

# HERALD of HOLINESS

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# CHRISTMAS—ITS PERSONAL MESSAGE

*by General Superintendent Charles H. Strickland*

**T**he question, "What does Christmas really mean?" is answered in a variety of ways by many people. To the tired shopper looking for that last-minute gift it would be "exhausting and useless." To the weary sales personnel it would be "tired feet from long hours of standing to meet customers' demands." To the businessman it is a "financial binge at year's end." To the jet-set it is "a 10-day cocktail party." To many people it means "a holiday visit to loved ones with feasting and exchange of gifts." The symbols of our modern Christmas are congested highways, crowded air terminals, overstocked stores, and exhausted people.

But Christmas has a far more significant and planned message. The immortal "Handel's Messiah" and the 56 madonnas by the great artist Raphael are timeless expressions of gratitude for the gift of the Messiah to the world. In poetry, hymns, and worshipful expressions from the hearts of millions we join together at this season to say with the apostle Paul, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

What is the personal message of Christmas? It tells us that we are loved. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son . . ." (John 3:16). God loves us! We are not alone! We have a Savior! Matthew records the simple but transforming message: "And she

shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). We do not have to suffer defeat in our life struggle with sin. We can be transformed. We can be restored to true human dignity. The exchange of cards and gifts are symbols of this greater love. All serve to remind us that we are loved.

Christmas also reminds us there is hope for our battered and bewildered world. The beautiful message of the angels to shepherds long ago was "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). This Christmas finds our world in a seriously bewildered condition. Terrorism stalks our world like a monster; drug addiction and crimes relating to it have created a nightmare of fear. The home has been invaded, and ties of loyalty have become so broken that the main structure of our society is imperiled. How different it could be if the Prince of Peace could be allowed to enter our world and we would apply His teaching to all of life's relationships.

Christmas also tells us that we have an assignment. We must speed the task of spreading the gospel of Christ to our world. From the chaos of our present world failures there can emerge a new world of "peace, good will toward men." □





# Christmas Sonnets

by LOIS BLANCHARD EADES, Dickson, Tennessee

## ***The Word at Christmas Time***

The GREETING word goes out at Christmastime,  
And "Merry Christmas!" rings from coast to coast.  
In song and festival, in prose and rhyme,  
We wish the best to those we love the most.  
The WRITTEN Word at Christmas! how we need  
The Book that tells us of the One who came!  
"And she brought forth her first-born Son," we read  
And warm our hearts at this familiar flame.  
But let the LIVING WORD be more than these  
(The Word made flesh and born to us on earth),  
The written Word reveal His mysteries,  
The greeting word exalt His lowly birth.  
For if that WORD be not allowed to reign,  
Then all our other Christmas words are vain.

## ***Unto Us (Isaiah 9:6)***

Now like the ancient prophet we declare  
Our kinship to the Messianic One,  
Convinced, as He, that all men everywhere  
Increase through Christ, the universal Son.  
We benefit from each accomplishment  
Of His, from Bethlehem to Calvary.  
His words, His deeds, His life, His death were spent  
For us, His undeserving family.  
And so we proudly bear His holy name  
Emblazoned on the portals of our hearts;  
And so we humbly kneel and press our claim  
To grace, which this relationship imparts,  
And gladly reaffirm each Christmas morn  
The message: "Unto us a Child is born!"

## ***Know Ye the Angels' Song?***

The last line of the song—we've learned it well.  
"Good will to men!" we sing from year to year.  
What sense of human brotherhood we sell  
Through giving and through messages of cheer!  
Congratulate our generosity  
That briefly overlooks each hurt and wrong  
And emphasizes love and harmony.  
How well we know the last line of the song!  
But have we learned that first glad lyric line?  
Do we sing, "Glory be to God on high"?  
Let us observe our holiday design  
To see if it is God we glorify.  
When His name is reechoed clear and strong,  
Then may we claim to know the angels' song.

## ***The Son Has Come***

Man said, "My wings are weak; I cannot fly  
Across the gulf that separates my soul  
From God. Since heaven is remote, then why  
Should I make anything but earth my goal?"  
The angels sang to him of glory and  
Of peace; his earth-tuned ears did not awake  
To let him know that God himself had planned  
And made the flight man could not undertake.  
Man could not go to God; but God has grace  
To compensate for man's deficiency.  
The Son has come to tell the helpless race:  
"There is a way to God, and I am He!"  
And who would praise the conquerors of space  
When He made conquest of Infinity?"

## ***Each Christmastime***

Each Christmastime let some new song be heard,  
Some "Glory in the highest!" fill the sky.  
Plant deep in human hearts the singing word  
That Christ is born and man shall never die.  
May some new star each Christmastime appear  
And lift our vision to the realms above,  
Some ray of promise pierce our atmosphere,  
Lead us to bow before Incarnate Love.  
Some newness should be born each Christmastime  
And wrapped secure against all loss and laid  
Wherever we may cradle thoughts sublime.  
Let not the song, the star, the newness fade;  
But let them give—these wonders all amassed—  
Each Christmastime more meaning than the last.

## ***How Many Days?***

"How many days till Christmas?" children ask,  
Aglow with hope. I ask it more in dread  
Than joy at times, envisioning the task  
Of making ready in the days ahead.  
"How many days till Christmas?" sighed the heart  
Of Israel, beset by haunting fear.  
"What hope that the invader shall depart?  
How long until our Savior shall appear?"  
How many days till He shall come? Do we,  
Like trusting children, wait that glad surprise,  
That second Christmas, when our eyes shall see  
No star, but Christ himself, in eastern skies?  
Our celebration of His birth is vain  
Unless our faith says, "He will come again!"





# HERALD of HOLINESS

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### WANTS PUBLIC PRAYER KEPT BRIEF

In scripture we have been exhorted, even instructed, to pray. Paul says, "Pray without ceasing," and I have attended worship services in which the minister seemed to do just that.

Communion with God should be habitual and real. But does it need to be endless? Is God so uninformed as to require that He be brought "up to date" in public on Sunday morning?

Of course, prayers should be made to a hearing God and not especially for the ears of men, since men are not going to do the answering anyway. It is helpful, however, to enlist the love and faith of others.

A tenderhearted, caring pastor is God's man and the local church's

crying need, but must he recount to God in public the bizarre details of some gruesome accident or some spectacular event to get God's miracle-working power stirred into action?

I think not! *J. M. Yarbrough  
Valrico, Florida*

### CHANGING LIFE

I have been in the Church of the Nazarene all my life and have always been exposed to the *Herald of Holiness*. However, I cannot say that I have ever been a faithful reader, for which I am not proud. Lately, though, I made myself a promise that I would do better and upon doing so I have found a treasure in the pages of the *Herald of Holiness*. Many months ago I began reading the *Herald* cover to cover, and I'm glad I did. I especially enjoy the articles on holiness and the editorials.

My father literally pedaled the *Herald* everywhere he went because he believed in it, and that helped make him a successful pastor. I will endeavor to do the same in my ministry, for I am convinced that the *Herald* can change lives, because it is changing mine.

*Claude A. Crisp  
Beattyville, Kentucky*

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Genesis 2:3 states, in part, "God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested."

Please notice that it was God who rested and not man. There appears to have been no command for man to "rest" per se until Exodus 31:13, where it states, in part, "My Sabbath is a sign between me and you that you may know who sanctifies you." It was given to Israel in Exodus 16:29.

*(Continued on page 18)*



# CHRISTMAS

## SONG PRODUCERS

by NEIL E. HIGHTOWER

**G**abriel was a busy angel in the hill country of Judah around Nazareth in 4 B.C. His heavy schedule began in Jerusalem where he visited the Temple to inform an old priest that he was to be the father of an important son. "These mortals! How obtuse they can be!" must have been a thought on the edge of Gabriel's mind.

Gabriel had his hands full convincing old Zechariah. Zechariah was excited because he had been chosen to perform a service that would happen only once in his lifetime—burning incense in the holy place. The angel's task was to convince Zechariah that despite his and his wife's advanced age they would become parents. Such disrespect and unbelief evidenced by this mere mortal in the presence of an archangel! As a result of that moment of unbelief, Zechariah was

struck dumb until the birth of John the Baptist.

There is no record of how skeptical Elizabeth may have been at first when Zechariah returned home and broke the news. Regardless of that, in due time a boy was born. Elizabeth was overjoyed because the Lord had taken away the disgrace of her lifelong barrenness, a disgrace almost unbearable in the Jewish culture of that day.

After the shock had settled in the priest's home, Gabriel appeared to a virgin maid in Nazareth, a cousin of Elizabeth's, to convince her of the most startling news yet. She was to become pregnant before she and Joseph, her fiancé, came together. She was to be made pregnant by a divine miracle, her overshadowing by the Holy Spirit.

Gabriel was impressed with her sensitivity, openness, and faith. Her only question—a natural one—was, "How will this be since I am a virgin?" Gabriel was impressed, as we Christians should be, with

the agile understanding of this young woman from Nazareth.

Apprised of the interlocking divine will respecting her cousin Elizabeth, whose wonderful news had not yet become public, and the two baby boys to be born, Mary's believing and committed response was, "I am the Lord's servant!" She accepted without question the name of the child and the stupendous news of His destiny.

Then came Gabriel's toughest task. He had to deal with a godly but conservative Jewish carpenter. Sensitive to Mary's predicament and full of love for her, Joseph quietly determined to privately divorce her, which would not heap public shame upon her. Hardly able to believe what Mary had shared with him, or to accept what his eyes corroborated when he saw her, Joseph went to bed with a troubled mind. He tossed about in a fitful dream while his subconscious mind wrestled with his shattered family plans. Gabriel invaded that dream and communicated the divine plan. God was to enter the human predicament, as the prophet Isaiah had predicted. "Immanuel" was not just a beautiful name for some Ideal Servant. The Holy Spirit was to make the flesh of Mary a vehicle of divine-human synthesis, and the son to be born in due time would be Joshua—the Savior—an ancient Hebrew name.

When Joseph awoke, his strong sense of righteous horror was laid to rest. He did not argue with Gabriel but immediately made contact with Mary and the betrothal period was cut short. He took her home; thus providing a legitimate legal home environment that would answer the most inquisitive.

Two boys of the Nazareth hill country were born six months apart, and their births kept the countryside agog with amazement for the best part of a year. Both had a rich family heritage. John's was the priestly line of the Levites. Jesus' was the kingly line of David, with a smattering of the levitical line through his mother's mother. (Mary and Elizabeth were related through their mothers.)

The names selected for the two infants startled their world. John's extended family, gathered for his

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circumcision, was convinced he should be a “junior.” But his mother firmly insisted that his name was “John,” and when his father, unable to speak since his last Temple duty, wrote out the name on paper, what a commotion took place! The meaning of John pointed to something wonderful, “the mercy of Jehovah.”

The meaning of Jesus’ name, in its Hebrew form “Joshua,” pointed beyond His cousin’s name to the divine purpose, salvation or deliverance. How wonderful and encouraging are the explanatory words of the angel: “for he shall save his people from their sins.” It called up from the ancient past the work of a mighty leader, Joshua, who delivered the people across the Jordan River into the land God had promised.

Both of these baby boys caused a prophetic commotion at their circumcision or dedication. Zechariah, the father of John, regained his voice and broke out into prophetic praise. He saw the true nature of his son’s work—to prepare the way for Messiah. Simeon, a devout watcher of the unfolding divine promise, saw the nature of Jesus’ work the moment he took Him into his arms in the Temple. It would be atoning work, bringing Jesus to a Cross and piercing the heart of His mother with sorrow. Both boys had a divinely planned calling and destiny. And the prophetic words that rang out in the hill country home and in the Temple were enough to fill the neighbors with awe and the parents with wonder.

Both John and Jesus inspired the spontaneous production of song at their births. Elizabeth broke into rhapsody when Mary appeared on her doorstep, and left the Church a lovely “Beatitude,” which extols the steadfast faith of Mary. Zechariah found his tongue again when he scribbled John’s name upon a piece of paper, corroborating Elizabeth’s word. Filled with the Holy Spirit, and seized with prophetic unction, he sang of encouragement to those living in darkness and the shadow of death!

Jesus’ birth was inundated with song. Beginning with the angelic chorus announcing the stupendous message to awestruck shepherds of Bethlehem, it progressed to Simeon’s “Benedictus” when he picked up the Babe of Bethlehem and realized God had kept His glorious promise! How beautifully he blended together the truths of the Incarnation and the Atonement.

It seems that the only major person in the Bethlehem story who didn’t burst into song was Joseph. Perhaps carpenters do art through their fingers not their voices. But his steadfast spirit and obedience provided the platform for God’s wondrous plan. His sensitive ear heard the command of God to flee to Egypt, which saved the life of baby Jesus.

Jesus of Nazareth has inspired more songs and carols than any other man in history. Carols, those “songs with a religious impulse that are simple, hilarious, popular, and modern,” come to bless us at Christmastide. They remind us that God has a warm spot in His heart for the world, expressed in the laugh, the gurgle, of a helpless infant in Mary’s arms. From many quaint but sincere perspectives they paint the picture of God’s faithfulness. □



by J. GRANT SWANK, JR.

**E**very day is Christmas if one sees Jesus. It is all in seeing Jesus.

No wonder Jesus said of himself, “I am the light of the world.” Without Him, all else is darkness.

With all the trappings of Christmas, people still miss it by not seeing Jesus. One Sunday evening, while seated in a church listening to a cantata, I noticed a young lady in the front row. She spent her whole time trying to fix an artificial candle’s “wick,” which would not connect with the battery so as to light.

She twisted and turned that tiny stub, then stroked it in hopes of a gentler touch having more persuasive powers. I thought surely she would give up, simply cup her hand over the tip of the candle, and make believe all was well. But she didn’t. To the very end of the concert, she poked at that white stick.

As I walked out of the building, I could not help but feel sorry for the girl. She had spent her evening in the choir only to miss much of Christmas, for she had not

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# EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS

seen Jesus. All she had noticed was a candle that did not work.

Yet in the center of the first row of the same choir was a middle-aged woman whose face was aglow throughout. One could just tell that she was "into" the music. As I watched the contrast between the two women, I concluded that the second could truly sing of Jesus, for she was seeing Jesus in the evening's celebration.

No wonder the shepherds left Bethlehem praising and glorifying God! They had seen *Jesus*.

How was it so? Partly, because they genuinely believed what they had been told by the angels. They actually believed the unbelievable—that a peasant baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, laid in a cow's trough, and overseen by teenaged parents, was indeed the Messiah, the Son of God, the coming King.

So strong was their faith that they dared to leave the barn and broadcast their hearts to the world.

I wonder if we, in our world of nuclear fear, terrorism, abuse of many sorts, disintegration all around us, and overall ugliness, can still believe to see Jesus. It does take a lot of faith. But for those who will, who look into the manger with believing hearts, He still can be found.

I think of a friend with multiple sclerosis who is confined to a health-care center. Her husband has deserted her and has become an alcoholic. She has no children; her parents are deceased. The other night she phoned to say that her closest "friend"—with whom she shared a bank account—had taken the account and threatened to rob the patient of any monies. "You don't need the money," she threw into the ears of this cripple.

At the same time, the social worker in charge of her case had turned on her, being quite nasty.

"I don't know how much more I can take," she pleaded over the phone.

This patient is a believer. Though crushed with betrayal, she took the dilemma to God in prayer.

It was a week later she called our home again. "I have all my money back. And the social worker has been fired from the center due to excessive drinking." Her voice then broke with tears. She really did not have to say any more with words. It was being said in the silence: through the confusions of existence, Jesus once more could be seen. This crippled friend got hold of herself then and started to praise the Lord. She also said that she was thankful that she had kept the faith.

I think that the shepherds also found their praise in bending before Him. They were willing to kneel, something that mortals tend to forget.

To truly see inside the manger, one must kneel, bending in adoration and homage. That is hard to do if one is wrapped up in self, reaching for status, and has his head in the clouds. But it is easy to do if one is in love with the baby.

I was noticing the children around the manger scene by the tree. Their faces were lit with shining eyes and glowing cheeks. Their arms made excited gestures. Why? Because in the middle of the set was a baby. They'd bent over enough to see Him.

No wonder Jesus said for adults to become as little children in order to know His kingdom. We are to become as children in order to experience Christmas in seeing Jesus.

This season and through the coming year, heed heaven's directives. Just as the shepherds were told by the angels to go! and so find the signs—the city of David, a baby in swaddling clothes, a manger—so we too can go! Following divine direction we find Him.

Some people try to find God in their own way: drugs, gurus, "trips," short-cuts of religion, psychic tickles, and soul massages of one sort or another. These are not God's way of locating Him.

Yes, the shepherds, when instructed by the angels to go to Bethlehem, could have responded with a "No!" What if they had wanted to stay with their flocks or head toward Galilee rather than trek over to Bethlehem? They could have chosen dozens of other options. But they didn't. Instead, they followed God's signs and so saw Jesus.

We can see Him today, even in our world with all that is going on to point elsewhere. Listen to the angels; do as they say.

Think back to India when gas leaks killed over 2,500 persons. Mother Teresa flew into the horror. Gathered around her were swelling crowds. She turned to them, knowing carcasses were still being lifted from the ground and burnt in piles in surrounding acreage. Yet with all that, she said: "One beautiful thing is happening still. This has brought out the best in everybody. This has forced us, who would never have become involved otherwise, to serve the suffering. Overcome suffering with love."

