Every person would like to be God, if it were possible," said Reinhold Niebuhr; "and some few refuse to admit the impossibility!" This denial of our creaturehood—which Millard Reed calls "the illusion of self-sovereignty"—is the essence of "original sin.

That is what the Genesis account of the Fall is all about. "When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful" (Romans 1:21). Like Adam and Eve, each of us has exchanged the truth of God for the lie the serpent sold the first pair (that if they would assert their independence from God they would be "like God") and "worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever" (Romans 1:25, NASB).

But if the root of sin is unbelief and pride, its fruit is moral corruption and perversity (Romans 1:24-32). "Rebellion against God has created a vacuum in human nature," says D. R. Davies in *Down Peacock's Feathers.* "That vacuum must be filled, if not by God, then by the devil of self. All the lusts and excesses of human behaviour are attempts to satisfy that 'aching void the world can never fill.' Man, as a result of his fall from Divine Grace, is cursed by an infinite craving." The only remedy for our sinful predicament is a restored relationship to God through Jesus Christ and the full renewal of the Holy Spirit in entire sanctification. If the essence of sin is unbelief and pride, the essence of Christian perfection is the wholehearted and joyous acknowledgement of God's lordship over us in creaturely dependence and obedience.

To know the precious grace of heart holiness is to feel our utter dependence on Christ, in a moment-by-moment relation of faith and heart obedience. "None feel their need of Christ like these," John Wesley wrote of those perfected in love. "None so entirely depend upon him. For Christ does not give life to the soul separate from, but in and with, himself. Hence his words are equally true of all men, in whatever state of grace they are: 'As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me: Without [or separate from] me, ye can do nothing.'"

Further on in the *Plain Account of Christian Perfection,* Wesley is even more explicit. "The holiest of men still need Christ, as their Prophet, as 'the light of the world.' For he does not give them light, but from moment to moment; the instant he withdraws, all is darkness. They still need Christ as their King; for God does not give them a stock of holiness. But unless they receive a supply every moment, nothing but unholiness would remain. They still need Christ as their Priest, to make atonement for their holy things. Even perfect holiness is acceptable to God only through Jesus Christ."

Wesley then asks: "May not, then, the very best of men adopt the dying martyr's confession: 'I am in myself nothing but sin, darkness, hell; but thou art my light, my holiness, my heaven'? "Not exactly," he replies. "But the best of men say, 'Thou art my light, my holiness, my heaven. Through my union with Thee, I am full of light, of holiness, and happiness. But if I were left to myself, I should be nothing but sin, darkness, hell.'"

This is my wholehearted declaration of dependence—if I am truly in Christ.

When Push Comes to Shove

by JOHN W. MAY

This phrase became meaningful to me when my sister once used it in regard to a situation with which she was trying to cope. If push came to shove she had an alternate plan that she felt would alleviate the problem.

Most of us have had that feeling when a difficulty has gone from a nudge to a push to a shove. Life is like that. We are often caught up with fears about the future, frustrations with the present, and failures of the past.

Questions like “what if?” “what now?” and “what next?” show up frequently in our minds and in our vocabularies.

The Bible is full of illustrations of real people meeting real problems when push came to shove in their lives. Our contemporary world meets it on a daily basis. As individuals we feel the pressure from day to day. When security fails we are forced to meet the shove head on. The Prophet Habakkuk felt it in his day and came up with an answer.

As he confronted the day of trouble he was in a dilemma. When he considered the wrath of God his belly trembled, his lips quivered, and he became overwhelmingly weak (Habakkuk 3:16).

He found the answer in a powerful determination. If he could not rejoice because of he would rejoice in spite of. If everything went in reverse he would still rejoice. If everything failed he would still be faithful.

Even though the orchard and vineyard failed to produce, the olive tree was bare, the cattle gone, and the stalls empty, he would cry out in a beautiful hymn of praise, “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (v. 18).

None of us like tests, troubles, or distressing times. We would rather live day by day in the sunshine. Sometimes we forget that this is not possible. The rain falls on all just as the sun shines on everybody.

Those who see living a sanctified life as a bed of roses soon realize that thorns are involved. Holiness is not an experience to lift us above adversity but to carry us through the difficult situations that we face.

It is easy to shine when we are a success, and shout when we find a solution in the hard places of life. It is difficult to testify during tests, and be triumphant in spite of trouble. Those are times when we are forced to add an adverb to our shout, and say, “Hallelujah anyhow.”

When life reached down and cruelly pulled the rug out from under him, it did not shake Habakkuk’s faith. Although he trembled he triumphed. He praised God even though he had to do it with quivering lips. When his knees gave way like “rottenness in his bones” he found the strength to stand at attention. He turned his hurt into a hymn.

I have known people like that. One was a member of my church who was stricken with crippling arthritis. His hands were twisted and gnarled. He was bedfast most of the time, and in pain. He would fumble with those still fingers to select a station on his bedside radio, and listen to gospel singing and sermons. He suffered the loneliness of watching others come and go while he was unable to get about.

As his pastor I would drop by with the express purpose of encouraging him, and always a strange thing happened. He would turn the tables on me and I would come away encouraged.

Push had come to shove in his life but he learned to successfully cope with his condition. When he might have reacted, he rejoiced. When he could not walk, his spirit traveled the high places. Like Habakkuk he found, “The Lord God is my strength” (v. 19). His positive attitude did not remove the mountain, but it gave him the strength to surmount it. His smile was radiant, his heart secure, and his joy infectious.

Holy living is not an easy way but it is a victorious way, and it will work when push comes to shove in every area of life: physical, material, and spiritual.

JOHN W. MAY is superintendent of the Eastern Kentucky District and lives in Mount Sterling, Kentucky.

JULY 1, 1987
CHEERS CHUCK

You are indeed correct when you declare that "revival tarries because we are willing to do almost anything but repent." And cheers for evangelist Charles Millhuff for insisting on repentance as a condition for revival at our recent Evangelism Conference in Kansas City.

Charles C. Davidson
Eustis, Florida

CARAVAN EXULTED

I am writing in appreciation of the article in 1 March 87 edition "40 Is Just Beginning." I joined the church about 25 years ago and remember reading about Caravan and wishing it were available in our church in England.

Many years later Caravan became very active on our district, and I was a part of that program. What a wonderful way to teach the biblical doctrine to our children and to instill in them the articles of faith and heritage of our church and to have fun and fellowship at the same time. Both my children, now aged 16 and 13, were medal winners. My daughter went on to complete her CST course and is now a guide, and my son who "retired" last September is now a helper with a trained guide. We are grateful that the British Isles South District Caravan director is our local director and has the forethought to continue to use these exmedal winners in order to train them as future guides.

Many boys and girls come to faith in Jesus through Caravan, and through the memorization program of Caravan, scripture is often learned that may be recalled in later years by those who drop out of church in their later teens.

Caravan is great! Thank you, Kathy.

Mrs. S. Hickerman
Stoke-on-Trent, England

EYE-OPENING ARTICLE

Donald Stults' article on humility made me stop and take a look at my life in recent months. Have I really been humble without being "... full of pride and ambition," or have I been hiding ulterior motives to "... gain favor, prominence, position ..."? After a closer look at myself, I've found that I have in fact been preoccupied with self and my wants and needs.

(Continued on page 20)
WHAT DO I HAVE IN MY HAND?

by D. W. HILDIE

A few dried-up watermelon seeds," you say? Take another look! Those few dried-up watermelon seeds, if properly planted, watered, and cultivated, will provide enough luscious, mouth-watering feasting for almost the whole neighborhood, come summertime! Their present value is negligible, but they represent a huge potential.

The same principle holds true in Christian life. When we examine the pre-Christian lives, and especially the pre-Pentecostal lives, of Jesus' disciples, it would be easy to write them off as possessing little with which to make any kind of lasting contribution to the world—let alone the possibility that they would be able to begin a church that would stand for 2,000 years. Out of the 12 men, 1 of them betrayed his Master, another denied Him, 2 others vied with each other for places of prominence in His supposed earthly kingdom, another is remembered for his doubts, and as for the rest ... had they not been recorded among His disciples they would not have been remembered beyond their own generation! Yet when each of these lives had been touched by their Master, their real value was uncovered for all the world to see.

As we turn the pages of church history we can see this same phenomenon repeated again and again. A shoe salesman becomes an international evangelist . . . an illiterate cowboy with a speech impediment becomes a world-renowned soul winner . . . a gypsy, transformed by divine grace, becomes yet another great preacher . . . and the list could go on and on. In each case the seed was planted, watered, and cultivated until the real-life potential was apparent to a lost world. While it was God's miracle-working power that brought out that potential within the men, it took human agency to do the planting and cultivation.

Nor is this power all contained in ancient history. A few years ago a drug addict was converted in the Alaska State Jail through the ministry of a Nazarene jail chaplain. Released from prison, the young ex-con moved to "the lower 48" where again his footsteps faltered. There in the city to which he had come, he and his wife were taken into the home of a devout layman. They were carefully nurtured and cultivated until now that former, apparently worthless, piece of humanity is the successful pastor of a growing city congregation.

As Jesus was about to leave His earthly ministry, He told His disciples to tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they received the power to become witnesses. That power became evident immediately following their Pentecostal experience. They moved out into the streets of Jerusalem first with the message of Jesus' resurrection, and from there traveled throughout the civilization of that time, proclaiming the good news and starting churches. The small churches they began in that early day have spread until today it can well be said that "like a mighty army moves the church of God!" Most theologians agree that this promise of power that was given to those early-church Christians was not intended for them alone, but was meant to be the inheritance of all Holy Spirit-filled Christians of every generation.

"What do you have in your hand?" It could well be possible that the little boy who lives on "the wrong side of town" and comes from a miserable home back-
ground, if he were brought to Sunday School and had his way paid to the church’s summer camp, could prove to be a great pastor, missionary, or evangelist! That couple who live just down the street from you, the ones who are fighting a losing battle with alcohol and are on the verge of splitting up—could it be that you who read this would be the ones whom God could use to plant the seed, nurture, and cultivate it till it comes to wonderful fruition? The potential is there, but God needs the human agent to do the planting of the seed, followed by the careful nurturing of the young plant.

Within the frame of our church’s theology lies the promise of a personal Pentecost for each of us. Could it be possible that we are the possessors of a power that we have never used? Most of us are hesitant to attempt to use this power. The most common reason given is that “I don’t know how to go about it.” In this day of high technology and superior education, that is an understandable temptation. But remember that when Peter preached his first sermon in Jerusalem that day, there was no such thing as seminary training. All he had, and all he needed, was a burning heart that was best expressed when, after he and John had been released from prison and were charged that they preach no more about Jesus, they responded in words recorded in Acts 4:20: “We cannot but speak of the things which we have seen and heard.” They not only had divine power given them, but they were prepared, if need be, to lay their lives on the line to use that power.

We are surrounded by human need equally great, if not greater than at any time in human history. God has given us the capacity to lift sin-laden people to the heights of divine grace. Yet that power is of no avail until it is put to the use for which it is intended. Take another look at those watermelon seeds, and at the promise they represent—then get busy with your own spiritual gardening!

D. W. HILDIE is a commissioned evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene. He makes his home in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

PROMISES

Promises, beautiful promises,
Like stars in God’s Word stand out,
Shedding a light in the dreariest night!
How could anyone doubt?

Beautiful, beautiful promises,
Through God’s precious Word He has spoken
Right to the heart if we do our part,
And none of them ever was broken!

