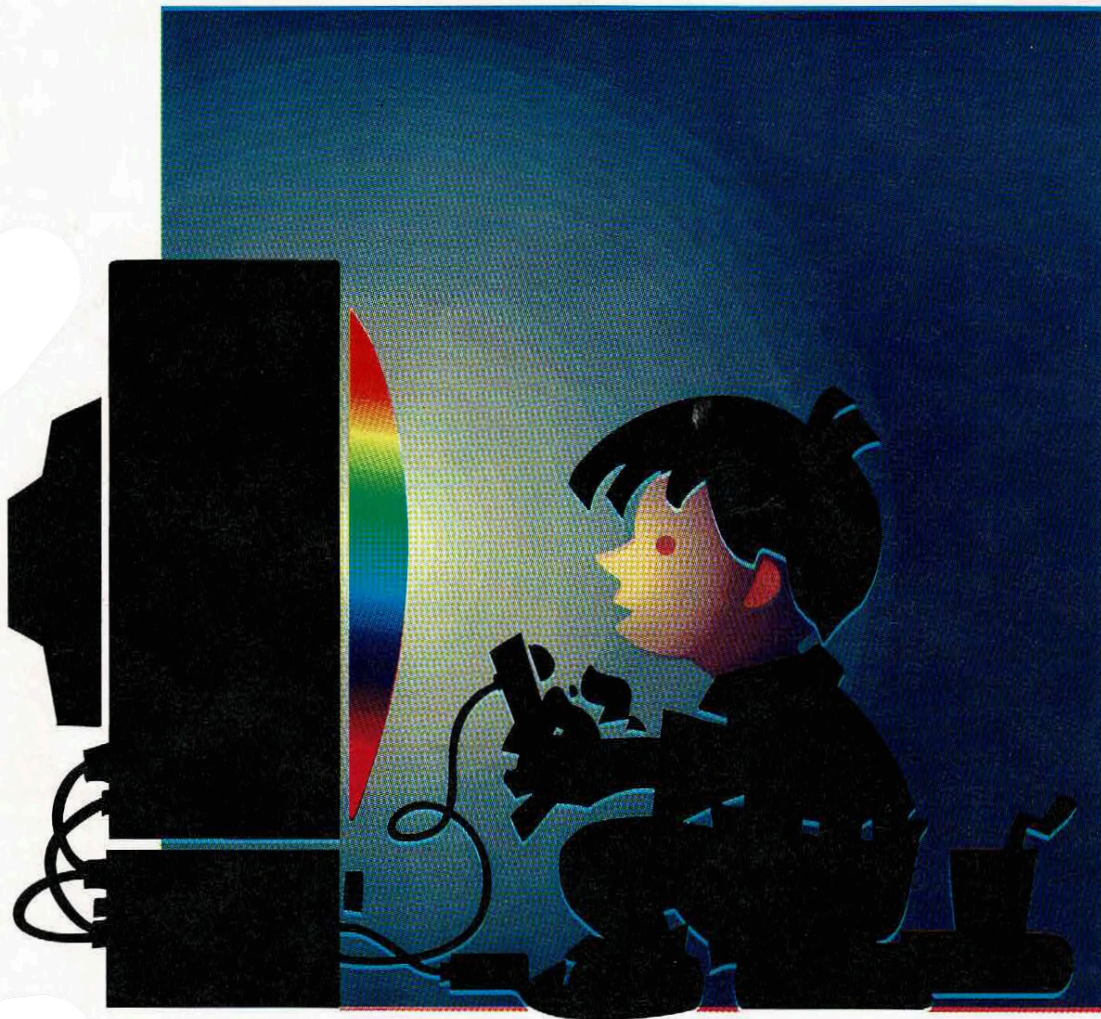


UPLOOK

JUNE 1997



The Battle Over the Family

Tough Times for Us in the West?

Lies My Parents Told Me

Lies My Parents Told Me

J. B. NICHOLSON, JR.

Remember when dads went to work and moms kept the home? Families had problems, but they stayed families. There was one divorced woman in our neighborhood then, and she pretty well wore a scarlet letter.

But things began to change. People stopped believing in "doing your duty." Life was for enjoyment, we were told, and that didn't include the humdrum of housework, child rearing, or making the big effort to keep marriages together. If you didn't enjoy it, let it go!

