

UPLOOK

JUNE 2002

WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?

- *A Key Verse for Key People*
- *The Challenge of Soul Winning*
- *Conditions for Success*



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↑ C O N T E N T S

UPLOOK

Volume 69
 Number 4

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WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?

Good question. Better answer.

I remember seeing a cartoon. Crowds of people stretched to the horizon. From each mouth was coming the same question: *What can one person do?* This issue of UPLOOK is dedicated to inspire your own answer to that question.

A few years ago, a book entitled *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell made a stir. Its subtitle was, “How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference.” The author makes some startling suggestions about the way major changes in society can happen suddenly and without warning. Ideas, he says, can spread the way a virus spreads an infectious disease. The moment when they “break out” is the Tipping Point. He describes the three rules of such social epidemics. The first is contagiousness; a property not only of viruses but of ideas as well. He writes:

Have you ever thought about yawning, for instance? Yawning is a surprisingly powerful act. Just because you read the word “yawning” in the previous two sentences—and the two additional “yawns” in this sentence—a good number of you will probably yawn...If you’re reading this in a public place, and you’ve just yawned, chances are that a good proportion of everyone who saw you yawn is now yawning too, and a good proportion of the people watching the people who watched you yawn are now yawning as well, and on and on, in an ever-widening, yawning circle.

The author’s point is well taken, and can be easily applied to words. Although the Bible uses the healthier picture of seeds being sown rather than germs being spread, the principle is the same. When I speak a verse of Scripture to someone, I actually plant it in that person’s mind. When that individual went out into the day, he or she had no idea that the Word of God would “spread” into their mind any more than they would know that a flu virus would invade their body. Of course every person has a choice as to whether the seed will be received into the ground of their hearts or not (see Lk. 8). But if I am faithful in proclaiming the Word, I know some of it will germinate. So it was with the early church: “*They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word*” (Acts 8:4). “*The Word of God grew and multiplied*” (Acts 12:24). “*And the Word of the Lord was published throughout all the region*” (Acts 13:49). This Word, like a seed, has a life of its own; as Paul would later write: “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*” (Rom. 10:17).

Gladwell’s second rule is that little changes can somehow have big effects. He says we are prone to always expect a direct relationship between cause and effect. But, he says, “when a virus spreads through a population, it doubles and doubles again...As human beings we have a hard time with this kind of [geometric] progression, because the end result—the effect—seems far out of proportion to the cause.” It was this principle that allowed eleven men to not only survive the onslaught of the Jewish Sanhedrin and the Roman Empire and the Gates of Hell, but to storm their ramparts and win the field. It is this principle behind the line, “If every one won one, and every ‘won one’ won one...” When a virus goes out into a population, it isn’t discouraged by the odds. It has a secret, the secret of reproduction, the secret of the Word-bearing church as well.

The third rule is the Tipping Point, that the difference between little happening and a great deal happening is often a little thing. It is one degree difference between rainfall and a snowstorm. A sentence can encourage or discourage depending simply on the tone of voice. What difference does a Hitler make, or a Ghandi, a Churchill or a Paul? What difference do you make? For the believer, the Tipping Point is often an encounter with the Lord, a prayer of consecration, a personal crisis, or perhaps hearing of another believer whose zeal is contagious, provoking us “*unto love and to good works*” (Heb. 10:24). May these stories be used for the Lord’s glory to start something in us that will spread like wildfire.



J. B. Nicholson, Jr.





JACK TROTTER

The Ungodly, Is That You?

I learned one good thing about the Broad Road that night.

When I was a little boy, we lived in the town of Bannockburn, Ontario. It is about halfway between Belleville and Bancroft, heading north. Summers were great, but winters were severe.

It is amazing how God touches your life in different ways. He did that in mine until he brought me to the place where I trusted Him as Saviour. The first time God spoke to me was on a winter evening. A group of neighborhood young people were outside sleigh-riding and tobogganing. One of the kids said something that struck terror to my heart. He said, “Well, there won’t be much more snow to shovel because we heard that the world is coming to an end.” I had never heard that before and I spent many sleepless nights thinking about it. The world coming to an end—what does it mean? God spoke to me then; I was just a young boy.

There was a family in the neighborhood by the name of Parks; they lived on a farm at the edge of town. Every Saturday night they had a barn dance. My father used to tell me about it—there was drinking and fights, and it was a horrible place. Their little girl, Levada Parks, was in my class at school. We were maybe seven years old. One day we came in, and the teacher announced that Levada Parks had died very suddenly—seven years old! This brought terror to me. I thought of death as something for older people, so God used that to speak to me a second time.

About the same time as Levada Parks died, some evangelists came to Bannockburn. They set up a tent and they began to preach the gospel. The Parks family went and heard the gospel and they were all gloriously saved. What a price they had to pay! They cleared out all of the junk from that barn; they swept the floor and set up a pulpit where they preached the gospel and souls were saved. This was a clear message to our community of the power of the gospel.

My father worked for a mining company which was operating at a deficit for several years. Finally, they closed down and my father was put out of work. We heard from relatives who lived in the Niagara region that the job situation was a little better in that area, so we moved to Fonthill.

One day my father and I were standing outside and

an airplane came flying overhead very low. The pilot began to write a big B and an E and a few more letters in the sky. My father said something to me that I’ll never forget. He said, “I thought he was going to write *‘Be ye also ready.’*” My father had a religious background and he knew a lot of things that he never talked about in our home. *Be ye also ready.* God spoke to me again at that moment.

Time rolled by. Soon it was 1939 and the Second World War broke out. They were years of tremendous change for me. Soon I had my driver’s license. The thing in those days was “big band” music. We spent our time in theaters and dancing to Big Band music in the night clubs. We thought we were really living! Little did we know that we were only a heartbeat away from eternity.

My life was interrupted very suddenly in January of 1947. Late at night my parents received a telephone call from my brother-in-law in Smith Falls. My sister had been admitted into the hospital for an appendectomy and he asked us if we could please come. Mother, Dad and I left about one o’clock in the morning and drove through the night. When we arrived in Smith Falls, we went directly to the hospital, parked the car and walked up to the main entrance. My brother-in-law was standing outside of the hospital. He was leaning against the wall crying. He told us that although the



Jack Trotter in 1951

operation was a success, my sister's kidneys were failing and they could not save her life. We went into her room and stood around her bed. You would never know by looking at her that she had been sick a day in her life. But within a few hours she lapsed into unconsciousness and about an hour later she was gone into eternity. She was just thirty-one years of age. What a crushing blow to my dear mother. Earlier in her life, she had lost a two-year-old daughter. For months after that, every day when I'd come home from work, Mother would be sitting in her chair crying. Her heart was broken. God was speaking to us.

In September 1947, we received word that a relative of ours had died very suddenly in Bancroft. He had been in fellowship at the Gospel Hall for years, but had gotten away from the Lord. His health deteriorated and at the age of forty-two, he was dead. Mother, Dad and I went to that funeral and there we heard Simon Brunson take the service. I never heard any preaching like that in my life! It turned Mother and Dad and me upside down. The ride home was the quietest trip home we ever had—there was hardly a word spoken the entire way.

My father was so troubled after that funeral that he bought a Bible and began to read it. He read it for two years and I could see that his life was changing, but he wasn't saved.

He had an uncle who was a missionary in Egypt, and when he was home on furlough he went to a little building in Collingwood called a Gospel Hall. My father got so desperate to find the truth, that he said one day, "I'm going to look for a place that looks like the Gospel Hall in Collingwood." So he left

our town on foot and walked down the road, checking all of the church buildings and the times of their meetings. After a walk of more than five miles, he finally found the unadorned building of the Queenston Street Gospel Hall in St. Catharines. The sign gave the next gathering time of the Christians: "Prayer meeting Tuesday night." So my father came back the next Tuesday. After the meeting, Mr. Bill Robertson and Mr.

Fred Campion took my father aside and said, "Are you a Christian from out of town?"

He replied, "No, I'm not a Christian at all, but I'm not leaving this place tonight until I am a Christian." My father was desperate. They read. They prayed. But my father couldn't see it. Mr. Robertson told us my father said, "Don't tell me that fifty years of sin can be wiped away just like that." He couldn't see the simplicity of it. He came home and told Mother and I that he wanted to get saved. This was quite a shock to us.

The following week he went back and he heard John Pirrie preaching. He realized for the first time that his sins had been paid for at the cross. That night he trusted Christ as his personal Saviour. Some time later, coming home in the car, my mother just rested in John 3:16 as she realized that she was the "whosoever" mentioned in that verse. She also was wonderfully saved.

The year 1951 arrived and Aubrey Dellandrea of North Bay, ON, was getting ready to have gospel meetings at the Pelham Road Gospel Hall, also in St. Catharines. Mother and Dad were saved now, and one night when I was working they took my wife Audrey out; that night she trusted Christ as her Saviour. So now it was my turn.

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God"

PSALM 9:17

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"

MATTHEW 24:44

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"

ROMANS 6:23

"The sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works and death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"

Revelation 20:13-15



When I first went to hear Mr. Dellandrea speak, he spoke on the judgment of God. He took his arm and ran it across the whole audience and said, “Young man, remember this: if you go to hell, you go alone.”

After the meeting, I asked to speak with the preacher. He read one verse to me: “*Christ died for the ungodly.*” “Is that you?” he asked. That’s pretty hard to face. I had been going to church and Sunday school. I didn’t think I was that bad. He pointed a finger right at me.


I thought for a few seconds, then said, “Yes, it is. I am ungodly.” So there I was: faced with the greatest decision of my life—a lost, guilty sinner, on the road to hell. I knew the world had nothing to offer. I had tried all of that and it just leaves you cold. I remember going to a New Year’s party one year at the General Brock Hotel in the city of Niagara Falls, and back in the 1940’s if you had a ticket for the Brock Hotel, you were really high up on the ladder! We bought corsages for our girl friends and danced to the Big Band until one or two in the morning. When I went home, I remember thinking, “There has to be something better than this!”

So there I stood before Aubrey on the broad way to hell. But I learned that night that there is one good thing about the broad road to hell: it’s broad enough to turn around! And I did. I turned around to Christ that night and trusted Him as my Saviour. I learned that when Christ was on that cross, God took all of my sins and laid them upon Christ, and He went down into

death for me and put away my sin forever. Never again will I be called to give an account for my sin! Christ has paid it all.

When you’re first saved, it’s nice to have someone come alongside and give a little help. That’s when brother Boyd Nicholson came into my life. Boyd was a tremendous help to me. We used to go away together on a weekend when he had to speak, and he would try to get me up on the platform for a couple of minutes. I was terror-stricken but he kept after me. We went preaching in the open-air, passing out tracts, and visiting the sick. He told me about some of his experiences in the war and that helped me a lot. He told me that one of the hardest things he ever had to do was when he came into the barracks at night with all those rough guys around, and he had to take a stand for God. He said, “I had to get down on my knees beside my bunk. I couldn’t even pray, but I had to get down and acknowledge God.” He told me about his many experiences when he felt the hand of the Lord on his life, keeping him safe.

I thank God for brother Boyd and his influence in my life. I want to finish with a verse of a poem that he wrote:

*Can it be true that a soul still in time
Would turn down God’s offer of mercy sublime,
And trample rough-shod o’er the dear Saviour’s blood,
And risk an eternity shut out from God?* 

Prepared to meet God

***Boast not thyself of tomorrow;
for thou knowest not what a day
may bring forth (Proverbs 27:1).***



On Saturday, April 27, twelve-year old Billy Hoover was sleeping over at the home of his friend, Dalton Toomb in Marble Hill, MO. As the two boys played in the bedroom, they had no idea that a tornado was hurtling its way toward them at speeds of up to 180 MPH. Billy was catapulted from his bed and thrown several hundred feet. Of

the six others in the house, no one was seriously injured. The house was demolished. In the whole town, only little Billy lost his life.