Meeting with 14,000 school children, she said: "There must be bitter feelings inside. This could have been an accident, it is like a fire could break out anywhere. That is why it is so important to forgive. Forgiveness offers us a clean heart and people will be a hundred times better after it."

Yes, in our world of fear it is still possible for those of faith to bend before the manger and so see Jesus, not only at Christmas but every day. □



# Christmas:

## A TIME FOR RECONCILIATION

by ANONYMOUS

Christmas is a time for plays, pageants, and packages; for calories, carols, and cards; for santas, surprises, and sentimentality.

Christmas is also the time for reconciliation. It is easy in all the Christmas commotion to forget that. Reconciliation can be time-consuming and during December—well, every minute counts.



Christmas had been busy; packed with 101 “things to do.” Which *had* to be done. But for each item checked off my list, another was added. Yet, in the back of my mind, I knew that a matter needed resolving.

We’d been friends since childhood. We had gone to Nazarene churches together. We’d gone to youth camp and Vacation Bible Schools and Sunday School picnics. Yet, as we became teenagers, we grew apart. We both made choices. By high school graduation, our relationship was strained. He went to New York; I went to a Nazarene college. Across the years, we heard from each other through our parents who were equally proud of both of our careers. You know how mothers are.

He died. With AIDS. No one in the Nazarene churches we had grown up in could deal with that. One finally said what many thought, “He sure messed up his life!” Wages of sin, Romans 1, chickens come home to roost, etc.

I remembered conversations when we had argued. When judgment led to pronouncements from my holier-than-thou mind-set. I never really listened to him. If I had, I might have found a flaw in his reasoning in which I might have planted a seed. I had to be “right.”

I never saw him again. Once he left, he didn’t come back.

When I was in New York I didn’t call him. I didn’t go to the funeral. But months later, a group of his friends sat around a living room asking “Why?” That led to the subtle accusation that bothered all of us: we had failed him!

So on Christmas Eve, I bought some flowers and headed for the cemetery where he was buried. Oddly, despite a career that had taken him to London, Rome, New York, and Hollywood, he was buried not far from that high school where we had been active in drama and music.

I placed the flowers on his grave.

In the bitter cold wind, I cried. I confessed my judgmental attitude.

No, it didn’t help all that much. But that afternoon visit caused me to inventory other relationships that needed reconciling, mending, even in the midst of a busy Christmas season.

Something about the Christmas season makes relationships more precious. Something about the hectic pace of Christmas makes relationships more fragile. And there is something about the hectic pace of the season that pushes reconciliation to the bottom of our priorities.



The best Christmas gift could be the gift of reconciliation. Not through the most expensive greeting card or gift but by 10 simple words:

"I am sorry."

"I was wrong."

"Will you forgive me?"

How many family gatherings could be so different from previous years by the generous use of those three phrases?

Yes, the words may have to be preceded by a "now hear me out." Yes, the words may come after some foot-shifting, and stuttering, and fumbling of hands. Yes, the phrases may have to be repeated. And yes, the words may be rebuffed, even ridiculed. Rejected.

But 10 words can make a difference and fashion a Christmas you will long remember.

I suspect that the Holy Spirit works overtime during the Christmas season, softening hearts through cards, carols, and music. I suspect that Christmas is a good season for Kleenex sales. I suspect that this Christmas could be different if you made the first move.

Those years in New York, in London, in Hollywood, did he remember those bathrobe dramas in which we "starred"? Was it easier for him to memorize his lines than in those days when we frustrated volunteer pageant directors? Was there ever hunger in a Christmas

season to come "home"? Or did he remember my judgmental words, my "You'll reap what you sow"?

Seldom do we read from the prodigal son story at Christmas. But it seems to me that few texts are more appropriate. It is such a short bridge from the love of Luke 2 to the love of Luke 15. Simeon saw the baby Jesus because he was "moved by the Spirit" to go to the Temple courts at just the time Mary and Joseph were bringing the baby. If Simeon had delayed, he would have missed Jesus.

What do we risk by delaying?

Maybe everything will not get resolved. Maybe you won't have an "and they all lived happily thereafter" ending this year. The try is worthwhile. Luke describes *actions*, "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20, NIV, italics added).

Forget the rehearsed lines the boy tried to recite. The language of reconciliation erupted: "Quick. . . . Let's have a feast and celebrate." That's the great thing about Christmas. One generally doesn't have to go too far to find the raw materials for a feast.

This Christmas could be *the* season to plant the seeds that will eventually lead to the healing, the reconciliation.

## Because You Gave... WORKERS ARE BEING TRAINED

by RAY HENDRIX

**Y**ou may not have thought you were doing it, but it happened and it continues to happen. Because you gave.

One of the most pressing problems that exists in the Latin American booming, growing, and "education thirsty" church membership is how to give the laity—and an impressive number of God-called ministries—the education they so desperately need. Many of them are professionals in their own vocations—laymen called by God to be active in some type of specialized ministry. There are scores of young people, some married with families, who cannot leave jobs to go to a distant country to receive formal classroom training. An alternative had to be designed, and it's been working great!

*RAY HENDRIX is the administrative assistant for Media Services and director of International Broadcasting and Television Marketing at International Headquarters in Kansas City.*

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Because you gave . . . a developing curriculum of courses are becoming available on audiocassettes and videocassettes. The students, either in private or as a group, meet several times a week to study specific courses that are now available. Courses in Church Administration, Principles of Church Growth, Bible Studies, Family Counseling, and others are already produced and being used extensively throughout Latin America. Now a professor in a given subject matter can be teaching a course the same week in a dozen spread out places. And the list of courses to be produced in the future is endless. Because you gave!

And here is another aspect that will blow your mind . . . a NASA satellite has been made available to the Church of the Nazarene for educational purposes. This means that a professor at the seminary in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico City, or Buenos Aires, Argentina, could conduct classes by satellite with students gathered in the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Chile, or Los Angeles—all at the same time. Talk about economy—that's the epitome of cost efficiency! And it's happening—all because you gave to the General Budget. The General Budget is the best well-managed financial system I know about—anywhere.

Remember, it's happening because *you* gave.

# The Intercession

by MARIE BUTLER

The shopping center parking lot was empty Christmas Day—except for us. Martin, my husband, spread the remains of our Christmas Eve buffet on the car seat between us. “We didn’t say prayers before we left this morning,” he said. “Do you want to say them now?”

We start each day with prayers. I had tried at 4 A.M., but tears choked me so much I couldn’t talk. Now we

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MARIE BUTLER is a free-lance writer residing in Kansas City, Missouri.

## If at Christmas...

*If I could hush the  
busy beating of my heart,  
if I could push away the world's clamor  
and empty glitter under this  
clear, star-filled night . . .  
maybe I would hear the far,  
sweet echoes of a celestial choir.  
If I calm the whirling of my  
mind this busy season,  
if I could brush from my tired  
eyes the world's transient glitter,  
let tears of joy wash them clear,  
maybe . . . in my starry sky I'd  
catch a glimpse, a ling'ring blaze  
from his long-dimmed natal star.  
If I'd put cares aside this still night . . .  
remember only the precious gift  
He sent a sorry world so long ago,  
if I, too, would take the road to Bethlehem;  
with eager, humble heart I'd kneel with  
the regal magi and the lowly, joyful shepherds  
in worship and adoration at the  
manger-cradle of my Lord Jesus.*

—LUCILE WAER  
Seattle, Washington



were in another state having leftovers for Christmas dinner. I often fall back on Romans 8:26 when grief has me confused, trusting the Spirit to make intercession for me. The tears increased as I thought of my brother.

I was the youngest and the only girl. In my growing-up years I thought Ralph, my oldest brother, could do no wrong. He was always first to my rescue, first to let me cry on his shoulder, and first to offer any help needed. It seemed we could talk about anything—except religion. When I tried, he always turned the conversation aside with jokes. Oh, he believed in God. It just wasn't necessary to attend church. “And besides,” he would remind me, “I joined a church when I was 12.”

“That church burned down years ago and lost all their records. And church membership alone does not save anyone. Do you truly know Christ as your Savior?” I asked.

He gave me some vague answer, then pulled our family habit of covering serious talk with humor. “Even if the church records were burned,” he said, “God keeps records.”

Religion was not a popular subject in my family. Martin and I took what some of my family considered teasing about us being “Sunday School kids.” It was hard for them to understand why we took our children to church instead of sending them.

Ralph developed congestive heart failure. While he was in the hospital, cancer was discovered. It had been my mother's greatest wish to see all of her children accept Christ before she died. It didn't happen. Now I tried to fulfill her wish. Emotions got in the way each time I visited Ralph at the hospital. He had many personal problems. There was a time I'd envied the money he made when we were barely getting by. Now his finances and family life were falling apart as he faced death. Age hadn't changed us much. We could still talk of anything except the Lord.

Ralph got better and moved to Georgia for what he said would be years of taking life easy. Country living gave him a good year, and he started attending church. Then the cancer spread and his diseased heart grew weaker. I called him and said we were coming down in a few months. He was silent for a few seconds. “I might not be here then, Sis.”

After I hung up I told Martin, “He doesn't think he'll make it until fall.” Our garden needed attention right then. I didn't see how we could both leave, but I didn't want to go alone.

“Call him back,” Martin said. “If he feels like company now, we'll catch the first flight out.”

Ralph enjoyed our visit although he was in pain. He was trying to mend broken relationships between his two daughters. This was on his mind constantly. “Did you pray about it?” I asked.

“Yes. I've also talked to a minister about them. He tells me I can't change others, but God can.” Ralph still



resorted to good-natured teasing when I tried to turn the subject around to *his* relationship with Christ.

Martin and I came home feeling as though we'd failed the Lord. Neither of us are able to witness to someone who constantly throws up roadblocks. Not once could either of us ask, "Have you accepted Christ as your Savior?" There were Christians near my brother who wouldn't be emotionally involved. We asked the Lord to use them to intercede for us.

Two days before Christmas, the telephone was ringing when we came in from church. They were taking Ralph to the hospital. About 30 minutes later, the next call came. He was dead. How I regretted not asking him that important question. "Lord, forgive me," I whispered.

A letter came the next day from my sister-in-law

that had been written several days before my brother died. One day as she was fixing lunch, Ralph called to her. "I feel the Lord is telling me I must talk to a minister. Will you call?" The pastor came immediately. Ralph accepted Christ and turned his family problems over to the Lord to handle in His own time and way.

"Thanks, Lord," I said, reading the letter again. Our prayers were answered.

Early Christmas morning we started to the funeral. Now we were in an empty parking lot eating Christmas dinner.

"It just occurred to me," I said, "Christmas Day is a time of joy, a time to give praise and thanks for our Savior. Ralph accepted Christ. We have each other, good food, and a warm car. Yes," I added, taking Martin's hands in mine, "I'm ready for prayers." □

## NAZARENE ROOTS

### CHRISTMAS IN KISHORGANJ, 1929

"I wonder if the General Superintendents, Dr. Goodwin and Dr. Williams, will ever forget their Christmas at a Mission Station. The night before, the missionaries used a limb of a jungle tree tying it into one corner of the living room and fixed it up with some decorations which had been brought from the United States . . . The few personal gifts were arranged about the 'tree' but the main presents were the parcels with U.S.A. stamps upon them. Rather early Christmas morning the General Superintendents were asked to come into the main room where candles on the 'tree' were giving the light in the room. The missionary children were brought in and with beaming faces they approached the corner of the room . . . A Christmas carol is started and all join in the singing of it. Then the scissors and a sharp knife or two are brought into play; the cords and thread are cut and in a little while out comes a toy sent from the homeland. How large the eyes of the children become as the unpacking proceeds. . . it is not long until the grown-up missionaries are beginning to act something like the children as their names are called out . . . As this proceeded we looked around and saw our General Superintendents taking this all in and their cheeks were more than moist, for this was their first Christmas in a far off land . . . One whispered to the other and said, 'I now realize what the life of a missionary is and the sacrifices made by witnessing this occasion, as I could not before.'"

It was 1929, and Superintendents Goodwin and Williams—on a tour of Nazarene missions in the Pacific, Asia, and the Near East—were in Kishorganj, India, on Christmas Day. Williams later wrote: "Upon this occasion my sympathy for the missionaries deepened . . . we are accustomed to think of sacrifice in terms of money, which is a shame and unfair and a disgracefully superficial concept. Money is the cheapest thing one can consecrate in the Christian life. Association, congenial living conditions, human



Dr. Goodwin (r.) with the missionaries and children of Kishorganj mission.

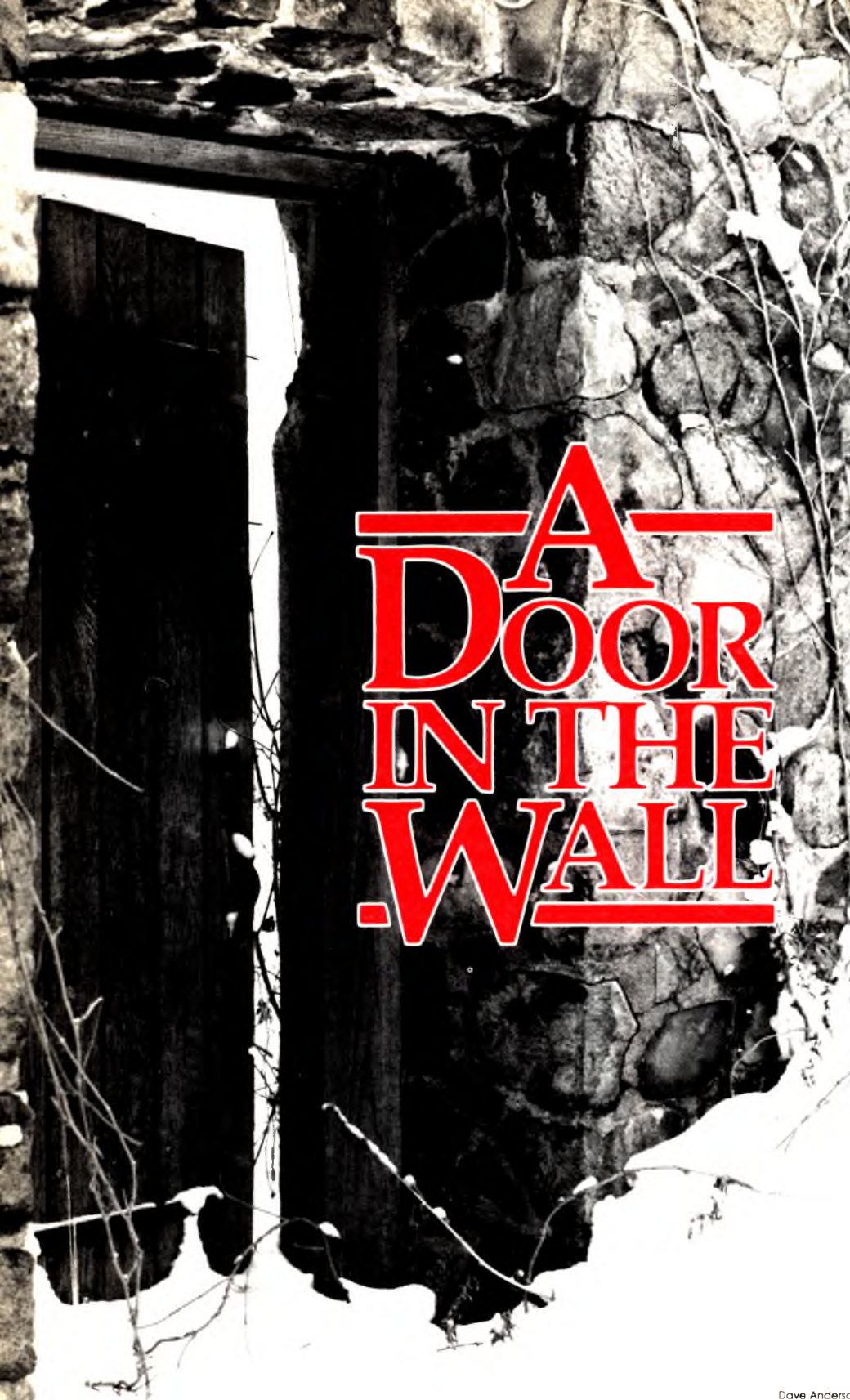


Leaving Kishorganj: Superintendents Goodwin and Williams (r.) at the train. Missionary George Franklin (background) stands behind an Indian gentleman.

fellowship that has a basis of common interest and character, home, the church as a means of grace, the natural desire to build one's life into a community and into people that will be permanent asset; these things are worth more than gold and silver. I had never realized it until I spent Christmas in India the value of this great and glorious day that commemorates the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Sources: George J. Franklin, typescript memoir of Christmas 1929; R. T. Williams, *Glimpses Abroad*; photos from the Franklin-India File and the Williams Collection.) □

STAN INGERSOL, Archivist





# A DOOR IN THE WALL

Dave Anderson

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by GLADYS BRIDGES as told to ROBERT BLAKEY

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**C**hristmas Eve, 1985. Sixty years old and nothing to live for. I was raised by very strict parents who believed in going to church and living by the Bible. Very

few of my friends at school attended church, and my feelings about attending our own small church were not positive.