Beautiful, beautiful promises,
Like a rainbow after the storm!
He has promised to come, God’s wonderful Son,
Again some glorious morn!

—ALICE HANSCHE MORTENSON
Racine, Wisconsin

A SHATTERED LIFE

by ANONYMOUS

I sat there, slumped over in my seat, rain and snow blowing through the windows into my face, pain searing my chest with every breath. Waiting for the ambulance to arrive, I reviewed the events of the past few moments.

The evening had been very enjoyable up to now. My wife and I, with another couple, celebrated our anniversary at a nice restaurant, followed by a time of fellowship at our friend’s home. We had left there only five minutes ago—but the events of those five minutes would be felt for months to come.

As we rounded a curve in the road, we saw the headlights coming at us head-on! Years of driving an ambulance had sharpened my reflexes. In the milliseconds prior to impact, I was able to turn our car sideways to avoid certain death from a head-on collision. That turn meant that the entire impact of the crash was about to occur where I was sitting.

Knowing we were about to be hit by another vehicle, three thoughts crossed my mind in rapid succession. I thought of my little boy, spending the night at a friend’s house, and how I might have hugged and kissed him for the last time. Then I thought of my wife, and how nice the evening together had been, and that she would have good memories of me. And then I thought about eternity—just as the impact took place with the sounds of screeching tires, breaking glass, bending metal—and then the pain.

I remember the look of horror on Karen’s face as the siren began to wail. I thought they were not too upset when they see who is in the car. Karen is OK. The first person from the ambulance looks into the car and sees me—the color drains from her face and is replaced by shock. Everything begins happening in accelerated motion—except getting me out of the car.

More sirens as the heavy rescue equipment, needed to free me from the tangled steel and shattered interior of the car, is called for and arrives. Finally, I am free and being carried to the ambulance. The trip to the hospital is short—but it took 45 minutes to free me from the car.

The Emergency Room visit is brief—some X rays, medications, an intravenous line started. It seems I am going to spend a few days in the hospital instead of taking entrance examinations for medical school tomorrow. Well, the Lord knows what He is doing—I hope!

Depression begins to set in. I was eight days in the hospital, and only 4 of the 60 visitors I had were from...
The months slowly pass. Over a year later I am still bitter and angry, still not reconciled to God, still separated from Him—and it was my choice.

At work, the division between physical life and eternal life are amplified by several calls in which people are critically injured or die. I see myself in their place, eternally separated from God, my wife, my little boy. I love them. Why do I continue as I am?

Vacation! We are leaving town and I cannot wait. I want to be with my family—I don't want to be separated from them. I can hardly bear the burden of my spiritual separation from God. The bitterness and anger have overwhelmed me. I've become cynical and hard. We are going to visit friends of ours in the pastorate, but I won't burden them with my spiritual needs; I'm on vacation.

As we have dinner with them and Steve and Marijean Green, the talk around the table turns to freedom in Jesus—a freedom from selfishness, greed, bitterness, anger. A freedom to enjoy all that God has for us. An openness with the Spirit daily. My heart is breaking within me and tears are in my eyes. But I am too proud to let them know how I hurt—how lonely and separated I am, how imprisoned my spirit feels because of bitterness and anger.

Sunday morning Steve Green has a concert in our friends' church. He is singing and acting just like he talked last night. He is consistent. That's strange—he was supposed to have an intermission for the offering—but it seems as though the Spirit moving in the service is more important to Steve than taking an offering.

Now he is talking about the freedom he has found in the Lord. A freedom I do not have—and have not had for almost a year and a half. My heart is breaking; my pride is resisting the call of our loving Lord Jesus. My mind recalls the headlights coming toward us, the sound of breaking glass and bending steel—the fear of separation from my family and from God. I'm not free, I'm bound; by bitterness, frustration, hate, and anger.

No longer can I fight against the love of God, the love as a brother from Steve Green, the prayers of my wife. As I kneel at the altar my heart breaks, my pride surrenders, the tears flow. Nothing else matters but turning everything over to God. I'm surrounded by people who do not know me, but care about me and my spiritual welfare.

No one knows about my long exile from God except my wife. But still they pray for me. As I turn everything back over to God, His peace and freedom sweep over my soul, my entire being. No longer am I imprisoned by bitterness and fear. I'm free at last! Free to enjoy all that God has for me. Free to love my family and know that there will be no separation for eternity. Freed by God's love and forgiveness.
SAFE ISN'T THE SAME AS RIGHT

by DAVID F. NIXON

In recent months the media has conducted a campaign to educate the public not only to the danger of AIDS, but to the idea of “safe sex.” It has already made the Donahue-Winfrey circuit and all major television networks, magazines, and newspapers. It is built on the premise that regardless of the dangers, people are going to engage in sex; therefore, they should do it safely. The major networks are still hesitant to run condom ads because of the offensive nature of such advertising.

Those who are concerned about the AIDS epidemic, from the Surgeon General on down, agree that something must be done. Researchers are scurrying to find a cure. Public officials and agencies are constrained to support the education program. No one is taking a nonchalant attitude toward this new epidemic. The education has proven effective, even in San Francisco. But as a religious leader with responsibility in the area of morality, I find the approach a band-aid solution, repugnant and sad.

Some Christians have kindled the anger of other thinking Christians by references to AIDS as the judgment of God upon homosexuals. One wonders what an Old Testament prophet of Jeremiah’s stature would have done. I know he would have wept, but he may also have joined in the condemnation of sin, saying that all sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, are indeed God’s punishment for our fornication, adultery, and pro-miscuity, both heterosexual and homosexual.

What is so tragic about AIDS is that the innocent suffer along with the guilty. If my child contracted AIDS, I would be terribly hurt and angry, especially if it came through a blood transfusion. An alarming number of infants with AIDS reside in hospitals throughout our country who have received the disease through the sinful life-style of their parents.

AIDS victims have become today’s outcasts. And while our anger seems to justify the thought, “They’re getting what they deserve,” our intelligence tells us that the rest of us, and especially the children, are getting what they do not deserve. Our compassion calls for a redemptive response to those who are victims of their own sinful lusts and practices. The Lord must give us heart-eyes to see that their sin is no worse than any other sin. Their sin just happens to have some terrifying consequences. While we hate their sin, our hatred must not become a pious disguise for contempt for the sinner. Jesus reached out to heal the sick.

The world has placed all hope for an answer in the hands of the scientists and educators. Researchers are dedicated to finding a cure. Planned Parenthood, which purports to serve in the public interest, has developed an organizational philosophy having four points. They are summarized by Dr. James Dobson in a January 1987 “Focus on the Family” letter: “(1) Provide ‘value-free’ guidance on sexuality to teenagers. (2) Provide unlimited quantities of contraceptives to adolescents, dispensed aggressively from clinics located on junior and senior high school campuses. (3) Keep parents out of the picture by every means possible. (4) Provide unlimited free abortions to young women who become pregnant, again, without parental involvement or permission.”

Dr. Dobson’s concern, naturally, is the devastating effect upon the family. He does not buy the idea, and neither do I, that the above approach will reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy, which has also reached epidemic proportions. He writes, “Not only is that illogical, but research is demonstrating the folly of helping teenagers experience so-called ‘safe sex.’ ” While no one denies that unwed adolescent pregnancy is a tragedy, and “children having children,” is a national disgrace, the solution of “safe sex” must be questioned.

There is no time to lose. The epidemic implications of sexually transmitted diseases, the continuing holocaust of abortion, the mounting pile of casualties are everyone’s concern. It is time for the church to say clearly that in the eyes of God there never has been and never will be safe sex outside of the marriage of a man and woman. Safe is not the same as right.

Sexual immorality—such as pre-marital or extramarital relations, or perversion in any form—is wrong, wrong, wrong! Biblical ref-
references leave no room for equivocation: see Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7. These verses inform the collective conscience of the church and support our biblical stand against sexual sin. The media will continue to insist that anything between consenting teens or adults is right, oblivious to the fact that they are contributors to the problem. God’s Word in any version still says that any kind of sexual sin is totally incompatible with Christian teaching.

For Christian singles, teen or adult, chastity is still a virtue. Saying no to ungodliness and sinful lusts remains in vogue for sons and daughters of the Lord. Virginity is still virtuous. Saving yourself for the man or woman God wants you to share your married life with is normal, holy, and now we must add, healthy. Instead of seeking safe sex, people need to be admonished to seek right sex. A sinful world has devised a new plan to avoid the wages of sexual sin, without any change in life-style or behavior. God’s timely and tested way still works. It involves “fleeing youthful lusts,” “keeping yourself pure,” and right thinking about “whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable—the excellent and praiseworthy.”

Human sexuality is a gift of God. God created sex, not the pornographers! In God’s plan, there is no safe sex outside of marriage of man and woman. Worldlings in their debauchery may concoct the notion of homosexual marriages, but God’s plan still involves a man and a woman who commit themselves to each other before Him. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24, NIV).

So rather than advocating “safe sex,” let the church continue to hold high God’s standard of sexual abstinence for the unmarried. Irresponsible sex has frightening consequences and everyone is victimized thereby, the innocent along with the guilty. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ will give young people the motivation and strength to overcome the lure of sexual indulgence. The power of the sanctifying Spirit will enable adolescents and adults to “say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age . . .” (Titus 2:12, NIV). Safe will never be the same as right where sex is concerned.

Confession, Not Concealment

by FREEMAN T. HODGINS

During my year in Princeton I regularly had opportunity to see a garbage truck with a sense of humor. Each time I watched it rumble past my apartment a snicker of delightful understanding passed my lips, for printed in bold letters across its broad back was the “offensive” warning: CAUTION: THIS TRUCK HAS BAD BREATH.

That’s not like people at all, is it? We don’t wear sandwich boards or staple signs to our backs advertising our faults and sins. Yet inside there is often a sad case of similarity: people can be carriers of garbage, spiritual unhealthiness that seeps out here or trickles out there, betraying attempts at concealment.

How differently the Scriptures tell us to handle our problem! How correctly it analyzes our need and presents our way of escape. Proverbs 28:13 says, “Conceal your faults, and you will not prosper; confess and give them up, and you will find mercy” (NEB).

Here is help. Here is the first step in “cleaning up our act.” The answer is confession, not concealment, not renouncing, not harboring. Only by this route can we experience the mercy and forgiveness and cleansing of God. His gracious action purges us of evil and fills us with love and power that enable us to live clean and godly lives that witness to goodness, not evil; of openness, not concealment. James speaks of the individual’s duty in the wider church setting: we should confess our sins to one another and pray for each other in order that we might be healed (5:16).

God did not create us to be garbage trucks to collect and harbor rottenness. To confess our sins and commit our lives to Him is the biblical directive and the way to clean and holy living. It sure beats wearing a T-shirt that says: CAUTION: KEEP BACK; THIS PERSON BACKSLIDES WITHOUT NOTICE.

FREEMAN T. HODGINS is pastor of the Hamilton, Ontario, Mountain Church in Canada.
My heart sank as my layman explained to me that his one opportunity to be assigned a significant position in his Navy unit had been given to another candidate. Compounding his frustration was the fact that he had been assigned to a job that virtually assured that he had been “mothballed.” The job had always been filled with a man who could not be otherwise placed—they even called it a “trashcan” position. Nothing vindictive had happened, it was just an unfortunate circumstance that had brought him to a Navy squadron in which his personal technical skills did not mesh with the nature of work handled at this location—and that left him out, very out.