Saints in the Marble Hill and Cape Girardeau

chapels were dismayed when they heard the news, but thankful that they knew the rest of the story.

For the past five summers, Billy was one of many children who boarded the rented school bus and rode thirty miles to a Bible Day Camp on the grounds of Cape Girardeau Bible Chapel. For thirty-three years, the Christians there have invited children to their property. Each day they spend three hours doing activities such as swimming, fishing, crafts and sports, followed by three hours where the gospel is presented. Two years ago, Billy came to his counselor and expressed his desire to accept the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. Billy had prepared to meet his God. Have you?

The Timothy conference

Be thou an example of the believers (1 Tim. 4:12)

Toronto, Ontario, Canada
December 29, 2002 through January 1, 2003
Holiday Inn Select by the Airport

- Keynote speakers: John Lennox (mornings);
Joe Mikhael, J. B. Nicholson, Sandy McEachern (evenings)
- A number of seminars will be offered during four break-out sessions
- MSC Canada hopes to host a missions emphasis afternoon
- Celebrate New Year's Eve with a special banquet and program

This conference is being organized by a committee of Christians with the encouragement of a number of assemblies in Southern Ontario, the Toronto Easter Conference committee, Uplook Ministries, and MSC.

For information, contact Ruth Bell at 877-339-3306 or ruthbell@on.aibn.com



WORD ALIVE WEEK

The Word Alive Week is a time (June 30 to July 6) of spiritual and physical refreshment at Victoria Beach, MB. The purpose of the week is to see believers in the Lord Jesus Christ learn more about their Saviour, His purpose for their lives, and how to more effectively serve Him as His witnesses and disciples. Our speaker for the two daily general sessions is J. B. Nicholson (MI). Local brethren will help with the two daily workshops. Contact:

Ron Hampton at 204-669-6026
hampton@mts.net

REACHING MINOT, ND

Gospel tent meetings in Minot, ND, will begin in the will of the Lord, Sunday evening July 7 and continue each night through July 21. The invited speaker is Gaius Goff (OR).

While the gospel meetings are being conducted in the evenings, we will also be visiting the homes of the

city with invitations to the meetings and gospel literature as well as conducting "day clubs" for children at the tent and other places.

Accommodations will be available at a local campsite for tents/RVs and at Minot State University. The dorm rooms cost \$18 per night per person based on double occupancy or \$25 for single occupancy. Linen provided.

Al Bulow at 701-837-9051
abulow@ndak.net

SUMMER CONF. in QUEBEC

A summer conference is planned for July 13-14 at Bethel Bible Chapel (New Richmond, QC). The meetings will start on Saturday at 7:00 PM. On Sunday, the Breaking of Bread will be at 10:00 and ministry meetings with Joe Reese (ON) at 2:30 and 7:00 PM. Meals will be served at 12:00 noon and 5:00 PM. Joe Reese will also be ministering the Word at 7:00 PM on July 15 and 16. All are invited.

Danny Dugas at 418-392-5723

CALIFORNIA BIBLE CONF.

The California Bible Conference will be held in beautiful Yosemite Park, July 14-21, Lord willing. The speaker will be Randy Amos (NY). Campsites for tents, trailers, and RVs are available. Reservations must be made before June 1.

Fran Dixon at 626-337-8733
cfdixon1@juno.com

OUTREACH in SIOUX FALLS

The saints in Sioux Falls, South Dakota are planning to have a gospel outreach the week of July 22-28. They are a small group and would be encouraged by any help in the effort.

Larry Sax at 605-582-8299
Larsax@splitrocktel.net

UPWARD BOUND ATLANTIC

Upward Bound Atlantic will be held on the campus of Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, from July 27 to August 3, 2002. Speakers: Jabe Nicholson (MI), Roy Houghton (ON)

and Sandy McEachern (NS). It will be a week of intensive Bible study seminars as well as a “How to Study the Bible” course and project. In addition to the activities at the university, there will be outreach opportunities. Think about coming for the week or make it a part of a longer vacation to the east coast of Canada. Cost for the week is \$325 Cdn. For more information, contact:

Paulette Kempton at 902-827-2842
 pviolettekempton@aol.com
 www.cre8iveminds.ca/upwardbound

UPWARD BOUND ONTARIO

Upward Bound will be held at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, from August 11-23. The first week is an intensive series of Bible study seminars including a “How to Study the Bible” course and project. For those who are able to attend, the second week is a 5-day canoe trip in Algonquin Park. The speakers are: Jabe Nicholson (MI); Brian Russell (UK); Roy Houghton (ON); Joe Mikhael (ON) and Sandy McEachern (NS). Cost for both weeks is \$435.

Sandy McEachern 902-420-9489
 sandymceachern@hotmail.com

FELLOWSHIP FAMILY CAMP

Fellowship Family Camp will be held again this year in the shadow of Long’s Peak, near Estes Park, Colorado. The dates are August 12 - 16 and the speaker this year is George Farber (IA). The fellowship and teaching are excellent and the scenery is spectacular.

Fellowship Family Camp
 240 48th Avenue
 Greeley, CO 80634
 970-351-0570
 dlnorbic@juno.com

YOUNG ADULTS in KANSAS

Westside Bible Chapel in Wichita, KS is planning a young adult confer-

ence Aug. 16-18, DV. The invited speaker is Craig Shakarji (MD). For more info. or a place to stay, contact:

Darold Peters at 316-943-3334
 darold.peters@juno.com

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY SEMINAR

Pine Bush Bible Camp (NY) is planning, Lord willing, their 8th Men’s Bible Study Seminar Aug. 25-29 with Randy Amos (NY) leading in the study of Isaiah—The Saviour and the King. It will be an intensive study for those who are serious about the study of God’s Word.

Charles Myers at 732-451-9444
 cvspeddie@aol.com
 After July 1, call the camp:
 845-361-1871

LORD, TEACH US YOUR WAYS

A Bible conference is planned, Lord willing, for Labor Day weekend (Aug. 31-Sep. 2) in 100 Mile House, BC, at 108 Resort Conference Center hosted by the Horse Lake Christian Fellowship.

The speakers, J. B. Nicholson (MI) and John Bjorlie (MI), will address the subject, The Transforming Grace of God. Pre-conference seminars are planned for Saturday evening.

Don Street at 250-395-4230
 dvstreet@bcinternet.net

All are invited to a conference September 13-15 in Atlantic, IA. Planned speakers are Dave MacLeod and Ross Ragland. Lord willing, Friday night we will meet for prayer and ministry at 7:30 at 13th & Elm. Saturday and Sunday, we will meet at the 4-H Fairgrounds at the 700 block on West 10th St., beginning at 10:00 A.M. For more information, contact:

Dennis Oathoudt 712-243-6303

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Reaching Hindus in Zambia?

Are you praying about how to

serve the Lord and where?

Sakeji School, located in the northwest province of Zambia, has for many years provided elementary education for missionaries’ children. Recently a number of missionaries were appointed as a new board of directors. The school is expected to continue with a new vision.

Here is a tremendous opportunity for a committed believer to serve the Lord among young people from many ethnic backgrounds which are difficult to reach in other places.

A Hindu family has sent their two young children to Sakeji School. They have both been wonderfully saved and are now praying for their parents!

An Italian girl from a non-Christian home was saved through being educated at Sakeji and is now serving the Lord in Japan.

Incidentally, the teaching is all in English so you could start being useful right away. In addition to teaching, there are often opportunities for service in areas of maintenance, dorm parenting, kitchen and health care.

David Croudace
 croudace@zamnet.zm

Salem Acres Bible Camp

Salem Acres, a year-round camp and retreat center in central Alberta, Canada has an opportunity for a couple to join in the work. Primary on-site responsibilities will be facility and equipment maintenance, cooking and facility presentation. The couple will be expected to join in outreach to the community. Spacious accommodations and food are provided.

The camp’s facility covers 500 acres including riverbank, cropland, activity areas and building site. They have operated for over twenty years, concentrating on summer camps and outreach in the community. Various



Christian groups rent the facility throughout the year for retreats.

David Broadhead at 403-773-2226
david@salemacres.ca
www.salemacres.ca

Logos School, Cyprus

Logos School, Limassol, Cyprus needs primary teachers for the next school year starting September 2002. New classroom space is being prepared. Qualifications necessary. Thank you for your prayers. Contact Peter Ross in Cyprus:
Int+357 25 562 552

Pittsboro Christian Village

Pittsboro Christian Village has two openings in their management team. One is for a registered nurse to manage the Assisted Living and Care Unit. The second is for a manager of maintenance and housekeeping. They are looking for believers with a servant's attitude. These are salaried positions with benefits.

Dave Dewhurst
919-542-3151
wddew@juno.com

Immanuel Mission

Immanuel Mission, serving Navajo people on a reservation in Arizona, needs a kindergarten teacher for next year. They also need a man to oversee the maintenance department. Please contact:

John Bloom at 928-674-3616

ASSEMBLY INFORMATION Conway, SC

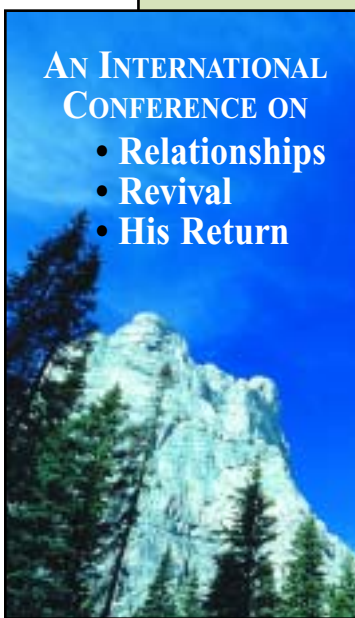
The Christians meeting in the name of the Lord at Bethany Bible Chapel (Conway, SC) recently held dedication services for their new facilities. The assembly was planted in 1960 by Hillmon and Mildred Horton who were saved under the ministry of Welcome Detweiler in Durham, NC. The Horton's moved to Conway with the express purpose of beginning a New Testament assembly and Bethany began in the American Legion Hut. Because of the Lord's faithfulness and the consistent ministry of His Word, the assembly has grown steadily and has outgrown two other buildings. In 1973, the Lord called David and Doris Rickert to the

work in Conway and in 1996 Larry and Phyllis Deeds were also led of the Lord to the ministry of Bethany. The new facility consists of two buildings: one housing an auditorium, classrooms and kitchen. The Lord's Day schedule is: Sunday School 9:15; Family Bible Hour 10:30; Lord's Supper 6:00. The new address is 1668 Four Mile Rd., Conway, SC. For more information, call 843-369-7729 or Larry Deeds at 843-488-4756.

North Carolina

A group of brethren in the North Carolina area are exercised in evangelism and discipling with the desire to see New Testament gatherings established in cities of North Carolina where there are not current works. Any interest, input, or potential contacts, please contact:

Mike Moody
P. O. Box 689
Ramseur, NC 27316
Phone: 336-824-5525



AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

- Relationships
- Revival
- His Return

• Rise Up West 2002 •

LORD, OPEN THE HEAVENS!

December 30, 2002 through January 2, 2003

At the Vancouver Airport Conference Resort in the Ramada Plaza Hotel Complex

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Daniel Smith (IA) and J. B. Nicholson (MI)

- More than thirty seminar offerings are being planned
- A Children's Program is being arranged

COST: \$145 US/\$230 Cdn (quad occupancy); \$175 US/\$280 Cdn (double occupancy)

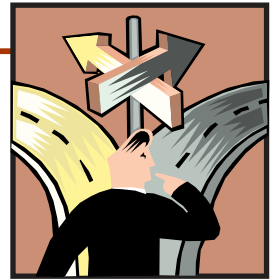
Includes registration, room, meals, parking, gratuities, taxes, use of hotel facilities, materials

CONVENERS: A committee of Christian brethren in British Columbia

with the encouragement of Uplook Ministries

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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“Moral” authority?

