are blinded by the fact that many of those outside of Christ are *good, moral folks*. Yet the Bible clearly teaches that the wages paid to a sinful life is spiritual death (Romans 6:23). All who do not obey the gospel of Christ will be separated from God for all eternity. *"...when the Lord*

*Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9). "Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority" (2 Peter 2:9-11).*

● **Do I honestly believe the blood of Jesus will cleanse those in sin?**

The most sobering truth ever known is Jesus' sacrifice to cleanse us from sin. *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works" (Titus 2:11-14). Redemption by Jesus' blood is the theme of the Bible!*

● **Do I honestly share the mes-**

**sage of salvation with others?**

Souls are saved as Christians spread the word to others. *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).* There is no greater or more tragic mistake in the church than to believe that evangelism is just the work of the preacher. Every Christian should visit, encourage and evangelize — spread the good news.

● **Do I honestly agonize in prayer for the lost, praying specifically for those I am teaching?**

Jesus is our example. He makes intercession for the transgressors. *"...He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12).* James said, *"You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:4).* More asking would mean more converts.

Few members of the church are striving in noticeable ways to win souls to Christ. *"It is high time to awake out of sleep. . ." Romans 13:11-14).* May our hearts be stirred over the lost and may God help the church become serious about evangelism. †

**Charles Box works with the Walnut Street Church of Christ in Greenville, Alabama, USA.**

**Every Christian should evangelize.** Paul instructed the preacher Timothy to teach "...*faithful men* (Green: "anthropos" — means human beings — generic) *who will be able to teach others also.*" This shows that the Lord wants every Christian to go out and teach the Gospel to the best of his or her ability.

Peter taught the same thing (1 Peter 3:15).

Can you take the Scriptures and show a person what you did to become a Christian? You must prepare yourself to do so (1 Peter 3:15). Each Christian should see every relative, friend, or even stranger as a precious soul who needs to be saved (John 4:34-38).

To be effective, one must live faithfully to Christ. Let your example show the value of Christ in your life (Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 1:27). Take your children to worship and Bible study regularly. Show them your sincere love and fear of God (Ephesians 5:15-17). Invite friends and neighbors to church services; ask them to study the Bible with you. Don't be afraid to discuss the Bible with people. If you need help teaching someone, ask the preacher — he will help.

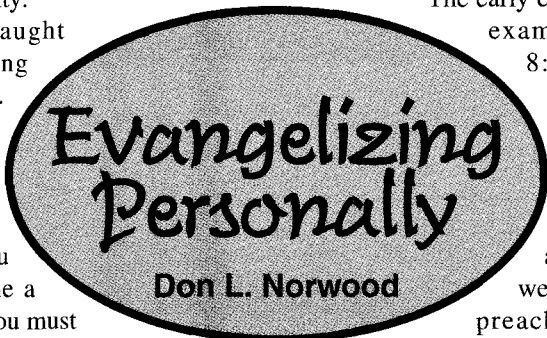
Remember the song, "Lead me to some soul today". Pray for opportunities and the wisdom to deal with each opportunity (James 1:2-5).

Remember, we Christians must be diligent and zealous about this responsibility (Romans 12:12; Colossians 3:23,24; 2 Peter 1:1-11).

The early church is our example; Acts 8:4 shows that the rank and file members, not just the apostles, went forth and preached the

Word everywhere. Colossians 1:23 shows that they took the Gospel to the whole world in 30 years. At Ephesus Paul taught the Word each day in the school of Tyrannus for two years. The result was that all Asia heard the Word (Acts 19:1,8-10). It is evident, by the wording of this passage, that Paul's converts took the Gospel to the people around them.

As we go forth to teach, remember that the Lord goes with us (Matthew 28:19,20), and that we can and must do all that He commands (Philippians 4:13). †



**Don L. Norwood is a full-time missionary to India and works out of Mason, Texas, USA.**

# Walking by Faith



## Robert Russell Marshall

Bob Marshall was born September 18, 1933 and passed from this life on July 29, 2001 in Spokane, Washington. He had been a Christian since the early age of 14, and had begun preaching the week following his baptism. Though he was currently a doctoral candidate at Fuller Theological Seminary in California, Bob was not one to be impressed with titles or his own educational achievements. For him, life's most important goal was to lead as many souls to the Lord as he could.

As a preacher of the Gospel for more than fifty years, Bob, with his wife Glenna, served churches in Washington, California, Illinois, Texas, Kansas, and Missouri. Side-by-side with his work as a minister, he filled numerous important leadership roles in the brotherhood. He was serving as one of the elders in the Northside congregation in Spokane when he died.

Bob's great love for souls led him to make the long-term commitment to establish the *Good News Medical Clinic* in Cebu City, Philippines eight years ago. What began with only one doctor and one nurse, seeing a few patients each day, has grown to staff twenty people who see an average of 100 to 140 daily. From its inception, Bob was manager, fund raiser, trouble shooter, decision-maker, and coordinator for gathering and shipping supplies to be used in the treatment of patients. He was tireless in the pursuit of his goals for the clinic; and he was equally committed to providing for the evangelistic outreach made possible through its medical contacts. In addition to its medical staff, the clinic has a full-time minister to meet the spiritual needs of the patients. Many have been converted through these combined efforts.

Bob's feeling of responsibility for the clinic ran deep. He made two or three annual trips to the Philippines to counsel, teach, organize, and assess needs. Three years ago, after taking a precautionary flu shot, Bob was stricken with paralysis and was confined to a wheel chair much of the time since then. Undeterred even by such a great personal blow, Bob continued making work trips to the Philippines. His ticket for the next one was in hand when God called him for that longer, sweeter trip. Glenna will continue to coordinate Stateside activities and support for the clinic.

# How Can Christians Discern



**Demar Elam**

Often a Christian says, "How can I know what is right in this situation?" Why is it so difficult to discern between good and evil in today's world?

Many Christians simply have not grown much spiritually since their spiritual birth into Christ. They have not equipped themselves to handle many of life's dilemmas. They find themselves entangled in sin and wonder why they didn't do better in handling the temptation to begin with.

The writer of Hebrews had something to say about people who fail to develop spiritually. He said, "*For when for the time ye ought to*

*be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil"* (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Any Christian wanting to discern good and evil must exercise his senses. Peter stated, "*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"* (1 Peter 2:2). When a person becomes a child in the family of God through a spiritual birth into Christ (John 3:1-7; Romans 6:3,4), he is expected to "...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18).

Paul dealt with brethren who had apparently failed to properly grow in the faith. He said, "*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men?*" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). Here Christians were being fed with milk and not meat because they were not able to receive the meat designed for the spiritually mature.

Christians who desire to discern right from wrong must endeavor to grow spiritually by moving from spiritual milk to spiritual meat. The deeper things of God belong to those who study (2 Timothy 2:15) and who apply the teachings of Jesus to their lives. A Christian will heed the instruction that James penned, "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves*" (James 1:22).

Are you able to spiritually discern good from evil? †

Demar Elam is the Director of World Missions at Southern Christian University in Montgomery, Alabama, USA.

### What Price Bitterness?

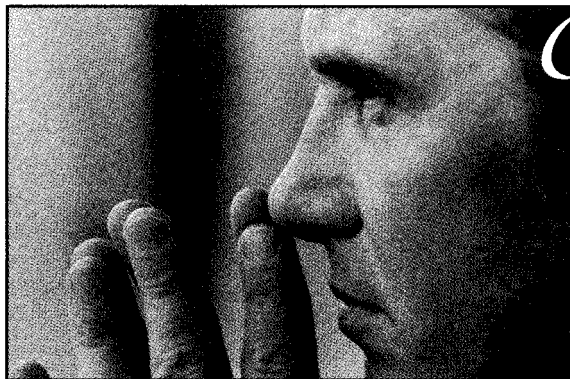
Has bitterness engulfed your soul? Someone wrongs you, you dwell on it until finally you are so miserable you don't know what to do. The price of bitterness: misery. The enemy feels no pain. The only one in pain is YOU! Amazingly, it is really self-inflicted. No one has to become bitter. IT IS A CHOICE.

You can CHOOSE to forgive. You can CHOOSE to entrust that matter to God who judges all men justly. That is exactly what Jesus did (read 1 Peter 2:23). While hanging on the cross after having experienced the slaps and slurs, insults and indecencies, tortures and trauma, Jesus simply said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:24). Jesus CHOSE not to become bitter. You can CHOOSE, too.

Someone has said, "It is not the size of the bump, but the attitude of the bumpee which determines whether he is made bitter or better." I believe there is wisdom in those words. CHOOSE not to pay the price of bitterness in your life.

- Selected





# Choices

Lindsey Lee

At 6:30 a.m. my radio starts blaring. The announcer says, "Traffic is backed up all the way into town on the main road. If you have a choice, take another route!" So my morning begins, eyes still glued shut by what appears to be an overzealous sandman — and my decisions begin.

As I make the choice to drag myself out of bed and stare at my reflection in the mirror, lurking in the corner of my head is the question, "If I don't go to school, would anyone miss me today?" Would just one teacher stop to ask about me? Have I had a positive influence on my classmates to the point that they would be concerned about me if I were absent?

Stumbling down the stairs, tripping over my shoestrings, which I chose not to tie, I end up in the middle of the kitchen faced with another choice. A biscuit or cereal? The

choice is too difficult; no breakfast this morning. Then I realize that the failure to make a choice is a choice in and of itself and comes with its own set of consequences, which I will no doubt be suffering by ten a.m.

Proceeding through my morning routine, it hits me like a ton of bricks that *to everything there is a choice*. Sometimes the choices are between good and bad. Sometimes they are between healthy and unhealthy. At other times both choices are right and sometimes both choices would be detrimental either physically or spiritually.

What finally grabs me by the collar, shakes me and wakes me up is that all my choices should be based on the choice I made long ago to take up my cross and follow Jesus! Jesus also had a choice to make. He could have chosen not to hang on the cross, which would have left me with no hope. But He

did choose to die for me so that I might live. Because I know and believe this, my choice to serve Him was the best one I've ever made. If I preface every choice with the question "What would Jesus do?", the answer is usually clear. And although the flesh is not always willing, I will hold to the song of David in 2 Samuel 22:31-37 that tells me: *"God is a shield for all who take refuge in him ... He arms me with strength and makes my way perfect ... He broadens the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn."*

So with new resolve for the morning, I choose to choose! I will not always make the right decisions, but I will choose. I will take hold of the reigns of my life and hand them over to the Master Trainer. I will stand up to the booming voice of Joshua that challenges me to choose which God I will serve — the god of worldly things or the true God. Joshua and his family chose to serve God. I will let the God of Abraham be the choice of my life just as my family before me chose.