As I sought for words of consolation that pastors are supposed to have at times like that, Ron interrupted my thinking with a statement that indicated that God’s Holy Spirit was already moving in to support and guide this faithful Christian man. God had brought him through many things to this point in his life, and now the words of Scripture ministered to his heart and mind. He said, “Pastor, we’re supposed to do everything as unto the Lord, including our labors, and that’s what I’m going to do. When I’m finished with this job, they will know that top-flight work has been done, and that Christ is my Lord.”

What a joy it is to see men and women living by God’s Word and overcoming circumstances with the promises of God’s faithfulness. There is nothing trite about those lyrics that have helped us all when life’s direction has been suddenly deflected from our intended course: “Many things about tomorrow I don’t seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.” The time it takes for God to bring us through trials is never wasted when the purpose of making us more like Christ is accomplished.

God’s purpose in Ron’s situation has unfolded beautifully over these past two years. Ron didn’t know that this position would put him in touch with every new man attached to the VP-93 Squadron and, as God permitted, give him an opportunity to share his testimony with those he introduced to unit procedure. Soon a snowball effect was happening. Integrity in the workplace led to recognition among peers and supervisors. Ron’s self-imposed qual-
ity standards brought his unit through an inspection so smoothly and so error-free that naval wing inspectors cited him and complimented local base officials on their fine selection and performance in "Tool Management and Readiness." Ron was given a letter of appreciation from his commanding officers. Unaware of his new methods, they inquired as to how this job was now being done so well. A job that once was of no account has become one of high visibility and importance on every base handling similar work loads.

The United States Navy awarded Ronald Spagnola the Navy Achievement Medal as a result.

The text of the citation adjoining the medal is its own commentary of the truth of the scripture, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." It reads, in part:

For professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties ... Petty Officer Spagnola has distinguished himself through the impeccable management of the Individual Material Readiness List (IMRL). His resourcefulness, enthusiasm, and selfless dedication were solely responsible for ... attaining the highest average of on-hand IMRL items throughout [the command]. So thorough were his management techniques that his IMRL procedures are now the example for other [commands] to emulate. His technical expertise proved invaluable in providing ... assistance concerning existing IMRL tailoring discrepancies and improper nomenclatures. Additionally, Petty Officer Spagnola's performance as the squadron's Tool Control Manager was exemplary ... Petty Officer Spagnola's exceptional professional ability, initiative, and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Naval Service.

For the Secretary of the Navy,
Paul J. Wilhelm
Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve

BRUCE BANKS is pastor of the Chesterfield Church at Mount Clemens, Michigan.

CHRIST AT BOOT CAMP

by MARK E. FARRIS

Get on your feet and outta' those racks NOW! We're burning up daylight! You might have slept till noon at home, but those days are OVER! We've got 11 weeks to turn you into a Marine, so let's get started early. Now, MOVE!!!!!!

It is five o'clock in the morning at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, S.C., and the drill instructor has just awakened his platoon of recruits. The day will be filled with training activities from classes in basic military knowledge to a physical fitness program that makes the body cry for rest.

Throughout the 11 weeks of boot camp, the recruit learns to march with his platoon and to fire an M-16 rifle safely and accurately, as well as spending a week out in the field, learning to navigate through the woods and other basic combat skills. He will stand inspection after inspection where his personal appearance, the appearance of his gear, and his military knowledge are constantly evaluated. All this is done under the watchful eyes of specially selected and trained Marines known as drill instructors (DI).

Training is paramount in boot camp. The mission is to send basically trained Marines out into the Fleet Marine Force for their specialized training and then on to their operational units. It is a time of intense pressure and stress considered necessary to begin preparing a young man to face the extremes of combat. Whatever a Marine's MOS (Military Occupational Speciality) may be, or regardless of how many different duty stations he may serve, he will never forget those first 11 weeks of boot camp.

Being the Battalion Chaplain for the Third Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island has afforded me the opportunity to work with the DIs, officers, support personnel, and, most importantly, the nearly 1,500 fuzzy-headed recruits in our battalion. Many of these young men are away from home for the first time and have never faced a challenge like boot camp. I am thankful the Lord has given me the opportunity to work in this environment where many young men are at a crossroads in their lives. Many of them turn to Christ during their time at Parris Island, and many others who have drifted away from a previous Christian commitment find a renewal of a neglected faith.

I have had the privilege of sharing with scores of young men in their quest for faith and have seen many of them accept Christ as their personal Savior. Just last Sunday after a battalion worship service, a young recruit asked me in all sincerity, "Sir, can I become a Christian while in boot camp?" I was glad to have the privilege of telling him that the Christ who died for him at Calvary is here at Parris Island, too.

Skeptics can say, with a certain degree of validity, that when these young men graduate and are away from the pressures of boot camp, many will forget about their commitment to Christ—it was just a crutch to help them get through a tough time. For many that may be true, but for some, the commitment to Christ made during boot camp will be a life-changing experience that lasts into eternity.

MARK E. FARRIS, Navy Chaplain, is a lieutenant at the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina.
On February 7, 1984, we were on our way to Beatrice, Nebraska. Neal was driving. Rain, sleet, and snow beat against the windows as I lay resting in the back of our van.

Seeking divine direction for the service that evening I began to pray. Realizing that people seldom rise above their leadership I pleaded, “Lord, please send revival and start it in the hearts of your evangelists. If there be one thing in my or Neal’s life that is not pleasing to You, may the searchlight of your Holy Spirit shine upon our hearts as we travel down this highway.”

As I prayed, Mark 9:29 kept coming before me, the fact that some things “come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.” “Lord,” I said, “Are you trying to tell me something? You know I believe in fasting. I recall praying and fasting through the difficulties of my teen years, through marital distress, through financial hardships, through the death of my parents, and even through my own experience of cancer of the colon.”

Then suddenly I realized, “Yes, Linda, you do believe in fasting but your fasting has been selfish.” The only times I had fasted were when issues concerned me or my family personally. It was then that God impressed me to start fasting for others, particularly for someone I didn’t know. I immediately began to reason with God. “But Lord, how can I pray and fast for someone I don’t know? I don’t know who or what to pray for, and even if I did, one of the greatest joys of fasting is having our faith increased by seeing You answer. I will never know when You answer a particular prayer.”

The Lord reminded me that within every church there is a very important lady, the pastor’s wife. She holds three major positions. She is the pastor’s companion and his best friend. When he is discouraged, hurt, or troubled she is the only one he can turn to in all honesty. Her words of wisdom, encouragement, and spiritual guidance can make or break his ministry. Second, she is a mother. Her attitude, her outlook, and her influence can determine the destiny of her children. Third, she is the first lady of the church.

Others may fail with acceptance but there is little allowance for her weaknesses, for she is expected to be a leading example. Therefore, I should pray and fast a meal for every pastor’s wife before I enter into each revival.

I tried justifying myself, “But, Lord, possibly the reason I haven’t fasted more is because I don’t understand the true significance of fasting. Would You give me some new insight, that I might be able to fast with joy?”

I had no sooner completed that prayer when the thought occurred to me, “Remember the skunk sweater hanging in Neal’s closet?”

“Oh Lord,” I replied, “that’s so simple!” You must hear the remaining story to appreciate the lesson that God was in the process of teaching me.

I was raised in the foothills of Arkansas. My dad was an old-time holiness preacher. We lived in a farming community; farming is seasonal and so was our pay. Neal had asked me to marry him. I knew he was getting me an engagement ring for Christmas, and I wanted to...
I immediately began to pray about the situation. Suddenly it dawned on me: I get 25¢ a day for my lunch at school; and if I do without that meal and save a quarter a day, by Christmas I will have enough money to buy Neal a present. I did not tell my parents, for I knew they would not approve of my doing without lunches for that long period of time.

The Saturday before Christmas I told Dad I was ready to go shopping for Neal’s present. He replied sadly, “I'm sorry, Sis, we don’t have any money.” I informed him that God had provided the money and all I needed was a ride to town. We were soon on our way to the country town of Morrilton, Arkansas, in the old pickup truck.

Displayed in the window of the clothing store was the most beautiful sweater on the most handsome mannequin I had ever laid eyes on. Being a country girl my first impression was, “Wow! A skunk sweater!” It was a beautiful brown turtleneck with a big white stripe outlined in black across the middle. I could just visualize my dark and handsome fiancé in that sweater.

Thinking the price was likely more than I could afford I rushed into the store. To my amazement the cost of the sweater was the exact amount that God had provided. I opened my purse and out rolled 40 quarters.

My dad was stunned. Perhaps he thought I had robbed a piggy bank or made a sneaky deal. He exclaimed, “Linda, where did you get all of those quarters?”

Reluctantly I answered, “I didn’t want to tell you, but I have been saving my lunch money.”

Completing my purchase, I turned to Dad but he was gone. After a short search I located him behind a nearby clothes rack. Tears were streaming down his cheeks.

I shall never forget that exciting Christmas Eve as Neal opened his present. Dad said, “Neal, I hope that gift means just as much to you as it does to me. I happen to know that Linda sacrificed 40 meals that you might have that sweater.” Neal said little, but over the years he made very clear his appreciation for the little “skunk sweater.”

Due to the hard times we experienced as children and the example my parents set before me in sharing what they had, I have developed the philosophy, “If we don’t eat it, wear it, or use it within one year’s time, we share it with someone less fortunate.” Being a “pack rat” by nature it was difficult for Neal to adjust to this philosophy, but after 25 years of persuasion he now shares it with me completely. Through the years I have cleaned out our closets, our storage, and our home, Neal has closed his eyes, thrown the sacks over his back, and asked where they were to be delivered.

Three times he has taken the liberty to go through the sacks. The first time he pulled out the skunk sweater, hung it back in his closet, and informed me, “This is sentimental. I do not want to give it away.” The second time, with much greater emphasis, “I told you, Linda, I do not want to give this sweater away. Do you get the message? This sweater stays!” Years later I thought, What a waste, this sweater still looks like new. It’s as though God has preserved it as He did the clothes and shoes of the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness. Someone should be getting some use out of it. There is no way Neal will ever fit in this sweater again; I’ll just slip it in the sack and he will never miss it.

But going through the sack, as though something prompted him, he made himself very clear once and for all. “Linda, I have told you my last time, the ‘skunk sweater’ stays. I don’t care if you give away the newest suit, my favorite outfit, but this sweater is going back in my closet, and the next time I find it out of my closet, you are going to be the next item in the giveaway sack!” For some reason that made a lasting impression.

In the last 25 years I have bought my husband many costlier sweaters, only to share them after awhile with someone less fortunate. Neal has patiently carried them out the door and never objected. And now the Lord was asking me, “Why is that sweater so important to Neal?” That’s simple, it’s because of the sacrifice and the love that went into that sweater.

It was then the Holy Spirit seemed to whisper to me, “Linda, that’s the reason fasting is so important to Me.” If you love enough to be willing to sacrifice, then the heart of God is touched. I don’t have difficulty fasting anymore. Sacrificing a meal each week for a pastor’s wife has become one of the most rewarding things I have ever done.
GOD IS LOVE

by RICHARD S. TAYLOR

In September 1986, the prayer meeting group at the Rose City Church of the Nazarene, Portland, Oreg., prayed for a man dying with cancer, at the request of one of our number, Art Chaffin. A few days later a retired Nazarene elder, Rev. Don Bolton, went with his wife, Marie, to the patient’s home and anointed him for healing. On January 7, 1987, the man stood before our prayer meeting group and gave his testimony—miraculously healed.