The downward slide should give us the upward look.

North America’s universities are going to extraordinary lengths to cater to homosexual students. Co-ed dorms typically allow men and women to live on the same floor but not share a room. Gays at Pennsylvania’s elite Swarthmore College and Haverford College insisted that this was “heterosexist.” If a girl forced to live with a man she didn’t know would feel uncomfortable, this is how a gay person may feel if forced to share a room with a person of the same sex. It is predicted that co-ed rooms will be an option on most campuses in 3-5 years.

In an interview with the *Boston Globe*, Judith Brown of Tufts University said many colleges and universities have started to actively recruit homosexuals “because they question the norms. They make people question their own assumptions and that’s a key to learning and growing as people.” Some colleges are highlighting their gay student associations and drawing attention to courses and even academic majors in “Queer Studies” (their term).

These are just a couple of the extraordinary ways the nation’s institutions of higher education are catering to homosexuals, who seemingly exert more moral authority than any other group on campus. —World

ONE YEAR HELD HOSTAGE

Monday, May 27 marked the one year anniversary of the kidnapping of New Tribes missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and a Filipina nurse, Deborah Yap, by members of the Abu Sayyaf terrorists. Christians around the world joined a special prayer effort for their release. NTM asks that we continue praying that the

couple’s parents, Paul and Oreta Burnham and Norvin and Betty Jo Jones, will have the strength and wisdom to not only be able to make it through this difficult time, but to be shining lights for Christ. Also that their children, Jeff, Mindy and Zach, will have peace and comfort. Pray that Deborah Yap’s family will soon have their mom back. —NTM

CHAOS in NEPAL

Nepal faces a new chapter in it’s saga of insurgence. It was plunged into uncertainty at the end of May as new elections were announced. In an unexpected move, the king dissolved parliament and extended the state of emergency. The people are confused and upset, but missionaries see increased interest in the gospel.

JUSTICE THWARTED

On May 6, 2000 eight Christian women in Pakistan were victims of a brutal gang rape by Muslims in an act of religiously motivated violence. The perpetrators were eventually arrested and held in custody, despite death threats against the girls, their families and lawyers.

At the May 15, 2002 trial, Justice Zahoor-ul-Haq announced the decision in favor of the perpetrators. Three of the six accused each received a sentence of two year’s imprisonment with a fine on weapons charges. Since they have already spent two years in custody, they will soon be set free. The other three accused were given the “benefit of doubt” and acquitted.



TRUE COLORS of SAUDI ARABIA

The public expression of religious belief other than Islam is forbidden in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but senior Saudi officials have repeatedly stated that non-Muslims are free to practice their faith in the privacy of their own homes. However, two Filipino Christians who were working in Saudi Arabia were deported to the Philippines after spending more than a month in prison. The men were caught in possession of a Bible and some Christian CDs (including a gospel of Luke and two Christian music CDs) when police raided their hotel room.

—Christian Solidarity Worldwide



Who Then is Willing?

Think big. Because the heart of God is.

I William Amos Upton was born in Minnesota on June 20, 1860 and born again on October 12, 1886. Reuben A. Torrey was used in leading him to the Lord. At the age of 76, brother Upton retired from his position in a feed and hardware store, and, feeling he had not long to live, he was exercised about covering the city of Minneapolis with gospel tracts before he died. Someone quaintly said, "He left seed-selling for seed-sowing." This article was written as an editorial in ASSEMBLY ANNALS (precursor to UPLOOK).

"Someone must take up the banner. Someone must go with tracts from door to door. Someone must take brother Upton's place on the street corners. God, exercise our hearts!" These were the closing words of the funeral address for brother William Upton who went to be with Christ from Rest Haven Homes (the Spring Lake unit) on July 20, 1949 after being confined to his bed for only a few days. At the memorial service at the Grand Haven Gospel Chapel on Thursday night, one of his latest converts stood lingeringly looking at our departed brother's face. She had been brought to Christ on June 5, a few weeks before.

Since coming to Rest Haven in the early fall of 1947, brother Upton had called on her occasionally on his Muskegon day (Tuesday). Tracts left and words spoken brought about conviction of sin and a real desire for salvation. As the aged veteran, in his ninetieth year, rang the doorbell on June 7, the ring was answered by one of the daughters. Seeing brother Upton, she said, "Mama isn't home, but she's saved alright and she's so happy and I want to be saved today." With great joy our brother pointed the two daughters to Christ.

Watching the mourners as they looked into the face of our departed brother, one could almost pick out those who considered him to be their spiritual father. Three of them,

former residents of Minneapolis, came more than 800 miles to pay their respects to this dear servant of the Lord. These were the Hatches, then living in Denver.

Mrs. Hatch had been accosted by a neighbor across the back fence. "Mrs. Hatch," she said, "There's a crazy old man going around the houses with religious papers. He's asking everybody if they are saved. If he comes to your door, you better tell him you are and quickly close the door or you'll never get rid of him."

When the summons came, Mrs. Hatch opened the door, fully intending to act on her neighbor's advice, but the words just wouldn't come out. Nor did she get rid of the old man till she got rid of her sins. In quick succession her husband and three children and other relatives were reached for the Saviour.

"Oh, Mother," cried a little one as she rushed up the

A GRANDSON WRITES:

Jim Upton, an elder in the Coon Rapids (NW Minneapolis) assembly writes, "Yes, it was my grandfather, William A. Upton, that went door to door throughout Minneapolis after his retirement. He'd hop on a street car and go to the last place he visited and continue on from there—day after day after day. I believe he did it most days of the week (except Sundays) unless the weather was just too bad. He'd tell us stories of what happened on previous days when he'd come up to our house for supper one or two nights a week. Grandpa didn't tell of many being saved, although there were some. One family still goes to Longfellow Gospel Chapel. Others are gone, but their children who also got saved are still around. The most active ones in the gospel that were saved were Frances and Wilma Hatch. They started several card shops and put gospel tracts into each customer's bag. They were very active in personal witnessing all their lives. Their children were also saved. The Hatches saw many more people saved, I believe, than my grandfather did. At his memorial service in Minneapolis there were ten people who were led to the Lord through his efforts there.

stairs, “Jesus is at the door. Come quickly!” The surprised mother hurried down the stairs to be greeted by the friendly smile of the patriarchal-looking William Upton, who spoke to her tenderly about her need of that Jesus of whom he was only the humble servant.

One day, quite discouraged with his tramping the streets day after day with his tracts, Mr. Upton asked the Lord for a definite token of His hand on the work. The day wore on with its usual cold receptions, criticism, and expressions of satisfaction with a religion already possessed. He came to the last house for the day. There was no response to his knock, but he continued knocking. He was confident that the Lord would still give him the encouragement he had asked for earlier. After a long time, the door was finally opened.

Introducing himself as a servant of Christ who had come to show his friend the way of salvation, he followed the lady who walked slowly backwards into the room. Brother Upton read from his Bible about God’s plan of salvation. He then knelt in prayer while he commended the stranger to the Lord. The lady then followed him to the door; the whole time she never said a word. When he was gone, she quickly ran to a neighbor whom she knew to be a Christian. Bursting unceremoniously into the house, she said, “Does the Bible say anything about angels visiting people?”

Taken by surprise, her neighbor said, “Why, yes, there is a text like that somewhere in the Bible. But... well... you know they don’t do that anymore. And they didn’t do it very often in Bible times, either.”

“Never mind that,” said her visitor, “If angels ever visited people—and the Bible says they did—then I had a visit from an angel today.”

She then told her strange experience. In deep soul trouble, she had locked herself in her room, determined not to leave until she found peace. Bible reading gave place to praying, and praying to Bible reading. In desperation, she said to herself, “God will have to send an angel from heaven to show me the way.” Just then there was a knock at the door.

Fearing lest the devil should cheat her of the great blessing she longed for, she just let the “peddler” knock away, till in desperation, thinking she couldn’t get saved anyway, she left her room and opened the door to be greeted by our brother. “I would have given anything,” she said, “to be bold enough to just put out my finger to see if there was anything under his coat. I’m sure he was an angel sent from heaven.”

Efforts to get more of these remarkable events from

his own lips were usually futile. Though he had a keen memory, our brother would just say, “Oh yes! I do remember something about that. I hope it was really a work of God. There’s so much empty profession these days.” One incident he would recount because it was unlikely that any honor would come to him from telling it. We quote from the *Tract Club News* of 1945.

“HOSPITAL,” the sign said. So the tall, elderly gentleman approached at a brisk pace. He was carrying tracts and Gospel portions. At the desk inside, he was directed to go to the rear of the building. There he found an attendant. “May I go through the hospital and give out tracts to the patients?” he asked. “No,” said the man. “The patients can’t read.” “Then I or someone else could read the tracts to them.” “No, you can’t do that; they wouldn’t understand.” “But I could explain it to them.” “It wouldn’t do you or them any good...this is a dog hospital.”


At the age of 76, brother Upton began to systematically cover the city of Minneapolis with tracts. In a little over ten years he almost covered the city twice, using nearly a million tracts in his work. He also went through St. Anthony Park and parts of St. Paul.

At age 87 he was hospitalized, and after his convalescence he concluded he could no longer live alone, and decided to move to Rest Haven Homes (Michigan).

Even there, tract work was not neglected. Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Ferrysburg were covered systematically a number of times. On Tuesdays he would go to Muskegon.

He carried on ardently until a few days before his death. Memorial services were conducted by Peter and William Pell in Grand Haven, MI, and by O. E. McGee in Minneapolis.




William Pell mentioned in his comments on Psalm 126:6, “*He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*” Then brother Pell added, “In 1923, it was my privilege to buy a little hand press for \$25, a tremendous price for me in those days. With a great deal of difficulty, I managed to print a tract or two, and brother Upton was one of my first customers. Some of the first tracts went to his home in Minneapolis. From that day on, he bought thousands and thousands of gospel tracts.”

William Upton’s work is done. The fields still lie white in the sunshine. The night comes, when no man can work. “*And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?*” (1 Chron. 29:5). 

The CHALLENGE of SOUL WINNING

Witnessing for Christ is a way of life.

BBy virtue of the fact that one is a Christian, one is a witness for Christ. I may or may not be a good witness, but nevertheless I am one. Jesus said, "...ye shall be witnesses unto Me..." (Acts 1:8). Our witnessing is important; we can have a considerable impact on those who do not know Christ. But how can we become more effective communicators of the gospel?

 Knowing the truth is essential for an effective witness. *"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"* (Jn. 8:32). We live in a day of methods. By and large our evangelism has become method centered.  Many have attended seminars on better methods of evangelism. Yet at the same time the Church has become weaker in its understanding of the content of the message, and in her ability to communicate it. We have forgotten that the New Testament defines "to evangelize" as "to tell/declare/announce good news." "News," by the very meaning of the word, speaks of content. Any presentation to the unsaved must have Bible-based content. 

1. **GOD—THE HOLY AND LOVING CREATOR:** We can't assume that people today have a proper concept of God. We must make them see that He has an absolute claim on their lives. We want to drive home God's ownership of each of us. We should speak of a sovereign Creator who brought all things into being out of nothing, creating and sustaining us by His own will. We are dependent on Him for everything (Gen. 1-2; Acts 17:25; Isa. 40:28; Ps. 100:3). From this foundation come the two great pillars of His Being—light and love. Light speaks of God's majesty, truth, and holiness (1 Jn. 1:5; 1 Tim. 6:15-16). But our God is also a God of love. Out of His love He created us in His image so that we could have fellowship with Him.