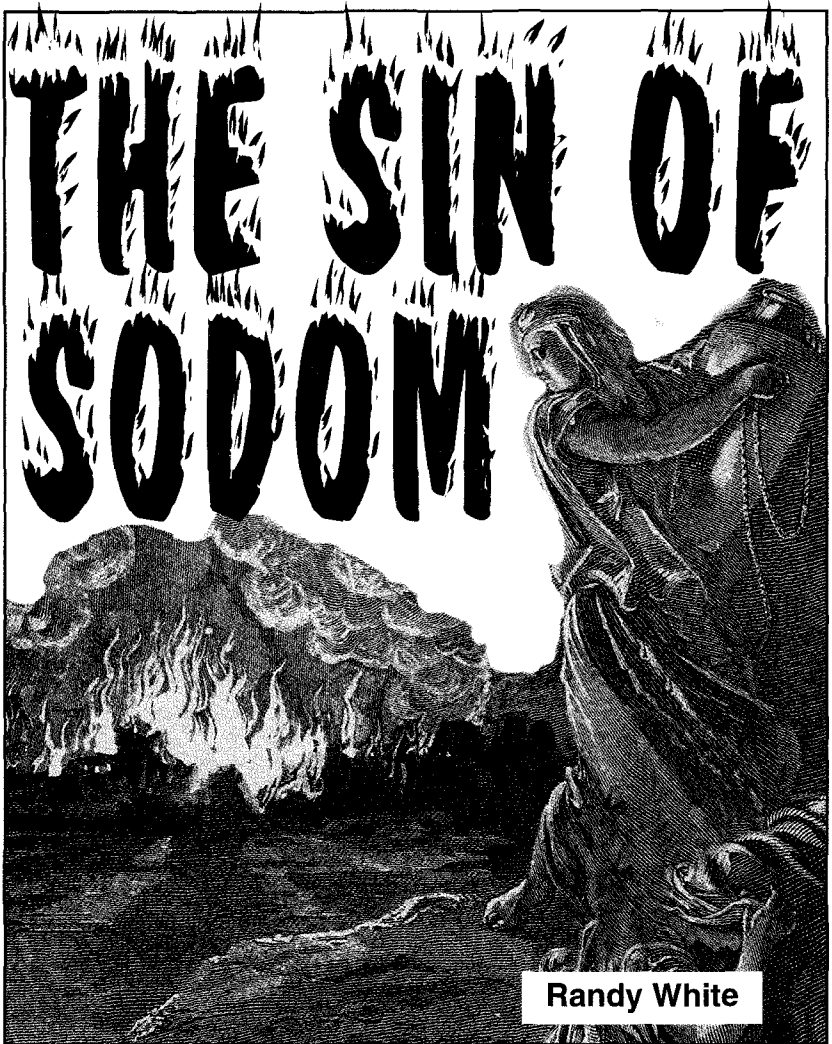
I want to be remembered for having a great faith in God and being a great encourager like my grandfather Lindsey. He always taught others to serve God in any way that they could, and he himself lived a long life of service to God as an elder in the Lord's church.

The India mission field was

very special to my grandfather and he enjoyed telling about his trip to help one of our missionaries first hand. When he passed from this life to be with God, my grandmother did something that I will never forget. The church in New Delhi, India asked her for something to keep in my grandfather's memory. She sent his ties to them. It may not sound like much to you, but the brethren there still wear them in his memory as they attend the worship services. I may never be known in India for my love of the gospel like my grandfather but I want to be known for my love of the gospel where ever my paths take me.

We have a choice of two directions: the right way which is straight and narrow, leading to everlasting life; and the wrong way which is broad and leads to destruction. It takes a strong person to swim upstream, but it is easy to go with the flow. I choose to be strong! Every time my alarm clock rings, I plan to start my day making the right choices. I am only one, but **I am one**. I cannot do everything, but I can do **something**. What I can do, I **should** do and, with the help of God, I **will** do! †

**Lindsey Lee is a young Christian who works in the "Lads to Leaders" program in his home congregation, Liberty Church of Christ, in Dennis, Mississippi, USA.**



Each day that passes the acceptance of homosexual relations is growing, like a cancer, in our society! Day after day those who advocate this lifestyle are making headway,

while the Christian is stepping aside and giving way to their ungodly desires. This can be compared to stepping aside in a crowd and politely allowing someone to walk over you.

Well, it is time for the Christian to stop stepping aside! Legislation is being voted on in the US as well as in European countries that will allow for same sex marriage, insurance benefits to homosexual lovers and many other rights that are reserved for the heterosexual marriage. Advocates of homosexuality shout VICTORY!, while God mourns at the tragedy of our situation.

Christians must realize that they are, by definition, followers of Christ. If we follow Christ and obey Him, as He obeyed God the Father, then we must recognize that homosexuality is a terrible sin.

Godliness and sexual immorality stand in direct contrast to one another. If we are to be acceptable to God, our beliefs and our behavior must be in accordance with His word. Though advocates of homosexuality who also call themselves "Christians" often declare that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality, it clearly does. Those who engage in same-sex practices are labeled as "dogs" in Deuteronomy 23:17,18. Many other passages deal with this immoral behavior and condemn it in very strong language. We have only to read the story of the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 19 for the full account, verse 5 for the sin), with its blatant wickedness, to realize how deeply God hates such a perversion of His creation.

The writer is not launching an attack upon the homosexual, only upon the sin! Many are deceived into believing that this is something that it is not! They are being told that it is only an alternative lifestyle, and that homosexuals are forced to be what they are because of genetic make-up. Yet, with the wide-spread promotion of the lifestyle through our educational system as well as the media, the percentages of homosexuals is growing. This tells us that it is an acquired behavior that can be encouraged by the culture in which it thrives.

Why are so many being deceived by the lies and the promotion-hype? The answer is easy as we look at the words of the Apostle Paul, "*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works*" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). Satan is indeed the great deceiver. His goal is to destroy our faith through his deceit.

The Apostle Paul again warned, "*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of*

*God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (homosexuals), nor abusers of themselves with mankind (sodomites), Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9,10).*

Same-sex relations are described as unnatural: *“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet (suitable). And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient (fitting)” (Romans 1:26-28).*

Satan is indeed the master of deceit. He paints this ugly sin as beautiful! By changing its name he seeks to make it easier to accept! Sexual perversion is now called “gay” or “alternative lifestyle”. This is no less than a futile attempt to mask the ugliness of a terrible and destructive sin. However, changing the name doesn’t change

the fact that it is sin, with its own built-in consequences.

Before closing these thoughts I want to make it perfectly clear that I am in no way advocating that we hate, or mistreat the individuals involved in this grave sin. The word of God teaches us to, *“love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matthew 22:37-39).*

As Christians we should seek to lead the lost to Christ. Hate crimes, slander, and personal attacks are as ungodly as same-sex relations. After the clearly worded condemnation of all immoral life-styles in 1 Corinthians 6:9,10, the Scriptures go on in verse 11 to say, *“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*

God would never require something that people cannot do, nor would He condemn behavior that they could not abstain from doing. All who sin — even homosexuals — can repent and change their lives if they choose to do so. †

**Randy White is the minister of the Findlay Church of Christ in Sparta, Tennessee, USA.**

# Ezra's Grief

Loy Mitchell



*“When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled. Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me because of this unfaithfulness of the exiles. And I sat there appalled until the evening sacrifice” (Ezra 9:3,4).*

## WHAT CAUSED EZRA'S GRIEF?

**A. The law of God had been broken.** The people of God had married strangers. *“They have taken some of their daughters as*

*wives for themselves and their sons, and have mingled the holy race with the people around them. And the leaders and officials have led in this unfaithfulness” (Verse 2).* They had broken the instructions God gave through Moses. They were to be a separate people. How can God approve of His children marrying the children of Satan? **HE CANNOT!**

**B. They had been led into detestable practices.** *“After these things had been done, the leaders came to me and said, ‘The people of*

*Israel, including the priests and the Levites, have not kept themselves separate from the neighboring peoples with their detestable practices, like those of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians and Amorites”* (Verse 1). God’s law had been violated, even by the rulers. Sin is contagious. Be careful that you marry **ONLY A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN!**

### HOW DEEP WAS HIS GRIEF?

**A. He rent his tunic and cloak.** This was a sign of the deep distress of his soul. God’s honor had been violated by sin. Israel was not faithful to the God of heaven. Are we distressed when we see God’s people become unfaithful?

**B. He plucked out his hair.** The beard was a sign of manhood and honor. Ezra was so deeply hurt by the iniquities of Israel that he pulled hair from his head and beard.

**C. He sat there appalled.** He was stunned. Sin destroys. Sin breaks fellowship with God. Has sin become so common place that we cannot be appalled at mur-

der, abortion, fornication, gossip, homosexuality and lying? When we intermarry with the children of the devil we take on the ways of those people.

Ezra then confessed sin and pleaded for mercy. He led the people to repent of their evil ways and to return to God. Is that what we should do today? **YES! YES!** (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-2:1). †

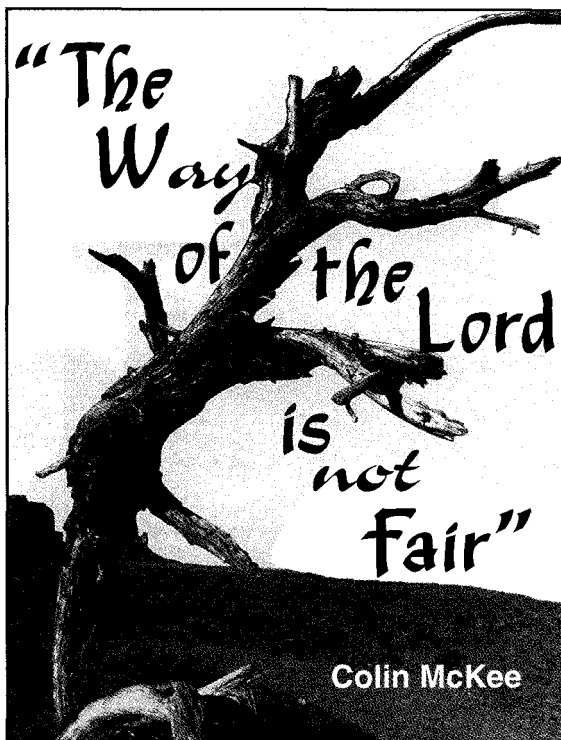
**Loy Mitchell makes preaching trips to Zimbabwe, and also works with the Lord’s church in Topeka, Kansas, USA.**

### “The Devil Don’t Come Ugly!”

It took awhile for these words to register, but eventually I understood. The wise brother who spoke them perfectly capsulated a significant truth for me. Now, I’ll never forget the idea.

Satan is without a doubt the master deceiver. While holding the power and terror of a “roaring lion” (1 Peter 5:8), he comes across to us as anything but. He presents himself and his offerings as attractive alternatives. He can even masquerade as an “angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14) to deceive. Never does he show his true colors. His temptations are always draped in the most glamorous fabric. “The devil don’t come to you ugly.” Never has. Never will.

— Selected



The people of Ezekiel’s day were accusing God of being unfair (Ezekiel 33: 17,20). We may wonder how anyone could reach the point of charging God with unfairness. Had He mistreated them? Had He broken a promise? Had He ignored His own people and treated others better?

They said He was unfair because He would receive and bless the penitent sinner, but He would also punish any who sinned, including those who had once been righteous.

There are those today who still think God is unfair. They charge Him with unfairness if:

**He condemns sin.** The sinner wants to sin with impunity. He doesn’t want to be censured for his wrongs, nor does he want anyone, including God, to look with disfavor on his actions. “It’s not fair that God judges sin and the sinner,” is the cry of those who refuse God’s way and walk after the world. But the word of God still stands: “*The wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23).

**He has an exclusive pattern, and doesn’t save all.** They query, “Isn’t God love?” So they assume that surely a loving God would not condemn someone for missing the mark a little. A God who isn’t willing to accept some deviation, or who is so intolerant, could not be fair. God should understand man’s weaknesses and accept all who are sincere. Not only would He be unfair to condemn them, He would be small minded if He demanded things be done a certain way. Certainly, it is true that God’s



grace will cover all our shortcomings, but the Word still says that Jesus is the author of salvation to all who **obey him** ( Hebrews 5:9).

☑ **He expects faithfulness.**

Israel didn't stay faithful to God for any length of time. Over and over again they turned from Him and went their own way. The carcasses of the unfaithful decayed in the wilderness and in exile. The writer of Hebrews used their example as a strong warning against such behavior (Chapter 3). But many today seem to think that even a few hours of service per week, each week, is demanding too much. "It's not fair that others can do as they wish; why am I under such restrictions?" Paul said, "*Present your bodies as a living sacrifice*" (Romans 12:1,2).