And let it go they did. At a recent school reunion there, the chairman asked how many of the alumni were married. How many divorced? The second group was as large, if not larger.

Now my parents were old-fashioned. My mom actually enjoyed being a homemaker—or so she said. My dad took his responsibilities seriously as a father, and actually enjoyed it—or so he said. But how could you trust your parents when they told you lies like these:

Lie Number 1: *It's better to do without two late-model cars, designer clothes, a timeshare in Florida, Corian countertops, and a purebred dog, than for both parents to work outside the home.* Can you believe they expected us kids to believe that? How are you supposed to hold your head up if you don't have a polo player on your shirt? Can life have any meaning if you can't afford to have your blue jeans dry-cleaned?

Lie Number 2: *If a couple has children, they are responsible to raise them.* I mean, really! Were my parents suggesting that the idea of mothers (without professional training as child caregivers) looking after their own offspring in their own homes, was *better* than putting their toddlers in the care of qualified strangers at the local day-care center? How could we believe such a thing when the experts were telling us repeatedly that a woman had needs that could only be met in the workplace. And besides, there was no place where children could be nurtured in their formative years like day-care heaven!

Lie Number 3: *If, in some extreme cases, both parents did have to work, or in a single-parent home, arrangements could still be made to raise*

the children without farming them out to strangers. Can you believe it? Of course, my parents didn't have available the years of research and case studies that have proven how fulfilling and liberating it is *not* to raise your own children. The parents' responsibility is to equip their little offspring with the skills necessary to act like adults as soon as possible (how to handle alarm systems, how to operate video machines, how to cook supper in the microwave). Why? So the parents can continue to act like kids! Minimum responsibility; maximum fun!

Of course, my parents weren't telling me lies, even though society at large said they were. And a recent issue of *U.S. News & World Report* exposes what the real lies are. In an article entitled, "Lies Parents Tell Themselves About Why They Work," authors Shannon Brownlee and Matthew Miller cite some helpful data.

Are two incomes a must for life's necessities? Depends on how you define necessities: "When asked in a 1975 survey to define 'the good life,' a majority listed only a handful of things: a car, a lawn, a home they owned; a happy marriage; an interesting job; and being able to afford college for the kids. Twenty years later, the Roper Starch Worldwide survey found that most respondents defined 'the good life' to mean far more in material terms: a job that pays 'much more than average,' 'a lot of money,' a color TV. Four in ten add 'really nice clothes,' a second car, a vacation home, travel abroad...." In most cases, the second salary adds little to the family income. It goes to cover day-care, commuting, meals out, dry cleaning, a work wardrobe, and taxes.

What about day-care? A recent study shows "15 percent of day-care facilities were excellent, 70 percent were 'barely adequate,' and 15 percent were abysmal." And even those in the facilities rated excellent may be in danger of emotional damage. Initial findings from a \$45 million study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development are telling us what my parents knew years ago: When God designed the family, He knew what He was doing.

And that's no lie.

When I was a small fry, I lived in a neighborhood populated with "traditional" families. Dads and moms really were your dads and moms. What a radical idea!



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Be sure to enclose your former address label when sending a change of address. Please let us know of changes six weeks in advance.

FRONT LINES

▷ **GREENWOOD HILLS**

Greenwood Hills (Fayetteville, PA) announces the following schedule of family conferences and retreats for the 1997 summer season:

June 28-July 6, Rob Lindsted and Carroll Van Ryn. Bob Deeds will be the children's speaker.

July 26-Aug. 3, Wm. MacDonald and Alan Parks. Mel Wistner will be the children's speaker.

August 16-24, Randy Amos and J. B. Nicholson. Don Dunkerton will be the children's speaker.

August 29-Sept. 1, (Labor Day Conference) Bob Gessner. Tom Irwin will be the children's speaker.

▷ **CAMP IROQUOINA**

Camp Iroquoina (Hallstead, PA) has two family camps scheduled. Lord willing, the week of July 26-Aug. 2 will have Larry Price as the speaker, and the week of August 16-23 will have John Bjorlie as speaker.