By the time my 16th birthday

came I was married and free from my homelife and church, so I thought.

As the years passed I became more and more confident in the business world. Working 15-hour days, I became a success with all the amenities that come with such dedication. Money flowed out as fast as it came in, on good times and so-called friends.

By September of 1985, time and life-style had taken their toll. Following a third surgery for a back problem, I was now almost broke, unable to work, living alone, and now drinking alone! Where were all my "friends" now, I asked myself, as Christmas Day lay just a few hours ahead.

I had saved enough sleeping pills to end it all, and following a visit by my daughter and her three teenage children, I knew what I was going to do. But first I wanted to tell my brother and sister good-bye. I called the hospital where my sister cared for her dying husband. She hadn't left his side in over a month because the doctors had given up hope for him. I did not intend to let her know my plans, but because of my drinking I said too much and she immediately guessed what I was going to do. As she began to cry, her comatose husband, who had not been able even to raise his hands, sat upright in bed and began praying. He fell back against the bed, comatose, as I told my sister good-bye.

Christmas Eve was quickly becoming a memory as I phoned my brother in Indiana. We had always been close and shared many things. We were both divorced and living alone—our strongest bond over the miles. When he heard my voice he knew something was wrong. He told me he was expecting another call and would call back. About 10 minutes later we began a conversation that would last almost four hours. I still had every intention of taking the pills to end this loneliness. But now I would wait a few days, till the end of the Christmas season.

Still planning to commit suicide, I thought I would give church and religion another try. I had attended church only occasionally over the last 40 years, when visiting my family and friends. I had no idea of which Nazarene church to attend



in my area, so I thumbed through the yellow pages until my fingers found Fort Lauderdale Faith Church of the Nazarene.

I located the pastor, Rev. Robert Blakey, at the parsonage and began to ask questions about the church. Was it large or small? Was there a dress code (hangover from my upbringing)? What time were the services?

I told the pastor I would visit the church on Sunday, January 5, but on Thursday, January 2 my brother-in-law passed away, and I left to be with my sister. I returned home the following Monday. There were no church services till Wednesday.

Wednesday came. I had to face the commitment I had made to myself to attend church. I had driven by the church before calling the pastor, to make sure it was the type I wanted to attend. Being a person of my word, I stepped forward into a world that would change my life.

Unknowingly I had chosen the monthly missionary lesson service, and there were fewer than normal in attendance. As I walked in I met nice, caring people, but I made it very clear that I was only looking for a place to go (I had never even gone to bars alone) and that I had had enough religion during my first 16 years to last a lifetime. The welcome mat was still out, and they were glad to have me.

I went back again on Sunday to attend the morning and evening services. During the announcements the pastor reminded the folk of the upcoming revival with Rev. Jerry McGee. The services would begin Tuesday evening at 7:30. I thought to myself, Why not? It would give me some place to go, and I wouldn't be alone. As I began to attend the services I forgot about the pills—I felt wanted and everyone was so friendly. It got to the point where I couldn't wait to get to church.

What took place during those services, even I have difficulty believing.

I knew God was calling. When the altar call was given each evening I wanted to go, but a wall would appear in front of me, and I saw no way to get through or around it. Rev. McGee sensed the problem and after talking with him, I confessed the difficulty of trying

to pass the obstacle. His answer was clear and simple, "Gladys, there is a door, you have to find it."

I prayed and began to bargain with God. If they would play "Just as I Am" at the altar call, I would go. I found out you don't bargain with God.

I'd heard the hymn on my car radio going home, but they just wouldn't play it at church. The last night of the revival I could hardly move during the altar call, I was under such conviction. Every night they had played "He Touched Me," among others, and tonight it was no different. At this point I could hear nothing but Rev. McGee saying, "Gladys, there is a door in that wall." I walked to the altar as if being led. I surrendered my heart and life to the Lord. I testified the following week that I had tried to bargain with the Lord, but you don't bargain with God.

Several weeks later at the indoor holiness camp meeting at the Pompano Beach Church of the Nazarene, I took that second step of faith and entered into the experience of entire sanctification.

I am still unable to work and my back problem still causes much pain and suffering, but now I am

not alone. I have Jesus Christ and my church family. I have grown closer to my sister as I have shared these experiences with her, and during a recent visit I told her I would like for her to listen to the tape of the final night of the revival.

As we listened to the tape and the altar call was given I was stunned when I heard the invitational hymn—"Just as I Am." I stopped the tape and looked at it. They hadn't played that song—I hadn't heard it. I rewound the tape and listened again. There it was! But I now listened closer—Rev. McGee was giving a general invitation. *He never spoke the words*, "Gladys, there is a door in that wall." And yet I had heard him so clearly.

God had closed my ears to the music and had spoken the words I needed to hear, "Gladys, there is a door in that wall." I have put my life in God's hands, and He has blessed in numerous ways. God has His own plans for my life and in His time will make them known to me. Praise His name. □

ROBERT BLAKEY pastors the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Faith Church of the Nazarene.



## CHRISTMAS CANDLE

*Beyond the heaven's vastness  
Where a billion trillion stars  
Had moved in discipline  
Since time began,  
God lit one more, and routed it  
Across the trackless sky—  
A ray of hope begun  
For hopeless man.*

*He cupped the taper's slender beam  
Upon a humble stall  
Wherein a newborn babe  
Was sweetly curled;  
It pierced the gloom of ages,  
And before He snuffed it out,  
God lit a candle  
That would light a world.*

—E. RUTH GLOVER  
Lake Elsinore, California

H. Armstrong Roberts



# The Black Hole

by HAL M. von STEIN

Our daughter, who lives in a distant city, asked us to keep Susie. I tried to be decent about it for the sake of my wife and the kids, who thought it was a great idea. The dog had bitten a youngster who had teased her, and the alternative to our keeping her was to have her destroyed. I couldn't see much difference; bringing a city-bred poodle to our mountain-forest ranch environment would probably destroy it.

Our daughter insisted that Susie was a registered wirehaired terrier, and no poodle, and that she was a man's dog. But to me, any curly white dog with a tail two inches long, built that close to the ground, was a poodle. And when she stood politely wagging her stub while her food dish was being filled, then turned away without eating, I pronounced her stupid or sick or both.

The veterinarian who examined her said she was depressed. This really turned me off! Working with animals for years had given me a dim view of attributing human characteristics to beasts. We had just received word that our dear friend, Cliff, was suffering from severe depression. Using the same term to describe Cliff's condition and that of a poodle disgusted me.

Cliff had been a combat pilot during the war. One of the few survivors of his squadron, he returned home to become a real Christian, married and raised a fine family, all of whom are committed to the Lord. Becoming a building contractor he did everything like a combat pilot: he was aggressive, courageous, jolly, and had a host of friends.

After retirement the sky fell. His son left church. There were finan-



Walt Bolter

cial problems. His wife wrote that Cliff had taken to sitting in the woods behind the house, just staring, for hours. And he wouldn't eat.

It's dangerous for a man like Cliff to become depressed, especially since he is a Christian. Depression, like the Black Hole in outer space, swallows the very light in a man's life. It becomes next to impossible to pray. You know and believe all the promises, but nothing seems to work. Somehow you can't get a firm grip on the things you know. Knowing that great, godly men have experienced the Black Hole doesn't help at the time.

David cried out: "There is only darkness everywhere!" (Psalm 88:18, TLB). And again Psalm 73:2, "As for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped."

The greatest man who ever lived explored the caverns of the Black Hole for us and cried, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Jesus was not reciting words in a dramatic play. He *felt* forsaken!

I despised poodles anyway, and to

think of Susie's situation as parallel to mortal depression was intolerable. When the veterinarian suggested we take the dog with us to the U.S. Forest Service guard station, where we stay during fire season, I couldn't imagine what good might derive from taking a city-bred creature into a timbered wilderness 50 miles from the nearest sidewalk.

I stayed as uninvolved as I could until the family went to town for a few days and couldn't take Susie. My tenderhearted wife had been feeding the dog small portions by hand. I determined Susie would feed herself, or else. I didn't hate the dog. I just didn't want to be bothered. The rest of the family petted her, but it was upon me her soulful brown eyes turned when I went out and made her stay behind. It was annoying, but I had to believe Susie's trouble was not stupidity but intelligence. She knew she wasn't wanted.

I wished Susie would hurry up and die!

An annoying crisis arose when a black bear ripped up a camp nearby and devoured the groceries while the occupants were gone. Emboldened by success, the bear would return. Something had to be done quickly. The district ranger asked me to take my rifle and hike out the trail in the evening, in the direction from which the bear had approached.

This was not my first experience with a marauding bear. I knew the chances of seeing the beast were practically nil. I couldn't tell how long I might be gone, and since it was impractical to leave Susie inside the cabin I allowed her to trot along at heel. If the bear did show, I didn't need a yapping poodle out front.

The dusk of evening quickly became deep gloom in the timber. We were far down a steep slope toward the river when I heard a sound, familiar from previous experience, of

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*HAL M. von STEIN is a free-lance writer and a longtime contributor to the Herald of Holiness. He lives in Napa, California.*



a heavy animal padding among dry madrona leaves parallel to our trail. The little dog growled. I whispered, "Be still!" She pressed against my leg, trembling like a leaf.

The bear was quite close, but we had the wind and the beast was unaware of us. I thought of a penlight in my shirt pocket, but a black bear is invisible in the dark, and there was intervening bush. There was a strip of afterglow against the sky about a hundred yards behind us where the trail cut into the timber. It was most unlikely the animal should choose to cross just there—but he did!

It was a chancey shot in the dark, but the bear fell at the crack of the rifle, and immediately bounded to his feet, running like a horse directly toward us. I jacked a shell into the chamber, stepped aside to get the target against the light, tripped on a root and fell flat. The bear saw the movement directly in his path, veered, and ran crashing into the underbrush.

With nary a yap, Susie scrambled in hot pursuit. I couldn't believe it! I listened to the chase pass beyond hearing, then to the scraping patter

of small feet returning through the forest leaves. The white figure of the terrier appeared at the edge of the thicket and stopped. The thin beam of the penlight revealed Susie waiting, panting. I could almost hear her say, "Well?"

Plainly I was being invited to follow her! A penlight makes a lot of light, and I had no difficulty in following the little white dog until I became convinced the bear had gone on and Susie was leading me on a wild goose chase. When she stopped the light revealed only dark shadows. I said, "Where is he, Susie?" The terrier eased ahead. There was a swish and crash of brush and we both jumped back. In the dark shadows was the mortally wounded bear. The dog looked up at me and said, "Woof!" It was the only sound she made.

The penlight picked out the golden orbs of the bear's eyes, and I fired the finishing shot. It wasn't a huge bear, but I would have to have help. As I bled and field-dressed the carcass, Susie watched the proceedings intently, ready to pounce on the bear if he didn't hold still. I patted and praised her, and on the way

to camp she trotted ahead—not behind.

When it was all over I cooked supper and placed Susie's dish close beside my chair. She cleaned it, and that night slept on the foot of my bed, utterly contented. She was wanted.

Susie taught me a lesson against unwarranted prejudice. Courage can come in small packages. And also, although the two come together, being wanted is more important than being needed. People marry because they need each other—temporarily. After a time one of them says, "I don't want you anymore."

God doesn't *need* us to run this universe; He *wants* us. Strange as it seems, He loves us. He proved it by coming to earth, by conquering the Black Hole through Jesus Christ our Lord, His Son.

When the shadows of the Black Hole fall across our path it is to test our faith in Him.

The thing to do then is something—anything you know God wants you to do. Like Susie did.

You see, I was the only God Susie knew about. □

## Book Brief

### THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT



**WILLIAM M. GREATHOUSE**  
*author*



**D**r. Greathouse writes in the preface: "This is the peculiar era of the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost He was 'given' to the Church, and through the Church to the world. In the economy of God He is the Agent of personal salvation in this Pentecostal era. All God does *in* man He does by the Spirit. He is God at work in the inner recesses of human personality . . .

"The crowning work of the Holy Spirit is entire sanctification or Christian perfection. The distinguishing tenet within the Wesleyan Tradition is the teaching that through the gift of the Holy Spirit in

Pentecostal fullness the heart of the Christian believer is made pure from sin and perfect in love. By this Gift he is also empowered for effective Christian service and for personal witnessing. If the precious doctrine of entire sanctification is to be kept vital and virile, the Holy Spirit must be honored in our thought and experience. 'Beliefs seldom become doubts; they become ritual.' They die, and we safely embalm them in creed and ritual. *The surest safeguard against this threat is complete openness to the Spirit.*"

In six chapters the author writes about life in the Spirit, the fullness of the Spirit, and the Person, work, and dynamic of the Spirit. The book is clearly outlined, depends closely on Scripture, and contains many illustrations and quotations from other writers to maintain interest. At the end of each chapter there are questions to help the reader think through what he has read. Every Christian will find his experience with the Lord strengthened and his understanding of the Holy Spirit clarified through this book.

Dr. Greathouse is currently a general superintendent of the church. He has served previously as pastor, professor, college president, and seminary president.

—Alpin P. Bowes □

Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City  
104 pages. Paper. To order, see page 23.

# the editor's STANDPOINT

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## GOD'S GIFT

Christmas has always been associated with giving. At Christ's birth the magi came with gifts of frankincense, myrrh, and gold for the infant king. The Savior has inspired His followers to give to one another across the centuries.

The supreme Giver is God, and the gift *par excellence* is Jesus Christ, which caused Paul to exclaim, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). The beauty and value of God's gift is beyond description.

How do you determine the value of a gift? Several factors must be considered.

Its cost to the giver determines in part the value of a gift. A stick of gum from a millionaire would be a trifling gift indeed. A dozen roses from a poor laborer would be a significant gift. God's heart came with Christ! It cost God the dearest and best He had to make our salvation possible.

Value is measured by a gift's benefit to the receiver. A

necktie to a man with 103 already hanging in his closet is not impressive. A few sacks of groceries to a starving family has great worth. Measured by the benefit to us, God's gift is incalculable. No one can duplicate this gift, for Christ does what no other can—He saves from sin and unites to God all those who trust in Him.

The motive that prompts a gift is reckoned in the assessment of its value. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16). No higher, nobler, purer motive ever prompted a gift!

Another factor that weights value is the durative quality of the gift. A famous slogan—"Diamonds are forever"—helps sell that particular merchandise for giving to others. Christ is God's grant of eternal life to His people. He outlasts all other gifts.

The only appropriate response to God's gift of Christ is gratitude, gratitude that is heart-deep, lifelong, and service-inspiring. Nothing we can give to God or to people at this Christmas season even faintly rivals the value of His gift to us. □

## LAST GENERATION?

I heard a beautiful lady teach a Sunday School lesson on "the signs of the times." She is convinced that Christ will return within the normal life span of those born near the founding of Israel in 1948. As she explained certain passages of prophecy and correlated them with world events, I understood her conviction.

I hope she is right. The sooner Jesus comes, the better. Sophisticated and scientific man has evidenced no greater wisdom in handling moral and ethical problems than did his more primitive forebears. For all our vaunted technocracy, we are no closer to achieving peace and plenty for all than were the generations before us who cooked in fireplaces, warred with bows and spears, and traveled on horseback.

Jesus Christ will one day rule over all. Only then will love, truth, and justice prevail in human affairs. Until then, the atmosphere is stifling with the menace of a nuclear holocaust; recurrent crop failures and corrupt politics spell starvation for masses of helpless people; and the triumph of medical science over one disease is

immediately shadowed by the emergence of another killer virus. Christ enthroned over all the earth is our only valid hope.

He is coming again. The promise ardently proclaimed by angels and apostles, prophets and pastors, will be fulfilled. Christ will "appear a second time," judging the world and completing the salvation of His believing people. His return may be denied and ridiculed, but nothing and no one can prevent the glorious Second Advent.

The certainty of His coming comforts our hearts. The uncertainty of the date gives urgency to our mission. We are called to live as servants who watch for their Master's return, keeping our lives pure and our work well done.

Those who watch for the return of Christ will not become the dupes of antichrist. They will be found "in peace, without spot, and blameless." Those who have rejected Him will be surprised and terrified by His appearing. Would you welcome His return? □



Its cost to the giver determines in part the value of a gift. A stick of gum from a millionaire would be a trifling gift indeed. A dozen roses from a poor laborer would be a significant gift. God's heart came with Christ!

## WRECKED PLANS

There are days when nothing seems to go right. Our plans are wrecked and our nerves are frayed as unexpected situations arise, trailing disappointment, frustration, grief, or pain in their wake. We get up full of joy and hope, we retire unhappy and exhausted. And sometimes such days pass in lockstep, one after another.

One explanation is our too-strong attachment to our own plans. God may will other than we did for the day. The interruption of our desires may not be welcome because our commitment to God's will is incomplete.

Or the measure of our frustration and distress may result from psychological problems. Our personalities may be too rigid. We are insecure and overwhelmed unless we can keep the day tightly structured.

Sometimes we fail to reckon with the simple fact that other people are free to plan and act, too, and their decisions and actions may collide with ours, scattering the wreckage of our schedules all over the landscape.

Often there seems to be no explanation apparent. We live in a world where anything can happen at anytime to anyone. And sometimes we are the "anyone." That's life.