☑ **He is not satisfied to ac-**

**cept divided loyalty from man.**

Some want to think that they can live for the world or for themselves part of the time, and then live for God in whatever little time is left. They want to divide their loyalty despite what the Master said: "*No man can serve two masters*" Matthew 6:24). We often want to reserve part of our "fruits" and sometimes our "firstfruits" for self, and then give God the second best, or our leftovers. John warned, "*Love not the world, neither the things in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him*" ( 1 John 2:15).

God is certainly fair with you.  
Are you fair with Him? †

Colin McKee, missionary to Indonesia, also works with the World Evangelism program from Winona, Mississippi, USA

**Full and Empty Boxes**

**Charles R. Brewer**

Of each 25 cents he got he put in  
 One box 5 for Mother and Dad  
 One box 10 for Gum, Candy, etc.  
 One box 5 for Education  
 One box 5 for Jesus.

In old age he opened them and found:  
 In one = 2 Golden Angels  
 In one = Broken Toys, Paper, etc.  
 In one = A Golden Book of Wisdom  
 In one = A Golden Crown

“Living in sin,” announces a report by the Board of Social Responsibility in the Church of England, “is no longer a sin.” Noting that four in five couples by the year 2000 will **live together before marriage**, Bishop Alan Morgan declares that “the phrase ‘living in sin’ stigmatizes and isn’t helpful.” The report also urges a “ready welcome” for **homosexuals**

sin.” Of course the fact that all of us are sinners does not make **adultery** any less sinful!

The article reminds us that society changes. British morals have “come a long way” since Victorian days! Christians must constantly evaluate their understanding of morals, in a changing world, by some criteria. What fascinates me is the criteria used by the

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# ... IS NO LONGER A SIN

Stan Mitchell

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in the church, noting that “many homosexuals have high quality, loving relationships” (Los Angeles Times, June, 1995).

Ah, what a brave new world this would be, if we could learn to tolerate all life styles, where no one presumed to judge another’s behavior. That way society could tolerate practically every person on earth, except of course, the “intolerant”. Can’t tolerate them!

Biblically speaking, we all have sinned (Romans 3:23). Those whose lives are overcome with arrogance or hatred are also “living in

Church of England in this case. The church reevaluates its stand on adulterous relationships and homosexuality because a majority of people in society now approve, tolerate, or have adopted that life style? By that reasoning, I suppose, we could also justify the church’s acceptance of cheating in business, racial hatred, and pornography. Many people in society do it; and the church must keep up with the times!

Let’s make some points clear. In a democracy, everyone has the right to express an opinion. But that is not the same thing as saying that

every opinion is equally valid. But aren't religious people supposed to be taking their marching orders from a higher source than either public opinion or current practice? Sadly, the Church of England erred long before it decided that "living in sin" wasn't sin anymore; it erred first when it exchanged a "thus saith the Lord" for the vastly inferior "decree of the church". By this decision it made itself into a denominational body instead of staying with the New Testament pattern for the Lord's church.

The authority concerning moral rights and wrongs cannot be **society**, for it is shiftless and selfish. Neither can the authority come from **the church**, for however well intended, its leadership is composed of humans. Nor can the authority come from **secular government**, for it also reflects the changing virtues and values of the populace. The authority cannot even be **my interpretation of scripture**. That would be a tyranny of its own.

Listen to what God's word has to say on the subject of sexual immorality and such sins:

*"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

*"If your right eye causes you to*

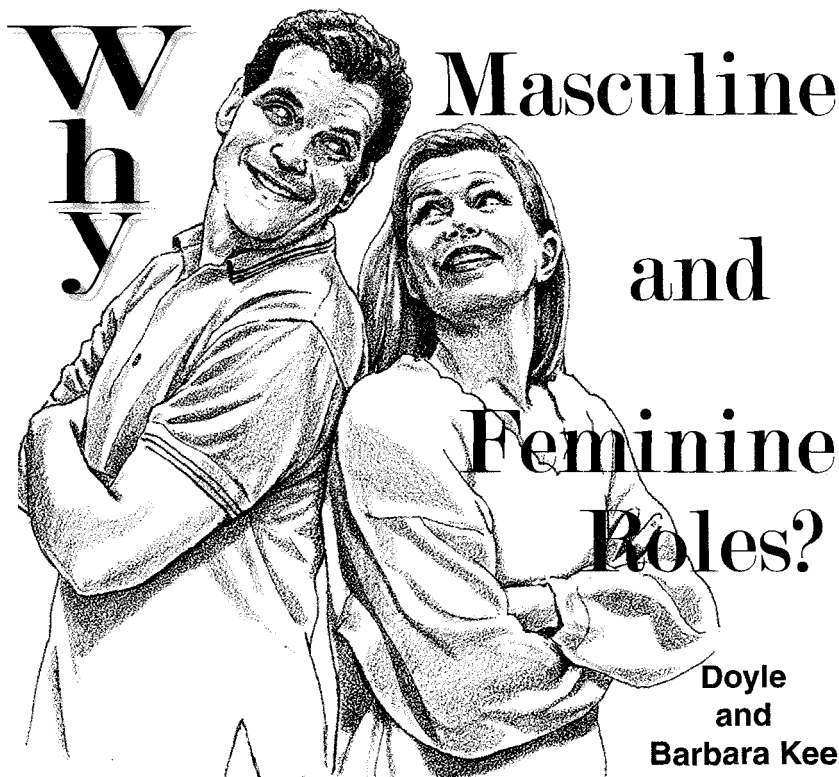
*sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell"* (Matthew 5:27-30).

*"...God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, **burned in their lust for one another**, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due"* (Romans 1:26,27).

*"But the **cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars** shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death"* (Revelation 21:8).

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:8,9). †

Stan Mitchell preaches for the church of Christ in Borger, Texas, USA.



Why

# Masculine and Feminine Roles?

**Doyle  
and  
Barbara Kee**

**W**hat have we learned from God's word about order in the universe? In God's creation each element has its function and reason for existence. This is true in the material and spiritual realms. This is true, also, for the church and the way in which we worship God. For our worship to be meaningful and acceptable, it must be accomplished according to God's design, not according to what we think or prefer.

What is God's purpose in as-

signing specific roles for men and women in the public assembly of the church?

When 1 Corinthians 11:3; 14:34, 35 and 1 Timothy 2:9-11 are considered, much is discussed about what Christian sisters can or cannot do in the public meetings. We need to understand, however, God's purpose as well as His rules concerning the role of Christian women and their limitations of silence and of submission.

## The Woman's Role

The purpose of the role God has given to women can best be understood first by way of an analogy, and secondly, by an explanation from the Scriptures themselves.

First, imagine that our lives are the result of a play written by a divine author. He creates the scenery of the stage and then imagines (creates) how the actors and actresses are to interpret his story. He programs them to behave in a certain way in their different roles. The actors and actresses do not consider that there is a devaluation of their persons or their parts in the play simply because they have different roles.

If in the process of the play, one actor decides suddenly to assume the role of another, he would be disruptive to the story and the message intended to be conveyed. The author of the play would feel that the actor is rejecting him and is unconcerned about whether or not he is pleasing the one who created his role.

The glory of the author is enhanced when the actors and actresses of his scenario execute his will in the role(s) they have been given. He is shamed if the roles are not well-played and if an actor decides to change roles because of his own personal preferences.

In God's great "play" of creation, He has assigned specific roles to Christ, to man, and to woman. The roles do not diminish the personal value of each actor. Jesus played His role perfectly. As men and women at the beginning of the 21st century, do we understand what our roles are, and are we trying to act them out in the way God intended? When we do the author of the play is glorified.

## The "Mystery" of the Couple

According to Scripture, God has a role for the man and for the woman. He explained those roles by paralleling man with Christ, as the bridegroom, and the woman with the church, as the bride. The submission of the church to Christ is the approved example of the submission of the woman to male leadership in a public situation, as God intends it to be. The man, who has the more difficult role, must be ready to lay down his life for his wife.

After speaking of these roles in Ephesians 5:22-32, Paul by guidance of the Spirit gives the explanation: "*This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church*" (Ephesians 5:32). The proper relationship between a husband and his wife is to convey to the world a message about the nature of the church in relationship

to Christ, and vice versa.

Man and woman were created by God in the beginning. There were innate values in their relationship. There was also a prophetic

She will be "saved" in playing her role (femininity), as demonstrated in her distinctiveness of being able to bear children, in apposition to the other major role of maleness.

- Man has the sacrificial role modeled on Christ.**
- Woman has the servant role of the church.**
- God receives at the same time the glory and honor of the Author, Producer, and Director of the play.**

message conveyed by the couple, which remains relevant today: The church, the bride — the woman, the bride — are covered by God's grace through a response of submissive obedience. Even though the contexts between 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy are somewhat different, the reasons behind the roles described remain the same.

When the man assumes a sacrificial role, he is modeling the Christ. When the woman submits in the social functions of the couple and in the public expression of the assembly, she models the role of the church in the "matrimonial" relationship with Christ. This is the "mystery" that has now been revealed.

The text in 1 Timothy 2 helps us understand the reason for the limits which are placed on the woman in the plan (play) of God.

#### **The "Author" to be Honored and Glorified**

The need is not more discussion to define the roles, but more emphasis on the honor and glory due the Author who determined the extent of our range of action according to his "eternal plan":

—Man has the sacrificial role modeled on Christ.

—Woman has the servant role of the church.

—God receives at the same time the glory and honor of the Author, Producer, and Director of the play.

And each participant in the divine theatrical production has his satisfying reward. †

**Doyle and Barbara Kee do mission work among French speaking people in Switzerland.**

# THE HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS

I travelled along life's highway without a worry or care.  
I didn't know where I was going, but I'd know when I got there.

I followed the other drivers. They seemed to know where to go.  
But up ahead, a crossroads interrupted the traffic's flow.

Two signposts marked two highways, but which of the two  
was the best?

The Highway of Worldly Pleasure or the Highway of Holiness?

The Highway of Worldly Pleasure was easy and broad and smooth,  
And many were travelling on it. I wondered what made it so good.

The other highway, in contrast, was narrow and steep and rough,  
And very few travelled upon it. The way seemed to be too tough.

The folks on the Highway of Pleasure, they all looked  
successful and strong.

"This must be the road to take," I thought, "for how could they  
all be wrong?"

In front of the Highway of Holiness, a man stood, pointing the way.  
"Come journey along this highway," to each passerby he would say.

As I came to the Highway of Holiness, and noticed where  
the Man stood,

I saw the sign was shaped like a cross, and the letters were  
written in blood.

The Man pointed to the Highway of Holiness, but many just  
blew their horn

And rudely whizzed right past Him. Some even mocked Him  
in scorn.

I stopped and rolled down my window, and the Man came  
over to me.

"Where will this highway take me?" I asked most skeptically.

The Man smiled and gently answered, "It will take you to  
a wonderful place

Of everlasting joy and rest in the glory of God's grace."

"Then why are so few people on it? There must be a catch," I said.

"The way is not always easy," the Man answered,  
shaking His head.

"Oh, you will find Love and Joy and Peace on the road to Paradise,  
But sometimes the way will be rough and hard with persecution  
and sacrifice.

But the times of suffering that you endure are not worthy to compare  
With the glory in Heaven that waits for you, with all the saints  
to share."

I wanted to have this glory, but doubts still clouded my mind.  
I glanced at the Highway of Pleasure, not wanting to leave it  
behind.

I asked the Man, "How will I know where to go and be sure of  
the right thing to do?"

"I've travelled this road Myself," He said, "and I've paved the way  
for you.

I've left you a road map to show you the way. The Bible is all  
you need.

And I will go with you and not leave you alone if my words you will  
faithfully heed."

The Man's loving words convinced me, and my heart felt warm  
and blessed,

And I knew that the road to travel was the Highway of Holiness.

The Man waved to me as I drove past, determined to do His  
commands,

And it was only then that I noticed the nail prints in His hands.