2. **MAN—THE SINFUL CREATURE:** Man disobeyed God and willfully rebelled. The Bible calls this sin. We must both define sin and state its consequences to a lost world. Sin is comprised of two parts: first, it is the attitude that I am my own god and therefore try to live as if God did not exist. Romans 1:21 portrays this attitude when it defines sin as not worshipping God. We thereby deny all that God has revealed to us about Himself. Second, sin is rebelling against God—breaking His law (see Rom. 3:12; Jas. 2:10; Jer. 17:9). Using the

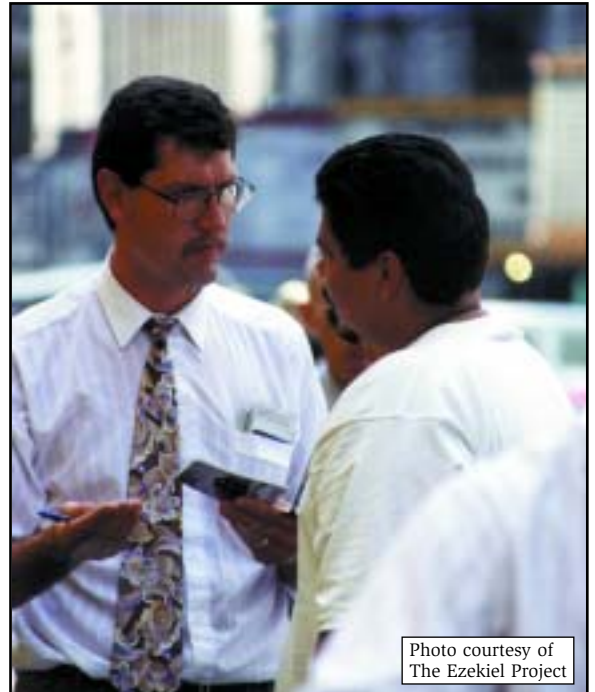


Photo courtesy of The Ezekiel Project

Ten Commandments in evangelism helps people feel the guilt of sin, and creates a desire for the forgiveness found in Christ alone.

The consequence of sin is death. The Bible speaks of death as separation of the spiritual and physical. Physical death is separation from the body. Spiritual death is separation from God for eternity. Symptoms that one is experiencing this type of death are hatred, war, alienation, purposelessness, guilt, and despair.

3. **CHRIST—THE MERCIFUL REDEEMER:** When you read the Old Testament, you see clearly that Jesus Christ came to fulfill three roles: prophet, priest and king. Evangelism over the last 100 years has tended to speak merely of His role as Saviour. This has led many people to make superficial "decisions for Christ." We must present Christ in all three roles—His perfect life, sacrificial death, and His victorious resurrection: As Prophet, He revealed God through His teaching and life (Deut. 18:15-19; Jn. 1:14-18, 7:16-24). This perfect life qualified Him to be our substitutionary sacrifice. The Priest represented the people to God. We must present the cross not simply as a vague demonstration of God's love, but as the place in history where, in the death of His Son, God dealt with the sins of the whole

world. God is still just and holy, yet loves us through Christ, who bore our sins (1 Pet. 2:24; Heb. 7:27, 10:10). We must speak of His office as King. The New Testament refers to Jesus Christ as “Saviour” 24 times but calls Him “Lord” 694 times—more than 28 times for every reference as “Saviour.” All who will have Jesus as Saviour must, after salvation, also have Jesus as their Sovereign. Jesus now lives to rule His people in love and truth (Acts 2:21-36; Rom. 6:11; 14:8).

4. OUR NECESSARY RESPONSE: Since man’s only hope is to be saved through the finished work of Christ, how can he come to know Christ as Saviour? We must urge the unsaved to acknowledge that they stand guilty before God and deserve His judgment. They must acknowledge their rebellion against Him and turn from it. They must realize that they can do nothing to make themselves acceptable to God. We then invite them to trust in Christ, resting in His salvation (Jn. 1:12, 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9).

5. SOME KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- USE YOUR BIBLE: Have the person read the text himself, and have him explain to you his understanding of its meaning. Many times this has been the turning point in the presentation of the gospel. It prevents tangents and arguments, and confronts them with God’s

final authority in His Word.

Many have used established methods of presenting God’s salvation plan with great success. One of the best known is called “The Romans Road”—3:10; 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9. Many use this outline but add variations. It’s good to have an outline to keep you on track; then other verses can be added to suit the individual’s need.

- MEMORIZE KEY SCRIPTURES: Memorize good gospel verses and their references so that you can give the appropriate portion of God’s Word to that person.
- PRAY: Our message may seem foolish to the non-Christian, but if we really believe that only the Spirit can make them respond, we will pray—before, during, and after our presentation of the gospel.
- BE CLEAR: Communicate absolute biblical concepts clearly so that the person does not read his or her own ideas into them. Be careful to explain that you are speaking about absolute truth, not just your opinions. Your message should be faithful to the Word.

6. WORK HARD AND KEEP AT IT: “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9). Many Christians give up too quickly at gospel work. They go out a few times and knock on doors during a weekend. When few contacts are made, they tell themselves, “This isn’t for me. I’m

Tell Them of Jesus



Only a kind word spoken
Of the home and the rest above,
Of the wonderful patience and mercy,
And the gift of an infinite love;
And the man, so hard and callous,
Heard of this grace so free,
And felt with a new emotion,
Then surely He cares for me.

Only one life for service,
One talent to lay at His feet;
And efforts and prayers are needed
And workers in every street;
For eyes are grown dim and heavy,
Which a smile of love would light,
And some are far from the Master
And perishing in the night.

It was only a tract in the cottage,
Left with a friendly smile,
But the woman’s face grew brighter
As she bent to her daily toil;
And the leaflet given so kindly
Was placed with care away
To read in the quiet evening
At the close of the busy day.

Only the work of an hour,
One little hour a week,
Not very long for labor,
Not many words to speak;
But the angel of mercy is passing
With the caller from door to door,
And the fruits of the heavenly mission
Remain forevermore.

It was only a tract in the cottage
But its message was clear and plain
And the voice of Jesus was calling,
And He did not call in vain.
And one more sheaf was gathered,
Another soul was won;
It was but a little service,
But the Lord pronounced, “Well done.”

just not cut out for it.” It is hard work. Satan will fight it at every turn. But keep at it, keep praying, keep scattering seed, and God will give the increase.

7. BE AUTHORITATIVE: They said of Jesus, “*He taught them as One that had authority, and not as the scribes*” (Mk. 1:22). A witness should be authoritative, but not arrogant. Some Christians witness with almost an apologetic manner. Generally this approach does not see many results. The lost will not have confidence in a message that is given in an unsure, indecisive manner. They need a “*Thus saith the Lord.*”

8. LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN: If the person being witnessed to is not receptive, don’t push. If the person makes smart remarks, never give an unkind remark in return. This can damage all the progress you have had thus far, or bar opportunities others may have in the future. Never argue. “*The servant of the Lord must not strive*” (2 Tim. 2:24). We want to win souls, not arguments. If a witnessing situation is beginning to heat up, stop! Apologize. Let the person know you don’t want to argue, and that you are sorry for anything you might have said to be offensive. If the gospel is offensive, so be it. But if I’m offensive, that must be corrected.

9. DON’T USE DIFFICULT TERMS: A witness must learn to think as the lost do. Put yourself in their shoes. Many have heard the term “born again” but don’t know what it means. To talk about “propitiation” or “justification” may confuse them. They understand terms like “sin,” “forgiveness,” “heaven,” “hell,” and “judgment.” Keep it simple.

10. LEARN TO GIVE INVITATIONS: Truth not only informs but transforms. Many people will take up the offer when it is given. Learn to give people the opportunity to respond. Don’t manipulate or force decisions, but do give the unsaved a chance to say “yes” to God. You never know the heart. An individual may be bursting with conviction inside without any indication. After you have explained the gospel and answered questions, you might want to say, “Would you like to receive Christ?” The biblical pattern is to call men and women to response after presenting the gospel. Paul said, “*We...preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God*” (Acts 14:15). Peter said, “*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out*” (Acts 3:19).


11. AVOID DETOURS: Don’t get off on a tangent. If Satan can’t defeat you, he’ll try a detour. If a person asks a question that may be a detour, suggest that you first finish presenting the plan of salvation and then

you will answer the question. Don’t get into discussion about the doctrine of other churches, or the errors of prominent television preachers, Bible translations, etc. The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing—presenting the gospel.

12. GIVE PERSONAL TESTIMONY: Learn how to give a brief yet clear account of how you were saved. Emphasize your need of salvation because of sin, and the change in your life afterward. You may want to open the conversation by saying, “May I tell you the most amazing thing that ever happened to me?” After a brief account, you can say, “It’s so wonderful to know that all my sins are forgiven and that I’m going to heaven; I have to tell others about it.” Afterwards you can add, “Do you know for sure *you* are going to heaven?”

One fatal mistake is to be accusative: “You need to know that you are a sinner.” They will usually become defensive rather than receptive. Instead, have them read, “*There is none righteous, no, not one*” (3:10); “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*” (3:23). Then say, “We’ve all sinned, haven’t we?” More will admit being a sinner when we include ourselves. Otherwise, they conclude that we think that we’re holier than they, and unfairly judgmental.

Use illustrations for emphasis and explanation. The Lord Jesus constantly did this. With Nicodemus He used the serpent on the pole, a biblical illustration. With the woman at the well, He used the idea of thirst and its satisfaction, an illustration at hand.

But above everything, be encouraged. The Lord did not commission tape recorders to evangelize so He could have the “perfect message.” You will make mistakes, as all do. But if you seek to be faithful, He will teach you on the job, and bless in spite of you. His promise is sure: “*...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen*” (Mt. 28:20). 

David Dunlap

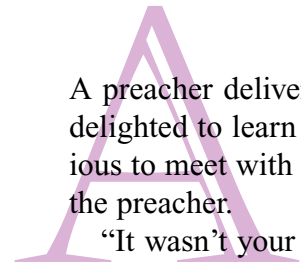
This article is adapted from the pamphlet, *The Challenge of Personal Evangelism*, written to encourage and instruct those involved or interested in soul winning. Call GOSPEL FOLIO PRESS at 1-800-952-2382 to order item T-CPE. (Packs of 100) \$3.99US / \$5.99CDN



Influence

I may brush by in a moment, and impact someone for eternity.

A preacher delivered a series of addresses on Christian apologetics. A short time later, he was delighted to learn that a former atheist had been won to the the Lord Jesus Christ and was anxious to meet with the believers. “Which of my arguments did you find most convincing?” asked the preacher.

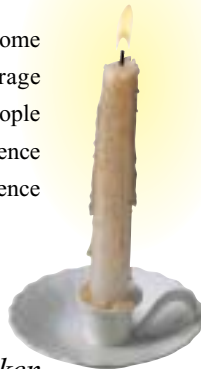


“It wasn’t your arguments that moved me,” the man replied. “It was the face and the manner of the old blind woman who sits in one of the front rows at every meeting. I helped her one day as she was groping along, trying to get across a busy road. Putting her hand into mine, she looked up and said, ‘Do you love my blessed Saviour?’ Her look of deep contentment, and the triumphant tone in her voice, made me realize as never before that He who is able to make a helpless soul like her so bright and glad must be a ‘blessed Saviour’ indeed!”



Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. 1 Peter 2:9

General Motors Corporation, in conducting some market research, discovered that the average person has a strong influence on about 160 people during his life. This does not include the influence those 160 people have on others, or the influence those influenced people have, or...