For further information, write to:
Camp Iroquoina
RR#1, Box 176
Hallstead, PA 18822
Phone: (717) 967-2577

▷ **FAMILY CAMP IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES**

Fellowship Chapel in Greeley, CO, has planned a family camp from Sunday, August 10 to Thursday, August 14 at Covenant Heights Conference Center (near Estes Park and Long's Peak). The purpose of the camp is to provide an opportunity for families to share with other believers a time of daily Bible teaching, fellowship, and recreation in the Rocky Mountains. Private rooms are available as well as a campground for those who prefer to use a tent or camper. To obtain an application

form and information about camp fees, contact:

Donald L. Norbie
2601 14th Avenue Ct.
Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 356-0817

▷ **THIS YEAR IN BOULTER**

The Christians at Boulter Gospel Chapel (Boulter, ON) will host their annual summer conference on August 17, in the will of the Lord. The invited speakers are Arnot McIntee (ON) and Wm. Burnett (ON). For more details, call Don Reese at (613) 332-2214.

▷ **UPWARD BOUND '97**

Upward Bound will again be held at Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo, ON), Aug. 17-29. With the encouragement of the saints at Bethel (Waterloo) and Brockview (St. Catharines) chapels, the first week will offer an intensive Bible study at the campus, involving hands-on work led by small group leaders. Other helpful subjects will be addressed as well, such as cults, creationism, and church principles.

Not for those who wish to lie in the sun, it does promise a rewarding spiritual challenge, the opportunity to make new friends, and to enjoy the world-class athletic facilities.

The second week will consist of a canoe trip in Algonquin Park. Price for first week is \$200 CDN (\$160 US), or \$350 CDN (\$275 US) for both weeks. Speakers include Frank Burgess (MO) and Roy Houghton (ON). Others to be announced.

For brochures, either call Saju Mathew at (519) 886-5187 or write S. McEachern at:
Box 212
Drayton, ON N0G 1P0

▷ **MID SOUTH LABOR DAY BIBLE CONFERENCE**

Horton Haven Christian Camp in Chapel Hill, Tennessee, will host the annual Labor Day Bible Conference, August 29-September 1, 1997. Looking forward to ministry from Bill MacDonald from San Leandro, CA. Plan now to attend this special time for the family. The newest facility on the campgrounds is a lodge that will accommodate 54 people in motel-type accommodations, and will be available for the conference. For more information, call the conference grounds at (615) 364-7656.

▷ **CONFERENCE IN WICHITA**

The Westside Bible Chapel in Wichita, KS, is planning a Bible conference for September 19, 20, 21. The invited speakers are Dan Smith and Bob Clark. If you have further inquiries, please contact Arnold Burkle at (316) 721-3354.

▷ **TORONTO LADIES' MISSIONARY CONFERENCE**

Plan to attend "Challenge '97" on Saturday, September 27, to be held at Don Valley Bible Chapel, Toronto, ON. This annual ladies' missionary conference includes an exciting program for girls Grade 2 and up. Speakers expected are Elva Brooks (Zambia), Esther Frey (Puerto Rico), Catherine Hanks (France), and Betty Brooks (Russia). For further information or accommodations, contact:

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

▷ **STORY BOOK LODGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS**

All friends of Story Book Lodge

Christian Camp (Gilbert, MN) are invited to come and celebrate its 50th anniversary on September 13 & 14. The celebration begins with a noon meal, followed by an annual business meeting. After supper, there will be a slide presentation and good camp singing. Sunday includes a morning Remembrance meeting, sharing from the Scriptures, and a banquet.

Story Book has been mightily used by God to bring many to salvation. With the exception of two years in the early 60's, the camp has never charged a fee and the Lord has always provided each day's expenses.

The camp was started by Ben and Jean Tuininga—both of whom remain active in the work. In 1948, eight children were the first Story Bookers for a one-week camp. Today, over 1,000 campers attend 10 different sessions each summer.

Reservations for the celebration are requested. Sleeping accommodations will be provided for as many as the camp will hold, at no cost. Reservations at a nearby motel, the Biwabik Lodge, can be secured for \$60 per night for a room with two double beds. Contact:

Roxanne Rodgers
(218) 865-6663
larryrod@rangenet.com

COMMENDATIONS

Frank and Tammy Burgess

The Christians that meet at the Bible Chapel in Marble Hill, MO, are pleased to commend Frank and Tammy Burgess to the work of the Lord—Frank to an itinerant ministry as the Lord provides and Tammy to the ministry of the El Nathan Home in Marble Hill. This commendation is added to the Burgess' existing

commendation from the Sun Valley Bible Chapel in LaFayette, CA.