Though the presence of God was deeply manifest in the October healing service, healing did not occur at that time, but happened almost instantaneously on December 8 in the Doctor’s office.

The man is Roy Harrington, for 20 years an athletic coach in a large Portland high school. While raised a Free Methodist, he was away from the Lord some years, but was reclaimed about 10 years ago.

Upon his early retirement in 1979 (due to an injury) the bottom began to fall out health-wise. In a little over four years he had two strokes, a life-threatening clot, open-heart surgery (five bypasses), carotid artery surgery, and kidney stone surgery. Last summer, in June 1986, he went to the doctor for a routine checkup. The doctor discovered a lump on the side of his neck, then upon deeper searching discovered that his tongue was permeated with cancer. A biopsy confirmed the diagnosis. The verdict was, “You have only three to five months.”

Mrs. Harrington said, “Doctor, do you believe in miracles?” The blunt reply was, “Nope!”

Of course the physicians did what they could. Radiation treatments were given, but his throat continued to enlarge until they had to put a tube down his throat as the only remaining means of getting nourishment into him. Pain increased until they were administering stronger-than-morphine medication every hour, then every half hour, and by early December it was every 15 minutes. By then he had lost 57 pounds.

On December 8 he and his wife went to the doctor. After careful examination, the doctor sat down and just stared at him, horrified at his condition. Mrs. Harrington said, “What do we do now?” There was no answer. Again she said, “What do we do next?” Still no answer.

On an impulse (or directed by the Spirit) Mrs. Harrington said, “Take the tube out.” Without saying a word the doctor began to remove it. Mr. Harrington reports that the moment the tube began to come out he felt the touch of God upon him. He could talk. He could swallow. Swelling disappeared before their eyes. The doctor jumped up and started examining him again. No soreness. No lumps. In shocked amazement he exclaimed, “Five minutes ago your head was full of cancer. There is no cancer now!” Mrs. Harrington said, “Doctor, do you believe in miracles?” He replied, “I do now!”

The physician urged Mr. Harrington to let him send some pain medication home with him, for he knew the patient had become addicted, and would suffer withdrawal symptoms. But Harrington was adamant. “No,” he said, “I will not need anything.”

When he got home he went to the refrigerator and reached for a raw carrot, which he chewed and swallowed with relish and without pain. In a day or two he was eating peanuts and popcorn. When he spoke
to us on January 7 he spoke about 15 minutes without hesitation, in a clear voice. He looked well.

One month after his healing he was reexamined by doctors and the healing was confirmed. And he has gained 10 pounds.

God still heals. Why He does not always heal remains a mystery, one of the hidden secrets of God’s sovereignty. It is not because He loves one more than another. It is not necessarily because some are more deserving than others, or because some try harder to believe. Faith for healing is a gift of God which we cannot trump up by self-hypnotism. The bottom line is the will of God in each case. It is to that we must submit completely, uncomplainingly, trusting, and lovingly. If God heals we will have more time to serve Him on earth. If He does not heal we will simply serve Him all the sooner in heaven. But whether on earth or in heaven, we are in His hands.

A saintly farmer had the words painted boldly on the big weather vane on his barn, “God is love.” An infidel sneered, “You mean God’s love is as fickle as the wind?” “No,” replied the farmer, “I mean that whichever way the wind blows, God is still love.”

Let us believe this truth and rejoice in it, whether with healing or without it.

**RICHARD S. TAYLOR** is professor emeritus of Nazarene Theological Seminary, author of several books, and a frequent contributor to religious periodicals. He resides in Portland, Oregon.

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**THE TEST**

I said I’d stand with Job
And then I suffered agony—
Bitter. Black.
And I stood with Peter
Warming my hands at the fire—
Sinking. Sulking.

I said, “Don’t ask this
Of me, Lord.” And trembled—
Wanton. Weak.
But in His strength I took
One step and found myself standing—
Stalwart. Startled!

**NINA BEEGLE**

Kansas City, Missouri

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**Two Miracles for Rita**

by NORA BRUSH

One day my older sister, Rita’s mother, needed to do some shopping. She took Libby, my younger sister, and me with her, while Mother stayed behind to care for Rita. Mother stood by the crib crying and praying for her. She knew that Rita wanted to use and control her body. She decided to place her on the large bed in the room so that she could move around more. Wanting to give Rita more room was an act of faith, and God honored it. When placed on the larger bed Rita rolled over, got up on her hands and knees, and laughed with delight at her accomplishment! What a joy charged moment for my mother! How she cried and praised God for Rita’s newfound ability!

From that time on Rita continued to improve. She learned to crawl, then to walk, and she began talking. However, each time she had a fever, the old symptoms would temporarily return. She would lose control of her muscles.

One day, after Rita’s third birthday, her mom and dad were trying to find an apartment closer to us. They brought Rita and her baby brother to Mom to care for while they checked out rental possibilities.

Rita was ill with a fever again. Her body jerked so much that Mother could not hold her, and she fell from Mother’s arms. “We must pray for God to touch Rita,” Mother said to Libby. They began calling on God to help her. The result was God’s second miracle for Rita. Almost immediately she quieted down. In less than an hour she was walking and playing. As Mother puts it, “She has never had one of those bad spells since.”

This girl, whom the doctors said would “be like a vegetable,” graduated from high school. She now holds a full-time job in a large city bank. We are very proud of her achievements. Most of all, though, we are proud of our God. His resources and compassion are truly unlimited. Two miracles aren’t too much to ask from Him!

**REV. MRS. NORA BRUSH** is the associate pastor at Longmont, Colorado, First Church, where her husband pastors.
At Walt Disney World our family spent one of our best vacations. The special attraction with "circle vision" was worth seeing twice—more if possible. We were thrilled and awed as we turned all around to view the wonders of our great America (while making sure of our grip on the arm rail!).

Later in life, after our children were grown, Bill and I chose to visit Disney World once again, to get some sunshine but especially to review some of our favorite places. The hall of presidents was a priority this time, for it was closed for renovations during our earlier visit.

Shortly after the second visit Bill became very ill. We were told he had a serious infection. When he failed to improve after three weeks in the hospital, we contacted a specialist whose examination disclosed that immediate surgery was necessary. There were hopes at first, but later we were told the disease had metastasized—a term describing the spread of malignant cells of disease-producing organisms.

We spent the following months in a dark and confusing "valley." The Bible and gospel hymns were our mainstay. During this period of stress and uncertainty my spiritual eyes seemed to focus more clearly and with new dimension. Priorities in life "zoomed" in with urgency. The good things I’d done, even for the church and God’s kingdom, didn’t seem to be of great value. Bonnie Wheeler, author of *The Hurrier I Go*, expresses it clearly: "Too many of us have the mistaken notion that busyness is related to godliness and that stewardship is just a way of cramming more busyness into our lives. The Lord is continually teaching me that the proper use of my time is not to do more, but to be in right relationship with Him and His plan for my life."

I’m beginning to feel that He’s going to get me through the valley. The church family, relatives, friends, and even strangers have bound my wounds and helped me on the way. I am grateful to them.

I can never be the same person spiritually, nor would I choose to be. My heart longs to shout aloud, but kindly, "Love the Shepherd, your Savior and Guide. There’s rough and treacherous road ahead, but listen to His voice, be sensitive to His nudgings, and He will see you through and make life meaningful."

The world around us needs Him urgently, and I want desperately to help them come to know Him. In learning to be more aggressive, kindly and politely, I find it takes so little to reach out, touch, and love. The people I meet, however different from me, are very receptive to friendliness. Sometimes it’s just a smile; or "Hi, it’s good to see you"); or “Excuse me, but I shop here often. May I help you find a certain store or an exit?” or "I’ve operated wheelchairs, may I assist you?” or “Please go ahead of me to check out, I’ve time to wait (and watch the needy throngs of people)"); or “Oh sure, I have jumper cables. Maybe together we can get you going.”

BARBARA H. TAYLOR resides in Quincy, Massachusetts. Her late husband, Rev. William Taylor, was superintendent of the New England District when promoted to glory.
At other times we’ll want to do a little more. When there’s a family in need, a home cooked meal or some already prepared meals from “take-outs” really express love and caring. A basket of flowers, fruit, or vegetables, or a loaf of homemade bread, helps to lift the spirit in many cases. When the timing is suitable, a short visit with a patient when you can touch warmly and offer a prayer of encouragement will truly help. Perhaps leaving a book or suitable spiritual literature would be good. Better yet, read to them if you feel it’s the right thing for now. You can telephone to say you’re thinking of them, or offer to help them with a doctor’s appointment. Oh, there are many ways to reach out and share His love.

Rearrangement of priorities, letting some things go indefinitely, will allow us time for reaching out in His Name. This may sound too simple, but as we put it into practice there will be a growing desire and strength to let lesser matters go, so that we can go out of our church circles and into the world of precious people who need to know our Friend, Jesus.

A new spiritual sensitivity, in action, helps not only those in need but will also bring added joy and fulfillment to your own life. Almost naturally, you’ll discover beautiful and happy times of life that before passed by, unnoticed. One day this week, I stopped for some refreshment and sat down at the counter by two boys who were struggling to finish extra-large ice cream sundaes. I spoke up softly to say, “It’s OK to leave some; you don’t have to eat it all.” Rubbing his tummy one said to the pretty blond waitress, “We’re pretty full. Would you fix these so we can take them with us for later?” They surely made my day, as they left happily, carrying their little containers.

Recently, it lifted me to hear, by tape, the opening service of the Billy Graham Crusade held in Washington, D.C. The opening choir number rang out:

Sing a song, (Sing a song),
spread some cheer, (spread some cheer),
There are sad and lonely people ev’rywhere;
Be a friend, (Be a friend),
show some love, (show some love),
It will lift them from the dungeons of despair.
Show a little bit of love and kindness,
Never go along with hatred’s blindness,
Take a little time to reach for joy, and wear a happy face;
Sing a little bit when the days are dreary,
Give a little help to a friend who’s weary—
That’s the way to make the world a happy place!*

Jesus said, “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19, NIV). “The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2). “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest” (John 4:35).

All around are people who need Him. Let’s practice circle-vision evangelism! □


Book Brief

HIS VICTORY AND OURS:
The Temptations of Jesus

REUBEN WELCH
author

Reuben Welch seems to have inherited the gift of his grandfather, “Uncle Bud” Reuben Robinson, for making Bible truths come alive. He brings them right off the page with living color, and this book is no exception.

In these 78 short pages we are privileged to look over Reuben’s shoulder as he speaks to a group of professional youth ministers in a retreat setting. The subject is the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness following His baptism by John the Baptist.

A once-through reading may not suffice. You will find yourself going back and reading it again and again. The style of writing makes for easy reading. One has the feeling while reading this book that he has been privileged to look into the sacred pages of a man’s personal journal. The heart of Reuben Welch beats strong and the reader is grateful for his openness. Here is one quote just to whet your appetite.

In speaking of the temptations of Jesus, Welch writes

“And Jesus came down
And joined the group
AND TOOK HIS PLACE IN LINE,
and in all of this
He identified with those he came to save.
He entered into our humanity
As human
AND TOOK HIS PLACE IN LINE.
Folks,
do you know He saves us from within?
He comes to where we are from within our humanity, not outside.”