Learning to cope with the unexpected and unwelcome is a major challenge. The degree of peace we achieve depends upon the coping skills we develop.

We can learn to appreciate the challenge. When things fly apart we can find satisfaction in restoring the pattern or creating a new one. Compelling the conflicts and contradictions to serve us, not to master us, makes us bigger and better persons.

It helps most of all to remember that God is never surprised by events or diminished by changes. As we trust in Him and work with Him, the random pieces begin to reflect meaning and display value.

When things go wrong we can still go right. Our attitudes and responses are more significant than our circumstances. □

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF

We extend to all our readers sincere wishes for a holy and joyful holiday season.

May the Son of God, who became incarnate and was crucified for our salvation, have first place in your thoughts and activities!

**W. E. McCumber**  
**Ivan Beals**

**Mabel Adamson**  
**Rhonda Gibson**



God did not give the Gentiles any such sign. Our day of worship is the Lord's Day and not a "Sabbath" per se. That problem has existed even from Paul's time, and he addressed it in Colossians 2:16, where he stated, in part, "Let no man, therefore, judge you in respect of a sabbath day."

But the problem continued until the "Law of Constantine, published in A.D. 321, legally established Sunday as the Sabbath in place of Saturday."

Since many of the early Christians were Israelites who had been worshipping on Saturday for hundreds of years, I can understand their reluctance to change to Sunday. But what's our problem? We've never worshiped on any other day but Sunday for nearly 2,000 years! God has not given us any particular day

to worship Him. We do, however, follow His example and set aside a day of worship together. Praise the Lord for that day—Sunday!

Jack L. Williams  
Mobile, Alabama

#### RELIGIONS PONDERED

Recently I was pondering the topic of religion. I wondered how the different religions got their start. Well, we know that the Jews and the eastern religions have been around for some time. But the ones that are mysterious are atheism, pantheism, and humanism.

These religions were all born in the 17th century during the Scientific Revolution. Prior to the 1600s the church and state had supreme authority. When the bright minds of the Scientific Revolution started discovering that things were different from what they seemed (or what the

church said), people's entire concept of the world was crushed. Some rebelled totally against the system. They believed in no God whatsoever. These were the atheists. Others, seeing that there were natural laws that governed nature, believed that God and nature were the same thing, or pantheism. Still others, having no faith in the world, turned inward to themselves. They thought that God had to come from within and that they were above others. This is humanism. These people turned from conventional religion to a new, fabricated religion.

Christians today have to deal with scientific advancements. These things are man-made and should not affect your walk with Christ. Your belief should not be undermined by things of the world.

Alan Shroud  
Bethany, Oklahoma

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE

by PAULINE E. SPRAY

What do you want us to do with the Christmas tree?" the nurse asked the family of the deceased patient while cleaning out her room in Harper Hospital.

"I can't be home for Christmas," she had told Pastor Mellish a few days before she died, "so my children brought Christmas to me."

Now they had the sad task of disposing of her gifts, including a ceramic Christmas tree, made by a loving daughter, and floral pieces.

"What shall we do with the tree?"

The family remembered how much their mother had enjoyed helping people during her lifetime. A woman deeply involved in artwork, ceramics, sewing, and needlepoint, she had delighted in making others happy.

"Mother was always so interested in helping people, we would like to give the Christmas tree to someone who doesn't have one," they decided, "someone who may have been forgotten."

"I'll be glad to do that," the nurse said.

So the bereaved family left the large Detroit hospital not knowing who would receive their mother's ceramic tree.

Not long after, the nurse entered the room of an 81-year-old patient, one who had definitely soured on life.

PAULINE E. SPRAY is a free-lance writer and the wife of a Nazarene elder. She resides in Lapeer, Michigan.

**"By ALL MEANS...  
Save Some"**

"I was asked to give this to someone," she told the elderly woman, "and I picked you."

The grumpy patient gazed in wonder and surprise at the beautiful Christmas tree. Then she broke into tears. "My faith has been restored in man—and God," she said. Later, she gave her heart to Jesus.

When the nurse related this story to the family of the deceased woman, they were greatly comforted. In life their mother had been a caring person. In death something she had enjoyed brought back faith and hope to a lost soul.

Then a mysterious thing happened. When the bereaved family viewed their mother's body at the funeral home, they were amazed to see a tiny Christmas tree inside her coffin. No one knew how it got there or who was responsible for its presence. But it served as an effective reminder that one act of love can make a vast difference in the eternal destiny of another human being. □



#### LIGHT FOREVER

The Creator who said, "Let there be light," has lit the Christmas candle forever, so that men will see His goodness and rejoice.

—JOYCE A. CHANDLER  
Long Beach, California





## SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE SHOWS INCREASE (WORLDWIDE) FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The annual statistics released by the General Secretary's Office has revealed increases in Sunday School enrollment and average attendance for the fourth consecutive year (worldwide).

At the General CL/SS Convention in Anaheim last year, an enrollment goal of **TWO MILLION** to be reached by 1995 was announced. At the end of the first year of this 10-year plan, the increase in enrollment is +37,621 and the total enrollment is 1,231,288 (worldwide). While the increase did not quite measure up to the established minimum of 5%, this increase is a significant step in the outreach efforts of our Sunday Schools.

The average attendance for the past year increased by +5,264 (worldwide).

Now, let's plan to reach more new people than ever as we enter YEAR 2!



Rev. Phil Riley  
Division Director



Shown above are (l. to r.): Rev. Phil Riley, division director of CL/SS; Mr. Leland King, local CL/SS chairman and member of the General Board; Dr. Paul Cunningham, pastor of Olathe College Church.

## "THE WEEKS OF HARVEST" FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL EMPHASIS ADDS MORE THAN 29,000 NEW PEOPLE TO OUR RESPONSIBILITY LIST

During the six-week emphasis, many churches promoted the Sunday School in a variety of ways. In Olathe, Kans., College Church involved more than 400 children in a "Balloon Launch" with over 1,200 balloons released to advertise the church and Sunday School.

The total of new people enrolled during the International Sunday School Year emphasis was more than 90,000.

### Top 25 Districts in Sunday School Attendance

1. Guatemala Las Verapaces	16,505
2. Southern California	10,798
3. Korea Central	9,715
4. Central Ohio	9,243
5. Oregon Pacific	9,233
6. Central Florida	8,890
7. Colorado	8,873
8. Southwestern Ohio	8,799
9. Northeastern Indiana	8,654
10. North Central Ohio	8,650
11. Michigan	8,498
12. Los Angeles	8,385
13. Kansas City	8,189
14. Illinois	8,016
15. Eastern Michigan	7,809
16. Southwest Indiana	7,809
17. Kansas	7,710
18. Indianapolis	7,612
19. Washington Pacific	7,604
20. Tennessee	7,484
21. Swaziland North	7,473
22. RSA Western Cape	7,293
23. Akron	7,193
24. Northwest	6,936
25. Intermountain	6,790

### 25 Largest Sunday Schools in Average Attendance

1. Mindelo (Cape Verde)	1,829
2. Bethany First (Oklahoma)	1,549
3. Salem First (Oregon)	1,543
4. Denver First (Colorado)	1,486
5. Pasadena First (California)	1,450
6. Bonteheuwel (South Africa)	1,283
7. Olathe College (Kansas)	1,226
8. Steenberg (South Africa)	1,099
9. Long Beach First (California)	1,045
10. Cleveland "Church on Wheels" (Ohio-CTM)	1,026
11. Wichita First (Kansas)	965
12. Nashville First (Tennessee)	928
13. Nampa First (Idaho)	845
14. Chota (Peru)	817
15. Praia (Cape Verde)	770
16. Mount Vernon First (Ohio)	755
17. Chobal (Guatemala)	733
18. Fond-Melon (Haiti South)	726
19. Kansas City First (Missouri)	707
20. Docine (Haiti North Central)	701
21. San Juan Chamelco (Guatemala)	700
22. Nova Sintra Brava (Cape Verde)	698
23. Sao Filipe (Cape Verde)	694
24. Primera Iglesia San Salvador (El Salvador)	689
25. Oskaloosa (Iowa)	677

### Top 10 Sunday Schools in Numerical Gain (U.S. and Canada)

1. Cleveland "Church on Wheels" (Ohio-CTM)	+222
2. Tampa First (Florida)	+117
3. Melbourne Calvary Community (Florida)	+102
4. Colorado Springs Southgate (Colorado)	+ 94
5. Tampa Faith (Florida)	+ 86
6. Wichita First (Kansas)	+ 82
7. Zephyrhills Living Word (Florida)	+ 80
8. Ottawa Bridelwood (Ontario)	+ 78
9. Salem First (Oregon)	+ 77
10. Tampa Land O Lakes Mission (Florida)	+ 75
11. Tampa County Line Mission (Florida)	+ 75

### Top 10 Sunday Schools in Numerical Gain (International)

1. Mindelo (Cape Verde)	+1,516
2. Steenberg (South Africa)	+ 693
3. Sao Filipe (Cape Verde)	+ 585
4. Fond-Melon (Haiti)	+ 538
5. Porto Novo (Cape Verde)	+ 537
6. Docine (Haiti)	+ 530
7. Nova Sintra Brava (Cape Verde)	+ 485
8. Chota (Peru)	+ 462
9. Praia (Maude Chapman—Cape Verde)	+ 460
10. Shantal (Haiti)	+ 443



**THE FIVE LARGEST SUNDAY SCHOOLS  
IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE  
FOR THE 1985-86 ASSEMBLY YEAR  
U.S. AND CANADA (under roof)**

**AKRON**

- 502 Canton First
- 292 East Liverpool First
- 229 Akron Arlington
- 204 Warren First
- 199 New Philadelphia

**ALABAMA NORTH**

- 246 Huntsville First
- 175 Jasper First
- 156 Birmingham First
- 148 Cullman First
- 145 Florence First

**ALABAMA SOUTH**

- 246 Lanett First
- 181 Columbiana
- 152 Tuscaloosa Holten Heights
- 126 Tuscaloosa Alberta
- 121 Mobile First

**ALASKA**

- 180 Anchorage First
- 130 Anchorage Jewel Lake
- 126 Soldotna
- 95 Fairbanks Totem Park
- 82 Sitka

**ARIZONA**

- 567 Phoenix Orangewood
- 354 Glendale
- 344 Mesa First
- 238 Tempe
- 211 Dobson Ranch

**CANADA ATLANTIC**

- 152 Elmsdale
- 144 Trenton
- 137 Oxford
- 92 Summerside
- 73 Windsor

**CANADA CENTRAL**

- 114 Toronto Emmanuel
- 98 Toronto Rosewood
- 96 Newmarket
- 94 Cedardale
- 87 Hamilton First

**CANADA PACIFIC**

- 149 Abbotsford
- 100 Victoria First
- 93 Vancouver First
- 76 Guildford
- 57 Penticton

**CANADA QUEBEC**

- 88 Centre Evangelique
- 33 Franklin Centre
- 33 Montreal First
- 21 Dollard-des-Ormeaux
- 21 Ste-Foy

**CANADA WEST**

- 213 Calgary First
- 138 Red Deer First
- 125 Winnipeg Fort Garry
- 103 Calgary East
- 96 Medicine Hat

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**

- 462 Porterville
- 317 Bakersfield Olive Knolls
- 290 Visalia First
- 227 Bakersfield First
- 174 Tulare Wayside

**CENTRAL FLORIDA**

- 477 Orlando Central
- 375 Lakeland South Florida Heights
- 365 Tampa First
- 358 Zephyrhills
- 345 Winter Haven First

**CENTRAL LATIN AMERICAN**

- 95 Oklahoma City Primera
- 84 Houston Primera
- 84 McAllen
- 84 San Antonio Primera
- 80 Laredo

**CENTRAL OHIO**

- 376 Grove City
- 330 Newark First
- 314 Circleville
- 275 Gallipolis
- 273 Portsmouth First

**CHICAGO CENTRAL**

- 557 Kankakee College
- 517 Kankakee First
- 372 Chicago First
- 221 Danville First
- 190 Danville Southside

**COLORADO**

- 1,486 Denver First
- 431 Denver Lakewood
- 397 Colorado Springs Eastborough
- 383 Colorado Springs First
- 358 Colorado Springs Trinity

**DAKOTA**

- 246 Mitchell
- 165 Jamestown First
- 135 Valley City
- 127 Minot First
- 123 Mandan

**DALLAS**

- 408 Richardson
- 291 Dallas Central
- 183 Dallas First
- 171 Texarkana First
- 170 Tyler Lakeview

**EAST TENNESSEE**

- 249 Chattanooga First
- 141 Chattanooga East Ridge
- 122 Chapman's Chapel
- 120 Chattanooga Grace
- 120 Doyle

**EASTERN KENTUCKY**

- 258 Ashland First
- 191 Maysville
- 163 Covington Central
- 159 Turkey Creek
- 158 Newport First

**EASTERN LATIN AMERICAN**

- 102 Stamford
- 86 Jersey City
- 79 Newark
- 63 Passaic
- 49 Rochester

**EASTERN MICHIGAN**

- 576 Flint Central
- 457 Warren Woods
- 411 Richfield
- 329 Flint First
- 306 Plymouth

**GEORGIA**

- 297 Atlanta First
- 244 Sandersville
- 232 Marietta
- 202 Dublin First
- 166 Mount Olive

**HAWAII PACIFIC**

- 138 Honolulu First English
- 111 Maili Samoan
- 92 Kailua
- 81 Kaneohe
- 80 Kona

**HOUSTON**

- 349 Houston Spring Branch
- 216 Pasadena First
- 212 Houston Northwest
- 211 Nacogdoches
- 194 Port Arthur Grace

**ILLINOIS**

- 277 Decatur West Side
- 259 Decatur First
- 222 Decatur Faries Parkway
- 205 Springfield First
- 197 Clinton

**INDIANAPOLIS**

- 632 Indianapolis First
- 518 Indianapolis Westside
- 390 Martinsville First
- 350 North Vernon
- 268 Shelbyville First





**INTERMOUNTAIN**

- 845 Nampa First
- 650 Nampa College
- 415 Boise First
- 401 Meridian Valley Shepherd
- 251 Ontario

**IOWA**

- 677 Oskaloosa
- 290 Cedar Rapids First
- 279 Cedar Rapids Oakland
- 230 Des Moines Eastside
- 215 Council Bluffs First

**JOPLIN**

- 271 Carthage
- 230 Independence
- 190 Springfield First
- 186 Highway
- 180 Parsons

**KANSAS**

- 965 Wichita First
- 336 Salina First
- 309 Hutchinson Bethany
- 306 Hutchinson First
- 300 Newton First

**KANSAS CITY**

- 1,226 Olathe College
- 707 Kansas City First
- 308 Kansas City Nall Avenue
- 302 Kansas City Central
- 258 Kansas City Shawnee

**KENTUCKY**

- 281 Lexington Lafayette
- 216 Georgetown
- 208 Columbia
- 177 Bowling Green First
- 175 Louisville Farmdale

**LOS ANGELES**

- 1,450 Pasadena First
- 386 Pasadena Bresee Avenue
- 326 New Life Community (Grover City)
- 301 Lompoc Trinity
- 235 San Luis Obispo

**LOUISIANA**

- 173 Shreveport Huntington Park
- 155 Shreveport First
- 136 Baton Rouge First
- 112 Ebenezer
- 97 DeRidder

**MAINE**

- 244 South Portland
- 170 Skowhegan
- 165 Millinockett
- 154 Bangor
- 107 Dover-Foxcroft

**MICHIGAN**

- 254 Sturgis
- 247 Chapman Memorial
- 223 Grand Rapids First
- 212 Owosso First
- 202 Lansing South

**MINNESOTA**

- 267 Minneapolis First
- 142 Litchfield
- 121 Osseo
- 115 Backus
- 110 Rochester

**MISSISSIPPI**

- 205 Meridian Fitkin
- 186 McComb First
- 123 Jackson First
- 117 Jackson Emmanuel
- 108 Columbus First

**MISSOURI**

- 203 Hannibal First
- 196 St. Louis Southwest
- 186 St. Louis Overland
- 181 Kirksville
- 173 Harvester

**NAVAJO NATION**

- 75 Ramah Sandmountain
- 74 Shonto
- 73 Nazini
- 70 Chilchibeto
- 62 Dilkon

**NEBRASKA**

- 214 Lincoln First
- 174 North Platte
- 142 Omaha Heritage
- 139 Hastings
- 135 York

**NEW ENGLAND**

- 314 New Bedford International
- 250 Lowell
- 200 Manchester
- 182 Quincy Wollaston
- 168 Nashua

**NEW MEXICO**

- 302 Clovis First
- 257 Albuquerque First
- 220 Albuquerque Sandia
- 197 El Paso First
- 157 Roswell First

**NEW YORK**

- 398 Brooklyn Beulah
- 186 Valley Stream
- 149 Fishkill
- 147 Lakeland First
- 142 Bronx Bethany

**NORTH ARKANSAS**

- 221 Conway First
- 181 Rogers
- 151 Springdale
- 139 Bentonville
- 124 Fort Smith First

**NORTH CAROLINA**

- 227 Pineville
- 216 Hendersonville
- 171 Raleigh First
- 170 Monroe
- 162 Plymouth