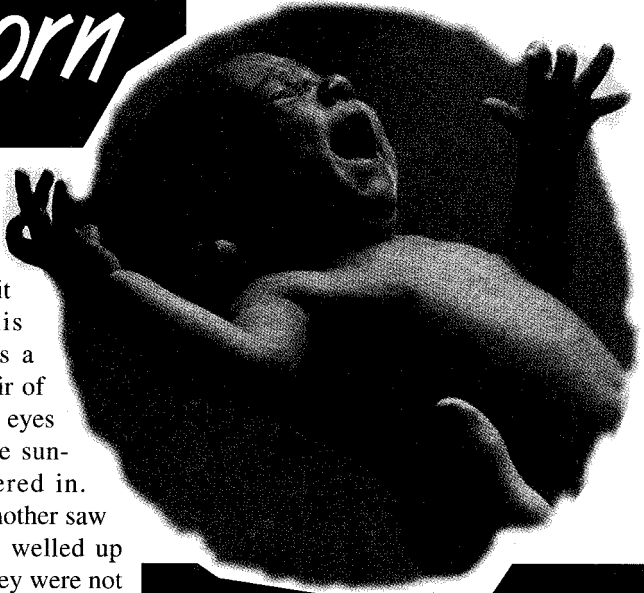
— Tami Brown



*Born*

“...The new-born cried lustily as it came into this world. It was a bonny child, fair of complexion, its eyes squinting at the sunlight that filtered in. But when the mother saw her baby, tears welled up in her eyes. They were not tears of joy.

“Chinnammal had seen the sex of the child: a girl. What crossed her mind was not the anticipation of the joys of motherhood but the trials that lay ahead. How could a family of daily-wage agricultural workers belonging to the Kallar group of the Thevar community afford to bring up and marry off two daughters? How could they, when the dowry demanded by bridegrooms was always astronomical? The couple had decided to have a second child only in the desperate hope that it would be a boy. But on this sunny



*to Die!*

day, the dream lay shattered.

“There was only one way out of a lifetime burden of bringing up two daughters. And Kuppusamy decided what they had to do. That evening he trudged — somewhat unsteadily — into a nearby field, plucked a handful of oleander berries that are known for their lethal poison, and returned home. Chinnammal mashed them into a

## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

milky paste and fed her crying infant with the substance. The parents then shut the small door of their hut, sat outside, and waited for the poison to do its work.

“Within an hour the baby began to twitch and tremble fitfully. Slowly she started spouting blood

through her mouth and nose. The parents heard her whining. A few more minutes and all was quiet. Chinnammal knew that everything was over. She quietly walked over to her mother’s hut close by, dug a little patch of ground inside, and buried the dead baby.” (India Today)

**From the portals of our refined civilized world** we read reports of practices on the opposite side of the world and we react with shock, horror, and disbelief that such barbaric things are done in this age of culture and enlightenment.

In our world of legalities, a girl may give birth to an unwanted baby and then stuff it into a garbage can to die. For her crime, the young mother will be charged with murder, and society will condemn her cruelty.

On the other side of the spectrum, a woman clamors for “Pro Choice” laws that allow her to choose what takes place inside her body. If she decides that she doesn’t want to carry a “fetus” (not “baby”) to full term and give birth to it, she can make an appointment at an abortion clinic and then dress up and go to that clean, modern-looking place that smells of anesthesia to have her baby’s brains sucked out of its skull.

Neither society nor the courts will condemn her actions. After all, by the use of acceptable terminology and approved procedures, murder by abortion is legal in most parts of this brave world in which we live. If you approve of abortion as a method of birth control, please read on. . .

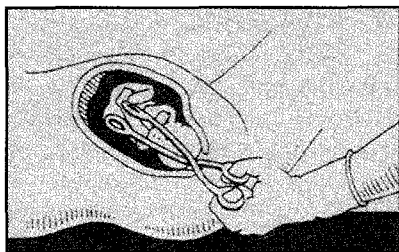
# Partial-Birth Abortion: An Accurate Description

J.C. Willke, MD

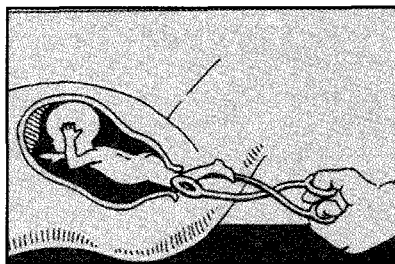
We are all aware of the semantic gymnastics used by the liberal press when describing “Partial Birth Abortion”. They bend over backwards obscuring what actually happens. We cannot control much of that. What we can control is our own description of this procedure. Let me offer a fairly detailed description of this procedure.

A partial birth abortion takes two days of preparation, during which time repeated dehydrated sticks of seaweed are placed in the woman’s cervix. These swell up as they hydrate and slowly stretch

open the mouth of the womb. After 48 hours she is put on the table. The abortionist then reaches through the birth canal, through the cervix, and into the uterus with a grasping forceps. He secures a leg and pulls the leg down and out into the air. Returning with the forceps, he finds the second leg, grabs it and



Guided by ultrasound, the abortionist grabs the baby’s leg with forceps.



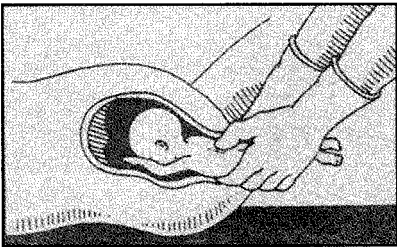
The baby’s leg is pulled out into the birth canal.

pulls it down, also externally through the vagina. He has now converted the intrauterine fetal baby into a breech presentation. These are difficult for us to deliver at full term because it’s like delivering an ice cream cone point first — the

## THE CHRISTIAN HOME

bigger parts come last. In a normal delivery the head comes first, stretching the way, and the rest of the body follows easily.

The abortionist will now put traction on the two legs and deliver the hips and body into the air, which then hangs up at the shoulders with both arms internally pinned alongside the head. Now he must reach-



The abortionist delivers the baby's entire body, except for the head.

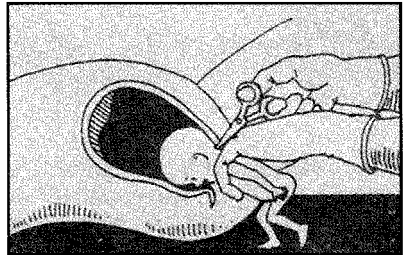
up with his finger and engage one of the arms, flexing the elbow and shoulder as he sweeps this arm down and into the air, delivering it and the shoulder. Returning, he does the same with the other arm and shoulder. Now he tugs on the child a bit more so that the entire body is delivered, leaving only the head, which is through the cervix, lying in the birth canal.

Delivery of the head at 5 or 6 months offers no great problem, for it is still quite small. With one more pull, the abortionist could easily deliver the child's head, but that

would defeat the contract. The contract is to supply a dead baby.

So the abortionist turns the child's body so that the nose is facing the mother's tailbone. At this stage, the baby is kicking, moving its arms and has likely urinated. Now the abortionist, with two fingers, retracts the vaginal ring at the base of the skull, and then plunges a scissors into the base of the skull. This injures or severs the spinal cord and results in instant decerebrate rigidity, that is, a spastic arching of the back and spastic extension of all four extremities.

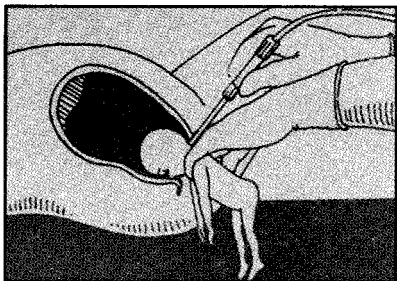
Now the abortionist spreads the



The abortionist stabs scissors into the baby's skull. The scissors are then opened to enlarge the hole.

blades of the scissors and threads a large bore catheter between them and up into the skull. Attaching the catheter to a powerful suction, he sucks out the brains. This kills the baby, and with one more gentle pull, he delivers the head. He has achieved the successful delivery of

a dead baby.



The scissors are removed and a suction catheter is inserted. The baby's brains are sucked out. The dead baby is then delivered fully and disposed of, most probably for body parts and research.

Almost universally I have read that the brains are sucked out "in order to collapse the skull so that it may be delivered." This is simply incorrect. The suction of the brain is not done to collapse the skull. The purpose of the procedure is to kill the baby.

Another biologic falsehood has to do with various ways of describing where the head is or where parts

of the body are. At that point in the delivery the cervix has been fully dilated to allow the head to pass through. Very probably the head has passed through the cervix by the time the infanticide occurs. Certainly, the head lies in the vagina, the external birth canal. We must emphasize that the entire body of the baby is out in the air, that the arms and legs are waving and that urination frequently occurs during this part of the birth procedure.

I might note the happening, at times, of what is called an "oops" delivery. This is when the abortionist has delivered all of the child except the head and is preparing to kill him, when the mother gives one big push and the head pops out.

Now he has living child in his arms, and he says, "Oops."

I offer..this detailed description, as the descriptions we read and hear are typically factually inaccurate. †

**J.C. Willke, MD is a retired family physician with more than 40 years of clinical experience.**

Illustrations courtesy of  
Oregon National Right to Life.

### EXODUS 21:22,23:

IF MEN FIGHT, AND HURT A WOMAN WITH CHILD SO THAT SHE GIVES BIRTH PREMATURELY, YET NO LASTING HARM FOLLOWS, HE SHALL SURELY BE PUNISHED ACCORDINGLY AS THE WOMAN'S HUSBAND IMPOSES ON HIM; AND HE SHALL PAY AS THE JUDGES DETERMINE.

BUT IF ANY LASTING HARM FOLLOWS THEN YOU SHALL GIVE LIFE FOR LIFE.

# When People Make Themselves To Be Gods

Betty Burton Choate

During World War II, German leadership, through the nation's doctors, began a program to eliminate from their society all those who were not physically "perfect". They built gas chambers to which they brought patients from mental institutions and then watched them die, as "research".

Pediatricians submitted defective children for extermination: first, the idiots, the mentally retarded, then the slow learners, and finally even children who were bed-wetters or had misshapen ears.

Homes for the aged were emptied next. People who had outlived their usefulness were simply terminated. From the institutions, doctors went out into the communities and dragged in to their death chambers any who were mentally or physically defective.

The campaign against imperfection was extended to include

racess of people within their borders whom they termed inferior, and all who could be counted a liability — financially, or as physical burdens. The end result was that an entire race of Gypsies was eliminated, more than 6,000,000 Jews, and probably an equal number of Poles, Russians and central Europeans, were mercilessly slaughtered.

Many films, both documentary and narrative, have been made to inform the world of the atrocities which were committed. These films show the murder, the starvation, the inhumane experiments that were conducted, the dragging of still-living skeletal human bodies to trenches for mass burial, and many other brutalities too terrible to describe. Watching such unspeakable horrors, even on the screen, makes one nauseous and imbeds in the mind pictures of unbearable anguish.

We call this horror "The

Holocaust", and it is looked on as one of the darkest blots on the record of human treatment of humans. Even today, doctors, political leaders, and military authorities who were responsible for the murders are being hunted. When one is found, he is tried and convicted as a heinous criminal.

That holocaust is history. It took place more than fifty years ago. Men have become more civilized since then, and surely if any nation rose up again in such abuse of the human rights of its own citizens, the entire world would respond in anger to crush that nation into the dirt.

*But humanity, in its pride of being civilized, and reveling in the advances of modern technology, has brainwashed itself again with the thinking of the Germans. Among us is the reasoning that certain select people deserve to live and work and play and prosper, even if it means the death of other humans.*

The methods of extermination today are not the Jewish concentration camps, or the gas chambers, or the burial of still-living humans in mass trenches. Nevertheless, the modern methods have been well-thought-out — again, doctors and scientists have taken the lead —



### Suction Abortion at 10 weeks.

and the deeds are done with the latest in equipment and technology. Consider these methods of execution:

**Suction Aspiration:** Using an extremely powerful suction tube with a knife-like edge on the tip, the doctor sucks the body into a container. In the process, the living human is literally pulled apart. Any shreds which remain are scraped away with the knife edge and are also sucked into the container so that the whole can be disposed of.