This is not a theological treatise dealing in a stand-off way with the temptations of Jesus. It is an account of a real hands-on encounter with Satan by our Lord. You will find practical help in dealing with the basic temptations of life in this book. You will find that “His victory” can be yours.

□

—Glen Lewis Van Dyne
Pasadena, California

Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City
78 pages. Paper To order, see page 23. BENNER LIBRARY
 Olivet Nazarene University
 KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS
JULY 1, 1987 17
OUR GREATEST FREEDOM

Lenin, the architect of communism, lived to regret the politics spawned by his passionate philosophy. “Starting with unlimited freedom, I end with unlimited despotism,” says Shigalov in Dostoyevsky’s *The Possessed*. Robert Payne, foremost biographer of Lenin, applies the line to him and comments: “The greatest moment of Lenin’s life was when, already dying, he apologized to the Russian workers for his crime.”

Unlimited freedom arises out of unlimited despotism, the benevolent despotism of Jesus Christ. The freest person on earth is the one whose mind, heart, and will are captive to the Lord. Only then does a man live according to his created nature, and only when so living is he truly free.

Lenin’s ruinous mistake was to place people under the baneful despotism of corrupt and cruel men. His revolution had unseated one set of vicious oppressors only to enthrone another set equally—or more—merciless and enslaving. This he saw when dying of poison, probably administered upon the direct order of Stalin. Lenin was devoured by the very monster he had created.

A moral depravity in mankind makes it impossible for any person or group to exercise absolute power without abusing that authority and exploiting those beneath its rod. Twisted out of joint with God at the very center of his being, man cannot be trusted to rule as a dictator. Invariably the dictator sacrifices the citizens to his lust and greed. History confirms this sad evil fact on nearly every page.

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” He rules as a servant to human needs. He sacrificed himself for the people of His kingdom; He does not sacrifice them to himself. His banner over them is love—pure, unselfish, sacrificial love. The throne of Christ is His cross. The crown He wears is dyed by His own blood, shed to atone for our sins.

The dying Christ, unlike Lenin, owed no apology, needed no forgiveness. He exercises His power as the risen Lord to achieve the highest welfare of His people. In submission to His will they find not corrupting bondage but glorious liberty.

OUTDOOR SANCTUARY

I was in a California camp meeting last summer where the services were conducted out-of-doors. Part of a hillside had been scooped out and furnished with bench-type seats, forming a natural amphitheater. Towering firs and pines served as walls. The sky was its ceiling, nearly always a magnificent blue. From one section of the amphitheater you had a sweeping view of valley and hills in varying shades of green, sometimes softened by haze. Beautiful!

But I soon learned that the outdoor sanctuary had its peculiar distractions. Clouds drift by, and in the evening they subtly change color as the sun sinks—from white to orange-tainted pink, to pink-tainted lavender, and to charcoal tones as night slowly absorbs them. Birds fly past with flashes of brilliant plumage and snatches of lovely song. A herd of deer, drawn by strange sounds and lights, stroll up to examine the scene. A lizard cocks its head and looks you over, then scurries away in quest of more interesting creatures. A white plane in high altitude flight is silhouetted against the blue canopy overhead. These things bid for the attention you are trying to give the speaker.

Of course, indoor sanctuaries have their distractions too—note-passing teenagers, whispering adults, giggling youngsters, crying infants, gum-chewers of all ages—to name a few. A buzzing fly, a blinking fluorescent light, a doctor’s beeper suddenly testifying, a choir member dozing with bobbing head—to augment but not exhaust the list.

The outdoor distractions are lovelier. I prefer a chattering squirrel to a gossiping man. Weather permitting, I would be glad to have all church services outdoors. Unfortunately, not many areas are temperate enough, and traffic-free enough, to allow outdoor services regularly. That’s life—you don't even have options on your distractions. They just come with the territory.

Happily though, indoors or outdoors, God is present with His worshiping people. His presence and His Word make the whole experience valuable, whatever the nature and number of distractions.
The freest person on earth is the one whose mind, heart, and will are captive to the Lord.

A BELL FOR BABIES

Across from our headquarters in Kansas City stands a large, handsome building that was formerly a convent. Recently it was purchased by Youth for Christ and is now operated as a home for unwed mothers.

Here young women come to receive medical, educational, social, and spiritual help during pregnancy. Prenatal and postnatal ministries bring hope, courage, and strength to women at a crucial time in their lives.

When a baby is born the bells ring from the tower of the building. Each time I hear their jubilant sound I thank God for the loving care that mother and child are experiencing in Christ’s name.

To oppose abortion is not enough. The slaughter of millions of unborn is a national scandal inviting the judgment of God upon America. Against this red tide of death-for-convenience-and-profit, the Church must stand and speak. But alternatives to abortion must be provided. Unwed mothers do not need condemnation, they need compassion. They have been used and abused, manipulated and exploited. That many gladly consented to the situation that produced their problems is beside the point. No one is without sin and guilt. The posture of the Church should be one of caring mercy, not of aloof criticism.

Everyone needs acceptance and love. Questing for that in wrong ways is responsible for the plight of these mothers. They are to be commended for refusing to destroy the life within them. They need to hear and sense that God loves them, values them, and desires to forgive and fellowship with them. How can they learn that except through people who model the message?

Thank God for places where unwed, and often unwanted, mothers can find love, warmth, support, and training. Thank God for all the persons who finance, operate, and staff these compassionate centers of ministry.

The bells ring out, a melodious birth announcement, a joyous offering of thanksgiving to God! My heart sings each time I hear them proclaiming life and hope.

GOD’S PLANTER

A host of choice laymen have graced our churches. Among them Andrew Riise stood tall in his devotion to Christ and in his service to people.

Born in Norway in 1888, he dreamed of migrating to America, and did so at age 16. A few years later he made his home in California’s San Joaquin Valley, where he farmed and developed land for over 50 years. For most of these years he was a Nazarene layman with a passion for helping to start new churches. Renowned as “the strawberry king” of his area, he was really the Lord’s planter, and most of his income was invested in the Lord’s work.

He loved the Word, studying it daily, and recording his insights in small notebooks to be shared with others. He read the Bible in English, Norwegian, and Spanish, and had a life-long interest in the work of Scripture translation.

At an age when most men settle into retirement, the Lord directed him to make four trips to see what his investments had produced around the world. By plane, train, auto, and on foot, he visited missionaries in Europe, Mexico, South America, Central America, Afghanistan, and Indonesia, where he helped establish Nazarene work. He encouraged Bible translators in Africa, Nepal, and Vietnam.

Andrew and Leila Riise moved to Arizona in 1973 to help evangelize and disciple American Indians. He died in March 1986, a few days short of his ninety-eighth birthday, and still full of plans and prayers for mission projects. He was buried in his native village in Norway, hallowing forever a small plot of ground in the cemetery of the Lutheran Church where he had been baptized and christened.

Andrew Riise coaxed from California’s soil some of its finest products. His grandest harvests, though, were reaped around the world, often in lonely, difficult, and perilous places where the gospel seed was sown by valiant missionaries. That seed was provided by a faithful layman whose sense of stewardship should challenge us all. He was God’s planter, indeed.
Within the last year I was made director of our local church's bus ministry. I had convinced myself that I took the position because I had a genuine concern for the bus ministry. In reality I did it to further my own standing in the church. Though I did feel a call to the bus ministry, I don't believe I was called to be the director. My pride had taken over and when the opening came, I stepped in, thinking that I had accomplished something.

As the months rolled by, I began to feel like a failure, and I knew what was causing my frustrations. It was my desire to be popular and to have people serving me. The time has now come for me to have a change of heart with the Lord's help and to distinguish myself as a humble servant of Christ and the church. "Humility for the Christian is servanthood . . ." and that is what I am now starting to more fully comprehend. Since the Lord expects our actions to truly reflect what is in our hearts, that will become my goal as the bus ministry director.

I thank God for a growing church with the ability to support a bus ministry to reach the inner city. And also for people like Mr. Stults, who are able to give us a better insight into the Christian life.

Steve Swenson
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

In Paul T. Culbertson's article, "No Price Tag," he says Job served God only because of who God is. That is so but I believe Job's concept of God was faulty. And in the end I think we can see that he admits his concept of God was faulty.

He scrupulously did everything to cover all the bases so as not to be found unrighteous in any respect. This is a religion of fear. It is true that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, but this is not the "fourth level" of God's self-revelation to man. That comes when we learn to cease from our own works and to rest in His perfect, finished work, which is all that makes us worthy to receive and to enjoy the free favors of God. Then, also, we are able to freely respond in love out of a perfect heart.

Job said—"The thing I greatly feared has come upon me." Perfect love, God's love for us, casts out fear.

Virginia Foxworthy
Athens, Alabama

IN GOD'S TIME

by EDITH HOLCOMB

After midnight I awoke, as had become customary, and prayed for the spiritual well-being of our son. This night the burden seemed even heavier, but soon there came a promise! We would see him in the Lord's service again; we would hear him play French horn in church! I slept. That was January 1970.

Days, weeks, months went by, and it seemed nothing was happening (it was but I just didn't know it yet!). During the next years more than once I went to the Lord saying, "I know you promised, but I'm his mother and, oh, how I want it to happen now!" The Spirit understood and gave me reassurance and patience to wait that I do not naturally have.

Several years ago we knew our son had repented and had been forgiven. Opportunities to serve the Lord opened, but still there was something lacking.

Then he came to our retirement open house, driving his truck those many miles so he could stay a week and help our people sense the spirit of the entire denomination; a greater force than one congregation. Then the recorder broke down.

I mentioned to our son that I didn't know what to do with them; they contained so much of our lives. He said, "I have the equipment. I'll put them all on cassettes for you." I was glad to see him take them home.

The next Christmas we were at his home with the rest of our family. We attended his church and heard the Christmas music he directed and heard him play the French horn! We also enjoyed hearing tapes of our children singing in church groups, junior and senior high school choirs, and such.

On Tuesday after New Year's he called—at noon. I was a bit startled, for he usually calls when rates are low. He said, "Mom, I've just finished recording all those sermons for you." As I responded, "You have!" I sensed something different in his voice. He sobbed, and in choked tones said, "I wanted to let you know right away that I've had my own personal revival listening to these sermons. And Mom, I've made my commitment." We rejoiced together and got Dad on the line, too!

After 15 years to the month the promise was completed—in God's own time and in His own way! He used those 7" reels from 20 to 30 years before. I didn't guess their greatest value.

How we praise Him! In His own time, He makes things beautiful!
Marvel Ansley Williamson has received her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in higher education administration. Dr. Williamson is an alumna of Mid-America Nazarene College and a member of the Iowa City Church of the Nazarene.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Wichita State University and a Master of Science in nursing from the University of Kentucky. Currently a professor at the University of Iowa, she teaches and conducts research in her clinical specialty of sexuality and functional specialty of administration. She is the author of numerous articles and book chapters in these fields. Her husband is Paul S. Williamson, M.D. They have two sons, Marcus and Sean.

Wendell Bowes, head of the Department of Religion and director of graduate studies in religion at Northwest Nazarene College, earned the Ph.D. degree from Dropsie College in Philadelphia. He received the degree in Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Old Testament and Cognate Languages.

Bowes has been a professor of biblical literature and languages since 1982. He graduated from NNC in 1967 and earned a master's degree at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City in 1970 and a Master of Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1971.