Frank and Tammy have been in fellowship with the saints in the Marble Hill Bible Chapel for several years. They have demonstrated a sincere desire to serve the Lord in that they have been faithful in serving the needs of the fellowship and in gospel outreach in the community. They have been very effective in working with the young people. Frank has already served for several years in itinerant ministry and is especially gifted in the preaching of the gospel.

Dennis A. Medeiros

The assembly meeting at Believers Bible Chapel (Hawaii) adds their commendation of Dennis Medeiros to the commendation from Fleming Chapel to the pastoral and teaching work of this new assembly, the propagating of the gospel, and to the love and care of God's people.

Having known Dennis for more than twenty years, having examined his spiritual, moral, and biblical qualifications, and having observed the effectiveness of his spiritual gifts, the saints recognize that he has been called of God to the ministry of the gospel.

Ron and Michele Summers

Camp Iroquoia, near Hallstead, PA, is pleased to welcome Ron and Michele Summers to full-time service. Ron will be serving as the new maintenance chief, and Michele will be filling the need for housekeeping. Ron and Michele, with their five children, Daniel (13), Shannon (11), Ellen (8), Meredith (3) and Joseph (1) moved to the camp on March 27. Your prayers for them and their family as they begin their labor for the

Lord are appreciated.

Dr. Dan and Bertha Williams

The believers at Evergreen Bible Chapel (Federal Way, WA) wish to commend Dr. Dan and Bertha Williams to the work of the Lord in Mexico. Dan and Bertha, along with their two daughters, Rachel and Sarah, have been in Mexico since 1990, having been commended by the East Kent Bible Chapel (Kent, WA). East Kent recently closed their doors and we are pleased to be able to continue their commendation.

The Williams have been involved in evangelism and shepherding, seeking to establish a local assembly in Guadalajara.

The saints at Evergreen Bible Chapel commit them to the Lord as well as to the loving care of others.

Jonathan and Priscilla Hopkins

The believers at Fairview Bible Chapel (Boulder, CO) commend Jonathan and Priscilla Hopkins to the work of the Lord. Their prayers and support go with them.

HOME CALLS

Robert Isringhausen

Our esteemed brother Robert Isringhausen, 69, was called suddenly to Higher Service. Robert was one of the brothers involved in the establishing of an assembly in Springfield, IL, in 1954. The meetings that began in his home met in various rented facilities until a building was constructed in 1958. About three years ago, Grace Bible Chapel moved to a new building.

Robert was active as an elder and Bible teacher since the beginning of the work. He is survived by his wife Camille, three sons, one daughter

Front Lines

and 11 grandchildren.

Anthony Dixon

Tony Dixon's sudden homecall was mentioned in the March issue of *Uplook*. The following testimony should have been added:

Twelve years ago, Tony confessed Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Having been saved from his wayward path, he was a new man. With a passion for lost souls, he earnestly sought to represent his Saviour, distributing tracts and preaching the gospel both privately and publicly.

As he studied the Scriptures, Tony became uncomfortable in his denominational affiliation and began to seek a more scriptural path. He sought fellowship at Wrens Bible Chapel, where he faithfully displayed fervent love and had a zealous ministry encouraging the Christians. Tony will be missed by his family and fellow believers.

NEW ASSEMBLY LISTING Binghamton, NY-Hallstead, PA

Saints gathering in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Binghamton, NY-Hallstead, PA, area are now meeting as Twin Tiers Bible Fellowship. The meetings are held in the A-frame building at Camp Iroquoia. Breaking of Bread is at 9:30 and the Family Bible Hour at 11:00. Contact:

Jim Weisbecker (717) 967-2817
Ron Summers (717) 967-2753
Mike Mrva (607) 748-0664

NEW CORRESPONDENT Springfield, IL Grace Bible Chapel

Floyd Pierce
1517 Maryland Ave., Apt. B

Springfield, IL 62702-2822
(217) 544-7419
fpierce@midwest.net

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Alan Parks
1805 Windmere Way
Myrtle Beach, SC 29575
Phone: (803) 238-4844
Fax: (803) 238-8883
waparks@juno.com

NEWBERRY BIBLE

George R. Berry's *Greek Interlinear New Testament*, as advertised by Gospel Folio Press for \$14.99 (\$20.99 CDN) has the same contents as Newberry's Greek Interlinear.

