

**SPECIAL REPORT:** Their Rock is not like ours

# UPLOOK

**August 1998**



**For Love of a Soul**

**LITTLE ROCK**

# FOR LOVE OF A SOUL

*The river that flows from the very heart of God*

**Q**uite a few of the Little Rock team enjoyed the hospitality of the Lord's people en route to the outreach there. We were reminded of the words of John, who at the same time spoke of the Lord's workers who "went out for the sake of the Name, taking nothing of the Gentiles" (3 Jn. 7) and of the believers helping the Lord's people on their way "after a godly manner," or "worthy of God" (v. 6), that is, the way you would treat God if He came to stay at your house. We saw love at work in preparing rooms, serving meals, cleaning up afterward, even giving us gifts of fellowship! Who else but the Lord's people would do such a thing?

Their motive was evident. They were doing it for the same reason we were going to Little Rock: "for the sake of the Name." It was the love of Christ that constrained them. Although their labor was obviously sacrificial and costly, it was also obviously a joy, a labor of love. Like the observation of Sheba's queen, we also note, "Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants" (2 Chron. 9:7).

But as we sat at breakfast in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Bob and Jane Clark, our hosts, told us of the love story behind the one we were enjoying.

Jane had grown up in Arkansas and had been saved at a "revival" but had been untaught. She didn't know she should not marry an unsaved man—and she did. He was called one day to fix a well at a retirement home in nearby Marble Hill. The well pump was the most stubborn one Bob had ever faced. He had to return time and time again—and each time he did, Miss Minna Jean Bollinger "gospelled" him. She gave him coffee, mixed with a generous dose of Good News. She put tracts in his pocket, and sent prayers after him, as he disappeared down the road. No one would suspect her of sabotaging her own well to encourage his return visits, but Someone seemed to be doing it!

Meanwhile Jane kept prodding him to find out who these people were. She liked those tracts, and the interest


these people were showing in her husband. But their answer—"We're just Christians, meeting in the Lord's name"—led her to believe they were Jehovah's Witnesses or something. And this bit about living by faith? Bob had heard that before! He wondered if he would get paid. But he received his payment on schedule, and concluded, "These people really do live by faith."

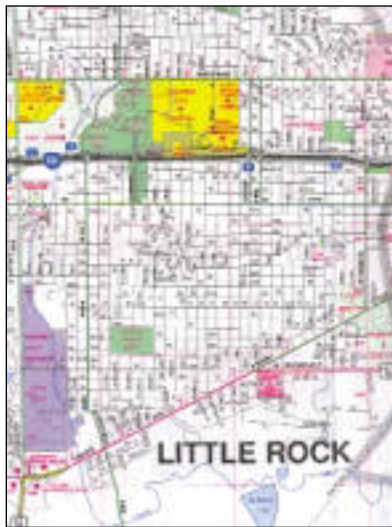
As they made their way to Marble Hill for a Bible study, Bob remarked to Jane, "We're not going to make a habit of this; I don't want to miss my *Gunsmoke*." But Bob was saved the second week, and has missed a few *Gunsmokes* since then. And all because someone loved the soul of a repairman for Christ's sake.

But the love story doesn't start there. How did El Nathan Home end up in the hills of Missouri? For the love of elderly saints—for the sake of the Name. And before the Bollingers was Sister Abigail, Abigail Townsend Luffe, who received the saintly benediction of George Müller, who was led to the Lord as a wild-living college student by those who saw beyond his lifestyle to his lost soul.

Nor does the river of love begin there. We may follow it back through church history to the apostles who went out for the sake of the Name. Back to Calvary, to Nazareth, to Bethlehem, to heaven itself, back to the heart of God.

For love of a soul, for love to the saints, for love of the Master, the people of God carry on. Nothing else would carry them through—through the bone-wearying labor, through the opposition of the enemy and unfair criticisms of brethren, through sleepless nights and disappointments, through the dark night of our pilgrimage "until the long dawn appears."

But such love *is* enough. "Love never fails" because its headwaters are in God, the God of love, who "faileth not." The great love story flows on. This desert world, parched for love, desperately needs a drink from this refreshing supply. "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost ... given to us" (Rom. 5:5). 



by J. B. NICHOLSON, JR.

# UPLOOK

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## UPLOOK

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# The Carpenter's workshop

*The Lord is still building His Church.  
He has invited us to join Him in the project.*

**JOHN & BOBBIE HELLER**

**F**or many years we have longed to see what has been called—by many old-time believers—a true gospel awakening. For some reason, we never thought it would be a real possibility, yet there was a deep yearning to see one and to be involved with it. For those who were in prayer and those who were able to be here in Little Rock in June, the Lord granted a unique and special experience in the gospel. We wept at the obvious working of God that was unfolding before us daily. Souls were hungry for the real answers to life, and God continued to reveal His saving power, soul after soul.

During the last part of the week, we received a call from someone wanting to know if this was the place where the John 3:16 texts were being distributed. After responding that it was, the man on the telephone identified himself as a sergeant with the police department.

After a pause to decide how to respond, we asked, "Are we in trouble?"

He too paused and then, with a

broken voice, said, "No, you are not in trouble. I just want more of these verses to hang up here in the police department."

That call has opened the door in the future to preach the gospel at a police camp for troubled teens, as well as the opportunity to hold officer's appreciation meals in our home and share Christ with them.

The work here continues in much need for prayer. Along with continuing to reach out with the gospel through children's work, one-on-one witnessing and evangelistic Bible studies, the need to disciple those who were saved as well as those who are interested in NT truths keeps us busy. At this time, several are attending regularly, and several are seriously considering attending.


We look to the Lord to add solid believers to the work who might be committed for the long term, and who understand the need for dependence upon the Lord. This will be an important part of the work being established here.

We have learned some great



*John and Bobbie Heller with John Jr., Sarah, & Michelle*

lessons through this experience: just because it is a "dark day" spiritually in North America does not mean that the Light cannot shine in the darkness; and even though one might feel like a "chicken" to reach out, it does not mean God cannot work through you in wonderful ways. He spoke that very clearly here in Little Rock.

In Philippians 4:3, Paul called fellow-workers in the gospel, "true comrades," genuine workers bonded together for the same cause. Whether you were here in person or here in spirit, we all know a special bond together as a result of God's work in Little Rock. We cannot thank the Lord enough for you, true comrades. God willing, may Little Rock not be the last such effort like this in North America, but a fresh beginning of advancing the cause of Christ. 



**I** am not one who loves to write, but this time I will. Knowing Christ as my Saviour for forty-three years, I have experienced many wonderful things in my life travelling around, meeting many wonderful Christians.

I must say, having a part in Little Rock—trying to reach the lost and the beginning of a New

Testament assembly—has been the most rewarding experience of my Christian life. I think after being saved for quite a while, we seem to drift into a slumber instead of being out and out for Christ. God help us. It was a most enjoyable time. Meeting so many new Christians was great. God willing, let's do it again!  
—Hurley Dixon

*Hurley, a North Carolinian, serves the Lord at El Nathan Home in Marble Hill, MO. He was our intrepid song leader.*



**THE HOLINESS OF GOD**

Horse Lake Christian Fellowship in 100 Mile House, BC plans to host a conference at The Hills Health and Guest Ranch September 6 & 7. Expected speakers are Elie Nessim (BC) and Jack Heseltine (OR). Call at (250) 791-5225 for reservations or Don Street (250) 395-4230 for info.

**LABOR DAY CONFERENCE**

Horton Haven Christian Camp in beautiful Chapel Hill, TN, will host the annual Labor Day Bible conference September 4-7, 1998. We are looking forward to ministry from J. B. Nicholson, Jr. (MI). Contact: (931) 364-7656.

**HERE'S A PROSPECT...**

Prospect Bible Chapel at 576 Prospect Ave., Hartford, CT, will hold its annual Bible conference Sept. 18-20, 1998. Prayer meeting Friday at 7:30 PM. Meetings on Saturday at 2:30 PM and 6:00 PM, and on Sunday at 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM and 5:30 PM.

Lord's servants expected are Dr. Arthur Garnes (MD) and Mr. Kenneth Daughters (IA). Contact: Thomas E. Woods, 31 Strickland Street, Manchester, CT 06040. (860) 643-4477

**FALL CONFERENCE**

Lynde Creek Bible Chapel (Hwy. 12 & Taunton Rd.), Whitby, ON, will hold their annual Fall Conference Sept. 19-20, 1998. Saturday sessions with Dr. Rob Linsted (KS), speaking on the topic, "Current Events and Bible Prophecy" are at 10:00, 1:00, 3:00 and 7:00. Sunday ministry at 11:00 only. Contact:

Kirk Dupre  
(905) 723-1278  
kdupre@interlinks.net

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE****NORTHERN ONTARIO**

Bethel Gospel Chapel, North Bay, ON, will host the annual Northern Ontario Conference Sept. 18-20 with the theme, "Thoughts of the Inner Man." Invited speakers: Alan Parks (SC) and Brian Gunning (ON). A special children's program with Dwane and Joyce Norton.

**FALL FOLIAGE**

James Cochrane, missionary to the Dominican Republic, will be this year's speaker at the annual Fall Foliage conference conducted by Honeyrock Ministries. The dates for this five-day, four-night conference are Monday, Sept. 21 through Friday Sept. 25, 1998. It will be held at Camp-of-the-Woods, a deluxe conference facility in the Adirondack region of New York State. Contact:

Mark Kolchin  
PO Box 305  
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

**TORONTO LADIES' MISSIONARY CONFERENCE**

Plan to attend "Challenge '98" on Saturday, Sept. 26, to be held at Don Valley Bible Chapel in Toronto, ON. This annual ladies' missionary conference includes an exciting program for girls, grade 2 and up. Speakers expected are Rosemary Sheldon (Ireland); Kim Loney (Austria); Eunice Russell (Uruguay); and others. For info. or accommodations:

Sheila Henderson  
50 Birksdale Ave.  
North York, ON M3H 4S5  
(416) 630-8726

**WORKERS' & ELDERS' CONFERENCE**

The annual Workers' and Elders' Conference is scheduled for October 6, 7, and 8 at Westside Bible Chapel in Wichita, KS (119th St. and W. Central Ave.) with a theme: "The

Great Need for Godly Leaders." Expected speakers are Jean Gibson, Jack Spender, Steve Price, Jack Fish, Steve Hulshizer, George Farber, Robert Clark, Larry Pile, and Tom Wilson, as well as several seminar leaders. Questions and registrations may be directed to:

Arnold Burkle (316) 721-3354

**CALLING ALL MOMS AND DAUGHTERS...**

Time for a get-away weekend in the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania at Camp Iroquoia. To be held Oct. 2, 3, and 4, 1998. Please call Tom Freeman at (609) 585-1835 or John McPherson at (717) 967-2577 to register for the retreat.

**ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE**

Keystone Bible Chapel announce their upcoming Annual Fall Conference Oct. 9, 10, 11, 1998. The expected speakers will be Don Norbie, J. B. Nicholson, Jr., and Larry Price. You may contact:

Jeff Petterson  
(402) 238-2878  
jpkpne@aol.com

**WESTBROOK IN THE EAST**

The assembly at Spring Hill Gospel Hall (225 Spring St., Westbrook, ME) will host a conference, in the will of the Lord, Oct. 10-11 with speakers Randy Amos (NY) and Brian Gunning (ON).