**"D & C":** No suction is used in this procedure. The human is simply cut into small pieces and then scraped into a container.

**Prostaglandin:** This is a drug developed for the specific purpose of removing a human from a protected environment, in which he can live, and putting him out where he will surely die

— and he does die, either through total neglect on the part of the doctor, or through the aid of the doctor.



**Death by Salt Poisoning Abortion.**

**Saline Poisoning:** In this procedure, the human — imprisoned in a small cell — is submerged in a salt solution. He breathes it, he swallows it, he is poisoned internally by it — drowning in it — and his outer flesh is literally burned away by the concentrated salt “bath”. After suffering an excruciating death, the body without its protective outer skin is a raw mass of tortured flesh.

**Hysterotomy:** In this method of execution, the human is taken from the atmosphere in which he was designed to live and he is thrown into one which does not supply the elements required for survival. If he does not die immediately, he may be smothered

by the doctor who did the surgery of removal.

**The sixth method** currently in use is the latest and most sophisticated in technology. A small incision is made in the back of the neck, at the base of the brain. Through a suction tube, the brain is sucked from the skull of the living human being.

Many of these bodies are sacked up in garbage bags and disposed of as refuse. However, science is learning more and more about ways to use organs and tissue from the discarded bodies. Certain tissue is useful in skin creams, advertised as able to restore the appearance of youth to aged cells. Other tissue is useful in treating Parkinson’s Disease. It has even been found that eggs taken from the ovaries of dead females can be fer-



**A garbage bag of refuse from society.**



tilized and embryos can be developed for further research. Actually, the medical and experimental use of these executed human beings is only beginning to be realized, so the market will flourish in years to come.

Since 1973, more than *35,000,000 people have suffered such execution in the United States*. In Japan and Russia, where these practices have been legal even longer, a much larger number has died helplessly in the hands of doctors who should have been pledged to give life. China controls population growth through forced abortions. These figures are not the exception — they are the typical story throughout the “civilized” world. Literally hundreds of millions of people have been mercilessly slaughtered by the most inhumane and criminal means during the past four decades.

### Seeing Life From Conception

Until 1965 it was possible to see a human only after he was born. Then technology introduced cameras which can actually photograph the egg and the sperm as they are united to form the first cell. Every change which takes place in the development of the human body during the first nine months of existence has now been photographed. These incredible facts have been documented:

**At Conception:** With the union of the female egg and the

male sperm, life begins. *Every particle* of the adult human is contained in the program of DNA in that *first single cell* —height, hair color, eye color, sex, the design for individual features, and even much of the basic temperament is genetically determined in the formation of that first complete cell!

**3 Weeks:** The body is beginning to take recognizable shape, with the development of all basic organs, including the brain.

**4 Weeks:** There is a heart-beat.

**8 Weeks:** The baby is 1 1/2 inches long, has all its organs, with hands, feet, and limbs. With the means of ultrasound, fingerprints and footprints can be seen.

**10 Weeks:** The baby is active, and the mother begins to feel its movements. It sucks its thumb, jumps, and can scratch its head.

**11 Weeks:** At 3 inches long, and 1 ounce in weight, the baby is a complete person. Its heart beats, its brain functions, all its involuntary body systems are in place and functioning. It sleeps, dreams, hears, feels, urinates, and has bowel movements. It is at this age that the baby is in the greatest danger of being exterminated by a combined mother-doctor team.

**4 Months:** The baby frowns, turns its head, kicks its feet, grasps with its hands.

**7 Months:** The baby can open its eyes and respond to light. It also responds to sound.

**8 Months:** The body is fully developed; the number of brain cells is complete. The baby needs only a little more growth in order to safely leave its protected environment and live in the world as an individual human.

**9 Months:** At this point, the cerebral cortex, the part of the brain associated with thought and consciousness, is fully developed. The baby is ready to be born.

“Pro-choice” is a popular expression, implying that a woman should have the choice of whether a baby growing inside her body is allowed to live there for nine months and be born, or whether she is free to get rid of it. Her reasons for eliminating the baby may be varied, and they may be entirely her own or she may be influenced by the baby’s father or her own family. These are some of the reasons:

- ◆ She is young and unmarried, and the baby is an unwanted embarrassment which will become a financial and emotional hardship.

- ◆ She may not want to interrupt her career.

- ◆ She already has all the children she wants, and she and her husband think this one would be a burden.

- ◆ She finds through ultrasound that this baby is not the

sex she wanted, so she prefers not to let it live. In some countries the dowry system makes girl babies very unpopular. *In times past it was not uncommon for unwanted girls to be poisoned at birth, and this still happens. But ultrasound has made it possible for parents to learn the sex of the baby early in the pregnancy, so millions of little girls are aborted. In India, already there are 50,000,000 more young boys than girls. As the new technology sweeps through the small towns and rural areas, and as people learn that they can so easily get rid of all those burdensome girls, what will be the situation in ten years or twenty years? Where will those millions of men find wives?*

- ◆ In a small percentage of cases, it is determined that the baby is defective.

- ◆ In another small percent, the baby is the result of rape or incest.

Regardless of the reasons, when mothers, doctors, families, and society decide that murder — *as was described in the six methods of abortion* — is the solution to problems or inconveniences, a terrible price of innocent blood will have to be paid.

Throughout God’s word, no distinction is made between the baby before birth and after birth. Of John the Baptist, Luke 1:40 says, “...*the babe leaped in her womb.*” Of Jesus, Matthew 1:18 says, “...*she*

*was found with child...*" David said in Psalm 139:13-16 that God had formed his inward parts, that He had woven him in his mother's womb, that while he was being skillfully wrought God saw his substance which was yet unformed, and that in God's book all of David's members were written when as yet there were none of them! What a vivid description of **the embryonic state in the development of a human being!**

In Exodus 21:22,23, the law said, "*If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no lasting harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him. . . but if any lasting harm follows, then you shall give life for life.*"

God's judgment was clear: if the injury caused only premature birth, the matter of suitable punishment was left for the husband to decide. But if the baby died, the punishment for death came under *God's jurisdiction*, and His requirement was **life for life.**

Humans have elevated themselves to become gods. They think that they need only pronounce a thing as acceptable, and it is so. But *murder is inherently wrong*, no matter what name it is called by, and **God Himself will require the payment for innocent blood.**

Crime, hardness, disease, death,

guilt, suicide and many other horrors will grow even more rampant as a result of the evil effects of abortion. Even in this life, the bill to be paid is a huge one. But eternity is before us, when those who have taken these millions of lives will stand without defense before the Giver of life and answer to Him.

**Can those who had no mercy on the children of their own bodies expect God in His righteousness to have mercy?**

Parents, God does not want us to bring into the world more children than we can care for, but neither does He condone the murder of innocent babies as a birth-control method, and as a convenient way to limit population growth. Wouldn't better solutions be adoption, or preferably still, self control?

God has given us minds and consciences. Let us use our minds to plan our families and to love and protect the children we bring into the world. Let us listen to our consciences concerning the sacredness of human life, because God has built into the nature of humans the realization that murder is wrong. Let us hear God and be preservers of life — not destroyers. †

**Betty Burton Choate is a Christian wife and mother, living in Winona, Mississippi, USA.**

*Permission for the use of the abortion photographs granted by Hayes Publishing Co., Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.*

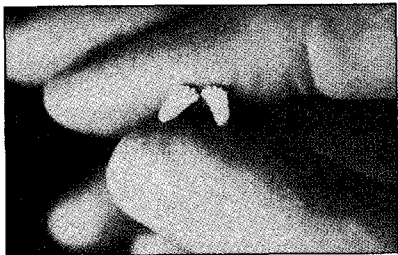
# How?

Little one,  
Forming yet inside your mother,  
Only eight weeks old,  
Only just beginning. . .

I marvel at this wonder,  
This "ultra sound"  
That lets me see your pulsing heart,  
Your tiny shape,  
So long before your're born.

She'd said there was a baby,  
Yet somehow you didn't seem quite real to me  
— or to others —  
yet.

But today I see you  
And I sit here  
Watching,  
Asking,  
"How could any mother see her baby



Abortionists say this is not a human; that it is not life. What does it look like to you?

As I see you now,  
A vibrant  
Living  
Separate  
Helpless human being,  
And then choose for it  
A blood-soaked  
Sentencing of death?"

— Betty Burton Choate

Photograph courtesy of Oregon National Right to Life.



# How do you measure up?

If anyone desires to come after Me,  
let him deny himself,  
and take up his cross daily,  
and follow Me.

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it,  
but whoever loses his life  
for My sake will save it.

For what profit is it to a man  
if he gains the whole world,  
and is himself destroyed or lost?

For whoever is ashamed of Me  
and My words,

of him the Son of Man will be ashamed  
when He comes in His own glory,  
and in His Father's,  
and of the holy angels.

Luke 9:23-26





Light travels faster than sound, which explains why some folks appear bright until they speak.



A stranger in town stopped to look over a college campus. Meeting a student, he asked, "What's the name of this school?" "Sorry, man, I don't know," said the boy. "I'm just here on a football scholarship."



Uncle Clarence is so old that when he was in school they didn't even have history!



Sign in a local paint store: "Husbands choosing colors must have a signed note from the wife."

An elderly lady was filling out the registration form at a doctor's office. After asking for the her address, the form inquired about her "Zip." She wrote, "Not bad for my age."



This message appears on a grave marker in Burlington, Vermont: "She lived with her husband 50 years and died in the confident hope of a better life somewhere."



Cousin Sally to department store clerk behind the exchange counter: "It's this gift certificate – I'd like to exchange it for a larger size."



Bible class teacher: "What parable in the Bible do you like best?"  
Little boy: "The one about the fellow that loafs and fishes."



A thoughtful kid is one who always leaves enough gas in the tank for his dad to get to the service station.

## PROVERBS 17:22

Bulletin Bloop: "Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance."



Susie, a lively five-year old, had just spent a week on a dude ranch with her parents. She told her pre-school teacher, "I even saw a man who makes horses."

The teacher asked, "Are you sure?"

"Oh, yes," Susie replied. "He had a horse nearly finished when I saw him, and he was just nailing his feet on."



The preacher shocked the congregation when he announced that he was resigning and moving to another city. After the service a very distraught lady came to him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, brother Bob, we are going to miss you so much. We don't want you to leave!"

The preacher patted her hand and said, "Now, now, Mary Jane, don't carry on. The preacher who takes my place might be even better than me."

She responded, "Oh, yeah? That's what they said the LAST time too!"

Wise old Willie says there is one good thing about middle-age spread: it brings people closer together.



Employer: "Sure, I can give you a job. Sweep out the store."

Applicant: "But, Sir, I'm a college graduate."

Employer: "Don't worry, I'll show you."



A large two-engine passenger train was crossing the country. After it had gone some distance, one of the engines broke down.

"No problem," the engineer thought, and they continued on at half power. Farther on down the line, the other engine also broke down, and the train came to a standstill.

The engineer decided he should inform the passengers about why the train had stopped, so he made the following announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that both engines have failed, and we will be stuck here for some time. The good news is that this is a train and not a plane."

# Quick Commentary on Crucial Verses

## Hebrews 12:14-17

Pursue peace with all men, and (holiness) without which no one will see the Lord:

looking diligently lest any one fall short of the grace of (God); lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was (rejected), for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Esau made such a mess of his life that even though he could bitterly feel regret — even to the point of tears —, he could not turn back the clock and undo his wrong decisions or their tragic consequences. Christians must live in awareness of the same very real danger.