When Harold St. John was travelling in Rome, he was approached by an English woman who was staying in the same hotel that he was. “May I presume to speak to you without an introduction, on the basis that we are both British in a foreign country?” she asked.

Harold St. John quickly agreed, and the woman continued: “I wish to ask you a personal question. Will you please tell me the secret of your serenity? I have been watching you for two days and I perceive that you live in a different world than mine.”

This led to a conversation which ended with the woman kneeling in a secluded corner of the hotel lobby, accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as her Saviour.

*A little word of kindness spoken,
A motion or a tear,
Has often healed the heart that’s broken
And made a friend sincere.*

*A word, a look, has crushed to earth
Full many a budding flower,
Which, had a smile but owned its birth
Would bless life’s darkest hour.*

*Then deem it not an idle thing
A pleasant word to speak ;
The face you wear, the thoughts you bring,
A heart may heal or break. —J. G. Whittier*

*A kindly act is a kernal sown
That will grow to a goodly tree,
Shedding its fruit when time is flown
Down the gulf of Eternity. —John B. O’Reilly*

Let no one despise or think less of you because of your youth, but be an example (pattern) for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12, AMP.

The Place of Prayer in Soul Winning

Taken from the book, "The Art of Soul Winning."

The worker whose supreme desire and passion is to be used in co-operation with the Holy Spirit in the winning of men to Christ must master in some degree the holy art of intercession. If the Master wept and prayed over lost souls, then His servant must do the same. Prayer must occupy a preeminent place in the soul-winner's program, for the salvation of the soul is not a human, but a divine work.

If prayer occupies so important a place, it follows that whatever hinders us in its exercise must be sacrificed. Any price is worth paying which will make us more powerful in prayer. If God is to answer our prayers, we must be sure that we are standing on praying ground. The Psalmist warns: *"If I regard (cling to) iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"* (Ps. 66:18), let alone answer me. Before we are on true praying ground, we must have renounced every sin about which the Holy Spirit has convicted us. Have you done this, or is there a controversy between your soul and God? You will know when the last thing has been dealt with.

Then it is necessary that we have a heart at leisure from itself and its own concerns, a heart that is able to bear the burden of souls and to travail for them in birth until the new life is implanted. Listen to the Apostle Paul as he prays and note how his prayers are all for others. *"I could wish that [I] myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh"* (Rom. 9:3). Mark Epaphras, *"always laboring fervently...in prayers"* (Col. 4:12). Hear Count Zinzendorf as he prays for a few girls ranging in age from ten to thirteen whose spiritual education has become his care. "He observed that though their demeanor was blameless, and their intellectual grasp

of the truth was satisfactory, yet no evidence of a heart knowledge of God appeared among them. This weighed on his soul and led him to earnest intercession for them. Cultured, wealthy young nobleman that he was, he was not above taking thought for the spiritual welfare of a few girls. More intense grew his concern, culminating at last in a season of such truly energized prayer as produced a most extraordinary effect. "The blessing he desired for his class came, and much more too, for this was the beginning of the mighty work among the Moravians, which bore fruit in their marvellous missionary enterprise.

The soul-winner's prayer will be first for himself, and then for the soul to be won. For himself, he will need to pray a threefold prayer.

First: for moral courage to speak for Christ when opportunity offers. In the world which crucified Christ, it will never be easy to speak for Him. To some, the fear of man is an almost insuperable barrier. Is it boldness you need? Then do as the disciples did—pray! *"Grant unto Thy servants that with all boldness they may speak Thy word...And they spake the Word of God with boldness"* (Acts 4:29-31). *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Phil. 4:13). You will be able, after prayer, to do what you never could have done without it.

Second: for guidance as to whom to approach. To speak to men indiscriminately and without inspiration and guidance is often hurtful both to the worker and to those whom he addresses. It goes without saying that God does not expect us to speak to everyone we meet, although He does expect us to be willing to do so. F. B. Meyer used to feel constantly burdened in regard to speaking to everyone he met, until he made it a matter



of prayer that God would show him the ones to whom he should speak. The case of Philip the Evangelist is an outstanding example of this (see Acts 8:26). There are many souls with whom we come into contact, for whom God has no message at that moment. If we cultivate the habit of constantly looking to the Lord for instructions, He will guide us with His eye as to when to speak and when to keep silent.

Third: for guidance as to what to say. Let the reader remember that every soul-winner was once as inexperienced as he is. If God is calling you to speak to someone, then surely you can trust Him for the message. He knows what each case needs, and has given the Holy Spirit for the very purpose of bringing the right scriptures to your remembrance. Trust Him to do it. *“He shall...bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”* (Jn. 14:26).

The worker’s prayer for the soul to be won will also be threefold.

First: that any indifference or hostility may be broken down and an opening made for delivering the message of salvation. Unless the Spirit of God precedes the worker, you will try in vain to storm the citadel of the soul. Persistent, believing prayer has often broken down the most determined opposition.

Second: that the soil of the heart may be prepared for the sowing of the seed. This again is the work of the Spirit of God. *“When He [the Spirit of Truth] is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment”* (Jn. 16:8). He does His work of conviction in answer to prayer.

Third: that the soul may be liberated from the power of Satan. It is just here that the real battle is fought. Prayer of this kind is spiritual warfare. Satan, the “strong man” of Matthew 12:29, has bound every son of Adam, and contests their deliverance every inch of the way. It is by believing prayer alone that the strong man can be bound and souls delivered. *“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony”* (Rev. 12:11). The prayer warrior must learn how to plead the victory of Calvary, for the blood of the Lamb has forever broken the power of the devil, and robbed him of his prey.

“Real prayer,” says Gordon Watt, “is opposing a great spiritual force to the onslaught of evil, and asking God to put into operation the work done by His Son on the Cross, which was not only the redemption of man, but the defeat of the prince of this world.” Plead the blood of the Lamb for the liberation of the

soul for whom you pray.

Our praying is likely to be futile unless it is definite in its aim. The marksman is aiming at one spot in all the wide world. After he has shot, he knows whether or not he has hit it. Our prayers should be of a similar order. They should be so definite that we shall know whether or not they have been answered. We must pray for definite souls. But for which souls? Here again the Holy Spirit comes to our aid. Our petitions should be Spirit-taught. As we wait before God, He will burden our hearts for certain souls who are within the sphere of our influence. In Dr. Torrey’s first place of public ministry, God laid two persons on his heart in this way. He prayed for them throughout his years there, but neither was converted. For some years he kept on praying for them daily, and when later conducting a mission in that city both accepted Christ the same night. How appropriate are the words of Scripture: *“The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for us as we ought...”* (Rom. 8:26).

Then, too, our praying should be systematic. Too often we pray haphazardly, for whatever comes into the mind. *“The Lord is a God of system”* (Isa. 30:18, margin). His children should be like Him. System in praying will help to beget that perseverance which is so often conspicuous by its absence from our prayers. We pray and run away. “Foolish boys that knock at a door in wantonness,” said the old Puritan, “will not stay till someone cometh to open to them, but a man that hath business will knock and knock again until his call is answered.” *“Knock, and it shall be opened unto you... and to him that knocketh* (knocks, and keeps on knocking) *it shall be opened”* (Lk. 11:9-10). Let us not hang up the receiver before the answer comes over the heavenly wires. *“Men ought always to pray and not to faint”* (Lk. 18:1).

But apart from a believing heart all the foregoing conditions may be complied with, and yet no answer be received. *“He that cometh to God must believe”* (Heb. 11:6). *“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth...let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord”* (Jas. 1:6-7). Count on God’s good faith. Do not grieve and dishonor Him through disbelieving Him. *“He is faithful that promised.”* Expect Him to do the unexpected.

Prayer is God’s mightiest instrument in the salvation of souls and it is to be doubted if any soul is saved apart from the believing prayer of some saint. Lord, teach us to pray!



A Key Verse for Key People

The entire New Testament throbs with the spirit of witnessing.

The gospel is seen to be glorious news which must be told. How will this be done? What is God's plan? Who will be the witnesses? A very remarkable verse, more than any other, seems to outline the strategy of God for the propagation of the story of His Son. Incidentally, these are the last words which Christ uttered before returning home to heaven. *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).



"But ye..." The scene is the Mount of Olives; the time is the day of Christ's ascension. The Lord speaks of the disciples, eleven of whom are assembled together. But surely He does not limit these important marching orders to them. Our Lord gives a great plan for advance for Christians of all ages, and unquestionably it applies to us today.



"...shall receive power..." The word used for power in this case means explosive power, ability, strength to accomplish, the might of God. And on the Day of Pentecost this power was made available to believers in the marvelous Person of the Holy Spirit. Today He abides in the hearts of all truly born-again Christians, and with His presence is His power.



"...the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." Actually, this may not refer so much to the advent of the Spirit as to His enduement for service. It is synonymous with the Spirit's filling. It is so necessary! There is no successful witnessing without Him in His fullness. All essential wisdom and ability and direction are found in His imparted power.



"...and ye shall be witnesses..." The word for witness is derived from the Greek *martus* from which we get our word "martyr," an expression of solemn meaning. In the history of the early Christian church, the word was equated with danger, persecu-

tion, death. However, the primary meaning of the word is as we use it today, which has to do with telling what you know to be true, with giving a good confession, with personally endorsing expressed truth.



"...unto Me..." This is the heart and center of witnessing. We remember that these men were Jews, who had been Orthodox in their belief, and at least partially blameless in their observance of the Law. Now they begin something new. They are to witness to a Person. Their message is to center in Him: His Person, His work, His Word, His death, His resurrection, and His return. What a contrast to their former teaching of the Law! Their word of witnesses must never exclude Him.



"...both..." We must not overlook this important directive. The witnessing will begin at a certain spot and proceed outward until the ends of the earth are reached. But it is not to be a once-for-all proposition. Witnessing is to be maintained. It is to be carried on at home and abroad, lest anyone should argue, "We will witness here, and you may witness there."



"...in Jerusalem..." The disciples at that time were in Jerusalem. God's plan evidently was that the living testimony should take root there. Why? Perhaps there was a spiritual reason to begin where Christ died and rose again. Surely Jerusalem was rich with the presence of Christ. The deeper significance of this expression, of course, is that witnessing must begin at home. For us today, it begins where we are. For churches, it begins where they are found. But it must not stop there.



"...and in all Judea..." Judea was the surrounding territory, the area corresponding to a county. Note the use of the word "all." The gospel was to radiate in every direction like the spokes of a wheel. With Jerusalem as the hub, the gospel was to be propagated simultaneously into every area. As the disciples went out with the message, additional support would be forthcoming to continue the outward thrust.




“...and in Samaria...” Witnessing continues north, south, east, and west—on and on and on. Ever-advancing, ever-evangelizing, the messengers carry the Word and progress is made. But Samaria, though close at home, would require them to deal with inbred prejudices if they were to take the gospel there.



“...and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Where is the strength for this ambitious program? Don’t you see? As believers witness in one section, men and women are saved. New Christians are added to the

group and give their support. They in turn become witnesses. The call to go forth reaches them, and they pledge their resources to the cause of Christ.

These are all the words of Christ—thirty-nine of them in English. After He had given these orders, the Lord Jesus ascended and the disciples saw Him no more. But suddenly angel messengers were by their side (Acts 1:10-11): *“Why stand ye gazing up into heaven?”* Now was the time to begin. Work was to be done, and “Let’s go at it” was the order.

It is still serious business, though many centuries have intervened. The call to witness still goes forth. What are we doing to obey His directions? 

Muddled MIDDLE EAST

WHO HAS RIGHTS TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL/PALESTINE?

The name “Palestine,” like much of the Middle East, is misleading. In fact it was originally intended to be so. The Romans, who had been caught off guard by one too many Jewish rebellions, decided to wipe the whole idea of a Jewish state right off the map. They renamed Israel *Palestina* after the Philistines, the inveterate enemies of the Jews. Jerusalem they renamed *Aelia Capitolina*, although a name like that hardly had a chance of surviving! Jews were banned from the city.