For info. or accommodations:  
Daniel Chick  
(207) 854-4968

**WOMEN'S ADVANCE**

The ninth annual Women's Advance will convene, Lord willing, Oct. 16 and 17 at the Harley Hotel in St. Louis, MO. Enjoy Christ-exalting ministry by Betty McGehee, fellowship, and relaxation. Should out-of-town guests need accommodations

for Saturday night, these will be provided by area assemblies. Contact:

Mary Walter  
1988 Bennington Common Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63146  
(314) 434-8055

### CALIFORNIA MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

Lord willing, Grace Bible Chapel in Fullerton, CA, will be hosting its sixth annual Fall Missionary Conference. Speakers will be Rowen Jennings (BC) and Dick Yarrell (CA). The dates of the conference will be Oct. 23, 24, and 25. The focus of the conference will be missions at home in our own country. The goal is to encourage the believers who attend to be more committed servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to be more active in their outreach for Him.

### METRO MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The believers in the New York Metropolitan area extend an invitation to their annual conference, scheduled to be held on Saturday Nov. 7 from 10:30 AM—4:30 PM. All meetings will be held at :

Good Tidings Gospel Hall  
345 Malcolm X Blvd.  
Brooklyn NY

The expected speakers are Curtis Jenkins (GA) and James Cochrane (Dominican Republic).

Further information contact:  
Jim McCall  
1775 Bussing Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10466  
Phone (718) 994-1318

### VESSELS OF HONOR

The believers meeting at East Tulsa Bible Chapel are planning a young adult conference, "Vessels of Honor," for Memorial Day weekend 1999. The conference is planned to be held in the Kansas City area as a central location. The conference is designed for singles and couples who

want to be used by the Lord.

Tentatively confirmed speakers include Craig and Nancy Rolinger, John Heller, Joe Reese, and J. B. Nicholson, Jr.

### GROWING IN GRACE AND TRUTH

About a year ago, the building which had served as the home of Bethesda Gospel Chapel in West Palm Beach for 50 years was sold and meetings were discontinued. Some of those in fellowship at Bethesda, however, desired to continue to break bread every Lord's Day, and so meetings in homes were begun. The Lord has blessed this gathering and it has grown and now been organized into the Grace and Truth Bible Fellowship. Meetings are held on Lord's Day at 9:30 and 11:00 and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30 for prayer and Bible study.

All meetings are held in the clubhouse of Cross Creek Condos, 1500 N. Congress Ave., West Palm Beach, FL. Visitors are welcome! Call Furman Martin (561) 746-6995.

### HYMNBOOKS AVAILABLE

If any assembly is interested in copies of *Hymns of Worship and Remembrance*, we have more than 100 copies available, and would be happy to let you have them for the cost of the freight. Any requests should be directed to:

N. Chandler  
#307-10240 Ryan Road  
Richmond, BC V7A 4R1  
Canada

### AT HOME

**John Francis Suess Sr.** of Alachua died Wednesday at North Florida Rehab Center in Gainesville. He was 94. Mr. Suess was an elder at the Park of the Palms assembly in Keystone Heights and a member of the board of directors of Park of the Palms, Inc.

### CAR-POOLING

College students attending Auburn University, Auburn, AL, who would be interested in car-pooling to Montgomery (Millbrook), AL, for assembly fellowship at Central Bible Chapel, are invited to contact Scott Leach @ (334) 365-3374 in Prattville or Joe Burdette @ (334) 283-8478 in Tallahassee for information. Or e-mail the assembly at:

Central.Bible.Chapel@juno.com.

### COMMENDATIONS


#### John and Jean MacPherson

The elders of the Ardsley (PA) assembly commend John and Jean



MacPherson to the work of the Lord at Camp Iroquoia in Hallstead, PA, where John will be taking over as manager of the camp. John has served as one of the elders in the assembly, and his family—including John Jr., Beverly, and Rebecca—have played an important part in every aspect of assembly life at Ardsley. The MacPherson's will be missed at Ardsley, but the saints send them forth with fervent prayers for the Lord's blessing and His gracious enabling for this work to which He has called them.

### HOUSES FOR SALE

We have been informed that there are two houses for sale at Shepherd Retirement Community (Frostproof, FL). Both are double-wide manufactured homes. For 2 bedroom, call (919) 542-6371; for 3 bedroom, call (941) 635-4840. 

# As it happened

*We'll try to give you a taste of the good things the Lord gave us in Little Rock.*

**CAROLINE CAIRNS**

The months that led up to the Little Rock Outreach were not only bathed in many hours of prayer; there was a seemingly endless “to do” list: choose a hotel to meet our needs, decide where to hold the evening gospel meetings and the noon hymn sings, acquire permission from the city to distribute literature, make maps of neighborhoods that we intended to visit, contact local newspaper and radio stations to make arrangements for advertising, etc.

There was communication with Christians across North America, both to ask for their prayer support and to get the details out to the team members. There were records to be kept of names, addresses, and their special requests, as well as financial gifts received. Literature was designed and printed. Other materials were examined and supplies ordered.

The last weeks of May were a beehive of activity at 7001 Shamrock Dr. in Little Rock. In the new home of John and Bobbie Heller, the boxes weren't even unpacked, the new paint on the walls barely dry, as trucks began delivering skids of gospel literature to be used during the campaign. The Christians from the assembly in Tulsa rolled up their sleeves and helped with wall-papering, painting, remodeling, and other jobs to help make the home ready.

On June 1, the first team members arrived for the preliminary work. Over the following days, folks trickled in. The plan was to use this time

for stuffing literature packs and posting announcements of the gospel campaign. Of course, there were plenty of practical matters to attend to: meetings, phone calls, and lots of planning—but the Lord was even more eager than we were for the gospel to go out, and He presented us with some rather unexpected precious opportunities that first week.

Sample homes were visited to assess our approach and material; 36,000 newspapers delivered an invitation to the meetings; 18 radio stations aired ads several times a day; hundreds of businesses accepted our posters for display; and local college students had the gospel presented to them in an open and clear way. Thousands of concert-goers were surprised on two evenings to discover that it wasn't free tickets or coupons that were being given away, but cards that told them, “The wages of sin is death...” When it was flipped upside down, the verse concluded, “The gift of God is eternal life.”

A golden opportunity occurred when one team member was driving around looking for the rest of the group and noticed hundreds of young ladies eating their lunch on the lawn of the Capitol Building. The men were able to distribute several hundred tracts to the top 1,000 seniors from across Arkansas who were in town for Girl's State—hands-on education in politics. Later a carload of Christian girls returned to the Capitol building and passed out more literature to read as they loaded onto the buses which would take them all across the state to their hometowns.

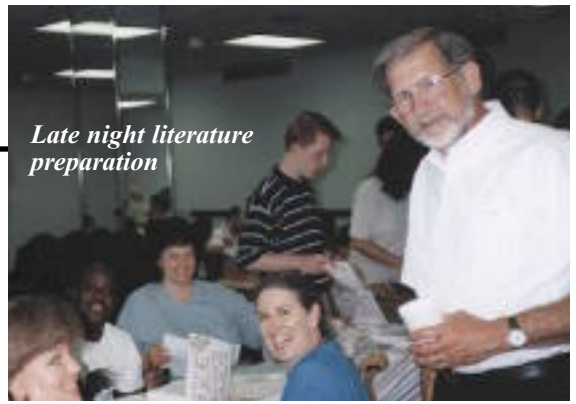
Immediately the hand of the Lord

was evident. And so was the hand of the enemy. The use of Hall High School for making lunches in the cafeteria, afternoon children's meetings, and evening gospel meetings had been approved by the vice principal, probably in an effort make friends with the Heller family, whose daughters are registered to begin classes there in the fall. When 36,000 posters announcing the meetings were distributed via the morning paper, the school board panicked.

Phone calls, meetings, and more phone calls resulted in our privileges being taken away during the day, and an extremely hesitant agreement signed for the evening meetings. It was clear that, had they found out about the meetings sooner, we would not have been using the school at all.

The Heller name became known in Little Rock; it appeared on almost all literature passed out. They were gracious, cooperative and yet firm in the face of opposition. Throughout the week the enemy attacked at every level—the university tried to shut us down, neighborhoods hired security guards to keep us off their properties, the hotel manager tried to prohibit us from talking with the staff, and a downtown business wanted us arrested for “attacking” customers.

On Sunday, June 1, most members of the team arrived in Little Rock. After an evening Lord's Supper, we discussed some of the plans for the upcoming week and people started to think more specifically about where they would be spending their time. Our orders were simple: do what we felt most comfortable doing, as the Lord led indi-



*Late night literature preparation*

vidually. There were no pre-arranged schedules or jobs, no scripts to memorize or partners assigned. The needs varied from making sandwiches to preaching on campus; from praying at the hotel to knocking on Hillary Clinton's mother's door. This liberty was exactly what the Spirit needed to work in each team member as well as in the hearts of the people we met.

Each morning, after a buffet breakfast, our team of about a hundred soldiers met for an update and a time of prayer. Those meetings allowed us to get to know one another better, to hear stories of "divine encounters" from the previous day, and to rally together around the Throne of Grace. We all looked forward to those early morning meetings with anticipation. As we heard about opposition and professions of faith, difficulties and triumphs, we laughed and wept and realized afresh that we were on holy ground—humbled to be used in such a work.

From 10 AM to noon, small groups scattered throughout the city. Some took maps of a neighborhood and visited each home with literature packs, some headed for the campus, others chose to pass out literature in rather unexpected places: gas stations, the zoo, the shopping mall, our hotel...

At noon, about a dozen lunches were delivered to the group on campus; the rest of the team met at a waterfront pavilion downtown for an open-air hymn sing and testimony time followed by a bag lunch. Hurley Dixon from Marble Hill, MO, was a fabulous song leader. He was teamed with Joanne Sushereba on the electric keyboard, Heather Moldenhauer on the violin, and Moira Nicholson on the flute. Our group was brimming with musical talent and every day brought a series of special presentations. A sheet of about ten familiar hymns was passed out, along with an invitation to the evening meetings. The hymns were interspersed with a

brief word from Mr. Dixon and then a 10-15 minute gospel testimony was given by various brothers.

Most of the hearers were passers-by who listened from a distance. Some stopped for a few minutes; others settled in for the entire hour and returned every day. No one left without a personal word in the gospel from one of the team. The young people from Raleigh, NC, presented puppet shows—mostly of music—which were a great success. Young families and businessmen were drawn to their non-threatening approach.

On Friday, we were suddenly displaced by a rock band, so we moved to a different downtown location that proved to be especially prepared by the Lord with many excellent conversations and even a few professions of faith. Some took advantage of the devil's crowd (at the rock concert) to spread the gospel.

Afternoons were busy with more door-to-door work, campus evangelism, and children's meetings. Even though our initial reception in the black neighborhood was discouraging, by the end of the week the children and many of their mothers had become dear friends. Several children professed to accept the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, and follow-up work is being done in that neighborhood.

By supertime, it was easy to feel exhausted, and some used the time to rest up before the gospel meeting. Others picked up people they had invited to meeting. But most people broke into small groups and visited area restaurants. We thanked the staff by giving them a John 3:16 poster and the lit-pack. Many wonderful contacts were made through this simple testimony; we know of at least one waitress who professed salvation.


Since our outreach coincided with a few special events in Little Rock, we tried to seize those opportunities. At an international martial arts convention, participants from around the

world were given the gospel. One Spanish-speaking young man from Uruguay professed to be saved.

Local elections were followed up by members of our group holding signs at busy intersections, announcing the meetings and declaring, "Our Man is in. His seat is uncontested. Jesus Christ—Saviour or Judge. You choose." The reactions from those on their way to and from work covered a broad spectrum, but it was obvious they were getting the message. One man came to the meeting and declared, "I figured anyone willing to stand in the hot sun and hold those signs must be serious."

The evening gospel meetings were held in the high school library. Attendance from the neighborhood and those who promised to come wasn't as high as we hoped, but even if "no one" came, there were at least a hundred in the meeting! Every night we had a handful of visitors—anywhere from two or three to about twenty. The preaching (different men each evening) was excellent and clear. The meetings commenced with a time of singing and then a brief testimony followed by the gospel presentation. One of the most striking features was the intensity of the prayer before and after the gospel was preached. As groups of men and women gathered to cry out collectively to God, for many of them it was the first time they had been in prayer meetings where Christians were actually weeping over the lost.