Bowes and his wife, Virginia, have two daughters, Heidi, 13, and Shelley, 7. Mrs. Bowes is a kindergarten teacher for the Nampa School District. Dr. Bowes is the son of Rev. Alpin and Betty Bowes of Kansas City.

DECADE III BEGINS AT NBC

August 27, 1987, will mark a pivotal point in the history of Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs. That is the date Decade III will be launched in a spirit of celebrating the past and projecting the future, according to Dr. Jerry D. Lambert, NBC president. Administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, members of the community, and other guests will gather at Colorado Springs First Church for a special convocation at 7:00 P.M. A reception for specially invited guests follows the service at the Williamson Center at NBC.

The entire Board of General Superintendents will be present for the meeting, and each member will briefly address the gathering on different aspects of NBC's contribution to the life of the church.

All friends of the college are cordially invited to attend.

—NW

ANNOUNCEMENT

The May 15 issue carried an article by Terri Cobb on pornography, and included phone numbers of political leaders who should be contacted to register opposition to this vice. We have learned that callers will get through with less trouble with these numbers: the President—202-456-7639; the Attorney General—202-724-5764.

PETITIONS

Pray for the 6,000 Nazarenes in military service, especially those from your own district and church, their families, and the 46 Nazarene military chaplains.

Pray for the pioneer district of Switzerland, which has recently been organized, and for pastor-superintendent Rudolph Quiram. This field is ripe for holiness evangelism and church planting.

Pray for the Mexico and Central America Regional Conference July 15-19, led by General Superintendent Raymond Hum and Regional Director Jerry Porter.

Pray for the Nazarene Youth International Conference being held in Washington, D.C., July 7-14; Gary Sivewright, president of NYI; and all the workers leading this effort.

PRAISINGS

Praise God for the 53,786 new Nazarenes received into our churches around the world last year. World areas increased 9 percent outside North America. South America gained 18 percent.

Praise the Lord for the $8,106,442.85 given in the Easter offering to date which will help us carry out the Great Commission worldwide.

RAYMOND W. HURN, Secretary
BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS
MRS. SALTER NEARS THREE DECADE MARK IN OFFICE OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS

She has been asked what it was like to work for Phineas F. Bresee, but this is only because it seems impossible to remember what the office of the Board of General Superintendents was like before Imogene Salter became a part of it. March 1987 marked her 27th year of service to the office at headquarters where she began as a secretary and moved up to office manager. In March she was promoted to the role of administrative coordinator for the Board of General Superintendents.

During her tenure, Mrs. Salter has seen one entire Board of General Superintendents retire, including Drs. Benner, Vanderpool, Powers, Young, Williamson, and Lewis. She also served under retired superintendents Drs. Lawlor, Jenkins, and Coulter.

“When I began, I served with Bonnie Wiseman for three days, and then I became the only secretary in the office.” This left Mrs. Salter to do the filing, typing, appointments, travel arrangements, and lots of shorthand (since there were few dictation machines).

“During my early days in the office, I had to answer the phones for all of the generals. Back then we had no central phone service and each general had his own number, so I had to run from office to office answering the phones. It was quite a sight.”

Things have changed since those days. A central phone system and a staff of two full-time secretaries and one part-time help to cover the busy load of keeping the six general superintendents informed, responding to volumes of mail and phone calls, and making the arrangements to keep them on-the-go to meetings around the world.

Mrs. Salter at her desk

General Superintendents Dr. Raymond W. Hurn (l.) and Dr. William M. Greathouse (r.) congratulate Mrs. Salter on her recent appointment to the post of administrative coordinator for the Board of General Superintendents.

The staff of the general superintendents’ office at Nazarene headquarters (l. to r.): Mrs. Salter, Miss Mary Ann Wagner, Mrs. Lois Van Note, and Miss Jean Parker.

WHAT’S GROWING UNDER YOUR BED?
By Martha Bolton

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What has been the greatest challenge of a job working for the top elected officials of the Church of the Nazarene? To realize the kinds of problems and pressures that face the members of the board and despite them all, to keep a positive attitude.

The reward for her service has been more than a monetary matter.

“My years in this office have been my service to God (Ephesians 6:7),” adds Mrs. Salter. “The extra hours spent working to keep the board resourced and the work flowing have been part of my commitment made as a young mother when my husband answered the call to preach. I’m not a minister, but I’ve certainly had a commitment to God.

“This has been a wonderful experience as I have had an opportunity to talk to people across the United States and Canada and even around the world. I have traveled all over the world from my desk. It has truly been a once-in-a-lifetime privilege to serve my church and my God.”

“Mrs. Salter has served our denomination faithfully for 27 years, and we are thankful for her dedication to this heavy responsibility,” said Dr. Raymond H. Wurn, secretary of the Board of General Superintendents. “If she ever decides to retire, we will be hard-pressed to find a replacement with the same kind of attitude and willingness to go beyond the call of duty that has been her trademark.”

Mrs. Salter is one of seven persons who has served at headquarters for more than a quarter of a century. Eight persons have been at headquarters for at least 20 years, 13 have served at least 15 years, 24 have been employed at least 10 years, and 62 have served for at least 5 years.

—NN

**BOARD OF PENSIONS ISSUES “13TH MONTH” CHECK**

The Board of Pensions and Benefits USA issued a “13th month” check to all who were members of the “Basic” Pension Roll on June 1, 1987. Each member received an amount equal to his regular monthly pension check.

According to Dr. Dean Wessels, administrator of the Board of Pensions and Benefits USA, these additional payments are made possible by continued strong support of the Pensions and Benefits Fund.

The “Basic” Pension and these extra checks recognize the dedicated service of over 2,900 retired ministers and widows of ministers throughout the United States and Canada. Faithful support of the Pensions and Benefits Fund enables the Pensions office to continue “Honoring the Trust” these individuals have placed in the Church of the Nazarene.
An adequate budget for evangelism at the beginning of each church year is imperative for each congregation.
TENNESSEE—August 13-14. Nashville College Hill,牧师 Dan Minnick, Houston, Category II; and Charles Johnson for Pastor Marvin Bonner, Waynesboro Trinity, Category I. Others winning the Great Commission Fellowship Awards were Pastor Donald Boyd, Quitman; and Pastor Talmadge Lane, Southaven. Dr. Eugene L. Stowe, general superintendent, ordained Gary Hadan Tatum, Tandy Nathan Vaughn, and Ruby Walters. District Superintendent J. W. "Bill" Lancaster completed the third year of an extended term.

FOR THE RECORD

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS—August 6-7. District Center, Manville Campgrounds, Rte. 1, Box 131, Manville, IL 61339. Host Pastor: Wesley Burns. General Superintendent: Dr. John A. Knight.


Pictured (I. to r.) at the Mississippi district assembly are the pastors who received the Great Commission Leader Awards: Category I, Mount Shasta, Bruce Maier; Category II, Sun Valley, Lloyd Howell; Category III, Sacramento Cordova, Merlin Hunter; Category IV, Sacramento Arden, Max Jetton; and Dr. Walter Hubbard, district superintendent. Others receiving the Great Commission Fellowship Award were: Anderson, Garry Lewellen; Fairfield, Don Mason; Fallon, Ray Goin; Gardnerville Carson Valley, Phillip Gunter; Gridley, Glenn Ratcliff; Hawthorne, Andy Grossman; Jackson, Eldon Nice; Lodi, Charles Plumb; Manteca East, Ken Downey; Portola, Warren Benoit; Redding First, Jerry Cordell; Sparks, Fred Bates; and Vacaville, Herb Ireland. Dr. Charles H. Strickland, general superintendent, ordained Phillip Gunter, Donald Libby, Bruce Maier, and Robert Paradise. The credentials of John W. Rockenstrasser were recognized. District Superintendent Walter Hubbard reported four new ethnic works begun during the year; Cordova Korean sponsored by Sacramento Cordova, Pastor Merlin Hunter; Fairfield Korean sponsored by Fairfield, Pastor Don Mason; Sacramento Samoan sponsored by Sacramento North, Pastor Bill Porter; and Suisan Anglo sponsored by Fairfield, Pastor Don Mason.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY REPORTS

OREGON PACIFIC

District Superintendent Gerald E. Mankier, serving the second year of a four-year term, reported a new church organized at Stayton, Oreg.

Dr. Jerald D. Johnson, general superintendent, ordained Larry E. Blum, Terry L. Osborne, Jonathan D. Harris, and Terry A. Thompson. The presentation of the ordination certificate to Jonathan D. Harris by his grandfather, Furman Harris, made Jonathan a third-generation pastor in the Church of the Nazarene.

A Citation of Merit Award was given to Pastor Don Renschler of Molalla (sponsoring pastor) and to Byron Hatch of Stayton (planter pastor).
NAZARENE CAMP MEETINGS


LOS ANGELES (Pasadena)—Aug. 18-22, Bresee Avenue Church, 1480 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91104. Sunday, Aug. 23, Pasadena First Church. Special workers: Bob Hoots, evangelist; Bob Hoots, evangelist; Bob Hoots, evangelist; Bob Hoots, evangelist; Bob Hoots, evangelist.


NORTHWEST INDIANA—Aug. 18-22, evenings; Aug. 23, 3:30 p.m.; First Church, 3134 Swanson Rd., Portage, IN 46368. Special worker: Don Pfeifer Thomas M. Hermon, district superintendent.


SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA—Sept. 1-5, evenings; Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m.; Henretta First Church, 8th and Trudgen, Henretta, OK 74437. Special workers: Bob Hoots, evangelist; Jim and Rosemary Green, music. Wendell P. Harper, district superintendent.


MOVING MINISTERS

TIM BARBER from Greensburg (Ky) First to Harrodsburg (Ky) First

JAMES BEALS, student, to associate, Livermore (Calif) First

DAVID M. BEST from pastor, Santa Barbara (Calif) Trinity to Pasadena, District Assignment

TERRY BURNIE, student, MVNC, Mount Vernon to pastor, Buckhannon (W.Va) First

LAWRENCE G. DABILL from Stockdale (Pa) First to Allasburg (Pa) First

CARL S. DAWSON from Anderson (Ind) Anderson East 38th to Ketchikan (Alaska) First

H. MARK ELSE from Countryside (Mo) to Bettendorf (Iowa) First

TIMOTHY R. EYRING from Ridgway (Pa) First to Belle Vernon (Pa) First

RICHARD A. HENDERSON to Nebraska, District Assignment

CHARLES B. HORNE to McAom, (Ga) Trinity

ARNETT HUGHES from Dille (W.Va) to Clay (W.Va) First

STEVEN J. IWERSEN from associate, Nyssa (Oreg) to Redmond (Oreg) First

WILLIAM MALONE, student, NTS, Kansas City to Copperas Cove (Tex) First

BRIAN P. NAVE to Manchester (Tenn) First

JOSEPH NEUCH from Hayesville (N.C) to Wal­ton (W.Va) First

ARTHUR R. PHILLIPS from Lincoln (Nebr) Northside to Farnam (Nebr) First

WILLIAM P. POWERS from Roseville (Calif) Granite Bay to Grindon (Ariz) West Valley