The Palestinians (we’ll answer who they really are in another column) have no claim to the land. Even when the British considered a homeland for the Jews in “Palestine” (during their occupation, 1917-1948) there was no thought of any Arab claims outside of Syria. In fact the original land considered for the Jews included all of the present country of Jordan as well! It isn’t a matter of “returning” occupied lands to the Palestinians—they never had it as their sovereign state. Before the Israelis were there, the Egyptians were in the Gaza Strip, the Syrians in the Golan, and the Jordanians in the West Bank. They were there from 1948-1967; if they had wanted the Palestinians to have a homeland there, they

could have granted it. But it was these Arab occupiers who put the Palestinians in camps and kept them there for almost 20 years.

What about the Jews? The irony is that most Zionists who hold up a Bible and say that God gave this land to Abraham don’t believe in the Bible, God, or Abraham! And the fact is that they don’t have a claim to the land, either. This land belongs to God (as He proved by removing the Jews from it when they abandoned Him). Their only hope now is to receive God’s Messiah, the Lord Jesus. Christ was the one God had in mind when He said to Abraham: *“Unto thy seed will I give this land”* (Gen. 12:7). *“He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ”* (Gal. 3:16).

The true remnant will yet be driven from the land, but Messiah will bring them home (Isa. 63:1). And then there will also be a great awakening in the Moslem world: *“In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria (Iraq), even a blessing in the midst of the land: whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel Mine inheritance”* (Isa. 19:24-25). What a day!

Arthur Taylor

Off again, on again; evangelism on the Welland Canal.



The Welland Ship Canal is a strategic part of the St. Lawrence Seaway system. This seaway of channels, locks and open water is the main artery from the North American interior to the rest of the world.

Uplook Tell us about God’s work on the Welland Ship Canal.

A. T. I feel very privileged to be a part of the Welland Canal Mission to Sailors. They have had four missionaries over a period of 132 years, jumping on and off ships, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with sailors from all around the world.

Uplook How many ships do you board in a year?

A. T. It varies, but somewhere between 150 and 175.

Uplook What are some of the countries that have ships travelling through the canal?

A. T. Spain, Italy, Greece, Philippines, China, Japan, South Africa—all over. There are 37 different countries with people speaking 50 different languages.

Uplook How many sailors would typically be on a ship and do you get to visit with all of them?

A. T. On a Canadian ship, there are around 23; on the foreign ships there are between 32 and 37. There are three shifts: the sleep shift—you can’t bother them; the work shift—you can’t interfere with them while they’re working, but at a lock we have nine-and-a-half free minutes, so I try to have a very quick visit and give them some literature. Then there is the off-duty shift. They may be doing nothing or they may have to go to the post office or the bank or do some errands so I like to give them free cab service—just to show them love.

Uplook How long do you usually spend on a ship?

A. T. I generally get on around Lock 1 and get off

around Lock 4. That’s more than three hours aboard to talk to the men about the claims of Christ. Then I get off and jump on another ship coming back up. I can generally do two ships a day. The rest of the time I visit the fellows in jail, or the hospital, or just sit in my van and talk confidentially with some of them.

Uplook What literature do you pass out?

A. T. I have literature, tapes and records in about 59 different languages. My favorite tract is “You Can Know For Sure” by Tom Swan. It gets the sailor “lost” first, so then he can get saved. It summarizes the gospel and at the end has a paragraph about what he needs to do to know for sure he’s going to heaven. I sometimes use a Titanic tract which catches their eye.

Uplook How did God work in your life to give you a burden for this work?

A. T. My father was a sea captain who was caught in a hurricane in 1961. Three ships went down; seventeen men were lost. They never found any of the ships or any of the bodies. Seventy-three kids lost their dads in one night. The thing that struck me as a 14-year-old boy was that we were at a funeral with all these flowers, but there were no bodies. We were devastated. It was a town in Nova Scotia of 1200 people and we were all related. It affected the whole town. I was numb by it all, but I remember hearing that day that my dad went to heaven, and I really wanted to go to heaven, too.

When I was 19 years old, I wanted to go out with a girl and I was told if I wanted to go on a date I had to go to a gospel meeting. There I heard the gospel, and a brother put my name in John 3:16. I put my faith in Christ and it didn’t take ten minutes and I felt the call to preach the gospel! I never had a Bible; I didn’t know hardly any Bible stories.

In my hometown, from December to April the men can’t fish so the the crew draws unemployment insurance. But the captain can’t get it so they go out in bad weather, risking their lives to feed their kids. Every winter someone from our town drowned. When I got saved, I thought, “These guys are like me: they never read their Bible, they hardly ever go to church: they



don't have a clue how to get to heaven." God took the death of my dad when I was 14, turned it around when I was 19, and gave me a burden for sailors.

When I went to the fish plant to witness for the first time, I was surprised by my "holy boldness." I could just walk up and say, "If you were to die in a storm, would you like to go to heaven?" They all said, Yes. When I asked if they knew how to get there, they said to go to church at Christmas and Easter and try to live a good life. I thought, "They're just as blind as I was!"

People have kept the gospel in the four walls—they haven't put the "go" in the gospel. All of a sudden I had this real burden for sailors and it has been that way ever since. It's never left me.

Uplook How did the Lord prepare you for this work with the lost?

A. T. On the fishing boats or in the fish plants, I would often misquote verses, saying things upside down and backwards. The brothers said, "You're going to make us look bad in the local church. You don't know the Bible." They sent me to Moody Bible School in Chicago. While I was there, I was the worst in the public speaking class but I had a love for souls. I signed up to go to the Chicago rescue mission with a brother who was a gifted preacher. He got sick and on the way there, he asked me if I could take his place. So I took about ten minutes and put together a little sermon on John 3:16. We had three girls with us who sang as a trio and then sat down behind me on the platform. I started to give my first sermon in my life and I was feeling awful. All of a sudden two guys got up and started down the aisle. I thought, "Wow! They're already coming forward and I haven't even given the invitation yet." Then I heard, "She's mine" "No, she's mine!" I realized they were fighting over the girls behind me. The director broke up the fight and moved the girls to the back row. I was so befuddled, that I couldn't even quote John 3:16. I was finished; I had to sit down. The director finished my sermon. I failed totally. I had invited one guy in off the street and he stayed behind. We had a long talk and that night he came to Christ. The Lord humbled me that night, but He also showed me that my ministry is one-on-one.

Uplook What was your greatest mistake that God used to teach you wisdom in working with the lost?

A. T. In my first year, I would walk up to someone on a ship and say, "Are you a Christian? Do you believe in

Jesus Christ?" If they said Yes, I'd say, "Oh, wonderful! That means you're going to heaven!" and I would give them my little Bible school sermon on eternal security. After about two years of visiting these men and seeing no fruit—no change in their lives—I started asking more questions and I found out they weren't believers after all. They believed about Christ, but they weren't saved and I had given them false assurance. So I tried to figure out all the ships that I had been on, and looked for the men that I had talked to, and tried to straighten it out. Many of the men did accept Christ at that time, but I never knew if I got to revisit everyone that I had met during my first year, if there are still men thinking they're going to heaven because "Chaplain Taylor" told them so. That was a bad mistake.

Uplook How has the Lord used other saints to help you reach people with the gospel?

A. T. There was a brother named Sam Learning. We were talking one day and I was saying, "They're not saved...he's an unbeliever..." He said, if you stick with words like "non-believer" or "unsaved," that's watering down their position before God. The Bible says they're lost. When you use that word, it will help you to be more serious and remember they are without Christ, without hope. He suggested I go to a mall or a fall fair and just sit for a couple of hours and watch people walk by. Most of them are lost. Look at their faces and let yourself think about the fact that they are absolutely lost. No hope. They're heading for hell. You'll start getting a real burden for their souls.

The other thing he encouraged me to do was get before the Lord every morning before I go out to share the gospel. First practice 1 John 1:9 and confess any sin so I would be a clean vessel and the Holy Spirit is not grieved. Then move over to Romans 12:1 and get self off the throne so the Holy Spirit is not quenched. Then move to Ephesians 5:18 where it says to be filled with the Holy Spirit and say, "Lord, here I am. Flow through me." Sam told me that was one of the best tools—besides the Word of God—the Holy Spirit flowing through you to the lost person. That will break down barriers and lay foundations to preach the gospel.

Uplook How has God worked in your life personally to make you more usable in His service?

A. T. The missionary that did this work before me,

Cameron Orr, was going to give me six weeks of training on how to work with these sailors with all of their different cultures and religions. He died six days before I was supposed to start. I had almost flunked out of Bible school, and I felt so ill-equipped. What could I do? However, I noticed that I could move into people's spaces very quickly. They usually trust me and warm up to me and give me a listening ear. It wasn't hard at all because it was God doing the work through me.

As I began to work with the sailors, He gave me help in explaining the gospel. I noticed He would use common things—bread or water or birds of the air—things they knew and were interested in. The Lord would love them, and tell stories, and talk to them, and when He had their listening ear He would turn the whole thing around to Himself, His Word and His message. The Lord has used everything from the measurements of Noah's Ark with an atheist ship architect to the mating habits of geese with men with marital problems to teach spiritual lessons to these men.

Uplook You meet sailors from 37 different countries. With which group have you seen the best results?

A. T. You may be surprised by this, but Catholics are my favorite people. The reason is that once they get away from the religious hierarchy, out on a ship for six months, they have a lot of sin in their lives and no chance to go to confession. I say to them, "What's your problem?" They tell me that they are ridden with guilt. So I show them 1 John 1:9 that tells us that God will forgive any sin, any place, any person. They want it. They're out in storms, facing death and their religious leaders aren't there to pray for them, to give them their last rites. I show them 1 John 5:13 and John 5:24 where it states they can know for sure they have eternal life. I tell them, "You can trust Christ right here on the ship and know for sure you'll be in heaven." They think that's great news. Some ships have a Catholic Bible on board that was used for the christening of the ship—it's

like a religious symbol or ornament. I show them the verses from their own Bible and they are so excited. We've seen the best response from Catholics.

Uplook With which country have you seen the best results?

A. T. I once boarded a ship from Ghana, West Africa. When I got on the ship, I had a lot of persecution—a lot of mocking and swearing. One guy took a New Testament, spit on it and threw it overboard. He was so upset, so anti-Christian. I quietly asked God to help me love him and to show mercy and smile. Later I went into the rec room where I left a talk card that I got from International Recordings. It is a piece of waxed cardboard with a little record needle. I have records in fifty different languages with a sermon on how to get to heaven based on God's Word. The power is your own hand. You just put a pen in a hole in the center of the record and turn it around and it plays the message. Since I don't know their language, I don't know the speed to turn it to make it sound right. Here are a bunch of foreign men who are bored, lonely and I give them a little free toy in their own language, and they have to figure out the right speed to turn it.

The man that threw my Bible overboard wrote me a letter later and told me he was curious why I didn't get angry with him; why I left gifts with total strangers. He was curious about the message on the record so he played it, heard the gospel and was saved. He played it for his wife and kids and they also got saved. He gave his testimony on the ship and more sailors were saved. Within three years, more than 300 people got saved. A missionary then came and set up a local assembly in their hometown in Ghana. Right after that, the door was closed to the gospel in that area.

Uplook Since you're working with sailors from all over the world, do the wars and political turmoil make it more difficult?

A. T. Most people would think yes, but it's just the opposite. When they are away on a ship and there is war at home they are concerned, they are hurt. They are looking for good news, truth, peace and purpose. It actually creates a real teachable spirit.