Some of the more energetic team members wound up their day by gathering back at the hotel for "stuffing parties," where plastic bags were filled with literature to be distributed the next day. Then off to bed we went (after sending an e-mail prayer update) for a few hours of rest before the alarm woke us the next morning.

And we'd start all over again. 

*Caroline serves at Uplook Ministries*



# To the Jew first

*It's not Haifa or Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. Or even New York. It's Cochabamba.*

**B**ob Wilhelmson's background is with the Hayward, CA assembly. He and his wife, Joyce, served the Lord among a tribal group in the jungles of Bolivia until sickness forced them to leave that area. They moved to Cochabamba. Was their ministry over?

One day there was a knock at the door. There stood four Israelis. They were anthropologists, they said, and were interested in hearing about the Wilhelmson's work among the Indians. Slides were shown, and then the conversation moved into the area of the message the missionaries had been sharing with these tribal people. Had the Israelis ever heard why Christians believed Yeshua was the Messiah of Israel? Would they be interested?

After hearing the gospel, the visitors left. But that was only the beginning. A few days later more Israelis arrived at the door. Their friends told them they ought to stop and see the missionaries. Could they hear what

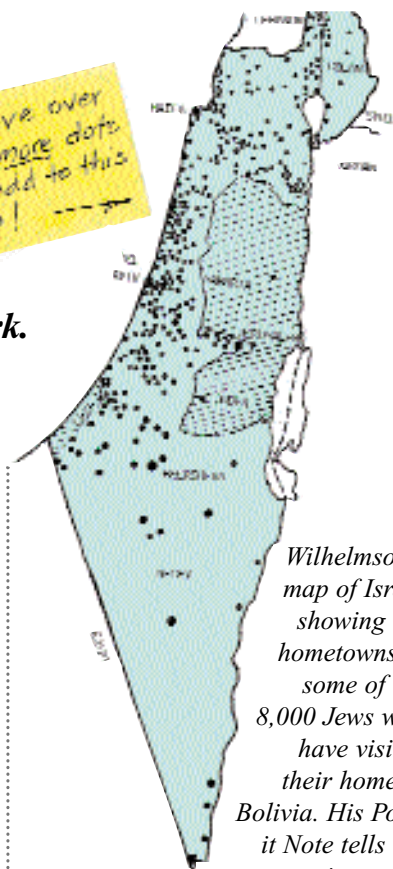
they had told their friends?

Israelis now visit the Wilhelmson's home in Bolivia on a regular basis. Their home is listed in travel books as one of the things to do in South America. More than 8,000 Israelis have been through their home in the last several years—696 between January and May of this year alone.


Each group has their photo taken for the albums available for browsing. An "Israel room" with maps, flags, and other souvenirs given by the visitors make them feel at home. As does the Jewish meal provided. But discussion of the tribal work follows a careful explanation of the prophetic scriptures, with special emphasis on Messiah as sin-bearer.

Literature is provided freely, including Hebrew Bibles. And contact names are given of Hebrew Christians back in Israel.

"After a recent Bible study, Ya'ara came out of the kitchen. Deeply moved, she tried to express what she was feeling—but broke down crying



*Wilhelmson's map of Israel showing the hometowns of some of the 8,000 Jews who have visited their home in Bolivia. His Post-it Note tells the ongoing story.*

and asked, 'May I and my boyfriend come back tomorrow to talk with you?' 'We already have two large groups coming tomorrow,' I replied. 'What about the next day?' she asked. 'Every day is like this at this time of the year,' I explained. I suggested they remain after the other 16 left, and we'd continue talking. Later, Ya'ara said, 'Everything you taught us sounds so logical and true. I didn't know I could be free,' she added. (from a recent prayer letter). 

## MALAYSIAN APOSTASY LAWS

A fundamentalist Muslim movement in Malaysia is attempting to pass strict laws against Muslims who convert to Christianity or simply lapse in their religion. According to the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship of Malaysia, several Islamic bodies have called for laws to be drafted quickly. However, they do not appear to have the support of the prime minister. "We must not act hastily," stated Mathathir Mohamad. "We must remember the world is

watching us, and we must portray Islam in a good light when tackling its problems... We are living in an era when imposing the death penalty on apostates will not be easily implemented or accepted." —*Pulse*

## BUDDHIST LEADERS MEET

Buddhist leaders from around the world, including the Dalai Lama, gathered in Kyoto, Japan, recently to discover how to stop Buddhists from becoming Christians and Muslims in Asia. According to Compass Direct

news service, the 17 Buddhist leaders said their religion, while growing on the West, is struggling in its homeland—Southeast Asia. "Every day we are losing our youth to Christianity," a priest said.

Meanwhile, the communist government of China has studied 2,000 years of religion in China. "Buddhism is still attracting a great number of people in an era of high technology and a prosperous economy, and that fact has proved the religion's significance," stated the head

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

of the state-controlled China-Buddhism Association.

In basic Buddhist belief, life is misery and decay, and there is no ultimate reality. The cycle of endless birth and rebirth continues because of desire and attachment to the unreal "self." Right meditation and deeds will end the cycle and achieve Nirvana—nothingness. —*Pulse*

### NORTH KOREA'S AGONY CONTINUES

Hundreds of North Koreans are attempting to flee into China every day, according to Compass Direct. Those who escape detection by Chinese authorities are often taken in by Christian families. Some refugees are Christians. One man stated, "I watched my wife give birth in the fields. We covered the infant with straw and then walked away. What else could we do?" A Christian refugee said that about half of the residents of her former town of 10,000 people had died of famine; the rest were among the "living dead." More than 3 million have died in North Korea in the last four years. —*Pulse*

### AIR SCRUTINY IN CONGO

Mission Aviation Fellowship reports that the government of Congo has increased their scrutiny over missionary activity. Government officials want closer monitoring of airstrips and are requiring that pilots have special permits each time they want to make a flight. MAF's Brad Smith reports that they're even supposed to have a government official with them every time they fly. The new rules mean that sometimes supplies can't be included on flights into the interior because of the extra person, and the paperwork slows them down. Other evangelical missionaries report that road construction and repairs are beginning in order to compensate for the restriction of the 125 airstrips in the area. —*MNN*

### PERSECUTION IN SAUDI ARABIA WORSENS

Unconfirmed reports from a number of sources estimate that as many as 100 or more Christians have been picked up in a sweep, and are likely undergoing interrogation under considerable mental and physical duress.

Torture is commonly used by the Saudi security police. Prayer is urgently needed. All forms of Christian expression are strictly banned in Saudi Arabia, and foreign Christian workers from less influential countries such as the Philippines and India are harassed without regard for their rights.

Voice of the Martyrs has learned from former Saudi Arabian prisoner Wally Magdangal that Filipino Christians Ariel Ordon, Angelito Sizon, and Ruben Aguirre have been arrested in Riyadh following an evangelistic campaign that included distribution of Christian literature.

The evangelical campaign in Saudi Arabia was organized by the believers in Saudi Arabia in conjunction with Operation Mobilization and Campus Crusade. Voice of the Martyrs also learned that Wim Din Hartog became the fifth foreign worker to be arrested in 10 days in Saudi Arabia when he was arrested for his involvement in the same evangelistic blitz. Hartog is a Dutch citizen. The others arrested were Filipino. —*Voice of the Martyrs* 📞

## OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING

On a recent visit, brother Ken Russell, assembly missionary to Uruguay, commented that the biggest change he's seen over the years in the assemblies in Canada is a lack of evangelism. Is that true? When was the last time you heard or saw a street preacher like John Wesley? When was the last time you were handed a tract by someone? When was the last time a Christian came knocking at your door to tell you of Christ and His love? Clearly we need an evangelistic surge if we are to reach this lost generation.

A group of believers from Greenwood Gospel Chapel and Markham Bible Chapel have come together to organise "Impact Toronto...a crash course in missions." Each week a group of believers will gather at different locations all over Toronto to sing, preach, hand, out tracts and dramatize the gospel. Think of it as "Jerusalem" (Acts 1:8), a chance to experience "the field" without leaving your own backyard.

August 1: Boardwalk

August 8: Ferrier Ave & Danforth

August 15: Logan Ave. & Danforth

August 22: Chester Ave. & Danforth

August 29: Yonge & Bloor

The believers meet at Greenwood Chapel each week before heading out for evangelism.

For more info., contact: Shawn Cuthill (416) 443-5369; email: [Scuthill@datamirror.com](mailto:Scuthill@datamirror.com)

# Divine appointments

*There are still people in our cities like the Ethiopian eunuch and the woman at the well.*

**WARREN HENDERSON**

**W**hile going to the doors in a middle class area a woman greeted me on her front porch with a question, "Who do you want me to vote for?" (Local elections were that evening.) I replied, "I do want you to cast a vote for someone, but He is not on today's ballot, His name is the Lord Jesus Christ."

The lady (named Peggy) replied, "Come on inside." Peggy knew the Lord and we had a nice time fellowshiping in the Word and prayer. She was interested in New Testament principles of gathering and came to the evening gospel meetings. She came out to three of the last four meetings and brought Jesse (a nine-year-old boy), Momocho (an international student, a Buddhist) and also Bea (a live-in at her home who also

did not know the Lord).

Peggy has had several visits with the Hellers since the outreach week. We praise God that she was faithful to bring unsaved souls to hear the gospel message.

Another day in the early afternoon, our group of four had worked door-to-door in an area hardened to the gospel. It was a bit discouraging, to talk with so many religious people who said they were going to heaven, but were counting on church affiliation or living a good life to get there. However, we had no idea how the Lord was going to encourage us with an area of "good soil" for seed sowing.

At about 4:00 PM, (95 degree heat) our group hit a lower middle class apartment complex with the Good News of Jesus Christ. I had a string of 18 doors to knock on. As I came to the first door, a little kitty started circling my feet and meowing constantly. This kitty was becoming

very annoying, in that, every time someone would open their door, the kitty would dart inside. The occupants would throw the cat out repeatedly until we were done talking. Something had to be done with this kitty as to not hinder the door-to-door discussions.

I had tried placing the kitty in some bushes, but that only worked for about 20 seconds. As I saw it, I had two options: pick up the cat and hold it, or try to clear the next building with the cat (a distance of about 25 yards). Although my dislike for cats voted for the second choice (I was confident I could clear the roof with the cat), I decided it might detract from my testimony if someone saw me hurl this creature over the next building. Now here is the grace of God in action. With an open Bible in one hand and a cat in the other, the Lord's servant went seed sowing.

Before reaching apartment #18 about one-and-a-half hours later, I had seen devastating consequences of sin: drug addicts, physical abuse in a marriage, the results of fornication, and several "party animals." But praise God, during this period of



*Mitch Geesey (Zambia) and Derek Watson (N. Ireland) help during preparation week.*



*Ernie Tan (MD) holding gospel signs for traffic to read on the way to and from work.*



*Bill Presley (SC) carries on his door-to-door work in spite of the more than 100° heat.*



*J. B. Nicholson (MI) and Laura Thomas (NY) visit a businesswoman downtown.*



## DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

time, two souls had come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Saviour. It was quite an awesome thing to watch uninterested persons—annoyed at your intrusion into their lives—stirred by the Holy Spirit and transformed into broken-down sinners crying out for the Saviour. I realized that I was a mere spectator watching the Lord of the universe creating before my eyes. The other three brothers working with me had also seen the same display of God's handiwork in lives of others. We were undone! It was hard to talk, eat, or drink after seeing such evidence of God's power.