"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18). Christians are to be "...partakers of His holiness" (Hebrews 12:10). Only through the development of such traits in our lives can we hope to see the Lord eternally.

The Christian life is not a "casual club membership". It is a life of diligence. Though it is ONLY by the extension of God's grace that we can be saved, without DILIGENT WATCHFULNESS we are most likely to fall short of the point that can be reached by His grace and mercy. When bitterness pervades our lives instead of peace and holiness, many are hurt and even corrupted by our influence.

Esau should have been the son through whom the lineage of the Messiah was traced. But his life was one of immorality and lack of respect for holy things. Because of the wrong choices he made in marriage, in behavior, and in life, he proved himself unworthy of being the heir of the promises of God to his forefathers.



# FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST

*"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

1 John 1:7

## LED BY THE LIGHT

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* Psalm 119:105

*"The entrance of thy word giveth light"* Psalm 119:130

*"I am the light"* John 8:12

## WALKING BY FAITH

## JOINED WITH CHRIST

Baptized into Christ  
Galatians 3:27

Baptized into One Body  
1 Corinthians 12:13

Fellowship Gained in Him  
1 John 1:3

## CLEANSED FROM SIN

## CLEANSED BY BLOOD

Baptized into His Death  
Romans 6:3-6

Redemption by His Blood  
Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14

Washed from Our Sins  
Revelation 1:5

## REGULAR CLEANSING

FELLOWSHIP IS IN THE LIGHT

NO FELLOWSHIP IN DARKNESS

Dillard Thurman

# Condemnation by Example

**E. Claude Gardner**

## **I. Introduction**

- A.** Condemnation of our sins may be by direct rebuke or by example.
- B.** The basic text: Matthew 12:38-42.
  - 1. The critics of Jesus reproved.
  - 2. Jesus indicates that men may be condemned by the good example of others.

## **II. Discussion**

- A.** Two cases used by Jesus to condemn.
  - 1. Nineveh repented but Jews rejected Christ.
  - 2. Queen of the south heard the wisdom of Solomon but the Jews refused to hear Him.
- B.** Others who can “rise up in the judgment” against our generation.
  - 1. Noah condemns the faithless and disobedient (Hebrews 11:7).
  - 2. Paul condemns those who complain of hardships (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).
  - 3. First century church can rise against the twentieth century church because it preached the gospel to the world (Colossians 1:23).
  - 4. Eunuch who went hundreds of miles to worship can witness against those who do not attend worship even though they live near the meeting place (Acts 8:27).
  - 5. The Macedonians can condemn some on the way they give to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).
  - 6. Gideon can rebuke those who refuse to turn against their fathers’ religion when they know it is false (Judges 6:25).
  - 7. Abraham condemns those who obey not the commands of God (Genesis 22:1).

## **III. Conclusion**

- A.** These Bible examples should encourage us in our duty.
- B.** We should prepare for the day of judgment. †

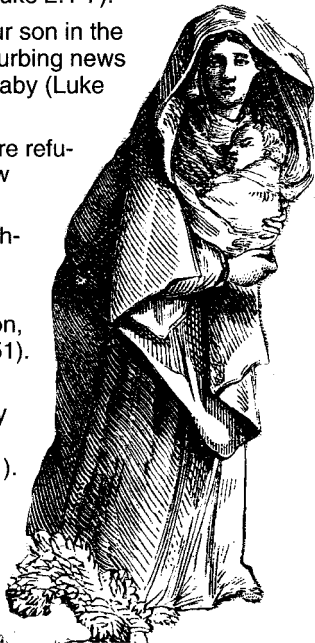
**E. Claude Gardner is President-Emeritus of Freed Hardeman University of Henderson, Tennessee, USA.**

# Who Am I?

Can you identify me? Read each clue and think carefully. If you guess my name after the first clue, give yourself a score of 100 points. If you know who I am only after the fifth clue, your score is 60, etc.

When you are sure of my identity, look up the passages of scripture following each clue to verify the facts from God's word.

1. **100** My ancestors included many famous people, including Perez, Judah, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, Noah and Adam (Luke 3:33-38).
2. **90** Oh, yes, King David was my ancestor too, so I was of "royal blood" (Luke 3:31,32).
3. **80** I was a village girl from Galilee, married at an early age to a man who was hesitant about proceeding with the wedding (Luke 1:26,27; Matthew 1:19,20).
4. **70** My firstborn arrived during a census when my ancestral town was so crowded we couldn't find a hotel (Luke 2:1-7).
5. **60** When my husband and I presented our son in the temple, an old man told me some disturbing news about the future for both me and my baby (Luke 1:25-35).
6. **50** When my baby was very young we were refugees in a neighboring country (Matthew 2:13-15).
7. **40** I had a total of 5 sons and some daughters (Matthew 13:55,56).
8. **30** Through the years there were many things I didn't understand about my son, so I kept them all in my heart (Luke 2:51).
9. **20** Though for centuries young women in Israel had lived with the hope that they would be the mother of the Messiah, I was the one God chose (Luke 1:30,31).
10. **10** Men have dared to call me "Mother of God", but this is absolutely contrary to the Scriptures. Through me a body was prepared, but the Word, who inhabited that body, existed from eternity (John 1:1-3,14).



**My Score** \_\_\_\_\_

*See answer on inside back cover.*

The apostle Paul was a prisoner in Jerusalem. The Jews sought to kill him because of his great faith and boldness of speech in condemning sin.

Forty of them took an oath that they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul (Acts 23:12, 13). Paul's nephew learned of the plot and told his uncle (verse 16). Paul sent the young man to the chief captain, to inform him of the sinister plot.

The authorities decided to move Paul to Caesarea, the administrative center of Roman rule in Palestine, for trial. *They gathered 470 troopers to transport one prisoner* (Acts 23:23)!

Claudius Lysias, the Roman tribune in charge of troops in Jerusalem, wrote a letter to the governor in Caesarea telling him that Paul had done nothing worthy of death or of bonds (23:29).

The Jews quickly arranged a trial, appointing a mighty orator, Tertullus, to present charges against Paul (24:1). He charged Paul with being "*a pestilent fellow ...and a mover of sedition*" (verse 5).

### Courtroom Scene

Antonius Felix was governor of Caesarea from AD 52-59. He was not



## The Man Who Said “Tomorrow”

Betty Tucker

## BIBLE CHARACTERS

a man of high morals. Historian Tacitus described him as being utterly merciless and a master of cruelty.

In your mind's eye, picture the courtroom scene. Felix on the throne — his wife, Drusilla, nearby — was ready to hear Paul's testimony (24:24). Paul, probably dressed in rough clothes, approached the throne. What were his thoughts as he looked over the pompous gathering?

Paul declared his innocence. No doubt he then spoke of his faith, and declared unto them a Living God who demanded right living. He directed them to the Sacred Scriptures, and the judgment to come.

This faithful man of God proclaimed the old, old story to that royal assembly, hoping to convince Governor Felix. He wanted to kindle a like precious faith in this man who served as governor.

But, it was not to be. Felix heard the sermon. We can only wonder what the man felt in his innermost being. Terror? Certain knowledge of a judgment to come? The writer of Acts tells us that Felix "*trembled*" (24:25).

This man who sat on the throne had an opportunity to obey the Gospel. He could have accepted it, and history would have been different. Rather, proud Felix sent Paul away, choosing not to respond to the invitation of the Lord.

He said, "*When I have a convenient season, I will call for you*" (24:25). There is no record that Felix ever obeyed. The choice was his. He chose to wait until "*tomorrow,*" **and tomorrow never came!**

Every day, throughout the world, there are people who hear the Gospel as Felix did, who tremble at the thought of meeting God with the guilt of their sins, and who come to that point of decision. Will they submit in humility and obey God, or will they say as did Felix, "*When it is more convenient. . . tomorrow. . .*"? †

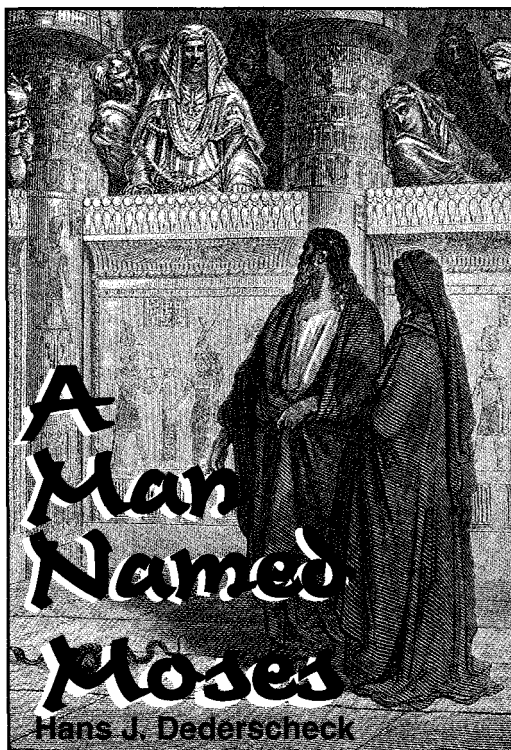
**Betty Tucker is a Christian writer living in Linden, Tennessee, USA.**

**Desire is a treasure map.  
Knowledge is the treasure chest.  
Wisdom is the jewel.  
Yet, without action, they all stay buried.**

**E**xodus, the second book of the Pentateuch, talks about Moses and his great deeds. Its name means “departure” and it speaks about the leaving of Israel from Egypt. Right here Israel’s national life began.

Manetho declares that Moses left Egypt during the reign of Amasis (Amosis), the Theban prince who drove the Hyksos kings off the throne, at the beginning of the eighteenth dynasty. At that time Moses was about 40 years of age. This event would lead to the conclusion that the enslavement of the people of Israel began during the reign of the Hyksos kings in Egypt.

The fact that a king arose who did not know Joseph does not mean that such a king came to power during Joseph’s lifetime. It is probable that the new Egyptian dynasty would have arisen after his death. The answers to some of these ancient questions remain shrouded in the mists of time. Though these *events* as recorded in the Scriptures are true historically, there is some debate about the actual slot of Egyptian chronology into which they fit. As more archaeo-



logical evidence becomes available, perhaps more of these questions will be answered.

Even though these are interesting *historical* studies, there are *spiritual* lessons in Exodus that are of even greater relevance to Christians today. Many points in Exodus were “shadows” of the coming redemption, as related to the atoning work of the Messiah, the Christ.

Moses was a central figure in the history of Israel, and a great prophet. He was the one who liber-

## BIBLE CHARACTERS

ated Israel; he was a leader and law-giver sent by God to fulfill a special era on the road to the Messiah.

The new institutions given by Moses to Israel show a strict Messianic character. The first national institution in this system was the Passover celebration. The New Testament reveals its full Messianic meaning. It commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egypt, which was a shadow of the Christian's deliverance from sin. After our Lord Jesus and His apostles ate the Jewish Passover Supper, Jesus formally instituted the Lord's Supper which is to be observed perpetually by His people as the memorial of His atoning sacrifice for sin..

Paul said: "*for even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us*" (1 Corinthians 5:7). This statement of the apostle shows us that there was a deep significance in this Old Testament institution.

The institution of the priestly office was also a Messianic unfolding. The tribe of Levi was in charge of that ministry. The family of Aaron was selected as the high priestly family and, in Aaron, Christ was typified as the Great High Priest of the New Covenant.