**NORTH CENTRAL OHIO**

- 755 Mount Vernon First
- 421 Marion First
- 356 Bedford
- 313 Bucyrus
- 221 Sandusky

**NORTH FLORIDA**

- 243 Jacksonville University Boulevard
- 155 Pensacola First
- 143 Ocala First
- 142 Gainesville First
- 133 Jacksonville Central

**NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA**

- 308 Sapulpa
- 302 Tulsa Central
- 276 Bartlesville
- 250 Broken Arrow
- 192 Tulsa Regency Park

**NORTHEASTERN INDIANA**

- 412 Anderson First
- 392 Huntington First
- 316 Muncie South Side
- 276 Elkhart First
- 251 Winchester

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

- 387 San Jose First
- 238 Eureka
- 226 Santa Rosa
- 220 Concord
- 160 Napa

**NORTHWEST**

- 406 Moscow
- 339 Spokane First
- 279 Spokane Valley
- 278 Yakima West Valley
- 245 Yakima First

**NORTHWEST INDIANA**

- 463 Portage First
- 292 Kokomo First
- 240 Valparaiso
- 237 Hammond First
- 196 South Bend First

**NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA**

- 1,549 Bethany First
- 412 Bethany Williams Memorial
- 357 Oklahoma City Lake View Park
- 300 Kingfisher
- 282 Oklahoma City First

**NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS**

- 543 Sterling First
- 249 Pekin First
- 246 Rock Island
- 233 Galesburg First
- 173 Ottawa First

**NORTHWESTERN OHIO**

- 286 Lima Community
- 244 Springfield First
- 214 Findlay First
- 196 Piqua
- 184 Wapakoneta

**OREGON PACIFIC**

- 1,543 Salem First
- 641 Portland First
- 326 Medford First
- 308 Eugene First
- 268 Oregon City

**PHILADELPHIA**

- 542 Fairview Village
- 336 Mifflinburg
- 314 Ephrata
- 287 Vineland
- 269 Bridgeton

**PITTSBURGH**

- 231 Warren
- 210 Waynesburg
- 198 Oil City
- 192 Pittsburgh South Hills
- 175 Homer City



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

- 153 Kalispell
- 131 Sunnyside
- 122 Casper
- 110 Great Falls
- 103 Whitefish

**SACRAMENTO**

- 570 Sacramento Liberty Towers
- 283 Auburn
- 273 Oroville
- 255 Redding First
- 199 Sacramento First

**SAN ANTONIO**

- 192 Harlingen First
- 174 San Antonio First
- 173 Temple First
- 160 Austin South
- 152 San Antonio Valley-Hi

**SOUTH ARKANSAS**

- 230 North Little Rock First
- 177 Little Rock First
- 176 Hot Springs First
- 155 Little Rock Calvary
- 145 Pleasant Grove

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

- 327 Columbia First
- 243 Fort Mill
- 230 Langley
- 201 Chester
- 182 Winnsboro

**SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA**

- 209 Henryetta
- 208 Choctaw
- 202 Durant
- 165 Shawnee
- 148 Ada

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

- 1,045 Long Beach First
- 336 San Diego Mission Valley
- 324 Anaheim First
- 305 Bloomington
- 273 Santa Ana First

**SOUTHERN FLORIDA**

- 448 Miami Hosanna
- 332 Bradenton First
- 321 Princeton
- 298 Pompano Beach
- 258 Lake Worth First

**SOUTHWEST INDIAN**

- 60 Cache, Okla.
- 53 Lehi, Ariz.
- 53 Needles, Calif.
- 51 Albuquerque, N.Mex.
- 43 Sells, Ariz.

**SOUTHWEST INDIANA**

- 531 Seymour First
- 223 Bloomington First
- 223 Brazil
- 220 New Albany First
- 207 Bicknell

**SOUTHWEST LATIN AMERICAN**

- 95 Chandler, Ariz.
- 66 El Paso, Tex.
- 51 Tucson, Ariz.
- 44 Albuquerque, N.Mex.
- 32 Yuma

**SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA**

- 368 Western Oaks
- 354 Trinity
- 283 Bethany Calvary
- 207 Yukon
- 167 Mustang

**SOUTHWESTERN OHIO**

- 423 Cincinnati Springdale
- 413 Xenia
- 343 Pisgah Community
- 276 Dayton Parkview
- 273 Dayton Beaver Creek

**TENNESSEE**

- 928 Nashville First
- 383 Nashville Grace
- 284 Nashville College Hill
- 281 Memphis Calvary
- 245 Nashville Bethel

**UPSTATE NEW YORK**

- 247 Syracuse Immanuel
- 207 Owego
- 166 Rochester Grace
- 160 Rochester Trinity
- 154 Rochester Calvary

**VIRGINIA**

- 541 Richmond Southside
- 211 Arlington Calvary
- 210 Roanoke First
- 188 Hampton
- 180 Harrisonburg

**WASHINGTON**

- 330 York
- 271 Salisbury
- 256 Baltimore First
- 250 Washington First
- 231 Marley Park

**WASHINGTON PACIFIC**

- 446 Puyallup
- 395 Seattle Aurora
- 349 Kent First
- 340 Vancouver Hillcrest
- 274 Centralia

**WEST TEXAS**

- 342 Lubbock First
- 315 Metroplex Chapel
- 255 Hereford
- 230 Amarillo First
- 225 Amarillo Valley View

**WEST VIRGINIA NORTH**

- 256 Weirton First
- 255 Newell First
- 228 Parkersburg Broadway
- 212 Parkersburg First
- 188 Wellsburg

**WEST VIRGINIA SOUTH**

- 273 Charleston Davis Creek
- 269 South Charleston First
- 264 Pineville
- 247 Huntington First
- 203 Oak Hill

**WESTERN LATIN AMERICAN**

- 328 Los Angeles Belvedere
- 272 Los Angeles Boyle Heights
- 121 Sacramento
- 115 Rancho Cucamonga
- 110 Pasadena

**WISCONSIN**

- 125 Racine Community
- 113 Milwaukee First
- 108 Mattoon
- 108 Racine Taylor Avenue
- 99 Richland Center

**1987 SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL  
EMPHASIS WILL BE  
"DARE TO BE AN ANDREW"  
March 15—April 19, 1987**

*"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus" (John 1:41-42, NIV).*



# IN THE NEWS

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Retired Ministers Fellowship of the Chicago Central District held its third annual retreat at the campgrounds, Aroma Park, August 19-21. Rev. Carl H. Roberts, chairman of the association, and his wife, Esther, were the coordinators of the retreat. Interest increased to 30 in attendance this year.

The keynote address was given by District Superintendent Keith Bottles at the banquet on Wednesday evening. Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Taylor, of Hoopston, were crowned as king and queen. In fun, Mrs. Bottles was presented with a 14-carrot necklace and Rev. Bottles was given a boutonniere made from two carrots, tops and all.

Three of the retired ministers—Rev. James Robbins, Rev. Francis DeVidal, and Rev. F. C. Warman, brought devotions.

The fellowship has monthly meetings and has a membership of 80 including wives and widows. □

**Dr. Robert L. Sawyer, Jr.**, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sawyer of Olathe, Kans., has received a two-year fellowship in the field of Internal Medicine beginning July 1987 at the University of Arizona in Phoenix.

Robert Sawyer, Jr., is a graduate of Mid-America Nazarene College and was valedictorian in 1980. □



**Eric Ely** returns to Northwest Nazarene College as a student recruiter, according to Dr. Richard Hagood, vice president for Institutional Advancement.

Ely is a 1982 NNC graduate with a degree in elementary education. For the past three years he taught in an elementary school in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He also played basketball in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile with Youth Enterprises. Prior to graduation he was a missionary and basketball player in northern France.

Ely, 28, attended Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oreg., prior to attending NNC. One of Ely's sisters, Alicia, is a senior at NNC. □

### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CASA ROBLES OBSERVED

Casa Robles Nazarene Missionary Retirement Center in Temple City, Calif., celebrated its 40th Anniversary October 21, with nearly 250 guests present.

Mr. Robert Ashley, superintendent, brought greetings. A choral group, "The Believers," directed by Mr. Loyal Ingersoll of the Temple City church, sang several numbers, with Mrs. Erlene Mielke singing a solo. Dr. Louise R. Chapman, who was present at the dedication of Casa Robles, led in prayer. Dr. Charles Gates spoke, representing the Division of World Mission, Kansas City.



Pictured are participants in the 40th anniversary celebration of Casa Robles (front row, l. to r.) are Dr. Paul Benefiel; Rev. Spurgeon Hendrix, missionary in residence; Robert Ashley; Dick Willis, treasurer; and Dr. Charles Gates; (back row, l. to r.) Harold Stanfield, missionary in residence; and Dr. Wil Spaitte.

Dr. Paul Benefiel, superintendent of the Los Angeles District and chairman of the Board of Directors of Casa Robles, gave a brief history: "Forty years have come and gone and are very much a part of our precious Zion. As we come to this day of remembrance and celebration, we recall the 11th chapter of Hebrews in which the writer enumerated the great of Israel and how they had been victorious by faith. We, too, find ourselves deeply aware today that these grounds really are the result of great faith, sacrifice, and devotion."

Currently, 44 retired missionaries are resident at Casa Robles in the 31 homes, and more are on the waiting list.

Dr. Asa Everette Sanner, who had the vision for Casa Robles, was hospitalized and unable to be present. He passed away the day following. His foresight, persistence, and faith in God will long be remembered.

Dr. Wil Spaitte, superintendent of the Central California District, pronounced the benediction. □

—Lorraine O. Schultz, reporter



## PRAYER PARTNERS

God has given us a great corps of commissioned evangelists. We hope our churches will have sent Christmas offerings to their evangelists in December. But more than that, we need to pray for these God-called workers who sacrificially lead us in bringing renewal to our churches. Pray that our planning will lead us beyond our church walls to truly evangelize the unchurched and experience New Testament growth.

Begin praying now for the EVAN-

GELISM CONFERENCE to be held in Kansas City February 24-26.

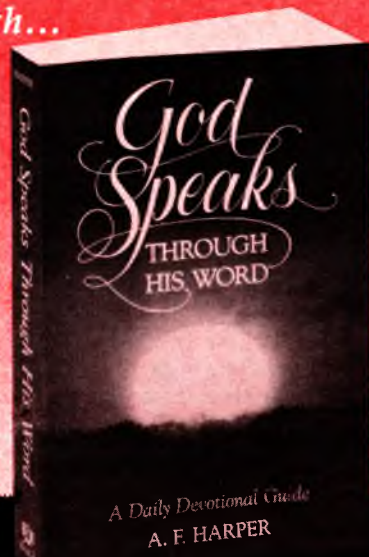
Will you join us in thanking God for the great victories experienced in 1986 in our Thrust to Chicago? And . . . can we begin now to pray for the Holy Spirit to be upon our Mexican Nazarenes as they launch Mexico City '87 on January 4 with the goal of planting 100 new churches in 1987 in Mexico City?

**Raymond W. Hurn, Secretary**  
BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS

Start the New Year with...

# God Speaks

THROUGH HIS WORD



## A Year-Through-the-Bible with DR. A. F. HARPER

Inspirational, life-centered, day-by-day devotionals uniquely designed to take the reader through the Bible in a year.

The variety of methods Dr. Harper uses in presenting these brief studies, including the development of a theme, analysis of the scripture, biographical material, self-evaluation devices, and questions that probe reader response, stimulates a high interest level. Each meditation concludes with a word of scripture, a hymn stanza, a meaningful quotation, or a prayer.

**Special Feature**—devotionals are identified as Week 1, Sunday, Week 1, Monday and so on, making it possible to begin at any time of the year.

Consistent reading will result in knowing God better and nurturing one's spirit in Christian faith. 532 pages. Kivar cover.

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September 11, Chaplain Bowers (l.) presented a retirement award to Charles "Chuck" Moreland who completed 20 years of service to the U.S. Army, his nation, and his church. In the background is the chapel where he ministered to the troops at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

## EUROPEAN SERVICEMEMBERS' RETREAT REACHES EXPECTATIONS

The 29th Annual Servicemembers' Retreat was held in Berchtesgaden, West Germany, October 13-17 with 196 in attendance. Servicemembers and their families came from all over Europe—Great Britain, Spain, Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany. This was the largest group to attend the retreat in more than 10 years.

Dr. John A. Knight, general superintendent, spoke under the blessing of God. Several went to the altar either to rededicate their lives, to seek sanctification, or to find the saving power of Jesus Christ. The revival spirit was enhanced by spirited congregational singing led by Dr. Jim Main from European Nazarene Bible College. A number of people provided special, heartwarming music.

Each day began with a devotional time led by Dr. Tom Findlay, professor of religion at European Nazarene Bible College. He brought words that strengthened the hearers' faith, helping them deal with the nitty-gritty issues of daily living. After fellowship over coffee and doughnuts, people attended the seminar of their choice. PIGS (People Into Growing Spiritually) was led by Mrs. Justine Knight. Dr. Mark R. Moore hosted the seminar on "The Why, What, and How of God's Will." Walter and Linda Crow led Marriage Enrichment. For those wanting Bible study, Dr. Tom Findlay led a session on "Worship and Witness in 1 Corinthians."

Afternoons were free for resting or visiting places of interest in the area. Some chose the cuckoo clock factory; the crystal factory; a trip to Salzburg, Austria; or a visit to the Salt Mines, or King's Lake. Others went shopping or mountain climbing.

Special activities for teens and children were led by Gary and Debra Stewart and Rev. Clive and Grace Burrows.

## Other DAILY DEVOTIONALS for 1987

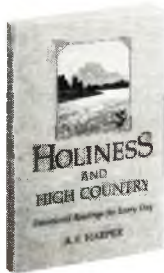


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Nearly 200 attended the 29th Annual Servicemembers Retreat—a quantum leap from two years ago when approximately 46 attended!



Shown (l. to r.) are Gerald Bohall, European military coordinator; General Superintendent John A. Knight; Chaplain (Col.) Curt Bowers, director of Chaplaincy Ministries; and Rev. Norman Rice, pastor of the Bonames Nazarene Servicemembers Fellowship, Frankfurt. A check for \$600 for the General Budget was presented by Bohall to Dr. Knight from the Nazarene Military Fellowships in Germany.



An angelic figure, painted on the army chapel at Camp King, near Frankfurt, towers over (l. to r.) Rev. Bohall, European military coordinator; CH (Major) Larry Fenton; and Curt Bowers, director of Chaplaincy Ministries.

More than 160 attended the banquet on Thursday night to hear Dr. Mark R. Moore, Education Services, relate his experiences as a prisoner of war in Germany during World War II. This thrilling account was told in terms of "a pair of socks" that were given to Dr. Moore and became the catalyst for a growing faith in God.

In the final service, Holy Communion was shared around the Lord's Ta-

ble. Although the Holy Spirit was very near in every activity and service, there was a particular closeness to God and one another as we broke bread together.

Chaplain (Capt.) Daniel Parker, retreat coordinator, and his wife, Iona, planned and worked out the details for the retreat.

—Gerald A. Bohall  
European Military Coordinator



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—John Corrigan  
Bible Study: How the Parables Speak to Us  
—John C. Bowling  
Hymn Story: "Amazing Grace"—Patricia Bolerjack  
Pause of Spiritual Refreshment—Mendell Taylor  
Devotional Nuggets

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The Power of Encouragement—Earl Lee  
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Members of the Adult Committee included (from l. to r.) Dr. Jorge Barros, Mrs. Lois Ward, Dr. Joseph D. Biscoe, Jr., Dr. Bennett Dudney, Miss Sylvette Rivera, Miss Helen Temple, Rev. John Smee, Mrs. Betty Sartin; and (not pictured) Miss Iwana Ridgill, Mrs. Nina Gunter, Mrs. Carol Gritton, and Mrs. Robin Foster.



Members of the Youth Committee are shown (l. to r.): Mr. Bruce Oldham, Miss Peggy Smith, Mrs. Lori Bowers, Mr. Fred Fullerton, Rev. L. Alan Thompson, and Miss Tena Orton.



Members of the Children's Committee were (l. to r.) Mrs. Betty Robertson, Mr. Mark York, and Miss Lisa Ham.

### NWMS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETS

The Nazarene World Mission Society Mission Education Curriculum Committee met in Kansas City September 12, 1986, to discuss and plan for the Adult, Youth, and Children's Mission Education Curriculum for 1988-89. □

### MEDIA SERVICES WINS AWARD FOR "A PARABLE"

Nazarene Media Services won the Bronze Award at the annual Association of Multi-Image International

Competition/Festival in Anaheim, Saturday, August 16. The award was earned for "A Parable," a 14-projector slide presentation produced for the Christian Life and Sunday School Division for presentation at the 21st General Assembly.

"A Parable" was one of only 131 shows accepted for prescreening from more than 300 others and was one of only two productions in the Religious/Spiritual category that made it to the final competition.

Dave Anderson, Video Productions director, accepted the award on behalf of Media Services and CL/SS. He was



Paul Giguere, representing the Association of Multi-Image International Competition, presents the Bronze Award for "A Parable" to Dave Anderson of Nazarene Media Services.

accompanied at the AMI meeting by Ron Howard and Denny Bergstrom, also of Media Services.

The Bronze Award is presented to a multi-image presentation that "displays some areas of exceptional quality."