I had follow-up meetings with five individuals the next day. The sister of a young man who understood the Good News of Christ the previous day answered my knock at the door. Although my reason for coming had been discipleship, God had provided for this young woman (with a four-week-old baby) to hear the good news of Jesus Christ and come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the next door, I was grieved that the husband of a woman professing Christ the day before prevented an extended follow-up discussion with his wife. I went back to the hotel to get ready for the evening meetings disappointed. However, the Lord is sovereign over such things and *it just happened* that, out of all the restaurants in Little Rock that we could eat at that evening, the Lord directed us to the one in which this new convert to Christ was working as the hostess! Is God awesome or what?

A parting comment. While working the poorest part of Little Rock in door-to-door work, our group came across several souls that seemingly had never heard of sin or knew of Jesus Christ. I talked to a seven-year-old girl for about 20 minutes who had never heard the name of Jesus Christ before. She didn't know what sin was, and it took quite some time to convince her from Scripture that she had sinned. But what a smile she had, after hearing about the Lord Jesus and receiving her very own frameable John 3:16 text to hang in her bedroom!

We can no longer afford to neglect the gospel of Jesus Christ in the USA! The country is slipping into despair before our eyes. Polling booths, Christian schools, parachurch movements, etc., will not win back America; it will only happen by the spiritual rebirth of lost souls through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Evangelists alone cannot reach the masses; this is a work for every true believer in Jesus Christ. What a joy there is in seeing souls won for Christ!



*Brook Ford (NC) plays her recorder at the open-air hymn sing in Little Rock Downtown Market.*

**O**n the way to Little Rock, I meditated on Acts 20:24, “I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.” Hindsight being 20/20, it's now easy to see that, like Peter, I desired to lay down my life for the Lord Jesus, almost eager to suffer in some way for His Name. But He did not ask me to suffer, only to go and tell, again and again and again.

Going door to door, there was some rejection—of the packets, of the Lord's message. There were many closed doors, silent, dark and still. It soon became like a treasure hunt, the knock on the door my shovel, and the heart hungering to know God my sought-after treasure. Some smiled sweetly and accepted the packet with southern graciousness; some replied, “I'm a [denominational name]; I don't need your literature.” Some stated, “I have my own religion,” and shut the door. A few said they were Christians and promised to pray for the Lord's work.

Sometimes it was difficult to listen to the “glory stories” of my compatriots. Though I loved them dearly in Christ, and as imperfect strangers we had bonded immediately around Him as our Center, there were moments of struggle with the human impulse of jealousy regarding their successes.

Still, it was wonderful to rejoice with them and give God the glory for the work He was accomplishing (and it certainly was ALL His work!).

I also thought much that week about 1 Corinthians 3:7, “So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” Only God can take the seed and make it grow. Only God can take our failures and shortcomings and use them for His glory.

The way home brought the haunting refrain, “More! MORE! So much more! I wish I had given Him more!” (P. S. Where next?) —Brook Ford



# Unforgettable

*Christian courage is not being fearless, but overcoming fear through faith.*

**KAYE MCKINNEY**

**W**hen it was suggested to me that I might want to go to Little Rock, Arkansas, I didn't really understand why I was even considering it. I have a real problem with social fright that I am trying to overcome. The Little Rock effort sounded like a real problematic stretch for me and I was very afraid.

However, I was filled with an intense and passionate desire to go that I could not easily explain. As events unfolded, it became obvious that I was committed to the trip regardless of my fears and "nay-sayers." I have never shared the gospel with strangers before and I could not sleep a wink the night before we left.

We went door-to-door in pairs,

one knocking and one praying. So many doors were unanswered as many were not home and we left the Seed-Sower packets on the doorknob. A few were home, but usually insisted on the fact that they were Christian (Methodist, Baptist, etc.) and some would not take the literature even though it was a free gift.

One neighborhood got together and informed one of the teams that they were not welcome in their area. The neighborhoods were very hilly and hard to walk. We were told to try to appear neat, tidy, and clean. But we were sweaty, sticky, and stinky as we struggled through the intense heat and hilly streets.


After our routes had been finished around 5:00 or 5:30 PM, we headed back to the hotel for dinner just before going to the evening meeting at Hall High School. On some nights,



*Kaye McKinney (GA) and Dave Hammond (IA) work together doing door-to-door visitation.*

we went back to the hotel and stuffed Seed-Sower packets past midnight. Then we started all over again the next morning. There was no time for anything else. Our fears were replaced by work to be done.

I will never forget the Little Rock team and all the new friendships formed. We sweated together, wept together, rejoiced together, and spread the gospel together.

The unity of the Little Rock team will forever be engraved upon my heart. It was exciting to see the Lord working. I felt as if I had followed the Lord to Little Rock. 

*Let's Do it Again Wherever He Leads*

**I** have been rejoicing, praying, sharing, even daring to pass out a few packets that we still have from our incomplete door-to-door effort two years ago. I keep several in our car and find that as I am about to leave a grocery store parking lot, I notice someone either getting ready to leave or just sitting and waiting for someone. We have no assembly here to direct any one to but I must scatter the Seed anyway. The one-family assembly we attend is 20 miles away.

As for Little Rock, I am praying for the Hellers

and for whom the Lord may send to help them. I am praying for a contact, Kathy, who works in the florist area of the Kroger store near the hotel. Also for the well-dressed man at the mall meeting Friday who accepted a packet after refusing the offer twice; and for Chris, the teen who seemed to be taking in the gospel as we walked down the street together. I appreciated the entire staff of workers that the Lord sent.

Until the Lord returns and, by God's grace, this old house holds together, **LET'S DO IT AGAIN WHEREVER HE LEADS!** —Tony Sushereba

# Tools of the trade

*The good seed is the Word of God. But how we present the message is key, too.*

J. B. NICHOLSON, JR.

**W**e were deeply grateful for the generous investments made in the Little Rock outreach by individuals and groups who helped provide literature for the work there. Three should be mentioned:

- The first real encouragement was from a brother in Florida (who wishes to remain anonymous) who traveled from one coast to the other and gave a \$1000 gift to help with the advertising. He had already researched the dominant newspaper in Little Rock, and had a brochure with the salient information. This money was used to place 36,000 flyers in the Friday newspaper that covered all of West LR.

The flyer was identical to posters placed in 1,000 store windows, but on slightly lighter paper. Using the by-line "Good News, Little Rock" (used on all our materials), it asked a series of pointed questions, invited all to the evening gospel outreach, and concluded with a Bible verse (Rom. 1:16).

- The 10,000 "Seed Sowers" texts, full color and suitable for framing, were extremely well received (contact Seed Sowers at Box 775, Portage la Prairie, MB, Canada R1N 3C2 or at Box 10834, Cedar Rapids, IA 52410-0834). They came with a "John 3:16 Owner's Manual" and a clear plastic bag with a "door handle hole" in it. Seed Sowers will also give a reply card for each pack, but we

chose to include our own, with places to check for a free Bible (for inexpensive Bibles, you may contact Uplook Ministries at 800-952-2382), a Bible correspondence course

("What the Bible Teaches" from Emmaus Correspondence Courses, 2570 Asbury Rd., Dubuque, IA 52001-3044. Phone 888-338-7809 e-mail: maustin@emmaus1.edu), and an offer of a home Bible study (several responded to this and are presently involved with the Hellers in a Bible study).

- We were also given 10,000 Gospels of John, a translation similar to the New King James (also overseen by brother Art Farstad) donated by Absolutely Free, P.O. Box 2, Glide, OR 97443.



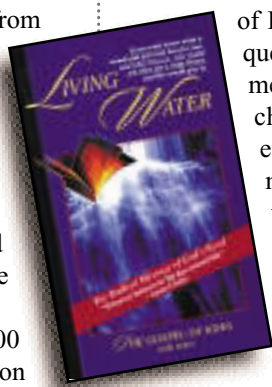
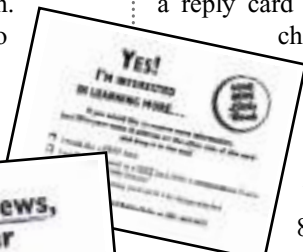
The attractive paperbacks begin with the reason for the Gospel of John and conclude with an explanation of the plan of salvation.

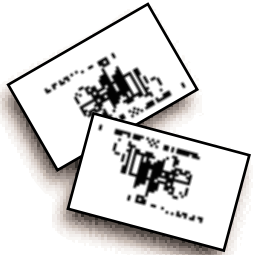
Also included in the pack distributed door-to-door were two tracts. The first was a gospel explanation with a cover that matched the posters and newspaper flyers—"In a world full of bad news, isn't it great to hear good news?" This included an invitation to the evening gospel meetings at Hall High School.



The second tract, "A Word of Explanation," asked the question: "Is it possible to meet as a New Testament church today?" This explains some of the more prominent characteristics of an assembly. We distributed thousands of the Gospel Folio Press *Campus Tracts*, including:

"Why Christianity Can't Compete," "Seven Campus Fables," and "Jesus Couldn't be the Messiah...Could He?"





Concert-goers and the attendees at a martial-arts convention responded readily to the

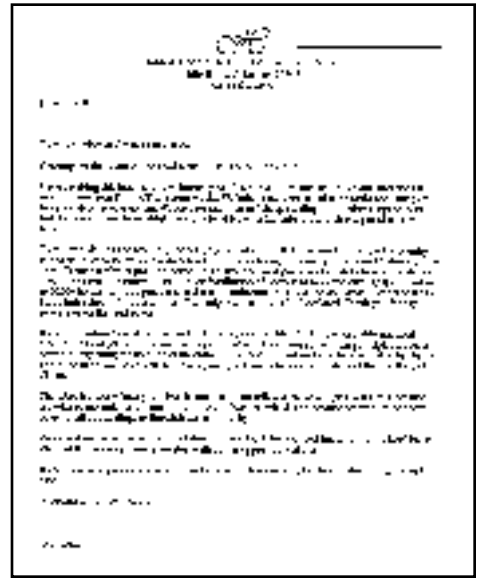
LIFE & DEATH calligraphy on the business-card-size tract. It included a full quotation of Romans 6:23, a short explanation of the meaning of the verse, and a contact name and number.


Elsewhere in the magazine you are introduced to Joyce Barinowski's gospel pins, based on the Wordless Book. Five faux jewels glued to the pin represent—by the color of each stone—the various aspects of the gospel. This tract was especially prepared to repeat the lesson for those who had received a pin. Attractively presented, they were popular on the



Every evangelical church in the city (and probably some that were not, approximately 100 in all) received a letter signed by John and Bobbie Heller. It informed these congregations of the purpose of their moving to the city, why we had come to help them for the week, the intention to start a simple assembly through evangelism—not sheep-stealing, and the stated belief in local church discipline. This meant that if anyone came to fellowship with them, contact would be made with their former church. This was to have everything above-board in all dealings with the Christian community.

The letter concluded: "We do not see ourselves as in competition with any local churches seeking to lift up



the Lord Jesus. We trust that we may have fellowship with you as opportunity allows." The New Testament assembly tract was included. 



*The hymn books contained great gospel hymns, ideal for the evening meetings, but a separate sheet of well-known hymns (Amazing Grace, Love Lifted Me, etc.) was handed out at noontime.*

The noon hymn sings were profitable times to contact people in a non-threatening environment. We had city permission to put on these sings in a riverside pavilion. We invited people mostly by word of mouth and through the posters placed in storefronts in the downtown area.