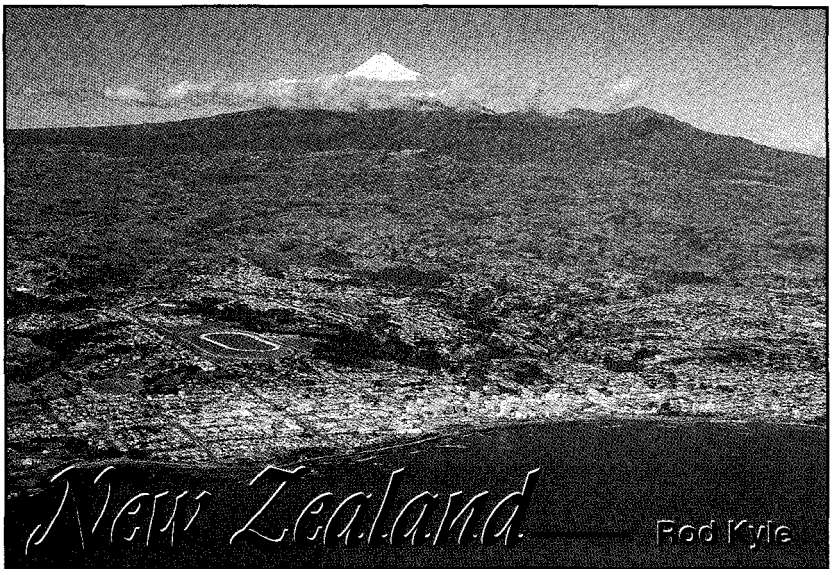
Moses was the great hero of the Mosaic Age in the Old Testament, the *shadow* of Jesus Christ who is the *reality*. Peter quoted Moses after he opened the kingdom of God

on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, saying: "*A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet [Jesus Christ], shall be destroyed from among the people*" (Acts 3:22,23).

*"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.*

*"And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: **'Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts....'**" (Hebrews 3:1-8). †*

**Hans J. Dederscheck is an evangelist in the country of Austria.**



As a result of the world-wide flood, this land mass, later named Aotearoa (by the first Polynesian settlers) became an isolated, floating ark of varied bird life and sub-tropical flora in the southern Pacific.

Comprised of two main islands covering 270,534 square kilometres, this land of high mountains, beautiful valleys, fertile plains and well-stocked rivers and lakes was a welcome “end-of-the-journey” destination for the intrepid Polynesian adventurers at the close of the first millennium. They, in turn, first sighted Europeans around 1642.

The Europeans returned in 1769, and although 10 of Captain James Cook’s crew were eaten, he mapped and explored the coast line during three successive visits. From this contact, English interest in the Land-of-the-Long-White Cloud was developed. Trade was commenced from Australia in 1791. Whaling, seals and flax were the first commodities sourced from this most distant land.

Temporary stop-over sites soon became permanent settlements, the first being an Anglican Mission station in northern New Zealand in 1814. The merging of two cultures had begun, and the catalyst was religion. The first Bible in Maori was translated in 1827. All the major English denominations had established mission stations by 1830, so when Thomas Jackson, a Christian and product of the restoration movement in Scotland, arrived in



## FROM THE HEART OF . . .

Nelson, New Zealand in 1844 he found groups of Bible-respecting souls in almost every European settlement. He wrote the following letter concerning his experiences:

**Dear brother Wallis,**

**My object in writing to you is to inform you that I left my native land on the 6th July 1843, and arrived here on the 2nd November following.**

**I have at present not much to say about the country; things appear in a very unsettled state.**

**When I arrived, there was not one Christian disciple to be found in this part of the Island, and I am much persecuted for assuming such a name.**

**It is with great pleasure that I have to impart the gratifying intelligence that I have lived to plant in this place a small congregation according to the apostolic order.**

**In March 2nd, 1844, I preached the same gospel that Peter did on the day of Pentecost at Jerusalem. I baptised the household of Thomas Butler; this makes our number five. There is another who, I hope, will soon put on the Lord Jesus Christ by being born of the water and the spirit.**

From these small beginnings, the church of Christ was established on the shores of this newly acquired British Colony.

The history of God's people paralleled the nation's history in many ways. The young nation went through numerous growth difficulties, eventually becoming by 1956 one of the wealthiest and socially advanced nations in the world. Spiritually, in spite of many hardships, the gospel spread throughout the land and by 1900 there were 21 independent congregations ordered according to God's New Testament pattern (Romans 6:17). All of these were amongst the European population.

In the first phase of the history of the Lords church in New Zealand (1800's), the emphasis was upon public meetings, oral debate, the Sunday school programme and mission work. This certainly met the need of the time. Many settlers, arriving with their Bibles in their luggage, quickly saw the sense behind the restoration plea, and embraced it. Public preaching of the word found receptive audiences throughout the length and breadth of the nation. This rapid growth allowed churches in New Zealand to send missionaries such as John Sheriff to the far-away places of Rhodesia and South Africa, preaching Christ. Other mission points included the Solomon

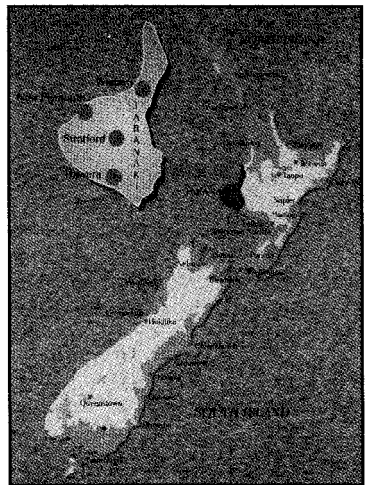
## FROM THE HEART OF . . .

Islands and the New Hebrides. Many congregations in these lands today trace their history back to the outreach of the church of Christ in New Zealand.

But gradually the doctrines and practices of this movement metamorphosed and the plain teachings of the New Testament were compromised. The Head of the church of Christ had earnestly prayed, “*..that they may be one; even as thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that thou didst send Me*” (John 17:21).

In spite of the prayer of Christ concerning the unity of His followers, the following doctrinal compromises were made: the introduction of the conference system of church government, instrumental music in worship, an indiscriminate acceptance of religionists into the fellowship of the church (whether or not they had been baptised into Christ for the remission of their sins) the employment of preachers from the U.S. regardless of their doctrinal positions, the adoption of the ecumenical principle and the rejection of the restoration principle as the basis of unity, the establishment of Leith Bible College in Dunedin, whose director was committed to a liberal view of scripture, the graduating of students who were more fully acquainted with the words of Karl Barth than the Words of Christ, the silence of those who knew enough scripture to realize that these trends were sinful, and their continued fellowshiping of apostate congregations, and lastly, the abandonment of an aggressive evangelistic fervor for reaching both religious and non-religious souls.

Indeed, by the early part of the 20th century the prognosis for the body of Christ in New Zealand was near terminal. But the story does not end there. Beginning with J.A. Hudson in 1936, North American missionaries visited these struggling congregations and the restoration movement again prospered in this land. Many U.S. and U.K. Christians moved to the Islands and re-established growing congregations in the following centres: **Auckland** — 1936,



***A map of New Zealand, showing the North Island, the South Island, and Taranaki.***

## FROM THE HEART OF . . .

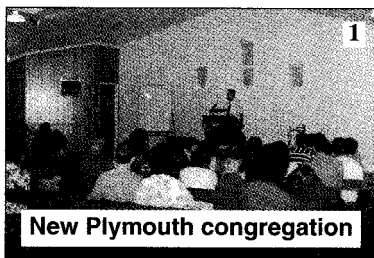
John Allan Hudson. **Nelson** — 1955, Paul Matthews and Bill Watts. **Invercargill** — 1958, Hugh Counts. **Tauranga** — 1958, Peter Merrick, Paul Matthews. **Wellington** — 1963, Eddie Cantrell, Doyal Wright, Jerry Starling. **Auckland** — 1960, Russell Wilson. **Hamilton** — 1961, Dan Jenkins, Ron Coleman. **Dunedin** — 1959, James King. **Christchurch** — 1965, Jim Woodroof, Marvin Alison, Charlie Walton. **Napier** — 1967, Jack Harriman, Roy Dunavin, David Dennis. **Hastings** — 1968, Jerry Starling. **Rotorua** — 1969, Rex Merrick. **Gisborne** — 1963, Pat Pari. **Palmerston North** — 1976, Ian Terry, Warwick Badham. **Whangarei** — 1978, Everitt Neill. **New Plymouth** — 1982, Larry Ramey, Allan Fowell. **Lower Hutt** — 1985, Dennis Gresham. **Wanganui** — 1996, Kevin Moore.

But in the revival which began to pick-up momentum post WWII, there was a need for far more variety in outreach methodology. With affluence and socialism throughout the nation came compliancy and agnosticism. The people began to believe they no longer needed to live by faith in their Creator. Their hearts became hard. Now New Zealanders can sadly be described as, by and large, “resistant to the gospel”.

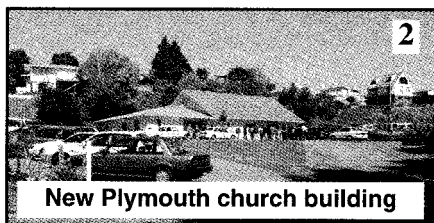
So how did the workers from North America and New Zealand have success?

They continued to publicly proclaim the Word through what we call

‘**Gospel meetings**’ [see photo #1]. They bought land or buildings and established themselves with a perma-



**New Plymouth congregation**



**New Plymouth church building**

nent presence in different parts of

the

nation [see photo #2]. On many occasions, they did much of the construction work themselves (and continue to do so). These locations became an effective means of passive outreach [See photo #3, building sign]. They hosted numerous campaign efforts such as **Treasure of Truth Crusades**, **Campaigns for Christ**, and

**WELCOME!** 3

Christians meet here to worship God according to His New Testament pattern.

All in a new heavenly city to see our King, serve Him, and they see Christ in all the ways He has authorized in His Word.

We meet in New Plymouth as the church of Christ  
(Established, Jerusalem, 30-33 A.D.)

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO ALL OUR SERVICES**

SUNDAY 10:00am New Testament worship  
11:00am All ages Sunday School  
6:30pm Open Bible Study

WEDNESDAY 6:30pm All ages Bible Classes

Ask about our Free Larkins, Moses, Youth, and Individual Home Bible Studies.  
Call our files 1703 16401 or 16402, 1703 29201 with your number.

## FROM THE HEART OF . . .

**Christian College, and Preacher Training School** summer outreach efforts. 100's of workers have participated from North America.

Now, I direct "**New Zealand campaigns for Christ**" using personal workers from around the nation. Over the past decade 12 campaigns have been executed and more than 80 souls have been won as a result [See photos #4 and #5]. They catered for the numerous young people who were converted or whose parents obeyed the gospel and were brought in contact with the



church. Dozens of **Youth Camps** have been conducted throughout the nation [See photo #6]. We even have a **Singles Camp** held annually. Until quite recently, the New Plymouth church hosted an annual **Mountain Climb Day**

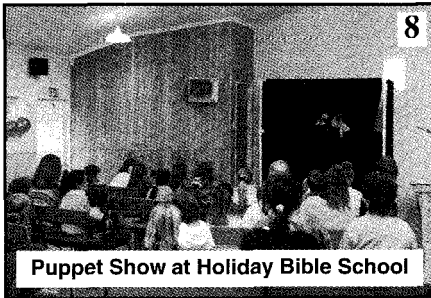
[see photo #7].

**Holiday Bible School** programmes were, and still are, hosted by numerous congregations. These have proven



to be an excellent way to meet the needs of the community [See photo #8]. Almost every congregation in N.Z. has an active **Bible Class programme**. In the church in New Plymouth we have an ongoing "**New Christians Class**" to ground new converts in the sound words of scripture [see

## FROM THE HEART OF . . .



**Puppet Show at Holiday Bible School**

Bible Institute, and have returned from the U.S. to make a significant contribution to the growth of the Lord's work in N.Z. Graham Walker in Palmerston North now operates the **New Zealand Video Bible Institute** so aspiring preachers can equip themselves



**New Christians Class**

photos #9 and 10].