"Finalists are chosen on the basis of professionalism and competence and are judged by industry leaders in public viewing sessions," said Dave Anderson. "This was our first time to enter a production in this competition, and we are very pleased with this kind of recognition from such a professional group."

"A Parable" was written and produced by Dave Anderson with photography by Dave Anderson, Russ Hansen, and Brian Helstrom. Ron Howard and Lamont Moon served as production assistants, and original music was written and performed by Denny Bergstrom. The production has been reduced to a one-projector presentation, which can be purchased from NPH. □

—NN

### MEXICO '87 LAY PASTOR TRAINING MAKING PROGRESS

Twenty-three students have enrolled in the first course of a laymen training program especially designed for Mexico '87 Thrust to the Cities campaign. The announcement was made by Rev. Julio C. Pérez, newly appointed superintendent of Mexico Central District, during a recent regular monthly meeting of the Mexico '87 Steering Committee.

The training program, which is ministerial in nature, is sponsored by Mexico '87. Its faculty is being staffed by pastors and laymen of the Central District. The 23 students are distributed in three different accessible centers spread throughout Mexico City. The plan is to establish at least 10 or 15 such centers, in order to make them even more accessible to the 150 or 200 students. The theological training pro-



gram has as its goal to enroll that number by the end of this year.

These laypeople already are or will be involved in pastoral leadership with the 100 new churches to be organized as part of Mexico '87. Mexico City, an urban center of nearly 20 million people, will be the target city in the Thrust to the Cities project for 1987. The massive church planting endeavor that this gigantic urban mission project involves is depending heavily on the bivocational pastor. It is this kind of worker the 23 students represent. The director of Mexico '87 Ministerial Training Program is Rev. Félix González L., pastor of El Mirador Church.

—Juan Vázquez Pla, reporter



Israel Núñez, 22, architect assistant, is one of the Mexican laymen in ministerial training to function as a bivocational pastor in planting and organizing 100 new churches in Mexico City during Mexico '87 Thrust to the Cities campaign next year.

### FROM PRO-SPORTS TO CHURCH PLANTING TO CONSTRUCTION

Donald Boyd was a professional ball player before he became Rev. Boyd. He returned to Meridian, Miss., and the Fitkin Memorial Church, where Charles Johnson has pastored for 25 years. Boyd has saved there and became a member. "Boyd is a man who gets things done," affirms Johnson who led Donald through the pastoral Course of Study and groomed him for the ministry.

In 1983 Rev. Boyd began a Bible study in the little town of Quitman, Miss., approximately 30 miles from Meridian. In one year he built it up to a fully organized church with 35 members.

In January 1986 the congregation moved into their own building. With no available funds from the district, Boyd procured a site and led several men of his constituency in the construction of the new church building, now valued at \$60,000 to \$80,000.

In the 1986 Mississippi District Assembly, Rev. Boyd and his church received the Church Planters Award, the Evangelistic Honor Roll Award, the

Fellowship Award, and a Leaders in Profession of Faith Award. His church continues to grow as he serves them on a bivocational basis.


A landscaper by trade, Boyd left his business and his beautiful home in Meridian to plant the new church in Quitman where he now resides.



Rev. Donald Boyd (r.) takes some ribbing from his men about his construction expertise. Boyd and 12 men from his congregation constructed the Quitman, Miss., church.



The almost-finished Quitman Church of the Nazarene



## Book Briefs

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## NAZARENE ELDER RETIRES AFTER FOUR DECADES AT SAME CHURCH

Rev. Vivian Hinson Pressley, pastor of the Rock Hill, S.C., West Main Church, retired August 17, 1986, after serving as pastor of the church for 40 years. Mrs. Pressley, an elder, has the record of holding the longest pastorate of one church on the South Carolina District.

Rev. Vivian Pressley was honored for her many years of service at Rock Hill West Main Church, Sunday, August 10. Among those present for the special occasion were Dr. and Mrs. D. Moody Gunter of Kansas City. Dr. D. Moody Gunter, Finance Division director and former district superintendent of South Carolina, spoke in the morning worship service and commended Mrs. Pressley for paying her district and



Pictured (l. to r.) are Dr. D. Moody Gunter, Rev. Mrs. Nina Gunter, Rev. Vivian Pressley, Rev. Marion Pressley, husband and associate since 1951; and Rev. A. E. Kelly.

general budgets in full for the 40 years she has pastored and this year cele-

brated her 27th consecutive year of 10 percent giving for World Missions.





Participants of the Africa South Field Conference

Rev. Mrs. Nina Gunter, NWMS general director and former district NWMS president of South Carolina, also represented the general church and NWMS, and commended Mrs. Pressley's support to the NWMS and the missionary outreach of the West Main Church.

Rev. A. E. Kelly, former district superintendent who appointed Mrs. Pressley as pastor of the church in 1946, also gave comments in the morning worship service.

Rev. C. M. Kelly, former district superintendent, brought the message in the evening service and commended Mrs. Pressley on her many years of service to the church.

Members and friends of the West Main Church surprised Rev. Pressley with a new Oldsmobile Delta 88 as a token of their appreciation for her ministry. Mrs. Pressley was also honored at a retirement reception August 10, when approximately 500 guests came to show their love and appreciation for her dedicated service to the church and community.

#### AFRICA FIELD CONFERENCES HELD

Dr. R. F. Zanner, regional director for Africa, reports the completion of the 1986 Africa Field Conferences. These conferences replace the traditional mission council meetings. They provide an opportunity for missionaries of different countries to meet with each other for fellowship, inspiration, information, and programming.

The Africa South Field Conference (comprised of missionaries from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Venda, and Ciskei) was attended by 143 missionaries, including families. Africa Southeast (Swaziland and Mozambique) had 131 participating missionaries; Africa Central (Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi), 41; and Africa East (Kenya), 8 participants.

As of 1987 Africa West (Cape Verde, Nigeria, and Ivory Coast) will be included as the fifth field on the Africa Region.



Participants of the Africa Central Field Conference



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# ★ 1986 STEWARDSHIP HONOR ROLL ★

Listed below are 43 churches that have qualified for the Stewardship Honor Roll for 30 or more consecutive years:

CONSECUTIVE YEARS	CHURCH
39	ALEXANDRIA (ALEXANDRIA, IND.)
39	BETHEL (BETHEL, ILL.)
39	ELKHART FIRST (ELKHART, IND.)
39	HARRIS CHAPEL (SELMA, IND.)
39	KANSAS CITY FIRST (KANSAS CITY, MO.)
39	MONONGAHELA (MONONGAHELA, PA.)
39	MOUNT HOPE (BERNIE, IND.)
39	SUBLETTE (SUBLETTE, KANS.)
39	WARREN FIRST (WARREN, OHIO)
39	WINCHESTER (WINCHESTER, IND.)
39	ZION (BRITT, IOWA)
38	MARION FIRST (MARION, OHIO)
37	BEARDSTOWN (BEARDSTOWN, ILL.)
37	CHATTANOOGA FIRST (CHATTANOOGA, TENN.)
36	COLUMBIANA (COLUMBIANA, OHIO)
36	NEW BRIGHTON (NEW BRIGHTON, PA.)
35	HARMATTAN (OLDS, ALTA.)
35	LOWELL (LOWELL, MICH.)
35	PEORIA FIRST (PERIOA, ILL.)
34	CONCORD (CONCORD, CALIF.)
34	EAST ROCKAWAY (LONG ISLAND, N.Y.)
34	WARREN (WARREN, PA.)
33	BERNE (BERNE, IND.)
33	BRADFORD FIRST (BRADFORD, PA.)
33	DINUBA (DINUBA, CALIF.)
33	DURANT (DURANT, OKLA.)
33	ELKHART (ELKHART, KANS.)
33	GRAND HAVEN (GRAND HAVEN, MICH.)
32	BRESEE AVENUE (PASADENA, CALIF.)
32	OTTAWA FIRST (OTTAWA, ILL.)
31	BELLE (BELLE, W.VA.)
31	BETHEL (BETHEL, KANS.)
31	CLAYTONIA (WEST SUNBURY, PA.)
31	FORT RECOVERY (FORT RECOVERY, OHIO)
31	MEDFORD (MEDFORD, OKLA.)
31	PENIEL (HUTCHINSON, KANS.)
31	WESTBROOK (INDIANAPOLIS, IND.)
31	YUMA (YUMA, COLO.)
30	CHICAGO OAK PARK (OAK PARK, ILL.)
30	HAMMOND FIRST (HAMMOND, IND.)
30	IRONTON FIRST (IRONTON, OHIO)
30	MUNCIE SOUTH SIDE (MUNCIE, IND.)
30	NYSSA (NYSSA, OREG.)

Listed below are the districts with 50 percent or more of their churches qualifying for the Stewardship Honor Roll:

CHURCH PERCENTAGE	DISTRICT	DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
62.0	WASHINGTON	ROY E. CARNAHAN
61.0	SOUTH CAROLINA	JAMES BEARDEN
58.0	KANSAS	ROBERT J. CERRATO
57.0	NORTHWESTERN OHIO	M. V. SCUTT
56.0	SACRAMENTO	WALTER M. HUBBARD
54.0	AUSTRALIA NORTHERN PACIFIC	JOHN N. WHITE
51.0	INTERMOUNTAIN	HOYLE C. THOMAS
51.0	NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA	JESSE C. MIDDENDORF
50.0	CANADA QUEBEC	HARRY A. RICH
50.0	PHILADELPHIA	TALMAGE HAGGARD



Listed below are the 10 churches on the Stewardship Honor Roll with the highest percentage of giving to General Budget and mission specials:

PERCENTAGE OF GIVING	CHURCH
209.52	TOOWOOMBA (MACGREGOR, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA)
139.75	CORA (CORA, OKLA.)
75.76	DENVER (HOUSTON, TEX.)
45.02	WAPAKONETA (WAPAKONETA, OHIO)
43.88	NEW HOPE (MUNCIE, IND.)
41.10	CALVARY (DOVER, DEL.)
40.72	BURLESON (BURLESON, TEX.)
40.38	ARLINGTON FIRST (ARLINGTON, VA.)
40.16	BAKER (BAKER, OREG.)
36.35	BARRY (BARRY, ILL.)



Listed below are the top 11 districts who reached or overpaid their recommended General Budget for 1986:

PERCENTAGE	DISTRICT	DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
115.51	SOUTH CAROLINA	JAMES BEARDEN
110.85	NAVAJO NATION	JOHN R. NELLS
104.48	MAINE	J. E. SHANKEL
104.13	HAWAII	DARRELL TEARE
103.80	DALLAS	W. M. LYNCH
101.74	NEW ENGLAND	NEALE O. McLAIN
101.68	NORTH ARKANSAS	R. EUGENE SANDERS
100.67	PHILADELPHIA	TALMAGE HAGGARD
100.40	WASHINGTON	ROY E. CARNAHAN
100.39	SACRAMENTO	WALTER M. HUBBARD
100.00	ALASKA	ROGER J. WEGNER



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## ROGER PARROTT ACCEPTS POSITION WITH LAUSANNE COMMITTEE



Dr. Roger Parrott, 32, has been appointed director of United States Operations for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. The appointment was

made by Dr. Leighton Ford, chairman of the Lausanne Committee. Based in Charlotte, N.C., the committee was organized following the first International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne in 1974. Dr. Billy Graham, who serves as honorary chairman of the Lausanne Committee, has been a prime mover behind the world evangelization program.

Dr. Parrott's primary responsibility will be to run the Lausanne operation for the U.S.A. and to raise the \$12 to \$15 million for the work, which will include three conferences in the next three years. The first will be the Evangelists Conference in 1987, the second will be the Young Leaders Conference in 1988, and the third will be Lausanne '89.

Dr. Parrott has served for the past six years as vice president for Institutional Advancement at Mid-America Nazarene College. His responsibilities at the college have included development, admissions, church relations, public relations, and financial aid.

He was responsible for development of the Third Decade Challenge, which has raised commitments of \$17 million toward a \$30-million goal for the college. He also established the Mid-America Nazarene Foundation to raise and manage endowment funds and an annual fund for the school, which is expected to raise \$185,000 dollars this year. The Mid-America Nazarene Foundation has already reached the \$1 million level.

Dr. Mary Lou (Morrison) Parrott, wife of the MANC administrator, has taught English at the Olathe college for the past five years. The Parrotts will make their new home in North Carolina.

Roger is the son of Dr. Leslie Parrott, Olivet Nazarene College president.

—NN

## MOUNT VERNON COMMUNITY TRUST GRANT TO AID MVNC BUILDING

The Mount Vernon Community Trust has made a grant of \$150,000 to



The "Belles" singing group of Point Loma Nazarene College ministered through songs to the marines at Camp Horno of Camp Pendleton, Calif. Pictured with them (l.) is Chaplain David Beeson (Lieutenant); Chaplain Ron Ritter (Commander); and Chaplain Tim Lantz (Lieutenant). Chaplain Beeson and wife, Kay (Hamilton), have two sons, ages nine and five. They are members of Vista, Calif., First Church.

Mount Vernon Nazarene College toward the college's goal of \$5 million for construction of a chapel-auditorium-fine arts building on the local campus.

The college is currently engaged in a campaign to raise funds for the building, with construction to start when the funds are pledged. The college hopes to start construction late in 1987 or in 1988.

The \$150,000 grant by the Community Trust is the largest in the history of the trust, established in 1944.

"A grant of this size is possible largely because of income from two major unrestricted gifts to the trust within the past two years," said Frederick N. Lorey, chairman of the distribution committee.

"One was a bequest of some \$400,000 from the estate of Belle Shrontz of Gambier. The other was a gift of more than \$800,000 from a trust established by B. B. Williams, Mount Vernon, industrialist, who established the community trust." □



## When should you plan your will?

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- After the birth of your first grandchild.
- When one of the "old gang" expires suddenly.
- During your pastor's next sermon on heaven.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

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## BOARD OF PENSIONS ISSUES "14TH MONTH" CHECK

The Board of Pensions and Benefits USA issued a "14th month" check to each person on the "Basic" Pension Roll as of December 1, 1986. This check equaled the amount of each member's regular monthly pension check.

A "13th month" check was issued in June. 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, and a healthy rate of return on invested pension reserves.

Extra checks and the "Basic" pension recognize the dedicated service of over 2,800 retired ministers and widows of ministers throughout the United States and Canada. Faithful support of the Pensions and Benefits Fund enables your Board of Pensions to continue "Honoring the Trust" of these individuals. □

## FOR THE RECORD

### DISTRICT ASSEMBLY REPORTS

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

At the Northern California district assembly, District Superintendent Clarence J. Kinzler completed the first year of an extended term. Dr. Raymond W. Hurn, general superintendent, presided.

The Great Commission Leaders Award was presented to Pastor Phil Tate, Santa Clara, Category I; Pastor Dan Kellogg, Monterey, Category II; and Pastor Lyle Pointer, San Jose First, Category III. Others receiving the Great Commission Fellowship Award were Pastor Leonard York, Crescent City; Pastor Jim Kent, Fremont First; Pastor Jim Clayton, Salinas; Pastor Mark Pitcher, San Ramon; Pastor Tom Shaw, Livermore; and Pastor Fred Shepherd, Santa Cruz.

#### IOWA

At the Iowa district assembly, Dr. Forrest E. Whitlatch, district superintendent, completed the third year of a four-year term. The Great Commission Fellowship Award was presented to Pastor Don C. Gadbow, Cedar Rapids First; Pastor Don Williams, Cedar Rapids Trinity; Pastor Rick L. Garmon, Estherville; Pastor David E. Childers, Pella; Pastor Brandt Freeburg, Spencer; and Pastor Rod Thelander, Washington.

Dr. Eugene L. Stowe, general superintendent, ordained Jack Lavernon Carpenter, Scott Allen Hilligus, and Craig Eugene Whitlatch.

#### WISCONSIN

At the Wisconsin district assembly, Rev. Laurel L. Matson was elected district superintendent. Dr. Gerald D. Johnson, general superintendent, ordained Daniel Roy Wiese.

Winning the Great Commission Leadership Award were: Category I, Reedsburg Community; and Category II, Richland Center. Also winning the Great Commission Fellowship Award was Racine Community.

#### CANADA ATLANTIC

At the Canada Atlantic district assembly, Rev. William Stewart, district superintendent, completed the third year of an extended term. Dr. William M. Greathouse, general superintendent, ordained Mark Collins and Douglas Keith. The district welcomed two new pastors.

#### KANSAS CITY

At the Kansas City district assembly, Dr. Milton Parrish, district superintendent, completed the second year of an extended term. He reported a new church to be planted in Stanley, a suburb of Kansas City, the week after assembly. The following were winners of the Great Commission Leaders Award: Category I, Pastor David Shore, Sedalia; Category II, Pastor Don Welch, Kansas City Rainbow Boulevard; and Category III, Pastor Lee McCleery, Kansas City Central. Also receiving the Great Commission Fellowship Award were: Blue Springs, Pastor David Pitts; Bonner Springs, Pastor William Rushing; Kansas City Hillcrest, Pastor James Miner; Kansas City Story Point, Pastor Steven Mitchum; Leavenworth, Pastor Larry Thomas; Olathe Westside, Pastor Charles Pickens; Ottawa, Pastor Earl Copsey; Overland Park, Pastor Randy Davey; Overland Park Antioch, Pastor Richard Bond; St. Joseph Northside, Pastor Ron Frye; Topeka Fairlawn, Pastor Ray Pederson; and Topeka Wanamaker Woods, Pastor L. D. Holmes.