S. WAYNE SMITH from St. Mary's (Ohio) First to Skowhegan (Maine) First

MELO/IN L. SMILEY from Edensburg (Pa) First to Steubenville (Ohio) First

REESE STEPHENSON from Valewood (Va) to Bowling Green (Ky) Immanuel

ANDREW SUTCH from associate, Kansas City (Mo) Grace to Evangelism

TANDY N. VAUGHN from Bradford (Ohio) First to Muncie (Miss) First

JERRY W. WALLACE from Napoleon (Ohio) First to East Tawas (Mich) First

BURL WARD from St. Petersburg (Pa) to Bristol (Va) First

JAY L. WILLARD, student, NTS Kansas City, to asso­ciate, Frederick (Md) First

BRUCE G. WILLIAMSON from Denison (Tex) to San Antonio (Tex) East Terrel Hills

JOHN WILLIAMSON, pastor, Chandler (Ariz) Dob­son Ranch to associate Kansas City, (Mo) First

O. W. WILSON from Florence (Ala) First to Bryan (Tex) First

MOVING MISSIONARIES

REV RAYMOND and HELEN BOLERJACK, Papua New Guinea, Field address: P.O. Box 378, Mount Hagen WHP, Papua New Guinea

DR. DANIEL and MARGARET CLARK, Bolivia, Fur­lough address: 908 Sadlier Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46219

MR. CARL and JUDI DUEY*, Swaziland, Furlough address: 7901 N.W. 28th Terrace, Bethany, OK 73008

REV CHRIS and SUSAN GRUBE, Holy Land, Field address: P.O. Box 2163, Bet Hanina Post Office, Jerusalem, Israel

REV ALBERTO and LILLIUM GUANG*, Mexico, Field address: Apartado Postal 22-690, 14000 Tlapilan Mexico DF, Mexico

REV JOHN and SHEILA HALL, Costa Rica, Furlough address: 3150 Elm Hill Dr. N.W., Warren, OH 44485

REV STEPHEN and BRENDA HEMP, Brazil, Furlough address: 5932 N. Mueller, Bethany, OK 73008

REV EDSON and LELA KRATZ, Brazil, Field address: C.P. 2154, 90.000 Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

REV. RUSS and DONNA LOVETT, France, Field address: 121 Avenue Irene, 78670 Villennes s/Seine, France

REV. KEN and JOANNA SCHUBERT, Korea, Furlough address: 9447 Beverly, Bancroft, CA 90706

REV HARMON and BEVERLY SCHMELZENBACH, Kenya, Field address: P.O. Box 20025, Narobi, Kenya

REV. JAMES and PATRICIA SMITH, South Africa
REV. WALLACE and MONA WHITE, Papua New Guinea, 
DR BRUCE and RUTH TAYLOR, Germany, Field 
REV. DALE and PATRICIA STOTLER, South Africa, 
through Evangelism Ministries’ toll-free number, 1-800-821-2154.

Celebration. Those who cannot attend are encouraged to send greetings. For more information contact Rev. David A. Moore, 826 Live Oak Street, Westlake, LA 70669.

Lancaster, district superintendent. Five of Rev. Carleton’s 10 “preacher boys” participated in the service. Others assisting were two Nazarene pastor sons-in-law, Rev. Albert Rich, Union, Maine; and Rev. Robert Jackson, Maynard, Mass. Two Nazarene pastor grandsons also assisted. Rev. Stephen Smith, Wells, Maine; and Rev. Ronald Jackson, Baltimore. Rev. William Poteet, local pastor, participated. Other survivors are daughters Elizabeth Rich, Dorothy Dinsmore, Wilma Jackson, Cherry Paddock, and Helen Smith; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 1 brother.

PIONEER LAYMAN DIES

Archie E. Smith, 91, died at home in Fairfield, Maine, April 27. He is survived by his wife, Helen L. Smith. He was a charter member of two Nazarene churches in Maine—Fairfield and Bingham. In early life he was highly involved in local and state politics. Conducting the funeral service were his two Nazarene pastor sons, Rev. Ernest Smith, New Lebanon, N.Y.; and Rev. Keith E. Smith, Hartford, Conn., First. Others assisting were two Nazarene pastor sons-in-law, Rev. Albert Rich, Union, Maine; and Rev. Robert Jackson, Maynard, Mass. Two Nazarene pastor grandsons also assisted. Rev. Stephen Smith, Wells, Maine; and Rev. Ronald Jackson, Baltimore. Rev. William Poteet, local pastor, participated. Other survivors are daughters Elizabeth Rich, Dorothy Dinsmore, Wilma Jackson, Cherry Paddock, and Helen Smith; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 1 brother.

VETERAN EVANGELIST DIES

Rev. William Frederick Thomas, 77, died May 5 in Kansas City, of congestive heart failure. He was born October 7, 1909, in Bloomington, Ill., where his family were charter members of the Church of the Nazarene. He began preaching at the age of 12, and at 14 was evangelizing full-time. Ordained by Dr. R. T. Williams in 1931, Rev. Thomas pastored 12 years in Indiana churches at Fort Wayne South Side, Kokomo, Anderson First, and Elkhart First. His ministry in evangelism extended to 46 states and Canada.

Rev. Thomas was preceded in death by his wife, Grace, in 1969 and by a son, Dr. John Paul Thomas, in 1985. He is survived by a son, Dr. David F. Thomas, San Diego; a daughter, Mrs. Grace E. Brannon, Kansas City; six grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Hazel Wil...
son, Anaheim, Calif.; and his wife, Rosemary, of Milan, Mich.

A service in Kansas City, May 7, was conducted by Dr. Orville W. Jenkins, assisted by Rev. Keith Wright and Rev. Dan Steele. The funeral service in Milan, Mich., May 9, was held by Dr. Marselle Knight, assisted by Rev. Jeffrey Collins and Rev. Wilbur Brannon. Rev. Brannon presided at the interment in Elk hart, Ind.

DEATHS


BETIEE (MHL FIELD) DAFOE, 59, Mar. 27, Flint, Mich. Survivors: husband Raymond D.; daughters Cynthia Bushey, Rebekah, Bonnie; son Dale; four grandchildren; two brothers.

RUSSELL EVERETT HALL, 69, May 3, Port Hur eneme, Calif. Survivors: wife Lois; sons Jim and Roger; three grandchildren; two brothers.

MRS. DELANA NELSON, 72, Apr. 25, Shirley, Ind. Survivors: husband Bill; daughters Mrs. Sharon Suits and Mrs. Jack (Marlene) Suits; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

HARRY D. PALMER, 82, May 8, Canon City, Colo. Survivors: wife Eulah; daughters LeEtta Shore and Harriett Parker; five grandchildren.


MATTHEW CECIL PHILLIPS, 89, Mar. 27, Con way, Ark. Survivors: wife Freda; three sisters. Song evangelist.

HAZEL B. SOWDERS, 89, Apr. 10, Elk City, Okla. Survivors: stepsons Walter Sowders, Jr., and Claude Sowders; stepdaughters Frances Fansher, Alice Martin, Deloris Atchley; 19 stepgrandchildren; 14 stepgreat-grandchildren; 2 sisters.

HAZEL B. SOWDERS, 89, Apr. 10, Elk City, Okla. Survivors: husband Bill; daughters Mrs. Sharon Suits and Mrs. Jack (Marlene) Suits; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

REVESTER TRAGER, 24, May 4, Ankeny, Iowa. Survivors: parents John and Gloria Trager; sister Brenda Romare.

MARK A. TRAGER, 24, May 4, Ankeny, Iowa. Survivors: parents John and Kay Weaver; brother Joe; grandparents and Rhma Weaver.

BIRTHS

to ERIC AND BECKY (MICHAEL) BALDWUN, Hillsdale, Mich., twins, a boy, Eric Frank, Jr., and a girl, Erica Elizabeth, May 7.

to DAVE AND HELEN ANN (BLANKENSHIP) BUCHER, Lufrin, Tex., a girl, Laura Elaine, Apr. 4.

to REV. JEFFREY AND TAMMIE COLLINS, Saline, Mich., a girl, Tiffany Karis, Apr. 11.

to LARRY AND GAYNELLE (GREEN) DIEBALL, Yukon, Okla., a boy, Michael Don, Apr. 30.

SHOWERS OF BLESSING’S

MASTER plan

July 12

"Let Me Explain: Shallow Hollow Holly"

July 19

"Let Me Explain: Fickle Freckled Frederick"

by Stephen L. Manley, speaker

BIBLES FOR AFRICAN SCHOOLS. The International Bible Society has launched a three- to five-year, $1 million campaign to place Bibles in schools in at least five African nations.

Where countries have made religious education part of the curriculum but lack Scriptures, IBS expects to provide more than a half-million English-language, New International Version Bibles. These schools are in Kenya, Malawi, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The program offers a free set of 24 Bibles to each school and also makes Bibles available to individual students.

IBS president James Powell noted that “schools in many African nations were begun by mission agencies before independence, and some have remained church-related. The leaders of some countries, many of whom were educated in mission schools, have often allowed and sometimes mandated religious education. The problem is that students and sometimes even teachers don’t have Bibles from which to study.”

A NEW MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. Three Christian physicians have formed a new pro-life medical lobby that may eventually challenge the American Medical Association. Called the American Academy of Medical Ethics, the new organization’s members will be physicians committed to the Hippocratic oath, which calls for physicians to uphold life.

They will refuse to perform abortions or to speed death via various practices associated with euthanasia. The estimated 12,000 to 18,000 AMA members who disagree with their organization’s policies on abortion and euthanasia may switch to the new AAME within 18 months.

PUBLIC VIEWS ON HOMOSEXUALS REMAIN CONSTANT IN POLL. No evidence of changing opinions on homosexuality was found by a recent Gallup Poll, which asked if homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal.

In the 1987 poll homosexuality was opposed by 55 percent, and favored by 33 percent. That result matches closely with the 1986 figures of 54 percent against/33 percent for. Support for homosexuality has dropped during the history of the poll however: in 1982 45 percent favored/38 percent against.

Over half (55 percent) said sexually explicit magazines should be placed on the sale of sex magazines. Outright banning of “adult” magazines was favored by 22 percent of those polled.
Please explain 1 Peter 3:19. Why would Jesus preach to the spirits? What is meant by the spirits in prison?

This is an extremely difficult passage of Scripture to translate and interpret. Forty years ago an eminent European scholar produced a 275-page book exploring the various interpretations offered from the fourth to the twentieth centuries! An American scholar found over 30 interpretations in his research. Obviously, gifted and devout minds have found that Peter, as well as Paul, wrote "some things hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:15-16).

Space does not permit extended discussion, but here are the "leading contenders" among the interpretations offered.

(1) Jesus, between His crucifixion and resurrection, descended in spirit to Hades, the realm of the dead, and proclaimed there the triumph of His death as a judgment upon sin and death, and as the salvation of believers. Then He transferred the righteous dead to heaven and left the wicked dead in Hades (Ephesians 4:8-10).

(2) Jesus, in the Spirit, preached through Noah to those contemporaries of Noah who, because they disobeyed, became imprisoned spirits awaiting their judgment.

(3) The "spirits" to whom Jesus preached were "the sons of God" (angels) mentioned in Genesis 6:2 who became notorious sinners responsible— for the judgment of the Flood. In Jewish apocalyptic literature they were regarded as the patrons of earthly kings and sources of heathenism. After His death Jesus preached to them, proclaiming His kingship and breaking the power of paganism. Therefore, His followers must bear witness to the heathen (vv. 15-16) even at the cost of suffering and death (vv. 17, 18), knowing they are being saved from the doom awaiting the impenitent—as Noah was saved from the Flood (vv. 20-21)—through the risen Christ (vv. 21-22).