Several semi-permanent **Bible Training Schools** have been conducted to train national preachers. Numerous men have trained at sound schools such as East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions, and Bear Valley

with a good Bible knowledge without leaving home. Four students presently participate in this study course. This work is modeled on the work done by the World Video Bible Institute in Buda, Texas.

In 1999, Mike Tackett's TV programme, "**Keys to the Kingdom**", was first broadcast in New

Zealand through the support of the Westbrook Church of Christ in West Texas. This nation-wide work is now hosted and maintained by the Wellington Church of Christ



**Childrens' Class**



**Wellington Church of Christ**

## FROM THE HEART OF . . .

[see photo # 11].

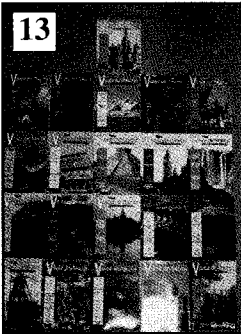
Printed publications have also played a significant role in the growth of the church “down-under”. Many church planting evangelists brought and operated their own printing presses. They have been used to produce leaflets advertising Gospel Missions, printing Bible School materials, books and tracts and to produce soul-winning tools for our indigenous campaign and local soul-winning work.

Numerous brotherhood papers have also been produced over the past 50 years. The latest, and perhaps the high-



12

Wanganui Church of Christ



13

**The Voice of Truth  
International**

**Truth International** is now distributed throughout the brotherhood by the New Plymouth church [see photo #13]. Made available through the work of J.C. and Betty Choate, this publication has been used to exhort and encourage the brethren and as an evangelism tool.

est quality publication is the “**Exhorter**”, edited by Kevin Moore and distributed to every congregation in New Zealand through the Wanganui church [see photo #12].

**The Voice of**



14

**Books distributed through the  
Don Browne Book Fund**

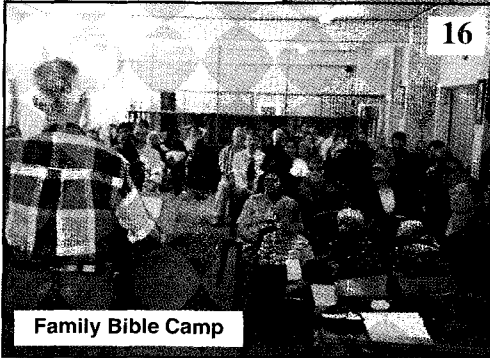
Sound Christian books have also been a useful tool in promoting the growth of the kingdom of Christ “down under”. I presently operate **The Don Browne Book Fund** to distribute, free of charge, such materials to preachers and teachers throughout the nation and the South Pacific [see photo #14]. **Men’s and Ladies’ Challenges** are a part of annual fellow-

## FROM THE HEART OF . . .

ships amongst all the congregations, and annually, at Easter weekend, the New Plymouth Church of Christ hosts a **Bible Lectureship** and **Family camp**. Alan Fowell directs this effort. Attendance has ranged

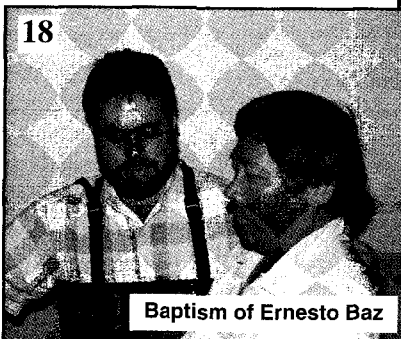


**Bible lectureship at New Plymouth Church of Christ**



**Family Bible Camp**

hours of direct personal work. But Christians in New Zealand stick tenaciously to the task and the Lord has given the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6) [see photo #17].



**Baptism of Ernesto Baz**

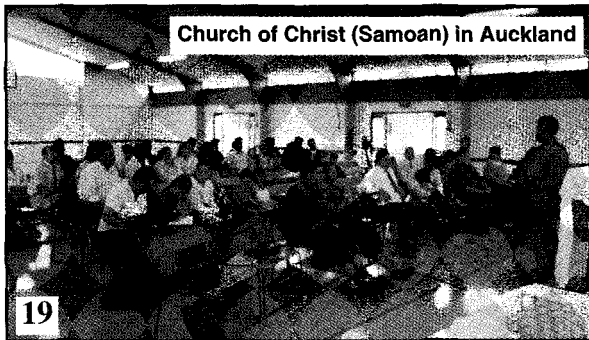


Often souls have been immersed into Christ (Galatians 3:27), who have come from other nations of the world. Ernesto Baz was baptised by Kevin Moore in the work in Wellington some years back [photo # 18]. Ernesto returned to the

from 120 to 160 [see photo #15 & 16].

Growth has not been spectacular, but steady. It takes around 160 to 180 hours of direct soul winning work to see a soul through to baptism. In North America, that time comes down to around 80

Philippines and helped plant a church of Christ, and revived another neighbouring work. This story has been repeated from New Plymouth where converts have returned to their "roots" in



Church of Christ (Samoa) in Auckland

19

Western Samoa to establish and strengthen congregations [see photo #19].

But in spite of our best efforts we must speak the words our Saviour and Head has given to us...

*"So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves, we have done only that which we ought to have done'"* (Luke 17:10).

The heartbreaking lessons of the past have not been totally lost upon this generation. Combined with energetic evangelism is a new emphasis upon knowing and standing on sound doctrine. At least seven congregations are at the forefront of this balanced approach to biblical growth.

With deep and abiding commitment on the part of faithful congregations and Christians now in New Zealand, the church will be well placed to use the nation's economic prosperity in proclaiming the gospel to the regions of the South Pacific and beyond.

*"Thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. For He delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His blessed Son..."* (Colossians 1:12,13).

And may we be...*"Always abounding in the work of the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). — **Rod Kyle**



Rod Kyle family, long-time workers in New Zealand



# Ladies!!! Ladies!!! Ladies!!!

I've been told, "If you want to get something done, ask the ladies to do it!" That statement is true. When we began our literature program in India many years ago we appealed to Ladies' Classes to provide the funds. They responded generously and faithfully, year after year. So I'm asking you again . . .

For the sake of the many people who would learn the truth, here in the USA and abroad, through reading the pages of The Voice of Truth International, we appeal to you who are members of Ladies' Classes in the Lord's church throughout this country to pledge three things to yourself, to God, and to us:

- (1) To take up money each month for at least one box: \$25 per month for 35 copies of each quarterly issue of the magazine.
- (2) Talk to ladies in one sister congregation and enlist their help.
- (3) Use your copies among class members and in doing personal work among friends and contacts, so that they can be a tool of evangelism in your congregation.

## Thanks!!! We're waiting to hear from you!

(Return this form in an envelope, along with your check, to the following address)



**THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL**  
2148 N. National  
Springfield, MO 65803

Att. Byron Nichols

## Dear Sirs:

I want to subscribe to the quarterly magazine, **THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL**. Enclosed is my check for \$12.00 for four issues, or \$20.00 for eight issues, starting with Volume \_\_\_\_\_. **My address is given below.**

I want to order the complete set of volumes in print (32 issues) for the reduced price of \$80.00. **My address is given below.**

Please send special prices for WBS teachers and their students.

I want to **MAKE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION** of **THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL**. Enclosed is my check for \$12.00 for four issues, or \$20.00 for eight issues, starting with Volume \_\_\_\_\_. **The address is given below.**

The church has agreed to send \$25.00 per month (or a multiple), for a box of 35 copies (or multiples) of each issue of the magazine as they are printed. These are to be used in the work of the local church.

Please use my special contribution to send more copies of this issue to the mission fields of the world.

Please accept my check to send a bundle to our missionary. **The address is given below.**

As a congregation we want to help print and circulate 100,000 copies of each issue of this magazine by making a special contribution to this effort. We can specify where the copies we pay for will be used, whether in our personal work, in jail ministry, overseas, or . . .

This congregation wants to have 1000 copies (for \$1000 plus shipping) special-printed of the next issue, with our (our missionary's) address, to be shipped directly to us or to him, as per instructions.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

*Verse Search* — 32 (from page 27)

Who Am I? (page 97)

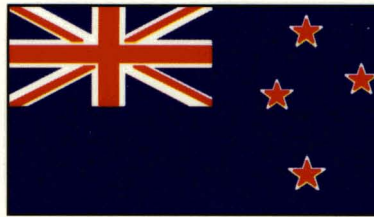
1. A centurion in the Roman army, living in Caesarea, a Gentile.
2. *Devout man; one who feared God with all his household; alms; prayed to God always.*
3. *"He saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying, 'Cornelius!'"*
4. To send to Joppa for Peter who would come and tell him what he must do to be saved.
5. He was in a trance and saw all kinds of animals, which a voice told him to "kill and eat". The lesson was that God is no respecter of persons and that the Gentiles were acceptable to Him as well as the Jews.
6. To go with them, without doubting, because God had sent them.
7. He called together his close friends and relatives.
8. No. Unlike the "Pope" of today, who says wrongly that Peter was the first Pope and that the church was founded on him, Peter refused to be worshiped, saying, "I myself am also a man."
9. That, according to Jewish belief, it was unlawful for him to associate with Gentiles; but through the vision God had taught him that no one was "unclean" in God's sight.
10. He had prayed, fasting, for four days.
11. All the things commanded by God, which is the message all must hear.
12. *"...every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness...."*
13. The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ who is the Lord of all.
14. Jesus, who is Lord of all.
15. The Holy Spirit was poured out on them, to prove their acceptance with God.
16. He commanded them to be baptized and then stayed some days with them.



Mary

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

# New Zealand



**Government:** Parliamentary Democracy

**Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II

**Head of Government:**

Prime Minister Helen Clark

*Information supplied by Rod Kyle*

## Secular Facts:

**Location:** In SW Pacific Ocean, with Australia, Fiji and Tonga as the nearest neighbors.

**Land Mass:** 103,737 square miles.

**Population:** 3,625,000 million.

**Major Cities:** Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch.

**Language:** English (official), Maori

**Literacy:** 100%; Education is compulsory for ages 6-16.

**Religion:** Anglican, 24%; Presbyterian, 18%; Roman Catholic, 15%.

**Ethnic Groups:** European, 88%; Maori, 9%.

**Economy:** *Industries:* Food processing, textiles, machinery, forest products; *Agriculture:* Grains, potatoes, fruits; *Minerals:* Gold, gas, iron, coal; *Livestock:* Sheep, chickens, cattle; *Communications:* TVs: 514 per 1000; Radios: 997 per 1000; Newspapers, 239 per 1000 persons; *Transport:* 1.7 million passenger cars; 2467 miles of train lines; *Life Expectancy:* 74.4, male; 80.9, female.

**Monetary Unit:** New Zealand dollar.

## The Church:

**Congregations:** 23, with approximately 1000 Christians throughout the country.

**History:** The restoration movement began New Zealand in 1843 with the arrival of Thomas Jackson from Scotland. In 1845 he moved from Nelson to Auckland and started another congregation. Christianity thus spread throughout the new and struggling nation, and missionaries were sent into Australia and Southern Africa.

H.S. Earl came in 1867, A. B. Maston in 1880, and by 1900 there were almost 250 members of the body of Christ in 21 congregations. The apostasy that swept through America brought havoc also to the New Zealand church, leaving few sound congregations throughout the entire country.

In 1936 John A. Hudson arrived from Oklahoma to re-establish the church in Auckland. He was the forerunner of many able, hard working missionaries from North America. From that time forward, the plea for New Testament Christianity has resulted in the establishment of 23 congregations, with more than 1000 conversions.

With a continued search for truth-seeking souls, and an emphasis on maintaining the sound doctrine of Scripture, God will continue to bless His people with spiritual and numerical growth.

*Front Cover:* A flock of New Zealand's 60,000,000 sheep, with Mt. Egmont in the background.