UPDATED ADDRESS BOOKS

It has been suggested that we remind our readers that if they use the Address Book of assemblies in North America to create a mailing list to various assembly correspondents, that they use the most recent edition. The information contained in these directories changes often. As a result, some assemblies never receive the mailing because it was sent to the wrong person or address.

The *1997 Address Book of Some Assemblies of Christians* (North America) is available from:

Walterick Publishers
(800) 255-4097

AV EQUIPMENT NEEDED

John Small is in need of a reflectograph machine which projects photographs onto a screen. If anyone has one of these machines available, please contact:

John Small
607 N. 37 Ave.
Yakima, WA 98902

ZAIRE UPDATE

Mert Wolcott

In an April visit to Zaire (again called Congo by Kabila's liberation army), I visited the AIM station of Rethy (where the school for missionary children has been for over 60 years), the town of Bunia, and our assembly stations of Nyankunde, Lolwa and Aveba. Everywhere vehicles were taken, and those intentionally disabled by missionaries were destroyed.

Rethy has been so badly torn up by Mobutu's retreating soldiers and local looters that it is difficult to envisage the school's reopening in the foreseeable future. Bunia shows but a shadow of its former bustling commerce.

Nyankunde, comprised of six houses, school rooms, and two hangars, was pillaged and grass-roofed homes burned. Maryen Baisley crouched in her bedroom as bullets clattered off her roof during the battle for Nyankunde in December, and later, with the help of several faithful young men, courageously hid a vehicle, motorcycles, and missionaries' goods, saving them from loss.

At Lolwa, seven truckloads of goods were removed by soldiers from the missionary homes, hospital, and nurses' training school.

Some stations escaped the devastation. Tchabi lost only a truck, Aveba's dispensary was looted, and Itendey lost a car and fuel.

The liberated part of the country is peaceful, but there are signs of potential problems that cause both Zairian and missionary leaders to urge those who wish to return to wait patiently until a new government is functioning.

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The Southern Gospel Team

CALVIN FRITCHEY

Over the past few years, the Lord has laid a burden on the hearts of a few saints in Southern Florida to reach out into our neighborhoods with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. By the Lord's grace, the Southern Gospel Team has developed as a result.

The burden came about as two brethren were in Key West ministering God's Word to the saints there. The small assembly is located in downtown Key West and has a wonderful set-up with a cottage in the backyard. Both brothers have been involved extensively in gospel efforts and, as the idea grew, they decided to discuss it with their four-family Bible study group.

The group began to pray about the possibility and to watch to see if the Lord would open the doors for such an effort. When the idea was mentioned to the saints in Key West, they excitedly gave us the green light.

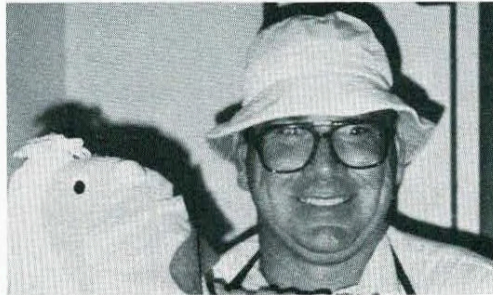
The primary goal of the Southern Gospel Team is to work with local assemblies around South Florida to arrange special outreach programs which include house visits, distribution of tracts, distribution of portions of God's Word, gospel meetings, and other activities. This will help established assemblies grow with new Christians. We also seek to go into areas where there is presently no assembly work and (Lord willing) see souls saved and eventually new local churches planted.

The secondary purpose is to encourage believers to regain the vision of reaching out to the lost and to be obedient to our Lord's commission to go. We desire to provide an avenue of opportunity for anyone who is interested in learning through practical on-the-job training, and to bring together various individuals who are already involved in the work of evangelism so that we might learn from them as well.

One of our commitments is to have no age limit as to who can be a part of the team. Our children have



The families of Paul Thayil, John Titus, and Calvin Fritchey make up some of the Southern Gospel Team.