China, for example, is a very hard country for missionaries to get into with the gospel. But when sailors come from China, they'll take God's Word from me as souvenirs from Canada for their mothers or children. I give them whatever they want in their own language





and they take it home and distribute it.

If you had told me when I was in Bible school in the 1960s that I would see a day when God would use lost people to take His Word to other lost people around the world and they would get saved, I wouldn't have believed it. God is saying, If I can't find enough believers to do personal evangelism, I'll use the lost. As long as they use My Word. My Word shall not return to Me void. We've had letters that I've had to get translated which tell us about how people are getting saved.

Maybe you and I couldn't get through customs, but a sailor that has been away for six months is allowed a lot of presents for his family so he brings these Bibles in and no questions are asked.

Uplook How else has the Lord used His saints to encourage you in spreading the gospel?

A. T. One day in the 1970s, the Lord used my good friend Dave Stiefler in my life. I had spent a whole year going up and down the canal passing out tracts, and as far as I knew there were no results from the gospel. Zero. I was disappointed. Brother Dave reminded me about the Bible picture of farming. He said that farmers always plow before they sow. He said, "All these years you've been trying to hit every sailor on every ship with a tract. You need to realize this is God's work; not yours. Don't try to do it all. There are other Christians who will reach other sailors. Key in on a few sailors and plow the soil first so you have a teachable heart and a listening ear. Then you have to water the seed, but it is God that gives the increase."

I was so busy trying to tell them everything I knew and trying to talk them into salvation with all kinds of information. A lot of knowledge and no love goes nowhere. Uncle Dave said, "Remember that God is the one that saves a person. Get out of the way and let Him do His work." I never forgot that advice. When I put it into practice, we started seeing a lot more results.

Uplook Can you give us an example of God working in someone's life?

A. T. Most people, unless they are very shy, want to talk about themselves—what they're interested in, their life, their family. So I try to use that. I ask questions and listen; I figure out where people are at and pray for wisdom to know how to love them. Once I have their listening ear and they know that I love them, they are open when I share the gospel.

When I had been on the canal for about five years,


I came onto a ship and learned that most of the sailors had marriage problems. I asked how their wives feel loved. The only thing they could come up with was to give them money. I suggested they ask their wives what would make them feel loved. They said they weren't good at talking about those things, but a bunch of fellows agreed to write letters to their wives. I said I would pay for the stamps and put them in the mail. In those days a stamp only cost ten cents. The captain was against Christianity and he didn't like me coming onto his ship, but he told me later that he could see a change in the men. They were happier, better husbands and fathers, and doing a better job on board. He heard about these letters and decided to write one to his own wife and snuck it in the mail bucket without telling me. He knew I would pay for his ten-cent stamp. Later on, he read a tract so he had the gospel in his mind.

In 2000, he was dying in a nursing home. He told the Christian nurse he wanted to be saved, so right there they prayed and he asked the Lord to save him. "Make sure to tell Arthur Taylor that I finally did it after twenty-five years," he told the nurse, "All because he was willing to buy me a ten-cent stamp." He died two weeks later. There are so many unloved people out there; it doesn't take a lot of love to get their attention.

Uplook After thirty years of jumping on and off ships, are there still areas of your life which the Lord continue to work with you?

A. T. Every time I go through some persecution, the Lord reminds me that it is His work. I am His servant and He wants to work through me in some small way. He wants to help me love people for His sake. We will have favor with all men, when they see our love.

Uplook What more could be done to see greater results in this ministry with the sailors?

A. T. These men that get saved need discipling, teaching. They need to learn the truths from Romans 6–8 to help them deal with sin in their lives. I'm not a teacher, but it would be great if there were believers who would be willing to spend time with these sailors when they come through, doing Bible studies. They aren't only travelling up and down the Welland Canal. They are usually all around the Great Lakes so Christians in places like Cleveland, or Detroit, or Chicago could get involved. If I knew that someone was willing, I would be glad to have some sailors get in touch with them. 

Conditions for Success

From his book, *“Personal Work in Soul Winning.”*

1. A personal experimental knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

The first condition of success in personal work, and in all soul-saving work, is a personal experimental knowledge of Christ as Saviour. It was because the Apostle Paul could say: *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief”* (1 Tim. 1:15) that he had power in bringing other men to that Saviour. It is the man who knows Jesus as his own Saviour who will have a longing to bring others to this wonderful Saviour whom he has himself found; and it is the man who knows Jesus as his Saviour who will understand how to bring others to the Saviour whom he has found.

A personal, experimental knowledge of Christ as a Saviour includes three things:

- a. Knowing that our own sins have been forgiven because Jesus bore them in His own body on the tree;
- b. A knowledge that the risen Christ is delivering us daily from the power of sin;
- c. An absolute surrender of our wills to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Master.

2. The life is clean within and without.

The second matter to be faced in personal work is really involved in the first, and is a life clean within and without. In 2 Timothy 2:21 we read, *“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.”*

If a man wants to be used by God, he should take sin seriously—not in his outward life as the world sees it, but his inward secret life as it is known only to God and to himself. Those who hold onto sin cannot presume to have power with a holy God, and consequently cannot expect to have power for God. Some with great natural gifts, and unusual knowledge of the Bible, are trying to do work for God and meet with little or no success. People wonder why it is that their work is so devoid of results, but if we knew their secret life as God knows it, we would understand their failure; there is sin before God. It has often been said that “God does not demand

a beautiful vessel for His work, but He does want a clean one.” Of course God in grace blesses when we do not deserve it, and sometimes there is little to show for our work now that the Day will declare, but if we wish to be true witnesses, we must not only witness to what we know but to what we are—saved from sin.

3. Personal work requires a surrendered life, a life wholly given up to God.

Paul was mighty as a worker for Christ because he could say *“For me to live is Christ.”* The miracle of the five loaves and two fishes (Mt. 14:17-21), is deeply significant. The disciples said to Jesus, “We have but five loaves and two fishes.” He said, “Bring them to Me.” We are told—with a good deal of emphasis on the definite article—He *“took the five loaves and the two fishes,”* that is, he took all that they had. It was not much, but they brought it all. Then He blessed it and broke it and there was an abundance for all.

If one of these insignificant barley loaves had been kept back, or one of this little fishes, would there have been enough to go around? The act of giving by the lad was most remarkable in that he gave his all. We, too, may not have much, but if we will bring them all, absolutely all, to Christ, He will take them, bless them and multiply them.

We sometimes talk lightly of absolute surrender to God, but it means more than some who profess it seem to realize. I would ask each reader of these pages, have you brought all to Christ—absolutely all?

4. A solemn realization that all out of Christ are really lost.

Jesus said, *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Lk. 19:10). When He looked on men living in sin, He knew the utter ruin of their condition. The same thing was true of Paul. We read in Acts 20:31 that he *“ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears.”* He knew that if one had not a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ he was eternally lost. This overwhelming conviction that men and women out of Christ are eternally lost seems to be rare in our day, and this is one great reason why so few have

real power in soul-winning. How can we get this realization?

a. First of all, by studying what the Bible has to say about the present condition and future destiny of those who are out of Christ.

b. By believing what the Bible says on these points without trying to tone it down, or make it fit in with the popular notions of the day.

c. By dwelling on these truths about the lost condition of men out of Christ until they take hold on our hearts and we realize their meaning. These things are not pleasant to think about, but they are true, and we ought to think about them until our souls are on fire to save men from the awful condition of utter ruin in which they now are, and from the destiny of eternal despair to which they are hurrying.

5. Love for Christ and for people.

Nothing wins like love. In the first place it leads to untiring effort for the salvation of others. If I really love men, I cannot bear the thought that they should be lost forever, and I will be willing to work day and night to save them from such an awful destiny.

In the second place, love attracts others to us. There is nothing so irresistible as love. It is Christ lifted up on the cross—a revelation of God’s love and of His own love to man—that draws men unto Him (Jn. 12:32). People will not put you off if they really believe you love them, but they will never believe that you love them unless you really do.

We need not only have love to men, but love to Christ. It was the love of Christ that constrained Paul to his untiring efforts to bring men to a knowledge of Christ. The great men and women of Christian history have been the men and women who have had a great love to Christ, men and women whose hearts were all aglow with love to the glorious Son of God.

But how can we get love? First of all, by dwelling on Christ’s love to us. *“We love Him, because He first loved us”* (1 Jn. 4:19). We will never appreciate Christ’s love to us until we see it against the black background of our sin. It is the one who is forgiven much who loves much (Lk. 7:47). The one who has never been brought to a deep realization of his own sinfulness before God will have no warmth of love to that Saviour who, by His own atoning death on the cross, redeemed him from the awful depth to which he had sunk. The Apostle Paul realized that he was the chief of sinners, and that Jesus loved him and gave Himself for

him, so he was full of love to Jesus Christ. *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief”* (1 Tim. 1:15). *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me”* (Gal. 2:20).

If we are to have love to Christ and love to men, the Holy Spirit must impart it. The first fruit of the Spirit is love (Gal. 5:22). If we will look to the Holy Spirit to do His work in our hearts, He will soon fill them with love to Christ and love to our fellow man.

6. Perseverance.

No work requires so much patience and perseverance as soul-winning. Men are not usually won to Christ in a day. You must hold on to men day after day, week after week, month after month, and if need be, year after year. You must not give them up even though you seem to make absolutely no headway at first, and even though you seem to do more harm than good. When you start to lead a man to Christ, keep after that man until he is saved, no matter how long it takes. Study how to get at men who are unreachable. Men who cannot be reached in one way can in another. There are very few people in the world to whose hearts there is not an open door somewhere, if only we will search diligently until we find it. If we cannot get in at the door, perhaps we can break up the roof and get in that way. Any one who wishes to win souls at the rate of one every fifteen minutes had better go into some other business. Take time; never give up; and do thorough work. I waited and watched fifteen long years to get my chance with one man. Never a day passed for all those fifteen years that I did not speak to God about that man. At last my chance came, and it was my privilege to lead him to Christ. He afterwards became a preacher of the gospel, and is now in heaven. I was with him the day before he died, and shall never forget that day as long as I live. When you undertake to bring a man to Christ, never give up.

7. A practical working knowledge of the Bible.

“Every Scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17, RV). In the Bible is all the truth we

need in dealing with men. The Word of God is the only instrument that God has appointed for the salvation of men, and the only instrument He honors is the Word. It is the Word that produces conviction of sin. It is the Word that regenerates. It is the Word that produces faith. *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* (Acts 2:37). *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”* (1 Pet. 1:23).

If we are to be used in soul-winning, we must know the Bible. There are five texts that ought to sink deep into the heart of every personal worker. They are: *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”* (Rom. 10:17). *“Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God”* (Lk. 8:11). *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”* (1 Pet. 1:23). *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God”* (Eph. 6:17). *“Is not My Word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”* (Jer. 23:29).

The personal worker who depends on any instrument other than the Word of God is doomed to failure. But we must have a practical knowledge of the Bible, that is we must know how to use it for definite results. Some have a large theoretical knowledge of the Bible, but no practical knowledge. They do not know how to use the Bible so as to accomplish anything definite by its use. In an inquiry meeting one evening, I asked one of the best Bible scholars in America to speak to an inquirer and show her the way of life, and he whispered in my ear, “I don’t know how to do that.” A small practical knowledge of the Bible is better in personal work than a large theoretical knowledge. A practical knowledge of the Bible involves four things:

- a. How to use the Bible as to show men, and make men realize their need of a Saviour.
- b. How to use the Bible so as to show men Jesus as just the Saviour who meets their need.
- c. How to use the Bible so as to show men how to make Jesus their own Saviour.
- d. How to use the Bible so as to meet the difficulties that stand in the way of their accepting Christ.