## LESSONS TO LEARN

1. We needed a command post throughout the day so those needing further areas to visit could be redirected and refurbished. We were all so busy with our tasks, it was noon (or supper!) before we saw each other again.
2. Time would have been saved if each team on the doors had someone to drop them at their immediate area and circulate among the team members with cold water and more literature.
3. The "high rent districts"—upper middle class—were quite discouraging with little positive response. However, some have said these areas, while not giving a high percentage response, sometimes yield more solid believers in the long run. Perhaps a different approach is needed for those areas.
4. Free distribution of water and juice on campus was a definite plus; as were lunches to some of the homeless downtown. "Love never fails."
5. Perhaps the team for preaching the gospel should come in the week following the door-to-door work. People were being invited for the first time on the last night of the meetings! We had the feeling that we were stopping the gospel effort just when we were starting to get good attendance in the evenings.





plus doors that week. One thing I remember with sadness is that the

# A hunger for souls

*Who could blame someone who was disappointed because they didn't lead someone to Christ?*

**SHANNON HARVEY**

**W**hat are my memories from Little Rock? I must confess that I had greatly hoped to be able to personally lead someone to Christ. However, the Lord's plans for me were different. He simply wanted me to scatter the seed, labor in prayer, and watch as He brought the growth. And He encouraged me that although laboring for the gospel is hard work, it is very rewarding. Let me share with you some of the lessons and joys God brought along the way.

One afternoon at the hotel pool, I sat next to a woman named Gerri. She was in Little Rock with her middle-aged daughter, Cindy, who has bone cancer. They had come from near Cincinnati to a famous cancer treatment center about five minutes from the hotel. Cindy's cancer had relapsed and she was being treated and tested to see how far the cancer had spread.

Gerri asked me what I was doing in Little Rock. I told her I was there to tell people about Jesus. I then asked her if she knew the Lord, and she said, "You know, a bunch of you guys have talked about that and I really don't know what it means."

I was able to explain the gospel to her. She said, "Oh, I believe in Jesus," and then went on to talk about her daughter. She told me they were leaving the next day, so I asked her if she would like me to bring her the literature we were distributing. She said yes, and before I could leave the pool,

she jumped up off the lawn chair and gave me a big hug, wet swim suits and all.

To make a long story shorter, the next morning, I was able to visit her and her daughter and share the gospel with them twice more. I told Cindy our Lord went about this earth healing people, but that more than physical health, He longs for our spiritual healing. She seemed to be thinking.

I left two Seed-Sower packets and a phone number of an assembly in Cincinnati. Pray that they will read the literature and the Lord will use this desperate time in their lives to bring them to Himself.


On campus, I had the privilege of talking with a Muslim student for about forty-five minutes. I was able to share the gospel with him and get some experience in apologetics. He believed there were mistakes in the Bible, so I pulled my Bible out of my back-pack and graciously asked him to show me some. He couldn't.

He then said he had an Arabic Bible, and he should read it to try to find those mistakes. I said that would be great, but that he wouldn't find any, only that Jesus Christ is who He claims to be. I was able to show him where the Scriptures say that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. He left saying he would read his Bible. Pray that he will, even if he is trying to prove it wrong. God's Word is "sharper than any two-edged sword." I've heard of many skeptics who came to Christ by reading the Word.

Door-to-door was hot, but many houses were reached with literature. I'd estimate that my friend Lorraine and I probably reached a hundred-

upper class neighborhoods were less responsive. Not that the Lord doesn't save these people. We met some wonderful people who were already believers, but those who weren't were often cold. The typical response that I remember: "I have my church, thank you." They would say this while they were closing the door. Many would not take the literature. Pray God would bring whatever is necessary into these people's lives, to make them hungry for eternal things.

While people were closing doors for the gospel, God was opening others. Some of my favorite memories came from our morning prayer sessions, when before prayer we would have a time of telling 'war stories.' We would hear story after story of divine appointments and how God brought the harvest. Even now looking back over my pictures, when I see each face, I remember a story, and I remember to pray.

And so my week in Little Rock came to an end. I will never be the same. I was able to share Christ with many people and rejoice with others as some 15-20 people confessed Christ. I met many new friends, fellow co-laborers for His gospel. My faith was strengthened as I saw the Lord do the work. The harvest is just beginning in Little Rock, and will not the Lord of the harvest bring it to fruition? He is still in the business of saving souls. If He can do it in Little Rock, He can do it in our town. How can we not tell of Him who died and of His wonderful love? Shall we not put our hands to the plow? Then we shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing our sheaves with us. 



# EVANGELIZE

*As much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel...*

**For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. Mark 8:35**

## EVANGELIZE!

*Give us a watchword for the hour,  
A thrilling word, a word of power,  
A battlecry, a flaming breath  
That calls to conquest or to death.*

*A word to rouse the Church from rest,  
To heed the Master's high behest,  
The call is given: Ye hosts arise,  
Our watchword is, Evangelize!*

*The glad evangel now proclaim,  
Through all the earth, in Jesus' Name,  
This word is ringing through the skies:  
Evangelize! Evangelize!*

*To dying men, a fallen race,  
Make known the gift of Gospel grace,  
The world that now in darkness lies,  
Evangelize! Evangelize!*

Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.  
—D. T. Niles

**I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.**

**Romans 1:16**

**How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Romans 10:15**

It is impossible to overestimate the concern of God for a lost world. Do we share that concern?

*We need evangelism today—in the pulpit, in the pew. We need personal and public evangelism. Reproduction is the normal function of a church which is alive.*

**And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

**Mark 16:15**

Evangelism is the spontaneous overflow of a glad and free heart in Jesus Christ.—Munger

Evangelism is the sob of God. It is the anguished cry of Jesus as He weeps over a doomed city. It is the cry of Paul, "I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh."

Evangelism is the heart-winning plea of Moses, "Oh, this people have sinned a great sin... Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin—and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written."

It is the cry of John Knox, "Give me Scotland or I die." It is the declaration of John Wesley, "The world is my parish." It is the sob of parents in the night, weeping over a prodigal child.

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.**

**Luke 4:18**

Without evangelism, a church is in danger of becoming a chubby, clubby, complacent collection of nice folks—a sort of closed shop for the edification of the saints.



*Gospel meetings were held each evening in the library of Hall Sr. High.*

# Evangelism and the local church

*Little Rock isn't just for Little Rock. Maybe this is just the start.*

**T**he church has been afflicted with a very confused message on evangelism. Evangelism is, in the minds of many, work done by a select group of freelance Christians we call evangelists, who in their own quaint way go out to reach the lost and bring them to the local assembly for teaching and fellowship. After all, we are told, did not the Lord command the disciples to “Go”? Evangelism has been regarded as an extra-curricular activity in which we have only a passing interest.

But the truth of the matter is that the local assembly needs to be heavily involved in evangelism. This was the practice of first-century Christians. Twenty centuries have not changed the need or the command.

Some might argue that if we become too occupied with reaching the lost we will neglect other vital ministries of the local church such as worship, teaching, fellowship, and prayer. It must be understood that any call to evangelize is not intended to crowd out these other vital ministries. All are to be included.

How can we recapture spiritual enthusiasm and interest in the gospel?

1. *Let's have a real gospel meeting.* We have been lulled into thinking people will be more interested in attending a meeting if we soft-pedal the message. The “Family Bible Hour,” a less confrontational, less focused title, has replaced a gospel meeting. Not that a mere name change will bring spiritual power. But the point is, we need to sharpen our focus and people should know it.

Montague Goodman writes, “Don't wonder that sinners are so little concerned for themselves when they see so little concern evinced for them by the church. Concern begets concern and conviction spreads conviction. Under present conditions it is not surprising if the world not only doesn't believe, but doesn't believe we Christians believe. Otherwise how could we show such indifference to their unbelief and its terrible consequences?”

People selling vitamins and long-distance phone service make a better case for their wares than we do with the gospel. And they are doing it for mere money.

2. *Let's hear some testimonies from all walks of life.* The blind man had it right: “One thing I know, that,


whereas I was blind, now I see” (Jn. 9:25). There is something about a personal testimony that makes people think. An unbeliever might try to dismiss a preacher, but it is tough to easily dismiss a person just like them.

3. *Sing gospel hymns.* It is no use inviting the unbeliever to sing songs of spiritual aspiration or general praise. Let's pay attention. Gospel hymns let people know what this meeting is about. Song leaders should do their preparation well. It prepares the audience for the message to be preached. It is a help to the speaker.

4. *Pray.* What? No prayer meeting? Are we serious? You really think we can wander into a gospel meeting with a cup of coffee and expect to do serious business for God? It's not fair to the speaker to allow him to step onto the platform unprotected by prayer. The lost are saturated in ungodliness all week. At your assembly, if you have no other legitimate duties prior to the meeting, be at the prayer meeting. Pray for the lost. Pray for the speaker. Pray during the meeting. Pray when disturbances occur. Pray at the closing hymn. Be engaged. This is a battle.

5. *Encourage the gift of the evangelist.* It was to the church the gift of the evangelist was given (Eph. 4:11). Give opportunity for that gift to be discovered and developed. Pray for evangelists and their families. Support them. Evangelists can be discouraged easily; they face the battle for souls at the sharpest point of conflict. They are one of God's instruments in rescuing the perishing.

6. *View other ministries as serious gospel outreach.* The gospel meeting is not the only place to reach the lost. Children's work, Bible studies, Coffee Hours, Young People's, tract distribution, open air preaching, door to door work—all of these and more are vital efforts in spreading the gospel. Planting seeds of truth in the minds of children in a hostile world can compare with few other endeavors in this life. Pray, support and encourage one another in all these things.

7. *And finally, preach the gospel.* Learn John and Romans. Herald the message in all its glory. Its power has not diminished. Preach it with love and truth and tears. Not a little gospel, the gospel in its fullness. It still has that “turn the world upside down” quality to it. It still rescues men and women, boys and girls from hell. 

by BRIAN GUNNING

# Testimonies today

*Are our testimonies all ancient history? Every week we should be able to tell what God is doing now.*

**VICKIE GAYNIER**

Choosing a story is so hard. I could tell of the young religious philosophy major, Valerie, with beautiful but sad eyes. And I had to look at her eyes because her tongue and the area below her lip were pierced. They were a bit distracting because they kept clinking when she talked. But the Lord knew I needed to see into her eyes, for when I explained the gospel to her, although there was a hardness about her, her eyes spoke a certain sadness.

But the one young woman I would like to tell you about was Cassandra. She was on the campus, reading a newspaper. I walked up to her to ask her if she would like to hear some good news in a world of bad news.

She replied that she was just reading about the bad news. I sat across from her as she took the tract and read it. When she finished, I asked her what she thought about it. She said that she knew all of this. She had been raised with all this. But when I asked her if she personally knew the Lord, she shook her head and replied no.

It took me aback to see someone openly admit to not knowing the Lord. She told me that her husband was a believer, and she had two Christian grandmothers. I told her that our meeting was not by chance—it was in answer to the prayers of her husband and grandmothers.

We talked for what seemed an hour. She told me of her life and it was so much like mine when I was her age. I could understand what she was feeling, and she knew it. How wonderful that the Lord knows what needy soul to bring along, to meet

with just the right believer.

She sat, smoking her cigarette and listening as I explained the gospel to her from Genesis on—and why we are in the condition that we are in. But I also told her the good news of God's love for us. She seemed so close that I could have reached out and pulled her in, but she had to come to the Lord in her time. He would pull her in.

We got up to leave and instinctively we both reached out and hugged each other. I told her that she had a husband and two grandmothers that were praying for her; she might as well give up, stop running, and trust the Lord. We embraced for one last time. I told her that I would be praying for her and that I wanted her for a sister. We both turned and left our ordained meeting. I hope and pray that I will see Cassandra again, if not on this earth, in heaven.