Dr. William M. Greathouse, general superintendent, ordained (elders): Michael Arnold, David Gruver, Bruce McKellips, Raynard Martin, David Shore, and Marty Stesslinger; (deacons) Edgar Gonzales, William Miller, and Christian Sarmiento.

#### ARIZONA

At the Arizona district assembly, Dr. Bill Burch, district superintendent, was elected to a four-year term. The Mesa Valley Shepherd Fellowship was a newly organized church. Winners of the Great Commission Leaders Award were: Category I, Pastor David Runion, Tucson Midvale Park; Category II, Pastor John Bullock, Sierra Vista; and Category III, Pastor Steve Feazel, Phoenix First.

Dr. John A. Knight, general superintendent, ordained Michael Blankenship, Gary Moore, Terrill Rose, David Runion, Roy Sanderson, and Fred Tau. The credentials of Gordon Bennett and Ray Frank were recognized. Rosemary Martin was consecrated as a deaconess, and Ruth DeLong was commissioned as a minister of Christian education.

#### CANADA WEST

At the Canada West district assembly, Rev. Glenn Follis was elected district superintendent for a two-year term. Dr. William M. Greathouse, general superintendent, ordained John Hannem and Thomas Krantz.

The Great Commission Award winner was Pastor Glenn Boyde, Category I, Edmonton West Jasper Place. Other churches winning the Great Commission Fellowship Award were Edmonton Beverly, Rocky Mountain House, Saskatoon, and Yorkton.



At the New Mexico district assembly, District Superintendent Leon F. Wyss was reelected to a four-year term. Dr. John A. Knight, general superintendent, ordained Harold (Buz) M. Walker, Jr., and Lawrence A. Lacher. Pictured are District Superintendent Leon F. Wyss (center) with winners of the Great Commission Leaders Award: Pastor Paul Hetrick (l.), Albuquerque First Church, Category III; and Pastor Stan Yocom (r.), Albuquerque Rio Vista Church, Category I.

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JEFFREY N. BECKETT from student (W.Va.) to Martinsville (Ind.) First  
MICHAEL B. BLANKENSHIP from Tucson (Ariz.) Catalina Vista to Gallatin (Tenn.) First  
WAYNE BRANNON from Festus (Mo.) First to Spring Hill (Fla.) First  
LONNIE R. BROWN from Buffalo (Okla.) First to Clovis (N.Mex.) First  
DARRELL COX, student, Chicago, Ill., to Sheridan (Ill.) First  
DENNIS R. DILBECK, from Buffalo (N.Y.) Zion to Chicago (Ill.) Northside  
ROBERT C. EMBERLY, student, NTS, Kansas City, to Yorkton (Sask.)  
LERAY GLENDENNING from Ankeny, (Iowa) First to Chariton (Iowa) First  
LAWRENCE HARTSOCK from Peoria (Ill.) Golden Acres to Oregon (Ill.) First  
STEVE HENDRIX from Arlington (Tex.) First to Orlando (Fla.) Central  
BOB HENEGHAN from Redmond (Oreg.) First to church planter, Chicago (Ill.) Central  
DAVID HENRY from Saltcoats, Sask., to Calgary (Alta.) Midnapore  
RAY E. HIBBERD from Caldwell (Ind.) Ustick Road to Elgin (Oreg.) First  
RICHARD HODGE from Shawnee (Kans.) First to Luray (Springport, Ind.)  
DAVID L. HOFFPAUIR from Sioux City (Iowa) Grace to Walters (Okla.) First  
ELBERT ISLEY from Geary (Okla.) First to Oklahoma City (Okla.) Portland Avenue  
ORVILLE JACKSON from Searcy (Ark.) First to Murphysboro (Ill.) First  
GARY D. KLINGER from Anderson (Ind.) Goodwin Memorial, to Oskaloosa (Iowa) First  
RICK McWHORTER from student, NTS, Kansas City, to associate, Orlando (Fla.) Central  
DONALD D. MAYNARD from Coal Valley, Ill., to Glenwood (Iowa) First  
C. EDWIN MURPHEY to West Covina (Calif.) First



ROGER OUTLER from Hebron (Ind.) First to Stockton (Ill.) First  
 TIMOTHY RIGGS from associate, Brookville (Fla.) First, to pastor, Sebastian (Fla.) First  
 DAVID R. RODES from Ventura (Calif.) First to Grandview (Wash.) First  
 STEPHEN SEARS, student, to Roseville (Ill.) First  
 DAVID F. SORREL from Streator (Ill.) First to Milwaukee (Wis.) First  
 DAVID SPIRES to Columbia (S.C.) North Main  
 HAROLD SUKHRAY to Toronto Main Street (Scarborough, Ont.)  
 J. EUGENE TURNER from North Portland, Oreg., to Los Angeles (Calif.) Highland Park  
 JOHN R. TYLER to Bishopville, S.C.  
 RICHARD E. VANDERVORT from Seneca Falls, N.Y., to Pleasant Ridge (Harrisonville, Pa.)  
 DICK W. WALDEN from Creston (Iowa) First to Sioux City (Iowa) Grace  
 HAROLD WILCOX from Los Angeles (Calif.) Highland Park to Kahului (Hawaii) First  
 ALFRED WOOD from Brookhaven Faith (Magnolia, Miss.) to Jackson (Miss.) Northside  
 ROGER L. YOST from Sidney (Nebr.) First to Viroqua (Wis.) First

### MOVING MISSIONARIES

REV. DON and PAULA BARD,\* Zambia, Field address: c/o Kell, P.O. Box 31766, Lusaka, Zambia  
 MR. JEFF and MELISSA JAKOBITZ, MAC Regional Office, Field address: Apartado 100, San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica  
 MR. BOB and SHERRI KELLER, Ivory Coast, Furlough address: Rte. 4, Box 15, Fairfield, IA 52556  
 REV. JAIME and CAROL KRATZ, Brazil, Field address: Av. Republica do Libano 1.793, Apartamento 101 (Setor Oeste), 74.000 Goiania, Goias, Brazil  
 REV. DON and BARBARA MESSER, Malawi, Furlough address: 713 N. 7th St., Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
 DR. PAUL and MARY ORJALA, France, Field address: Eglise de Nazareen, 15 Rue du Peintre Labru, 78000, Versailles, France  
 REV. CHRISTIAN and MARGIT SARMIENTO, Bolivia, Field address: Casilla 5958, La Paz, Bolivia  
 MISS KATHRYN SAVAGE, Swaziland, Furlough address: 1471 N.E. 9th Ct., Homestead, FL 33033  
 REV. GIDEON and JEANETTE TREDoux,\* Malawi, Field address: P.O. Box 2652, Blantyre, Malawi

\*Specialized Assignment Personnel

### RECOMMENDATIONS

REV. ANDREW SUTCH is a licensed minister on the Kansas City District, and he is now entering the field of full-time evangelism. He has served as associate pastor at Kansas City Grace Church for four years, and this experience will be of help to him in evangelism. He is a graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary. I am happy to commend Rev. Sutch to Nazarene pastors across the nation. His address is 717 Dover Dr., Independence, MO 64056.—*Milton B. Parrish, Kansas City district superintendent.*

EVANGELIST CLYDE H. MORRIS was forced to cancel some revivals and was unable to accept invitations for others during his wife's long illness. His wife, Dorothy, has now gone to be with the Lord, and Brother Morris is again available for full-time evangelism. He would especially like an invitation to serve those who had previously invited him. Write him at 101 Bryant Lake Rd., Cross Lanes, WV 25313, or call 304-776-2858.—*C. Harold Smith, West Virginia South district superintendent.*

This is to commend REV. RICHARD BACHMAN of the Eastern Michigan District as an evangelist, especially in the areas of children's and youth work. His ministry has been used in several camps and churches during other regularly scheduled revival meetings. He is also available for weekends. He is not commissioned or registered but will be applying for such at next year's district assembly. Contact him at 7273 Braile, Detroit, MI 48228, or call 313-271-1158.—*Marselle Knight, Eastern Michigan district superintendent.*

The location of evangelists may be secured

through Evangelism Ministries' toll-free number, 800-821-2154.

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### VETERAN DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT DEAD



Dr. Nicholas A. Hull, 77, died October 31, following an extended illness. Dr. Hull was elected superintendent of the Southern California district in 1956 and served in that post for two decades.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma.

Funeral services were held November 4, at Sapulpa, Okla., First Church.

Dr. Hull was a graduate of Pacific Bible College and

received the honorary doctor of divinity degree from Pasadena College. He pastored churches in Santa Maria and San Diego prior to becoming district superintendent.

#### FORMER DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT DIES

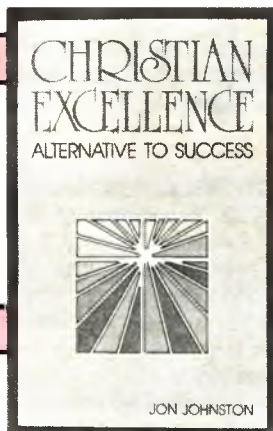


REV. LUTHER CANTWELL, 83, died October 20 at Shawn Manor Nursing Home in Ponca City, Okla.

Born July 26, 1903, at Grandberry, Tex., he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Cantwell. September 30, 1921, he married Eu-elah Ethel Autrey near Mount

Pleasant, Tex.

Rev. Cantwell began his ministry in 1928 and was ordained an elder in the Church of the Nazarene in



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1937, serving in the ministry for 54 years. He pastored Ponca City First Nazarene for six years. His pastorates also included Comanche, Alva, and Ryan, Okla.; Fort Worth First Church, and Texarkana, Tex., New Castle, Ind., First Church, North Miami Beach, Fla., and Ponca City Trinity. He started the Nazarene Indian Mission at White Eagle in 1936.

He served for 11 years as superintendent of the Indianapolis District, during which time he established or reorganized 22 new churches. He built the district tabernacle with attendance over 2,000. Rev. Cantwell traveled extensively throughout the United States preaching in revivals and camp meetings.

Cantwell served on the Board of Regents for Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla., and Olivet Nazarene College in Illinois for 11 years. He was a delegate to the International General Assembly from 1940 through 1964.

He and his wife moved back to Ponca City in 1969. The Cantwells celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary September 30.

Survivors include his wife, Euelah, and son Ray, of the home; four daughters, Mrs. Ivan (Mary) Bridgman of Ponca City, Mrs. Warren (Sybil) Small of Indianapolis, Ind., Mrs. Bobbie Shane of Fort Meyers, Fla., and Mrs. Archie (June) Passmore of Harrisburg, Pa.; 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren; 2 sisters; and 2 brothers.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one infant daughter.

The funeral service was at Ponca City First Church. Officiating ministers were Dr. Mendell Taylor, Southern Nazarene University, Bethany; and Rev. Jesse C. Middendorf, superintendent, Northwest Oklahoma District. Assisting were Rev. Carlton Harvey, Ponca City First Church; Rev. Kevin Rogers, Ponca City St. Luke's; Rev. Wesley Goodwin, First Assembly of God Church, Ponca City; and Robert Wayne Hawkins, Mount Vernon Nazarene College, Ohio (a great-grandson).

#### DEATHS

**THEODORE (TED) R. ALEXANDER**, 81, Oct. 16, Reading, Pa. Survivors: sons Theodore D. and John C.; daughters Mrs. Robert (Dorothy E.) Trimmer and Mrs. Robert (Florence L.) Kupiszewski; nine grandchildren; five brothers; one sister.

**MRS. MARGARET MAY CANFIELD**, 92, July 9, Lompoc, Calif. Survivors: daughter Margaret Kalin; sons Albert E. and Clifford R.; 9 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; 1 sister.

**MRS. MAMIE L. HOLLEY**, 88, Aug. 26, Mobile, Ala. Survivors: daughters Mrs. Bertie Lou Sanders and Mrs. Carrie Lee Hampel; son Delray; 8 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; 1 sister.

**ALAN KEITH LEIDY**, 36, Sept. 23, Lynn Haven, Fla. Survivors: wife Janice; sons Steven and Jonathan; one sister; one brother; his parents.

**DAWN ELAINE PHILLIPS**, 24, Sept. 5, Cincinnati, Ohio. Survivors: mother Mrs. Anne Hicks Hale; brother Brent Lawrence; grandparents Charles and Ollie Phillips, and Mrs. Jessie Hicks Howes.

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**KOOP CALLS FOR AIDS EDUCATION.** Surgeon General C. Everett Koop says children in grade school should be taught the dangers of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Noting that AIDS has killed almost 15,000, Koop predicted that deaths will increase twelvefold in the next five years. "Education about AIDS should start at an early age so that children can grow up knowing the behaviors to avoid to protect themselves from exposure to the AIDS virus," said Koop.

Homosexual and civil rights groups praised Koop's report for rejecting classic public health measures such as testing and quarantine. Koop also is on record in opposition to a ballot question in California that would classify AIDS as a "communicable disease," a move some gay rights activists say could lead to a discrimination against homosexuals. □

**OLDEST BIBLE TEXTS DISCOVERED SHOW SCRIPTURE HASN'T CHANGED.** Translations of two cigarette-sized silver amulets found in an ancient tomb show that at least some of the prayers of ancient Judaism remain prayers today, virtually word for word.

Prior to the 20th century, the oldest known texts dated to the 10th century A.D. In 1903 the Nasy Papyrus was published, based on a single papyrus fragment that included the Ten Commandments and a liturgical prayer, dating to around 100 B.C. The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in the late 1940s, contained even older biblical texts, dating to the late 3rd century B.C. The newly translated amulets have been dated by translator Gabriel Barkay to the 7th century B.C.

The part deciphered on one of the amulets is the priestly benediction found in Numbers 6:24-26, almost identical to the masoretic text in use today: "The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace."

The rolled-up amulets were part of a treasure hoard discovered in 1979 by Barkay in a First Temple period family tomb opposite Mount Zion. It took three years for technical experts from the Israel Museum to open the fragile amulets. The writing is very faint, and recovery of the text has been assisted by enlarged photographs, special lighting, and microbinoculars.

The amulets had holes for strings, and were evidently worn around the neck and buried with their owners. The amulets are the only ones ever found from the biblical period. □

**CHINESE AUTHORITIES WAIVE DUTIES FOR AMITY PRESS.** By completely waiving all import duties on printing and production equipment, the government of the People's Republic of China saved the American Bible Society and its partner Bible societies about \$1.9 million on the overall cost of setting up the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing, which will give priority to producing Scriptures for Chinese Christians.

The savings are over and above the more than \$5 million cost of purchasing, shipping, and installing the presses, bindery, and computerized typesetting machinery, which the societies have agreed to furnish the Amity foundation.

Erecting the plant and getting it into operation is expected to take up to a year. A new site for the facility, about five miles outside Nanjing, was announced recently. □

**NEW DOBSON FILM.** By the end of the year a projected 10,000 groups will have shown the Dr. James Dobson film series *Turn Your Heart Toward Home*.

This surpasses Dr. Dobson's *Focus on the Family* film series, which set industry records by being seen in 7,750 locations in its first year. By contrast, 6,500 churches had signed up for the new series in its first six months. □



REV. ARTHUR FAY FWIST, 81, Oct. 4, Moscow, Idaho. Interment: Potlatch, Idaho. Survivors: wife Xy-thel; 3 stepchildren; 10 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren. Ministry: several churches on the Northwest District.

REV. JACK E. VAN ALLEN, 78, Aug. 21, Auburn Hills, Mich. Survivors: wife Erma; son Charles; daughter Kay; two grandsons; one great-granddaughter; one brother; two sisters. Ministry: churches in southern Michigan.

MRS. GENEVA WHITTINGTON, 80, Aug. 20, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: husband Holland; daughter Charla Hannon; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

#### BIRTHS

to MICHAEL AND CHERYL (HARRIS) BARNHART, Yukon, Okla., a girl, Carley Michelle, Sept. 20

to GREGORY AND ELIZABETH (SALMONS) BERNIUS, Davenport, Iowa, a girl, Haleigh Elizabeth, Nov. 7

to DAVID AND SUSAN (VAN NOTE) LOMAX, Palmyra, Mo., a boy, John Mark, Nov. 4

to RICHARD AND MELISSA (SHUFF) SHOFFNER, Bossier City, La., a girl, Jennifer Lynn, Oct. 24

#### ADOPTIONS

by JOHN AND NINA (WALKER) RATTLE, Arvada, Colo., a girl, Marie Margaret, born Sept. 13, adopted Sept. 14

#### MARRIAGES

MRS. JESSIE HICKS and HENRY S. HOWES, SR., at Ashland, Ky., May 31

PAT WATKINS, Claremore, and LES WATKINS, Tulsa, at Claremore, Okla., Sept. 20

DELORES GREENE and MICHAEL PARKER at Oklahoma City, Okla., Oct. 25

#### ANNIVERSARIES

MR. AND MRS. DELMER (FRANCES) COCHRAN were honored October 19 with a reception at their home in Manzanola, Colo., hosted by their children and grandchildren in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple has four daughters, Mrs. Bob (Violet) Grossman, Manzanola, Colo.; Mrs. Arie (Iona) Neel and Mrs. James (Pansie) Manners of Bethany, Okla.; and Mrs. Kelly (Ruby) Pearson, Fowler, Colo. They also have nine grandchildren.