8. Fervent, regular, believing prayer.

God honors prayer. In nothing does He honor it

more than in the matter of soul-winning. The one who is to be much used of God in soul-winning, must spend much time in prayer. There are four things for which we must especially pray:

a. We must ask God to bring to us or us to, the right persons. We cannot speak with everyone. If we attempt it, we will spend much time speaking where we can do no good, time that might have been used to accomplish something for Christ. God alone knows the one to whom He intends us to speak, and we must ask Him to point Him out to us, and expect Him to do it. *“Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot”* (Acts 8:29).

b. We should ask God to give us the right message in each case where we do speak with any one. We can learn much by studying what is the right message for any given class of men, but after all our study, we must look directly to God for the right message in each individual case. Many cases will baffle us, but no case will baffle God. We need and must have the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit in each individual case. Every experienced worker could testify to many instances in which God has led him to use some text of Scripture that he would not otherwise have used, but which proved to be just the one needed.

c. We must pray God to give power to that which He has given us to say. We need not only a message from God, but power from God to send the message home. Most workers have to learn this lesson by humiliating experiences. They sit down beside an unsaved person and reason and plead, and bring forth texts from the Word of God, but the man does not accept Christ. At last it dawns upon them that they are trying to convert the man in their own strength, and they lift a short but humble prayer to God for His strength, and in a very little while this “very difficult case” has settled the matter and is rejoicing in Christ.

d. We must pray to God to carry on the work which we have done everything in our power, and our work has come to an end. After having done that which seems to have been our whole duty in any given instance, whatever may have been the apparent result of our work, whether successful or unsuccessful, we should definitely commit the case to God in prayer. If there is anything the average worker in this hurrying age needs to have impressed upon him, it is the necessity of much prayer. By praying more, we will not work any less, yet we will accomplish vastly more.





The Test, the Text, the Triumph

You never know what's just around the corner.

A good Christian friend of ours was abandoned by her husband and left to raise four children by herself. Without financial support, Lorraine struggled desperately to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads. These were years of incredible hardship and discouragements but somehow, through it all, the Lord met their needs and kept them going. To make ends meet, she would sometimes babysit children in her home. Two of these children came from Paul and Robin, a non-Christian couple. Lorraine looked after their children until they reached school age. After that time, there was only occasional contact between the two families.

The years rolled on. Lorraine's children grew up, got married and left home and now she found herself in a new reality—all alone without any seeming purpose to life. In utter discouragement, she called us. We have received many calls like that over the years, but this time Lorraine sounded desperate, despairing even of life. My wife, Sheila and I went over to somehow encourage her. We shared with her that she not only had physical life but that she was alive in Christ

and so we are never without purpose. We asked the Lord to show her specifically what her purpose now would be. A few days later, we received another call from Lorraine and this time she was so excited she could hardly stand it. Here's the story.

Remember Paul and Robin? Let me tell you a bit about them. Paul spent some of his early years in the Toronto area and while there, he attended a children's outreach at a small Gospel Hall. He memorized some verses and as a reward he was given a framed verse of Matthew 6:33 to hang on his wall. The family moved to

a new town, and many after that. Paul said that the first thing he always did wherever they moved was to hang that verse up on the wall of his bedroom.


Paul grew up, met Robin and in time they had two children—the children Lorraine cared for. Life seemed to be going well for them, but in their hearts they were struggling. He had tried drugs, Eastern religions and other philosophies, but still an emptiness prevailed. Robin too was in turmoil and didn't know where to turn. However, she remembered that there was something different about Lorraine and, right at the time when Lorraine was at her lowest, Robin called and asked her if she could come over and talk. She did and Lorraine had the wonderful opportunity of sharing the gospel of grace with her. Robin placed her trust in the

Lord Jesus Christ. No wonder Lorraine sounded so excited on the phone! "I do have purpose," she said. Sheila and I marveled again at the Lord's gracious care for His children. He knows how to lift us up. He truly is "*the God of all encouragement.*"

A couple of weeks later, we got another excited call from Lorraine. This time it was about Paul. He had finally reached the end

of his rope. He had lost his job and in utter despair was ready to take his life. Contemplating this, he looked up at the verse on the wall, "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.*" He said, "That's the answer for my life," and the only one that he knew to call was Lorraine. He did and that day he too trusted Christ. Sheila and I call this "goose-bump stuff!"

I love the way 2 Corinthians 2:14-15 reads in the Phillips paraphrase, "*Thanks be to God who leads us, wherever we are, on His own triumphant way and*



*Seek ye first the
kingdom of God and
His righteousness and
all these things shall
be added unto you.*


MATTHEW 6:33

makes our knowledge of Him spread throughout the world like a lovely perfume! We Christians have the unmistakable 'scent' of Christ..." For Lorraine, even though they were such hard and struggling years, there was still the "unmistakable scent of Christ" in her life. Paul and Robin could sense something different and—like all wonderful fragrances—they were drawn by it. They too were bathed in the lovely perfume of Christ and now carry His scent. What a fragrance!

In the days that followed, Paul had the opportunity of leading his brother Steve and some other family members to Christ. They were all a vibrant testimony of God's grace in their community. About a year later, Steve, who had just become engaged to a nice Christian girl, was killed in a car accident. We will never forget that funeral. The place was packed with mostly non-Christian folks. Many of them had been impacted by Steve's life and testimony. After the funeral, there were small groups of these friends sitting in circles asking questions about God and the meaning of

life. Only eternity will reveal the effect of Steve's short life.

Paul and Robin went on to Bible college and into full time ministry where they are today.

Shortly after Paul trusted Christ, he came over and told me his story. As he was speaking, my mind went back to the workers in that small Gospel Hall in Toronto who so many years ago had a heart for children and did something about it. Among those children was a small boy named Paul. Seeds were planted back there in his young heart that came to fruition years later. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase"* (1 Cor. 3:6). We are always part of a bigger picture. Who knows what God is doing? Sometimes He allows us to see it, but most times it's all part of His "hidden agenda" that will be revealed in eternity. Until then, *"be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"* (1 Cor. 15:58). 

Who Made that Text?

Walter and Wilma Kember's oldest son, James, was killed in a tragic accident in 1956, when he rolled a farm tractor over on himself. Shortly after that, Walter started a ministry for the Lord making gospel texts to give away. Working in the basement of his home in Sarnia, ON, and later in a workshop behind their house, he made the texts in black and white, in similar font style with a simple wood frame. He never used a computer: all of the texts he typeset by hand and were printed by Walter himself. With only occasional help from others on an *ad hoc* basis, he made the frames, cut the glass, and assembled every text.

Over the next forty-two years, *more than 3 million texts* were produced in 18 languages. They were distributed free of charge throughout more than fifty countries. He also had two other people making texts for him—one in Australia and another in England.

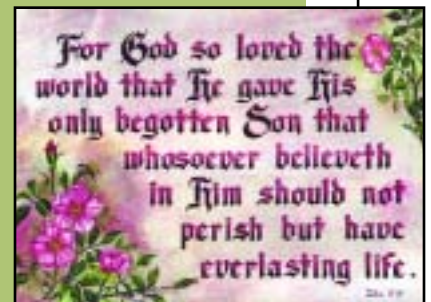
Walter died on January 1, 1999 and that is when the text ministry ended. As it turned out, by the time he passed away, the orders were slowing and the money he had set aside for the ministry was almost

Gospel texts are a great way to get out the Word. Do you have some hanging prominently in your house?

gone, so it seemed that Walter had finished the work the Lord had laid on his heart.

But the production and worldwide free distribution of gospel texts is alive and well. A group of Christians (including some Kember relatives) are active in the work of Seed Sowers, which distributes attractive full-color prints of Bible verses done in calligraphy. Generally a campaign is organized where a group of believers spend several days in an area delivering posters door-to-door. This summer they have eight outreaches planned in various cities throughout North America. They also arrange yearly bus trips to Mexico.

Walter was reluctant to modernize his texts, presenting the Word in unadorned simplicity. The Seed Sowers is an appropriate "graduation" for the text ministry, especially as the expectations of society change.



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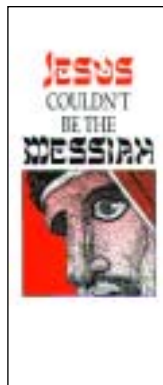
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ARE THERE MISTAKES IN THE BIBLE?

T-*ATE

Of course there are—plenty of them. For example, the mistake Adam made by believing the lies Satan told. This blunder and others were recorded for us as a warning.

ARE THESE GRAPES SWEET? (TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD)

T-*ATG

To taste something is to test it, and that is what God wants us to do with His Word. Don't swallow it without examining the convincing evidence.

ARE THESE GRAPES SWEET? (EN ESPAÑOL)

T-*ATGS

I DON'T TAKE THIS KIND OF SERVICE (FOR GRANTED...) THANK YOU

T-*IDT

Common courtesies are becoming more uncommon all the time. It makes you wonder: what is the world coming to? It is coming to an end!

I'D SAY THANKS A MILLION... BUT YOU'RE WORTH MORE THAN THAT!

T-*TAM

This tract can be given with appreciation for someone who has given good service. Did you know that the greatest person who ever lived was a servant?

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN...? (challenges evolutionary theory)

T-*WTD

WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE... MORE IS SAID THAN DONE.

T-*WAI

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WHEN MONEY TALKS... WHAT DOES IT SAY?

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T-*YAB

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I KNOW SOMEONE... WHO CAN MEND BROKEN HEARTS

T-*IKS

I have a Friend. His name is Jesus. He specializes in healing broken hearts.

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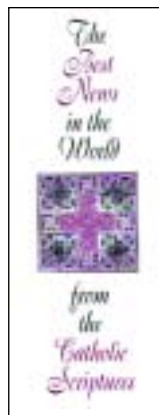
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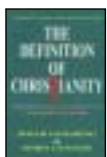
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Weeping for Jerusalem



***“O Jerusalem,
Jerusalem...
how often would I
...and ye would not!”
(Mt. 23:37).***

▷ 'Tis evening—over Salem's towers
A golden luster gleams,
And lovingly and lingeringly
The sun prolongs its beams;
It looks, as on some work undone,
For which the time has passed;
So gentle in its warm embrace,
It seems to be its last.

▷ But a brighter Sun is looking on,
More earnest is *His* eye,
For thunderclouds will veil Him soon
And darken all the sky;
O'er Zion still He bends, as loath
His presence to remove,
And on her walls there lingers yet
The sunshine of His love.

▷ 'Tis *Jesus*—with an anguished heart,
A parting glance, He throws;
For mercy's day she has sinned away
For a night of dreadful woes;
“Oh! would that thou hadst known,” He said,
While down rolled many a tear,
“My words of peace in this thy day!
But now thy end is near.

▷ “Alas! for thee, Jerusalem,
How cold thy heart to Me!
How often in these arms of love
Would I have gathered thee!
My sheltering wing had been thy shield,
My love thy happy lot;
I would it had been thus with thee:
I would, but ye would not.”

▷ He wept alone, and men passed on—
The men whose sins He bore;
They saw the Man of Sorrows weep,
They had seen Him weep before;
They asked not whom those tears were for,
They asked not whence they flowed:
Those tears were for rebellious man,
Their source, the heart of God.

▷ They fell upon this desert earth,
Like drops from heaven on high,
Struck from an ocean-tide of love
That fills eternity;
With grace and tenderness divine
Those crystal droplets flow;
'Tis God that weeps, through human eyes
For human guilt and woe.

▷ Nor *His* alone—the Three in One
Who looked through *Jesus*' eye
Could still the harps of angel bands
To hear the suppliant sigh;
And when the rebel *chooses* wrath,
God mourns his hapless lot,
Deep breathing from His heart of love:
“I would, but ye would not.” —*Anon.*