*Vickie and Mike Gaynier of Dayton, OH, both served the Lord on the campus. Mike also used his sketchboard in downtown Little Rock.*



*John Gordon (NC) shares the Good News*

I never thought that our week-long mission trip to Arkansas would be such a life-changing experience. It was definitely a “mountain-top” experience, because the people all around you were on fire for God and had the same purpose in mind—twenty-four hour evangelism. It was extremely exciting to be able to become a part of this outreach and meet so many neat people. Being a part of the puppet team kept me very busy, but it was definitely rewarding. During practices and preparation, we had a lot of fun, and grew a lot closer. The most meaningful thing to me was the outreach in the park. I immediately fell in love with the children. It broke my heart to see how much they needed Jesus and how they longed to be loved. My heart went out to those children, and tears came to my eyes as we pulled away in our bus the last day. It was also sad leaving friends I had met during the week. Through this trip I was reminded once again of God's purpose for Christians, which is to take the gospel to all the ends of the earth.

—Amy Scheffel (16).



## TESTIMONIES TODAY

When I went along on the Arkansas missions trip, I had fun and was touched by many people. The people from North Ridge Bible Chapel were very welcoming of me, seeing as I do not regularly attend there, but at another church (Crossroads Fellowship). I enjoyed learning many hymns at the meetings and at the River Market each day. In one of the meetings, I met a little girl whose biological mother had been a crack addict. The little girl had been adopted into another family. Her story was quite a sad one, and I hope she will continue to grow in the love of God. It was very exciting when at the last daily meeting which we did for some neighborhood kids, four or five of them were saved! We did not see very many people accept the gift of salvation, but the Lord rejoices over any amount of people that are saved, even if it's just one soul. I also had very much fun just hanging out at night, ordering pizza, and going swimming with one of my best friends as well as newfound friends.

But through all the excitement, the one person who touched my heart the most was our bus driver, Gene. He seemed so unhappy and burdened. He is divorced and he only sees his children on the weekends. He was in need of the Lord. Then one day at the River Market, he was seen praying with an adult Christian. Because we had had a few talks together, I felt a bond to him, and thus for me there were many tears of joy. I hoped that he had accepted the wonderful gift of salvation that only God can give.



*Gene, the bus driver, with two girls from Raleigh, NC*

But no one really knows what happened that day, not even the adult whom he prayed with. All I can say is that I continue to keep him in my prayers with the hope that he was saved that day. —Lindsey Gautier (age 12)

**Just a word to let you know that Gene, our bus driver, says that he is “on his way to heaven.” Several people talked to him during the week. He was well evangelized!**

*Received via e-mail from John Gordon (leader of Raleigh, NC, team) after their return from Little Rock.*



*Milo VandeKrol (IA) presents the Bible lesson at an afternoon Kid's Club.*

This trip to Arkansas really showed me something—that I need to get serious about witnessing! The Lord really spoke to my heart when I saw all of those little kids that may not even ever heard of the gospel before. It showed me that I could be the very person that could help kids learn about the Lord and see them saved.

—Katherine Gordon

I liked how well the kids responded to what they were being taught and how they would always be willing to answer questions and get involved with whatever we were doing.

—Garrett Locklear



*Enjoying a puppet show.*



# It's free

*I refused their money but the two poor women gave me something I couldn't buy, either.*

**CRAIG LEGROS**

**O**n Thursday, June 11, I was working door-to-door in a very low income housing area of Little Rock. Some homes had boards for windows and were in badly need of repair. The remainder of the group I was with were many blocks away. It was a bit eerie being alone, but I knew the Lord was with me.

A kind older woman answered my knock at the door of a small, but well-kept house. The woman's glowing countenance and kind words concerning the Lord gave testimony to her faith in Him. She was so excited about getting her John 3:16 Seed Sower packet that she wanted to pay me for it. I explained to her that this was a gift and could not be bought. She smiled and after an encouraging conversation, she returned into her home.


After knocking on two more doors in this poor neighborhood, I noticed out of the corner of my eye this same woman waving at me. I was not sure if there was a problem or not, so I walked back to her. She held out her closed hand to me and slowly opened it up. Three wadded-up one dollar bills lay in her hand. "I want you to have these. This is part of my food money this week, but I can do without this and that to eat. I really want you to know how happy I am to get that John 3:16."

Again I explained to this woman that it was a gift and reluctantly she returned her money to her pocket.

But the impact of that poor woman's generosity broke me. The Lord had used this woman to penetrate my heart and convict me of materialistic behavior. How many of my assets were really necessities and how many were just distractions from the Lord!

The excitement of this woman reminded me of a middle-aged Christian woman the day before who gave me a big hug and offered me money and a Coke for coming to her

door to share the Lord Jesus with her. She stated that in 21 years no one had ever come to her door to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with her!

Although I took no money, or even the Coke, my soul was greatly refreshed by this woman's excitement that individuals were out in nearly 100 degree heat sharing about God's ultimate gift to humanity. In both cases I thought I was the one ministering to these women, but the Lord had turned it around and arranged some ministry for me. 

Craig, an aeronautical engineer, lives in Rockford, IL, with his wife, , and two sons.



*BJ is a friend we met at the noon hymn-sings. His mother works at the market and he plays by himself in the downtown area all day during the summer.*

# The big question

*That's the question that will determine your eternal destiny.*

**MICHAEL THOMAS**

“**W**hat do you think of Christ?” The same question kept ringing out. What do you think of Christ? Where will you spend eternity? Contrary to popular opinion, I had never preached in the open-air on a campus before. I had been roped into it. I had been thinking, I’m going to go down there with a bunch of seasoned professionals and add my little preaching into the mix.

The next thing I knew, I was standing in the middle of a public speaking area on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

I was not alone, however. Our team consisted of six to eight of the most fearless believers I have ever had the privilege of laboring with in the gospel. Every day our group would change slightly, but at the core of this group were four people whom the Lord used mightily to stir up the entire campus for His glory.

If you were going to pick a team to go and do battle with, you probably would not have picked this one. Yet the Lord was pleased to use these willing servants of His choosing.

Joyce Barinowski is one of the most precious folks on the team. Her southern charm won over even the most stern. She would just slip in beside the students, put her arm around them, and before they knew it, they had heard the gospel clearly—while they were getting a hug.

One of the people on the campus was a very withdrawn lesbian who

didn’t want anyone around her; she wanted no one to speak to her. Joyce shared the gospel with her and when she was through, she told the young lady that she was going to give her a hug. She tried every excuse in the book to avoid it (she had gone to extremes to make herself so unattractive that she thought no one would want to touch her). But that didn’t stop Joyce from showing her the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

By the end of the week, when the young lady knew that we were leaving, she came looking for Joyce to get one last hug.

Vickie Gaynier is a transplanted Texan who, over the course of the days spent on the campus, became a shoulder to cry on for many of the students there.

One afternoon, Vickie stopped a young woman and asked simply, “How are you doing?” The reply came back drenched in tears, “Not very well.” The woman had just been told she couldn’t be a student there anymore because she had run out of money. She heard the good news about Someone whose goodness never runs out, and how the Lord can take the circumstance of life to bring us to the place He wants us to be.

Jerry Barnes, a young black man from Yonkers, NY, came to the outreach not knowing what to expect. The Lord knew we needed his energy and zeal for the gospel—and his color. We can never discount what it means to be accepting of all people. The Lord certainly is. Jerry’s ability



*Ruth Schwertfeger (WI), Michael Thomas (NY) and Joyce Barinowski (SC)—part of the campus team.*

to walk alongside someone on their way to class, get them laughing, and put them at ease was a blessing from the Lord that opened many doors.

Ruth Schwertfeger, the wee Irish woman that looked so innocent and reserved, had the energy of ten men and the wit of twenty. Ruth had an advantage that the rest of us did not have, in that she is a university professor. She knew just how to get to the heart of the matter, not only with the students but with some of the faculty as well. Ruth proved to be very valuable in dealing with the trials that we were about to encounter.

I have named names of servants of the Lord, not to bring them glory but because others need to know that the Lord uses normal, everyday people to do great things for Him.

Whenever the preaching of the gospel goes forth and lives are being changed, there is a battle line drawn, and you had better be ready for a fight. Preaching the gospel is an invasion of enemy territory, and you can be sure hell will know about it.

I had been preaching in the open air all day. I noticed that, over and over, one man, obviously a faculty member, kept coming out to see what we were up to. Every time this fellow came out the door, I would spin around to face him and ask the question, “What do you think of Christ?” I didn’t realize this infuriated him.

Our permit was checked by the

police three times that day. At last, the faculty member came out once more and approached me. There was venom in his voice as he said, "I'm the dean who signed your permit. You are going to have to tone it down."

Dean Jimmy Greer turned out to be our greatest enemy on the campus. Other faculty members aligned themselves with the enemy, but none with the fervor of this poor man. It reminded us of Saul of Tarsus breathing out hatred for the Christians of his day. So we began to pray for this poor soul that he might come to Christ and find relief from his heavy load.

Our permit had run out Thursday afternoon, but we wanted one more day on the campus. It seemed Dean Greer was determined to make us leave the campus as he had threatened several times during the week, but we felt that the Lord wanted us there as a testimony. So I asked for the permit to be extended. It literally sent the campus deans into a panic. Dean Greer almost had an attack as he stammered and stuttered, trying to let us know exactly how he felt about our being on campus.

A meeting was called with all the six deans of the university. We began to pray. They had already made their decision—this meeting was obviously no more than a mere formality, but we wanted to try anyway.

You couldn't have picked two more unlikely candidates to face this group of six deans than Ruth

Schwertfeger and me, but the Lord went before us. Their arguments were paper thin, the accusations weak. In the words of dear sister Ruth, "This is all hyperbolic!" At last the truth came out: they felt intimidated because, in their words, "we could articulate our position so well, it was too much for them to deal with." Was there ever a more simple message than that of the cross—or one more defensible? We went into the lion's den and there was an ambush of divine victory over the enemy. The great minds of this world did not know what hit them. The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. *God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty* (1 Cor. 1:26-27). The Lord is delighted to use willing servants, whoever they may be...that no flesh should glory in His presence.

What impacted me personally from the week in Little Rock was seeing the plans we made change before our eyes. We heard the Lord saying, "I have other plans." This was the Lord's doing and it was marvelous in our eyes!

I have never experienced before the intense spiritual battle that took place over Little Rock. The Lord Jesus worked mightily and we were privileged to see it with our own eyes. Nor will I forget all those willing servants with whom we had the opportunity to labor in the gospel. What a privilege to serve such a great God!

## Be subtle. Like a trumpet.

A Christian school teacher, taking some courses at the university, stopped to talk on the last day of our campus outreach. "I woke up at 3 AM thinking about you," she said. "We have been taught that God is subtle, and we ought to be subtle in our outreach, too." The teaching had obviously been well received! The churches there were using so much tact they weren't making contact. So much so, that when we arrived, our gospel effort was treated as an invasion to be repulsed.

The university campus wasn't the only opposition we faced. The school board was within a hair of rescinding their permission to meet at Hall High School (they did withdraw permission given to hold our Kid's Clubs there). People in the community were amazed that we were allowed to

preach the gospel there—in America!

The manager of the hotel (a professing believer) where we stayed would not permit Nancy Clark to have a Spanish Bible study with 10 cleaning staff during their lunch hour—not even on the grass outside. "Do it in church," he said.

City merchants called the police on us, neighborhood associations hired security guards to have us arrested if we trespassed on any properties, we were unceremoniously evicted from our noon hymn sing location and replaced by a group called, "To Be Announced," the Parks Commission wanted to charge back rent for the days we told Bible stories to the children there, and the city wrote a citation against the Hellers, forbidding them to have Bible studies in their home!

Of course the Lord turned it all to good. And we were glad the devil noticed.

For a great door and effectual is opened to me, and there are many adversaries. (1 Cor. 16:9).



# Now what?

*The gospel message hasn't changed. Human need hasn't changed. The Great Commission hasn't changed. God hasn't changed. Have we changed?*

One of the common refrains, not only from those who visited Little Rock, but from those who share the vision for a reawakened evangelistic thrust in North America, is this: What next? Where next?