My present level of understanding inclines me toward the third interpretation with certain modifications borrowed from the second. But I would not be bull-dogmatic about it. As Ray Summers wrote, "Let him who is without his favorite theory cast the first stone!"

When was the devil cast out of heaven? Was it before or after the Creation? Our Bible class had several different opinions.

Two scriptures in the New Testament refer to a fall of Satan—Luke 10:18 and Revelation 12:9. In the first, Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Some commentators have referred this to a time in our Lord's preincarnate existence, others to His victory over temptation when Satan attacked Him in the wilderness. The likelier explanation, however, is governed by the context. In the casting out of demons by the disciples (v. 17), Jesus beheld the overthrow of Satan, who masterminds the kingdom of darkness in which these demons exist and act. Falling from heaven is a vigorous, figurative way of describing this defeat of Satan.

The Revelation passage is similar in meaning. Good angels war against evil angels and win. The evil angels and their leader—Satan—are cast out of heaven into the earth, where they are overcome by the saints "by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." The vision refers to a future overthrow of Satan that denies him any further access to God as "the accuser" of God's people.

So precisely when Satan originally fell from God through sin, resulting in his expulsion from heaven, we are not told in Scripture. We cannot "date" his fall with reference to the creation of earth; but the story of Adam's fall, with the tempter at work in Eden, indicates that Satan's fall occurred before the creation of man.
DEVOTIONAL READING FOR TEENS

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A unique youth devotional relating several hundred bits of trivia to timeless truths from God’s Word. Many helpful things are said about love, self-worth, emotional ups and downs, spiritual growth, the future, relationships, and more.

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SÃO PAULO STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS

The São Paulo Thrust to the City steering committee held its first meeting, April 30, in Campinas, Brazil, during the South America regional council. Dr. Robert Scott, World Mission Division director, chaired the organizational session, and Dr. John A. Knight, responsible general superintendent for South America, shared his vision for São Paulo ‘89. Rev. Louie Bustle, South America regional director, challenged the committee to establish 25 churches in São Paulo in this special project. Currently there is only one Nazarene church in São Paulo.

Special presentations were made to the committee by Dr. Sergio Franco, representing Publications International; Robert Prescott of Compassionate Ministries; and Ray Hendrix and Russ Bredholt, representing Media Services.

The committee organized five subcommittees to handle various aspects of the project. The chairmen of the committees will also serve as members of the steering committee.

A special São Paulo ‘89 presentation was made to the South America regional council, Wednesday evening, April 29, by Stephen Heap, mission director for Brazil, and Rev. Michael Estep, Thrust to the Cities director. Rev. Estep also made a special presentation to nearly 1,300 individuals present for the South American Youth Congress, May 1.

NEWS OF EVANGELISM

EVANGELIST CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

“Sunday Morning was a very unusual service,” reports Rev. Steve W. Holley, pastor of Champaign, Ill., First Church, of their recent revival. “Evangelist Charles Millhuff strongly encouraged husbands and wives to confront each other about their spiritual lives. We were to ask each other, How are you doing in your spiritual life? Are you still up to date? It was a moving, painful, but necessary and effective service.”

Seven couples have recently achieved marriage enrichment certification: Noble and Rosemary Brown, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.; Jerry and Jane Earles, Brooklyn; Roy and Gail Grider, Lockport, Ill.; Bud and Joyce Hardman, Kingwood, WVa.; Darwin and Jean Pressler, Logan, Ohio; Galen and Elaine Swanigan, Independence, Mo.; and Bill and Alice Young, Gladstone, Mo.

These couples have demonstrated spiritual vitality, not only to scores of couples through their ministry, but to their own families as well. They join the ranks of an extended family of 230 couples dedicated to the cause of Christlike relationship education.

Noble and Rosemary Brown

Jerry and Jane Earles

Roy and Gail Grider

Bud and Joyce Hardman

Darwin and Jean Pressler

Galen and Elaine Swanigan

Bill and Alice Young

J. Paul and Marilyn Turner reporting
The Blue Valley Church in Stanley, Kans., was officially organized May 17 with 114 at attendance. Dr. Milton Parrish, Kansas City district superintendent, is shown giving the morning message. Pastor Rich Bisson (seated, r.) presented charter membership certificates to 73 people. Special guests included Mayor Ed Eilert of Overland Park, Kans., and Mrs. Tobbi Dixon, soloist from Kansas City First Church. A candlelight reception followed the charter service.

The result of this unusual charge was that "tears were abundant, and there seemed to be a new concern for and awareness of family members' spiritual needs." Though an altar call was not formally extended, the altar was lined. One unsaved husband found the Lord as his personal Savior, and now he and his family are active in the church.

During the rest of the revival, 130 persons found spiritual help. Of those, 4 were saved, and 7 were sanctified wholly.

Flint, Mich., First Church burned the mortgage on their original sanctuary building May 3. About 400 people attended the potluck and ceremony including participants, previous Pastor Donald Freese (Colorado Springs Trinity); Troy Spence (Chairman of board at time of building); current Pastor Larry A. Fouts, and Don Morey (board member).

The building, built in 1971, was mortgaged at $150,000 originally and has about 15,000 square feet. Subsequent to the building's erection, the church has constructed a 13,000-square-foot family center and is now considering building again, as over 800 are in attendance weekly in double services. Plans are being made for three morning services this fall.

The Reading, Pa., Calvary church recently dedicated their new church facilities. The building was formerly an elementary school and is located on 10 acres. Dr. Jerald D. Johnson, general superintendent, was the speaker. District Superintendent Talmage Haggard prayed the prayer of dedication. The building, which is valued at $2.25 million, was purchased for $550,000. Former properties were sold for $325,000. The building has 21 classrooms, sanctuary, offices, with a total of 35,000 square feet of floor space. Ronald D. Moss is the pastor.

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**DISCOVERING HEBREWS AND 1, 2 PETER** advertised in the June 1 Herald of Holiness and June/July/August 1987 Junior /Senior High Leader's Guide will be shipped SEPTEMBER 1, in time for your fall Youth Bible Study emphasis.

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HEADQUARTERS EMPLOYEES LEARN SHORTHAND

Thirty-seven employees representing every division at Nazarene headquarters enrolled in a beginning shorthand class last winter. The course was offered as a service of the Finance Division and was taught by Peggy Smith, Finance Division office manager. The class met twice weekly at Nazarene Theological Seminary January 6 through April 16.

Twenty employees were honored at a special luncheon for their satisfactory completion of the course.

Dr. D. Moody Gunter, Finance Division director, said the division plans to offer additional training opportunities for headquarters employees to improve their skills, so that they might be better equipped to serve in their positions.

—NN

NEW NWMS EDITOR

Mrs. Nina Gunter, General NWMS director, has announced that Miss Gail Sawrie has accepted the position of NWMS editor, effective June 1.

Miss Sawrie is a 1978 graduate of SNU (formerly Bethany Nazarene College). Her degree is in the multi-division areas of Spanish/journalism/religious education. She has been employed as a reporter and pasteup artist for a local newspaper in her hometown of North Little Rock, Ark.

Miss Sawrie has been active in North Little Rock First Church and on the South Arkansas District.

In her NWMS assignment, Miss Sawrie will serve as editor of Focus (quarterly publication to pastors and NWMS leaders), Adult Mission Education Curriculum, and NWMS pages in World Mission and Preacher's Magazine.

Mr. Harry Dickerson was recently honored by Nazarene Bible College for his funding of the Chair of Evangelism at NBC. His gift provides for Dr. Stephen Manley to teach courses in evangelism at NBC each winter. Dr. Jerry Lambert (l.), NBC president, presents Mr. Dickerson (r.) with the G. B. Williamson award for outstanding service to the Bible college in a special NBC chapel service.
CHURCH PLANTING IS UP IN '87

By May 1, 1987, our denomination organized seven more churches than it had by May 1, 1986, according to Rev. Michael Estep, Church Extension Ministries director.

As of May 1, 1987, 42 new churches had been organized in the United States and Canada; however, Rev. Estep added that five more churches have been organized since May 1.

"This is the largest number of new church organizations for this period in 11 years," said Rev. Estep. "If we could maintain this level throughout the year we would no doubt surpass the figure of 65 new churches last year and perhaps exceed the 75th anniversary year record of 96 fully organized churches in the United States and Canada."

The goal of 1,500 new churches by 1995 was set by the Board of General Superintendents at the 21st General Assembly in Anaheim.

HONORARY DOCTORATES CONFERRED BY NAZARENE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Honorary doctoral degrees were conferred by Nazarene educational institutions on the following persons this spring:

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<td>Congressman Daniel R. Coats</td>
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<td>SNU</td>
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<td>Rev. Louise Bustle</td>
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LOS ANGELES MISSION TO MOVE TO NEW QUARTERS

The need for more space to care for the homeless of L.A.'s Skid Row has prompted a $10-million building program which will expand the ministry of Los Angeles Mission. The mission is an independent Christian work which is operated principally by members of the Church of the Nazarene, according to Dick Willis, Los Angeles Mission board chairman and administrative assistant for the Los Angeles District of the Church of the Nazarene.

Construction began in May on the 113,000 square-foot building. The new facility will increase the mission’s capacity from 78 to 296 beds, 32 of which will be for women and children. The expanded plant will also permit the mission to feed about 1,000 a day—almost twice the number now being served.

At least two other missions (Midnight and Union) serve the Los Angeles area. According to Mr. Willis, Los Angeles Mission places a high priority on meeting the spiritual needs as well as the physical needs of those who pass through its doors.

"More than 9,500 persons attended religious services at the mission last month," said Mr. Willis. "In our latest board meeting we reaffirmed our basic mission as being to get people converted."

The mission also operates a rehabilitation program, mainly for alcoholics and drug users who want to rebuild their lives. Thirty-one persons are currently involved in this program.

All but 1 of the 15 members of the mission board are Nazarenes. The other member is a Free Methodist.

The current mission location is 443 South Los Angeles Street (almost the site of Breshears old "Glory Barn"). The new center will be located at 5th and Wall, one block from the location of old Los Angeles First Church of the Nazarene.

Rev. Mark Holsinger, a Nazarene elder on the Los Angeles District, is the mission director. Rev. Mike Edwards, an elder on the Southern California District, is assistant director.

DR. HUNTON IS NEW RECTOR OF ENBC

Dr. Jay Hunton, 50, pastor of Kansas City Nall Avenue Church of the Nazarene, has been elected rector of European Nazarene Bible College by the school’s board of trustees, according to Dr. Eugene L. Stowe, general superintendent. The board took the action Monday, June 1.

Dr. Hunton replaces Rev. Walter Crow, who resigned the post to return to the United States. Rev. Crow will hold the interim post of missionary in residence at Wichita, Kans., First Church.

Dr. Hunton has served as pastor at Nall Avenue since 1982. Prior to this he was superintendent of the Southern Australia District for five and a half years. In 1963 he was assigned as missionary to central Africa where he served for 14 years. The Huntons opened the work of the church in Northern Zambia and Bulawayo in Zimbabwe. Upon graduation from seminary he pastored the Church of the Nazarene in Pittfield, Maine, until his appointment as missionary. Dr. Hunton is a graduate of Rutgers University. He holds the M.Div. and the D.Min. from Nazarene Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Carol Jeanne, have two daughters, Heather Holbert and Heidi.

Dr. Hunton assumes his new post August 1, 1987.
## ADULTS

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