Mrs. and Mrs. Cochran are members of the Rocky Ford, Colo., church.

REV. J. MARVIN AND FRIEDA HORN celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the Dorris Calif. church, November 1. The event was sponsored by their daughter, Peggy Smith, of Placerville, Calif. Their son, Gene, was unable to attend. Four generations were there.

Rev. Horn pastored the Dorris church twice, and also the Grass Valley, Calif., church.

CLAUDE AND LORENE YATES of Millbrae, Calif., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary October 4 with a reception at the San Bruno, Calif., church.

The celebration was hosted by their son Wesley, daughter-in-law Dee, and five grandchildren of Houston.

Both graduated from Bresee College in Hutchinson, Tex., and were married there October 3, 1936.

They have been active in the San Francisco First, Redwood City, and San Bruno, Calif., churches.

#### DIRECTORIES

**Board of General Superintendents**—Office: 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131. Charles H. Strickland, Chairman; Eugene L. Stowe, Vice-Chairman; Raymond W. Hurn, Secretary; William M. Greathouse; Jerald D. Johnson; John A. Knight.

## THE ANSWER CORNER

Conducted by W. E. McCumber, Editor

We welcome questions on biblical and doctrinal matters. The editor is not able to send replies to questions not selected for publication. Address: ANSWER CORNER, *Herald of Holiness*, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

**I was reading Revelation in a modern translation. To my surprise, in chapter 8:13, it said, "I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice, as it flew in midheaven, 'Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth . . .'" My King James Bible says "angel" not "eagle." What right does a translator have to change an angel into an eagle? Besides, eagles can't speak words.**

The only right anyone would have to change angel to eagle would rest upon the original language of Revelation. If the Greek said eagle, that would be the proper translation.

As far back as the early 1800s Adam Clarke acknowledged in his commentary that "eagle" was found in all the best available Greek manuscripts. Many textual scholars, before and after Clarke, agree.

Balaam's mule would caution you against denying eagles the power to speak words in a human language. Anyhow, the imagery of Revelation is highly pictorial and symbolic. Other kinds of nonhuman creatures are heard speaking human languages in Revelation. □

**Paul says, in Ephesians 5:18, "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." Doesn't this mean that it's all right to drink wine in moderation, as long as you don't drink to excess and get drunk?**

"Be filled with the Spirit" is an alternative to getting drunk on wine, which many pagans did at religious feasts as a part of their "worship."

In the light of modern knowledge about alcoholism, and with the availability of healthful beverages, being filled with the Spirit is an alternative to drinking wine at all, as well as to drinking too

much. The Spirit will not be grieved by your total abstinence, and you and those under your influence will be safer.

Those who would restrict today's Christian conscience to New Testament times would have to OK slavery. Nobody's wine drinking in the past really justifies it today. □

**Why isn't Communion an important part of the Nazarene church service? Maybe we have missed it, but we have only experienced Communion two times in the past three years of attendance. I yearn for the symbolic sharing of the Body and Blood of Jesus.**

In many of our churches, Communion is observed quarterly, in a few monthly. Where the service is reverently conducted and biblically understood, it becomes a powerful means of grace. Christ, as the Host of the supper, conveys life and power and blessing to those who partake in faith.

A mechanical observance of the Lord's Supper is deplorable. However, fear of the ritual becoming an empty routine does not justify its neglect. It can be a blessed and grace-giving event and for most of us, I am sure, it is. □

**I've been reading the Book of Jeremiah. A number of times God speaks about "rising up early" and sending His prophets to proclaim His words to the people. Does this mean God got up early, or just that the prophets got up early, or what?**

"Or what." God doesn't sleep (Psalm 121:4), and the prophets, being human, probably overslept at times—and underslept at other times. The phrase, which occurs 11 times in Jeremiah, is a way of expressing urgency and persistence. God is saying, in effect, "I faithfully and repeatedly and urgently rebuked your sins and warned you of judgment." Unfortunately, they did not listen, would not repent, and the judgment that had been threatened was finally experienced. The phrase expresses the faithfulness both of God and His servants the prophets. He went to special trouble to offer His people an escape from the doom they deserved. □

# NEWS OF EVANGELISM

## "BRING US TOGETHER AGAIN!"

Former president Richard Nixon's 1972 campaign slogan took on deeper meaning for the people of the Kenneth City, Fla., church.

During their recent revival with Evangelist Howard Rickey, 40 people sought and found spiritual help, including 12 who were saved and 2 who were sanctified. One brand-new family of four was saved the first time they attended the church.

But the highlight of the special services, suggests Pastor D. Randy Berkner, was the Saturday evening bread-breaking service. Several relationships among the church members were healed. One young lady was reclaimed that evening, following seven years of prayer and fasting on her behalf by her mother and other Christians.

One young man testified to a call to ministry as the result of the special revival emphasis. "I want to minister to inner-city youth who are struggling, waiting to be delivered from drugs and alcohol," he claims. "There I would be, but for the grace of God." □



Sunday, August 17, the Papillion, Nebr., Heritage Church dedicated its new building. Shown at the dedication service (l. to r.) are Rev. Dwight Neuenschwander, Nebraska district superintendent; Rev. W. C. Hansen, minister of visitation at Heritage; Rev. Earl Atteberry, pastor; Mr. Bob Wallace, mayor of Papillion; and Dr. Jerald D. Johnson, general superintendent.



The Hickory, N.C., church congregation recently dedicated its new sanctuary. District Superintendent D. Eugene Simpson gave the dedicatory message. The building contains 3,400 sq. ft. and seats 160. It is valued at \$150,000 and cost \$58,000 to build, with \$45,000 indebtedness. Rev. Roger D. Lee is the pastor.

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# THE CHURCH SCENE



The **Hubbard, Ohio, church**, with Rev. L. Frank Willoughby, Jr., pastor, capped a successful fall Sunday School drive, October 26, with 280 in Sunday School and 350 in morning worship. The average Sunday School attendance is 163.

The church had a "Friend's Day" promotion. A weather balloon, with a smiling face, was flown above the church steeple to welcome the people. Special community friends of the church were presented: Mayor William Colletta, president of the City Council, Al Sauline, Police Chief Ray Moffitt, and Gail Patrick, principal of Roosevelt Elementary School. □

A six-Sunday "Weeks of Harvest" Sunday School emphasis successfully ended Sunday, October 26, at the **Levelland, Tex., First Church** according to Dr. Kenneth Frey, pastor. The emphasis was structured around "a friendly Texas range war" between two teams within the congregation—the Ranchers and the Farmers. Sunday School attendance during these weeks averaged 40 percent above last year's average.

October 19 was called "Bring in the Yield" day. Team members coming to Sunday School brought contributions of canned and staple food goods, and serviceable used clothing. These items were weighed on a field cotton scale



Shown is the newly built Bangor, Northern Ireland, Church. The cost was \$120,000 (American). Alabaster funds provided \$15,000, and other gifts, including a grant from the district evangelistic fund, amounted to \$30,000. The indebtedness is \$75,000. Rev. and Mrs. G. Kelvyn R. Adams pioneered the church while pastoring in North Belfast. The first service was held in 1980. After two years, the Adamses were appointed to move to Bangor. The small congregation worshiped in various places—from a hotel to a hall. A capacity crowd attended the dedication service with District Superintendent David J. Tarrant. Rev. and Mrs. Adams cut the ceremonial ribbon and opened the door of the new church.

and a record kept by the Farmers and Ranchers for competition purposes, which the Ranchers team won. The 140 pounds of food was donated to the local Morgan Christian Shelter, and the 750 pounds of clothing was given to the Fort Worth Liberation Community

Church of the Nazarene, which serves in that inner city.

The emphasis was directed by Harold Pigg, chairman, Board of Christian Life and Sunday School. Rancher team leaders were Mike and Sue Dever, and Farmers, Johnny and Shirley Pigg. □



Friendship Day, Sunday, September 7, was an exciting day at the **Connell, Wash., church**. "Operation Andrew" (an outreach ministries program) was launched and celebrated at an indoor "Galilean Picnic." The theme of the day was centered around Jesus and His ministry around the Sea of Galilee. Church families invited community friends and neighbors to come to the "galil" (circle) of fellowship. Following the morning service, "followers of Christ" gathered around the "Sea of Galilee" (the fellowship hall, decorated with fish nets, fishing boats, etc.), and broke bread together (picnic lunch in a basket). New families were won to the church through fellowship. Pictured is artist, Professor Arnold J. Finkbeiner (l.), pointing out to Pastor Mark Rudeen (r.), details of his painting of the "Sea Galilee." Rev. Finkbeiner lived and ministered around the Sea of Galilee for several years.



On August 3, 1986, the **Sandusky, Ohio, First Church of the Nazarene** dedicated an enlarged sanctuary, and a new administrative and educational unit. The appraised value of the 17,092 sq. ft. building and furnishings is \$1,200,000. The sanctuary has a seating capacity of 450. Dr. Jerald D. Johnson, general superintendent, brought the dedicatory message. Dr. D. E. Clay, North Central Ohio district superintendent, also assisted in the dedication service. Rev. Merrill Braymer has served as pastor for nine years.



July 27 **Akron, Ohio, Southeast Church** (formerly Goodyear Heights) dedicated its new facility valued at \$755,000. The church sold its prior facilities and relocated to a new six-acre plot located near I-76. Dr. John A. Knight, general superintendent, was the special speaker at the dedication service; Dr. Floyd Flemming, district superintendent, was also in attendance. Rev. Larry Dunlap is pastor, and Bruce McGraw, associate pastor. Cogun Industries was the builder.



# Dare to Be an Andrew!



*"Andrews" are trained, Spirit-filled pastors and laypersons who take time each week to present the gospel to people in need of Christ (John 1:40-41).*

## HOW YOU CAN BE AN ANDREW!

1. Ask your pastor to teach a class called *Personal Evangelism Training*.
2. Order materials and teach a class yourself.
3. Contact Evangelism Ministries and arrange for a personal evangelism coordinator or teacher to teach a class in your local church or on your zone or district.

### PERSONAL EVANGELISM TRAINING TEACHES YOU HOW:

1. To turn a conversation to spiritual things.
2. To give your testimony effectively to a nonbeliever.
3. To present the gospel using scriptures and applying them to a life situation.
4. To ask a friend or relative to receive the gift of eternal life.
5. To nurture the new convert to establish him in the faith.

### HERE ARE THE MATERIALS:

#### TEACHER

*Personal Evangelism Training—Leader's Manual*, by Beverly Burgess (PAS-2600, \$24.95)

#### STUDENTS

*Personal Evangelism Training—Trainee Study Guide*, by Beverly Burgess (PA083-411-058X, \$6.95)

*Evangelism Explosion*, by D. James Kennedy (PA084-230-7788, \$9.95)

Order from Nazarene Publishing House, P.O. Box 419527, Kansas City, MO 64141  
or Evangelism Ministries, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131 (800-821-2154).  
Alaska, Hawaii, Missouri call 816-333-7000



## LA '88 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS

The Los Angeles '88 Steering Committee met at the Los Angeles District office in Pasadena, November 10. This was the first full organizational meeting of the committee since their initial planning sessions. They authorized Dr. Paul Benefiel, district superintendent, to bring recommendations to the next meeting for a coordinator of Los Angeles '88, as well as coordinators for Compassionate Ministry and Work and Witness.

The Steering Committee will function with four subcommittees: Targeting and Research, Finance, Compassionate Ministries, and Work and Witness.

The committee adopted a new goal of 30 new works during the Thrust period, an increase of 10 above their original proposal to the Board of General Superintendents. □

—NN

## SCHOOL OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM IN BAHAMAS

The Caribbean Region recently held two schools of personal evangelism in the Bahamas. Rev. and Mrs. Jack Hawthorne, regional church growth coordinators, were joined by six trainers from the U.S.A. and three national pastors in teaching others to share their faith in Jesus Christ. Sixty persons completed the course to become trainers. The region reports an upsurge in revival in each church involved.

The purpose of the schools of personal evangelism is not only to train soul-winners but also to train trainers of soul-winners. Ten additional schools of personal evangelism are scheduled in the Caribbean Region with others in the planning stages. □

—NN

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE OFFERING ALMOST HALFWAY TO GOAL

With only about 20% of the U.S. and Canada districts reporting, more than \$119,000 has been received toward the goal of \$250,000 for the Sunday School Literature Offering, according to Rev. Phil Riley, CL/SS Division director.

The offering was the last big event of the International Sunday School year of 1985-86. It is to provide the beginnings of Sunday School literature in the languages of more than 60 groups where the Church of the Nazarene is

now working without printed literature. One year ago the General Board approved \$250,000 out of the General Budget to begin the project with the hope that local Sunday Schools would raise another \$250,000.

"If every Sunday School will send something, we should really exceed our goal," said Rev. Riley.

The Literature Offering is an approved 10% special. □

—NN

## NAZARENE EVANGELIST KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Nazarene evangelist Larry L. Ritchie, 47, was killed in a head-on collision early November 19. He was in revival at the Fort Branch, Ind., church and was apparently leaving his motel to go to breakfast when he drove into oncoming traffic on a four-lane divided highway where he collided with a truck.

Funeral services were held at New Port, Ky., First Church, November 23. Dr. B. G. Wiggs, Southwest Indiana district superintendent, officiated.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and three children, Marlin, Naomi, and Leanna.

He entered full-time evangelism in 1981 and was commissioned in 1985. Prior to this he pastored churches on the Eastern Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, Northeast Indiana, and Southwest Indiana districts. □

—NN

## MEESE PLEDGES PRIORITIZING OF PORN PROSECUTIONS

U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese III has pledged to make the prosecution of the purveyors of child and violent pornography a high priority. He made the announcement at a White House briefing hosted by Carl A. Anderson, special assistant to President Reagan, November 13. That briefing included Dr. James Dobson and Father Bruce Ritter who served as commissioners on the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography.

The special briefing came in conjunction with the convening of a group of religious leaders from every major denomination in the United States as they met in Washington for the Religious Alliance Against Pornography (RAAP) Strategy Conference, November 13-14.

Attorney General Meese told the briefing that he would call for federal prosecutors from around the country to make such prosecutions a high priority when he meets with them at their annual meeting. He added that he is creating a "center for obscenity pros-

ecution" to serve as a Justice Department clearinghouse for pornography information as well as a training center for local, state, and federal prosecutors.

Representatives from U.S. Customs, the Postal Service, and the FBI spoke at the briefing about the work they are doing to obtain evidence against illegal pornographers and to stop the flow of their materials.

The religious leaders encouraged Meese and the president to support legislation that would: (1) provide for the forfeiture of any profits derived from or property used in committing an offense for which pornographers are convicted; (2) require producers, retailers, or distributors of sexually explicit visual depictions to maintain records containing consent forms and proof of performers' ages; and (3) to proscribe obscene cable and satellite TV programming.

Dr. B. Edgar Johnson, general secretary, and Mrs. Lillian Johnston, of Children's Ministries who represented the Women's Commission of the NAE, were among those attending the RAAP meeting. □

—NN

## IMPACTO '86

The First Nazarene Spanish-speaking church planters' conference involving more than one district was held at the Alhambra, Calif., church on the Los Angeles District, November 6-8.

The conference was sponsored by Church Extension Ministries, Nazarene Bible College, the Los Angeles, Southern California, and Western Latin American districts, and Instituto Teologico Nazareno (the extension center of NBC located in Los Angeles). The purpose of the conference was to provide church planting training.

Special speakers were: Dr. Juan Miranda, of the Charles E. Fuller Institute of Church Growth of Fuller Seminary; Dr. Carl Clendenen, who holds the chair of Church Growth at Nazarene Bible College; Rev. David Estrada and Rev. Jose Gonzales, pastors on the Western Latin American District; Rev. Maurice Hall, Southern California district superintendent; Rev. Joe Dimas, Central Latin American district superintendent; Dr. R. T. Bolerjack; and Rev. Michael Estep.

At the final session the districts in attendance were asked to develop a strategy for new works in individual district meetings. A total of 78 new works were targeted for new churches between now and the next General Assembly, with a goal of 3,000+ new converts. □

—NN

## **Encourage your church to become involved!**

"Mediocrity has come to characterize the behavior of most people in most of our institutions. People grow up in homes with mediocre parents, receive a mediocre education, become mediocre in their productivity in industries that reek of mediocrity. They live out their Christian commitment in a mediocre fashion within the context of churches that have mediocre programs. It is not surprising that Jon Johnston, speaking as one committed to the holiness tradition of Christianity, should find mediocrity to be intolerable. He refuses to allow the admonition of Christ to be "perfect" to be viewed as an unattainable goal that no one is expected to achieve, although nice to have for motivational purposes.

Johnston makes it clear that excellence is a requirement of the Christian. To him, holiness is excellence. Love is excellence and being Christian is excellence."

*—Anthony K. Reynolds*



## **1987 Denomination-wide Continuing Lay Training Study**

FEBRUARY—MARCH 1987

# **CHRISTIAN EXCELLENCE**

BY JON JOHNSTON

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