Some have asked: Why did you go to Little Rock? Our first response was: Why *not* Little Rock? Does not the Lord want souls saved in every place? Does not the Father seek worshippers in every city?

But we believe the Lord led us to Little Rock. We have discovered that some have prayed for more than 50 years for a New Testament assembly to be established there. We saw the Lord own the work there, moving as He willed, and blessing the proclamation of His Word. We continue to pray for the establishment of a solid assembly there.

There are many North American villages, towns, and cities in need of such an evangelistic effort. It is hoped that assemblies in local areas will once again band together for concerted efforts in their own locales. I recall the assemblies from Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, and Hamilton, Ontario, working in concert to reach the Niagara Peninsula for Christ.

May our vision be enlarged to see united gospel efforts like these:

- by the Michigan assemblies in places like Kalamazoo-Battle Creek, Muskegon, and Port Huron.

- in Upstate New York, perhaps by New Jersey, New York, and Ontario

assemblies (189 assemblies listed for ON alone in the 1997 Walterick Address Book): in Syracuse, Utica, Elmira, and Binghamton.

- the Stockton-Modesto-Tracy triangle just over the mountains from the Bay Area of California is a particular burden of Wm. MacDonald's heart. Surely an offensive could be mounted by believers in the western US and Canada.

- almost any area of the continent has substantial cities without an assembly witness: for example, the Prairies of Canada need a great deal of help. If two or three well-taught, exercised, committed couples would move into each of the major cities between Winnipeg and the Calgary-Edmonton corridor, with the purpose of getting tent-making jobs and then pouring themselves into the establishment of solid assemblies, what the Lord could do through them!

- the Fargo, ND, assembly is making a frontal assault on Grand Forks; Bismarck, the capital, is needy. South Dakota has no listings.

The possibilities are almost endless. And yet, Paul with a few compatriots, and the aid of local believers scattered from Jerusalem across the empire, saw the establishment of scores of churches throughout Turkey, Greece, Italy, and the Middle East in one generation (while others were reaching India and as far east as Mongolia and west throughout Europe and North Africa). And that in the face of the stiffest opposition. It can be done! It must be done!

There is great need in the Deep South, however, which cannot be accomplished by only local assembly


believers since there are so few there. The following large cities have little or no assembly work as far as we know: Pensacola, FL; Jackson, MS; Baton Rouge and Shreveport, LA; Huntsville and Mobile, AL.

This last city, Mobile, has been suggested as a possible site for a concerted effort next June, Lord willing. There is a couple who have been praying about the possibility of moving to Alabama. They are seeking the Lord's mind regarding Mobile.

The city, with a population in excess of 500,000, is Alabama's second largest city and only seaport. It is one of the oldest cities in the US, established by a French-Canadian explorer in 1702. It's about time for an assembly there, I reckon!

Obviously, caution is in order. It would be tragic to assume that the Lord will work exactly the same way again, and that we can depend on



previous experience. We may "assay to go into Bithynia," but the Lord must lead in all this. Please pray earnestly that He will show His hand in clear direction. We say: "If Thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence" (Ex. 33:15). Yet as with Moses, so with us, His presence has already been promised (Ex. 33:14; Mt. 28:20). May He give us courage to follow. 

# Let the little children come

*It was a surprise ending to the story.*

*Of course, the disciples had found it that way, as well.*

**DR. RUTH SCHWERTFEGER**

**W**e had gathered together for our last meeting as a team, after a long, hard day of sweltering heat. A brother from Louisiana stood up at the end of the meeting to ask for prayer for the last contact of his day. It is that moment—its significance and poignancy—that will always capture for me the essence of sharing the gospel with the people of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Lee had just finished covering the block of a street in one of the city's

poorer areas. His tracts and literature all gone, he was trudging down the street with his Bible under his arm.

At the end of the block a woman was sitting with a group of children. He immediately responded to the voice, roughly commanding, "Come over here," only to find that the woman was, in fact, not addressing him at all but a child, one of several who were playing in front of the house.

"What's that?" asked the child, pointing to Lee's Bible.

After telling her it was a Bible, she asked him to tell them a Bible story. So, after a long day of sharing the gospel on the doors of the city, this

big strong-looking man with a gentle face told a captive audience of little children and a woman sitting listening on the doorstep about the birth in Bethlehem of the Saviour of the world.

Listening to the story in an air-conditioned room, we sensed that there would be a special ending, for our hearts were already touched by the simplicity with which the story was being told. Yet I suspect that none of us were prepared for the tears that briefly interrupted the narration.

Lee had come to the culminating moment

when Christ victoriously rose from the grave. Though clearly moved, he was able to finish his story. "A little girl stood up and clapped her hands for joy."

For me this story underscores the deep spiritual and societal needs that we found in Little Rock—a city with enough religious practice to insulate it from true repentance, where people who claimed to be believers were canvassing for legalized gambling as the answer to poverty, a city caught off guard when confronted with a visible model that the body of Christ is not racially divided—especially not in the local church.

But above all, this encounter between a white brother from the deep South and a little African-American girl captures the beauty of the gospel, for surely the Lord of glory revealed Himself on that front yard in Little Rock. He met a weary brother who obediently responded to the request for the story—not just any story but a Bible story—given by a child from the most deprived segment of American society.

That dear brother recognized the privilege of celebrating with a little child that "He is risen" and, by sharing the story with other weary believers, he united us in worship at the feet of our Redeemer.

*Ruth, her husband Fred, and their son, Fred Jr., and daughter, Alexandra were one of the families that participated in the LR outreach. Their home is in Wauwatosa, WI.*



# In the birthing room

*There is no thrill like seeing one born into the Family*

## JOYCE BARINOWSKI

“Can there be a more exciting place to be than in the birthing room of eternity?” I was asked by Bob Brown in Little Rock after leading our waitress in the Barbecue House to Christ. No, and it *was* exciting! To God be the glory! That’s just a sample of our time in Little Rock.

When and where will be the next “Little Rock?” Lord willing, I will be there! Because of the vision of this project, I could participate with the team of 100 who gave themselves “wholly unto the Lord” to spread the gospel and I’m eternally thankful. I’ll never be quite the same!

My week in Little Rock was spent on the University of Arkansas campus. It was a big challenge—but an unforgettable experience. It is impossible to put a whole week into a few paragraphs, but here are some of my memories:

*Anticipation,  
searching eyes,  
deep conversations,  
restrictions imposed,  
atheists,  
friendly smiles,  
the Word of God...*

*Tired feet,  
longing hearts,  
bursting excitement,  
power,  
condescension,  
help!  
confrontation...*



*Joyce shows how to use a heart pin—her gospel tool based on the Wordless Book*

*Joy,  
broken lives,  
sharp scrutiny,  
boldness,  
salvation,  
indifference,  
great lunches...*

*Blatant opposition,  
cheerful co-laborers,  
skeptics,  
answers to prayer,  
free water and juice,  
aching hearts,  
witnessing...*

*Unbelief,  
feeding parking meters,  
cold stares,  
friendships formed.  
sacrifice,  
fierce spiritual warfare,  
victory...*

*Thrills,  
feeling scared,  
sweat,  
heart pins,  
intercessory prayer,  
hardened sinners,  
warm hugs...*

*Challenges,  
gospel tracts,  
kindness,  
agnostics,  
courage,  
tears,  
enthusiasm...*

*New brothers & sisters in Christ,  
intellectuals,  
denials,  
divine appointments,  
hostility,  
disappointments,  
thanksgiving...*

*Burdens,  
love of and for Christ,  
unity,  
sad faces,  
commitment,  
constraining love,  
...and many, many more!*

Little Rock was a great opportunity, privilege, and joy to serve the Lord and in part fulfill the Great Commission. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to each of you who prayed for us. We felt and knew others were interceding. The assemblies can feel a deep gratitude for this effort and for this vision! In His grace, may the Lord see fit to build a local church on the Solid Rock in Little Rock using living stones!

*Joyce and her husband Gene live in North Augusta, SC. We have written previously about her effective pin gospel outreach.*





# THE CULTURAL WAR

*Is this what the Bible means by spiritual warfare?*

**A**n increasing number of evangelicals are finding themselves drawn into a bitter conflict. In this struggle between light and darkness, it is reported that the very future of Christianity is at risk. All the resources of the Church have been marshalled against this formidable foe. This opposer of Christianity is not a modern enemy—surprisingly, it is as old as the church itself. What is this enemy? It is anti-Christian culture in society. This multi-headed beast is thought to possess powerful tentacles which threaten to strangle Christian morals and traditional family values in society. Some of these tentacles are abortion, pornography, the public school system, liberal politics, the “gay” advances within society.

So important is this new battle that Christian leaders are calling for alliances with the Roman Catholic church, and other doctrinally unorthodox religious bodies to fight this adversary. Unwisely, the deep doctrinal chasm which lies between these religious bodies is now being bridged in order to enlist a greater army of foot soldiers to do battle in the culture war. In doing so, the recent casualties of this war have been the long-held doctrinal convictions of the reformers: *sola fide* (by faith alone), *sola gratia* (by grace alone) and *sola scriptura* (Scripture alone). And now, “missing in action” are the trusted allies: evangelistic zeal for world missions, gospel preaching, and soul-winning.

The strategists of this movement against anti-Christian forces are prominent evangelicals. Their ranks include such notables as Bill Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ, theologian J. I. Packer, and Pat Robertson, president of The Christian Broadcasting Network. Their insistence for change is earnest and compelling. However, their arguments and reasoning are aimed at the emotions, rather than the spiritual mind.

Former presidential advisor Charles Colson, currently a Christian leader in this culture war, displays this approach: “Believers on the front line, battling issues such as abortion, pornography, and threats to religious liberty are forging an ‘ecumenism of the trenches.’ As the

hosts of secularism and New Age spirituality threaten to sweep every trace of Christianity from the public arena, we must gather together. In today’s culture war, Christians ought to heed the classic principle: Concentrate your forces. This was the driving motivation for those who signed the Evangelicals and Catholics Together (ETC) statement.”<sup>1</sup> His tone is urgent and he characterizes the situation as a pressing crisis. He implores us to immediate action: otherwise the consequences will be dire, as “every trace of Christianity will be swept from the public arena...”

Author J. I. Packer uses similar reasoning: “North American culture generally has lost its former knowledge of what it means to revere God, and hence, it has lost its values and standards, so that it drifts blindly along materialistic, hedonistic, and nihilistic channels. It is the ‘Theological conservationists’ (Christians), and they alone—mainly, Roman Catholics and the more established evangelicals—who have the resources for rebuilding of these ruins, and the

domestic differences about salvation and the church should not hinder them from joint action seeking to re-Christianize the North American milieu.”<sup>2</sup> Packer and others seem shocked that sin, like an unholy plague, has spread to infect every segment of society. Rather, it should surprise us when a world shrouded in spiritual darkness would bring forth works of righteousness. Moreover, he finds the solution to the “crisis” in the “resources of the Roman Catholic and established evangelicals” instead of God, who can bring spiritual transformation to a sin-ruined world. He also argues that the primary goal of the church is “to re-Christianize North America.” Is this heretofore unestablished biblical mandate now the fitting new course of the Church?

Certainly, all Christians would agree that abortion and pornography are wrong. That is not in question. However, to conclude that those who are not actively engaged in this “culture war” somehow condone evil is unwarranted. That a Christian is not involved in this “culture war” as they prescribe is not a test of biblical orthodoxy. Rather



by DAVID DUNLAP

the question should be, Is this new focus of political involvement and civil disobedience the proper direction for a sincere Christian?

There are three crucial issues for the Christian: the importance of eternal values over temporal concerns; the use of spiritual weapons over political influence and pressure; and the present danger that religious alliances will advance the compromise of biblical truth.

God is, beyond doubt, concerned about every moral evil of society. However, is there not a greater burden that weighs heavily on the heart of God? Was not the cry of the psalmist, "If Thou, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand" (Ps. 130:3), the greater concern of God? Was not this the reason that the Lord Jesus laid down His life at Calvary? Was not the eternal salvation of every soul on the mind and heart of God? Truly, every pursuit of the Christian must be subservient to this solemn truth. We might reason in the following way: What pleases the Lord more—a dollar given to a faithful missionary laboring to win souls in a forgotten jungle clearing, or a dollar given to a political action committee to lobby politicians in Washington? What pleases the Lord more—a word of loving witness to your neighbor about the Lover of their souls, or to speak to others as a "poll worker" about the virtues of a particular politician? What pleases the Lord more—a sincere prayer to God rising from a burdened heart for the lost, or a letter to your local newspaper pleading the morality of a particular social issue? The answer should be obvious: eternal values have a greater significance.

Eternal values have not only a greater significance, but also a greater effectiveness. Concerning the role of the Christian in the public arena, C. S. Lewis writes, "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the English evangelicals who abolished the slave trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth 'thrown in'. Aim at Earth and you will get neither."<sup>3</sup>


What was the New Testament's counsel to Christians living amid an anti-Christian society? The apostle Paul wrote his epistle to the Romans to a new gathering of believers concerning the immorality and godlessness of first-century Rome. Many observers consider this society to be unequalled in corruption and hedonism. Homosexuality and lesbianism were shamelessly flaunted; murder and violence was unparalleled; broken fami-

lies and divorce abounded; religious corruption was the order of the day (Rom. 1:21-30). Yet, when the apostle gave the mandate to the Church for action, suggestions for the use of political pressure and civil disobedience were strangely silent. Public demonstrations and letter writing campaigns were not considered.

The biblical solution to godlessness was gospel preaching. God's remedy to social problems was spiritual power: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16).

Was not this the solution in every generation? Was it not the preaching of William Booth when whiskey ran like water in the gutters of East London, and that of Moody in the slums of Chicago, and the Wesleys and Whitefield preaching in moors and marketplaces of England? As it was then, so must it be in our day.

However, the question rightfully arises: Does not compassionate social action have a place in Christian ministry? Of course, but as an outgrowth and support of the work of the gospel; never in place of the gospel. Gospel preaching must remain pre-eminent. Listen to the words of William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, as Harry Ironside heard them being addressed, "...take a man from the filth and squalor of the slums, exchange his rags for decent clothing, move him from the stifling stench of the city tenement to a neat little cottage in the pure air of the country, put him on his feet economically where he can make a decent living for himself and his family, and then let him die in his sins, unsaved, and be lost forever at last. Really it is not worthwhile, and I, for one, would not attempt it."<sup>4</sup>

The so-called culture war is a deception for the Christian. The battle is a spiritual warfare fought with the spiritual weapons of the Word, prayer, and faith in God. Our conflict is "not against flesh and blood, but...against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). Today's anti-Christian culture is not the enemy. The true enemy, the prince of darkness, would delight to have the Church battle in the shadows, squander precious resources, and be distracted from the true war. Christian, refuse the deception, take up the true sword, and in the power of the Holy Spirit join with the Psalmist and say, "Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight" (Ps. 144:1). 

ENDNOTES:

1. Charles Colson, Why Catholics Are Our Allies, *Christianity Today*, Nov. 14, 1994, p.136
2. J. I. Packer, Why I Signed It, *Christianity Today*, Dec. 12, 1994, p. 36
3. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, MacMillian Publishing, New York, 1963
4. H. A. Ironside, *Unless You Repent*, Gospel Folio, Grand Rapids, MI, 1994, p. 139

# Beautiful feet

*“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace...” (Rom. 10:15)*

**ROBERT BROWN**

This verse brings to mind the “beautiful feet” of great men and women of days gone by, an army of people like D. L. Moody and Billy Sunday, who gave their lives to herald the gospel and saw great ingatherings of souls for the kingdom. I have often wished I could have been there to witness the victories that God wrought in the warfare for men’s souls as it spread like a holy brushfire across America. And then there was Little Rock!

Since Little Rock, when I think of “beautiful feet,” it not only brings such names as these to mind, it also brings great optimism and expectation of a whole new current-day army of beautiful feet being swept along by the unseen power of the living God!

This army, like those of the past, consists of “not many mighty, not many noble,” primarily the foolish of the world—small enough and foolish enough to cast themselves on the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who still longs to guide, provide, and save souls. He is the God of Peter and James and John and Paul who still longs to find His children willing to be willing, to go “into all the world and make disciples.” He’s the God of this new generation of “little people” as well!

Some have responded at great personal expense. Some have been criticized heartily for being part of such a “foolish endeavor.” Imagine, spending your own time, money, and effort to go to a strange place where there is

currently no meeting, and simply trusting the Head of the Church to raise one up! That almost sounds like Frederick Arnot, Anthony Norris Groves, T. Ernest Wilson, or Jim Elliot. But isn’t that just for “over there”? Surely that isn’t for *this* country—America in 1998—Little Rock. Or is it?

Today, when I think of beautiful feet, I think of...

- seeing a young lady from Georgia across the Capitol Mall, who had never done *anything* like this in her life, but came anyway with great trepidation. But there she was, her arms around a black lady she met only a few minutes ago...tears flowing down both of their faces...as she led the lady to the Saviour! One soul closer to the King’s return.

- a young man, all alone, “Seed Sowers” in hand, moving from house to house in a run-down “crack house” neighborhood, to bring the best of all news to a lonely man in great need of his message!

- how the Lord of all creation stopped the jaws of a rottweiler so contact could be made.

- young people moving among the crowd in the Farmer’s Market to share good news with a busload of mentally handicapped youth.

- a “new generation” of young people experiencing the fresh revitalization of open air evangelism, street preaching, hymn sings, and other proven techniques for the first time.

- young men “shooting hoops” in the park in order to build bridges to the young locals with nothing but idle time on their hands and emptiness in their hearts.

- young ladies in the Kid’s Clubs in the park, a spontaneous pizza dinner, and a dozen or more neighborhood children in the front row for the evening gospel meetings.

And I think how this could be—should be—going on all across North America.

This Army of the Beautiful Feet are tall and short, rich and poor, young and old. They come from many places. They have different views. They are professors and students, tradespeople and professionals. They are a diverse group, but one thing Beautiful Feet have in common: they love one another, and have a burden for the souls of lost men and women, boys and girls. And they are willing to contribute what they are and have in order to reach them.

Beautiful Feet leave all they have known to move to an unknown town to reach souls and serve as the “toehold” for a new work. Beautiful Feet sometimes come in sneakers as they carry an old lady’s groceries in for her in order to win the opportunity to sit and witness to her on the porch one hot Arkansas afternoon.

Beautiful Feet are raised in Peru



*Jerry Barnes and Craig Shakarji,  
brothers born for adversity*



## BEAUTIFUL FEET

and brought to Little Rock by way of Chicago so that they can share the glorious gospel in Spanish with a room service maid who has a divine appointment with the Saviour of her soul...another new Christian is born!

Beautiful Feet *just happen* to have eight “Seed Sowers” in Spanish; the unseen Lover of men’s souls shows Himself as Jehovah-jireh. Beautiful Feet are sometimes 70+ years old, but care enough about the souls of the lost to “plug on” in blistering heat, up and down steep hills, to climb long flights of stairs to let them know that “God *so* loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Sometimes Beautiful Feet are found in the middle of a busy street in the dark of night (when they really would rather be in bed) literally risking their lives as they help a stranded motorist...earning the right to explain to him that they stopped to help because they serve One who “loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Beautiful Feet drive from Iowa and Maryland and northern Ontario and many other places, taking time from their temporal work to invest in God’s eternal work. Beautiful feet take vacation time that they don’t have, spend money earmarked for other “special family things,” leave loved ones behind, overcome personal barriers and reservations, because there are “pre-eminent matters for their pre-eminent Lord” to be attended to!

Beautiful Feet get tired and sore...hot and sweaty...uncomfortable and fearful! Beautiful feet are timid, frightened, and stretched *way* beyond their comfort zone! But Beautiful Feet go to bring “good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people!” They give testimonies, preach, lead singing, play musical instruments, pass out tracts, testify, make and serve lunches, clean up, make



*Preparing for the afternoon following the hymn sing at the pavilion. Bob Brown is second from right.*

endless trips in the van to bring and carry and then stuff “Seed Sowers” till the wee hours of the morning. They catch a few hours of much needed sleep...and then they do it all over again—and stay cheerful, pleasant, and cooperative as they do!

There are also the Beautiful Feet of those who remained behind “with the stuff.” Some of these were too aged to go, some necessarily occupied. Many remained behind to pray for those who went. Some wrote and called to encourage. Others worked and/or gave so that others could go. Many Beautiful Feet were the prayer power behind the scenes. At least one group met *every day* that we were in Little Rock to pray for us and for the work. How beautiful are the feet of these as well.

In all that the Beautiful Feet are, one thing they are not. That, too, was evident on the streets of Little Rock. *They are not alone.* HE was with them! Not one plan, not one change, not one thing that worked—or didn’t work—avoided His scrutiny. Unseen, but not unheard, His still small voice led the way.

Today when I think of Beautiful Feet, I still think of those great men and women of years gone by, but now I also think of Arkansas during the record hot June days of 1998, as I witnessed the Great Lover of men’s souls working through ordinary people, doing His eternal work as only He can—the New Testament Church alive and on the move!

As I continue to ponder over these things, my prayer is that the vision of Little Rock will ripple out to every corner of our nation. Men and women, now with a taste for pioneer

evangelism, being plowed back into home assemblies all across North America, to encourage and demonstrate to others how the God of the universe desires to work in, with, and through the simple, quiet lives of His people to reach lost souls for His glory and to grow His Church.

There will be critics. There will be those who can find a reason *not* to do almost anything. There will be those who would rather sit and complain about what isn’t happening, than to be part of what is happening. “For lack of vision the people perish.” But then, there will also be visionaries, people with the glow of the Shepherd King on their faces. And for this man...a man with the heart of an evangelist...how I rejoice to have had some small part in such a visionary endeavor. Little people, representing assemblies of believers across North America, united in the common goal of reaching lost souls for the Lord Jesus Christ!

Since our return, I have had numerous opportunities to talk to those who went to Little Rock for that week. When I ask them what they thought about it, virtually every one replies, “Life changing! I’ll never be the same!” To which I add my own “Amen!” But then, isn’t that what the Lord Jesus told us it would be like? “He who loses his life for My sake will find it.” Life—abundant life; joy—fullness of joy!

*Bob serves the Lord with his wife, JoAnne, in Slidell, LA. They have two married daughters. Bob has held effective evangelism seminars in assemblies throughout the US.*



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## What has happened to Christianity?

*And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we*

*cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak Thy word. Acts 4:18-21, 24, 29*

The same power that is in us brought God down to earth, held Jesus to the cross, and raised Him from the dead. We have settled down in our comfortable lives and forgotten this power. When in Little Rock, I sensed an awakening of Christians and tasted, more than ever before, the power of prayer. I saw tears in prayer meetings and in return there were tears in the eyes of sinners. I saw the vibrant smiles of Christians telling “war stories,” and saw new believers and their joy. I noticed selflessness, perseverance, and an energy that was supernatural.

What has happened to Christianity? We need to allow God to bring our smoking flax to a roaring fire. The world has a hunger, we have the Living Bread. The great commission is to go into all of the world and preaching the gospel! Let us be willing to obey our great Lord and sow the seed of Life.

—Moira Nicholson (15)