Calvin Fritchey with his puppet which he uses with a miniature stage to present the gospel.

walked the streets, handed out tracts, sung songs in the open air, and knocked on doors side by side with us. We desire to diligently teach our children the ways of the Lord. We also welcome "the grayer set" and are thrilled to see the two laboring side by side in the service for the Lord. High schoolers, college students, and full-time workers are also welcome.

Over the past two years, the Lord has enabled the Southern Gospel Team to undertake outreaches in Key West, St. Petersburg, Pembroke Pines, and on the beaches of Hollywood, FL. Some efforts were done with the co-operation of the assembly in that area and all were encouraged with the results.

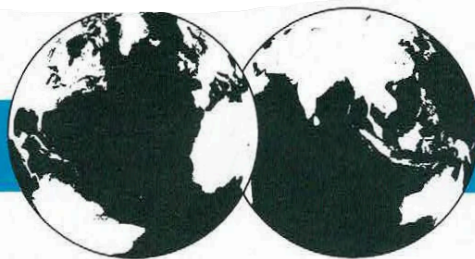
The two outreaches in October 1995 and 1996 in Key West as well as the effort in St. Petersburg have proven to be an encouragement to the team and the local Christians. Each time, unbelievers have attended the meetings and some have professed salvation. In St. Petersburg, every home within one square mile of the assembly received a flyer and people are still coming to the meetings as a result of that campaign.

David Dunlap provided training materials which were used for about an hour each day. The team went out twice a day, but always began with at least 30 minutes of prayer. The days would end with much praise to the Lord and prayer on behalf of all those that were contacted. As often happens when saints join together, many new ideas have been generated which will be used in future campaigns, Lord willing.

Time is short. The challenge is clear. We invite you to consider being a part of the team in any way you can—by joining us, or through your prayerful support.

Southern Gospel Team is fully registered as a non-profit organization. They may be contacted by phone at (305) 273-8318 or via e-mail at sgteam@juno.com.





▷ **MARTYRS IN OUR DAY**

On the morning of April 21, Mansour Hussein was killed by a shot in the head in a Christian bookshop in Arbil, Iraqi Kurdistan. He was discovered by a co-worker on his arrival in the bookshop.

Mansour was an evangelical believer, a Kurd from a Muslim background. He was bold and fearless in the witness of his faith. Fellow Christians in Arbil say that there is little doubt that he died as a martyr, testifying to the truth that is in Christ Jesus. Mr. Hussein leaves a wife and an 18-month-old son.

Christians in Arbil are issuing an urgent plea to the Body of Christ around the world for special prayer. Pray for Mansour's wife, son, and the co-worker who discovered his body. Pray for other believers in Arbil that they might stand firm in their faith. They are specifically seeking spiritual support before the Lord God that the shedding of the blood of Mansour will become the seed of the church in Arbil.

▷ **WORLD HINDU COUNCIL OPPOSES MISSIONARIES**

A militant Hindu group has vowed to oppose attempts by Christian and Islamic missionaries to convert Hindus, the Press Trust of India reported.

Ashok Singhal of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council) said in the city of Sagar that his group would raise an army of about 10,000 Hindus "to counter the conversions of Hindus."

"Christian and Islamic missionaries are responsible for conversion of more than 800,000 poor Hindus" into their religions, he was quoted as saying. Singhal did not say how the

Hindu army would go about opposing future conversions.

The VHP was blamed for the December 1992 razing of the 16th century Babri mosque in Ayodhya that led to bloody Hindu-Muslim clashes across the country. —DAWN

▷ **FALSELY ACCUSED**

A missionary in Guatemala remains in prison after a month of investigation. Eugene Nij (*neeh*), known as "Queno," and his family, have served in San Raymundo for over a decade as part of the New Iberian Mission. They have built an orphanage, a free school, and a number of churches to preach the gospel.

Queno was arrested on what the mission calls false murder charges.

Early in April, two ladies tried to kidnap a baby in the town square (kidnapping is common and out of control). Some merchants heard the mother's screams and went to her rescue. They caught the women and got the baby back—but not before the square filled with a mob of angry ladies who would have killed the kidnapers. Queno heard the news and frantically hurried to stop the riot. The police were already on the scene trying to decide what to do. Queno asked to speak to the women and was able to calm them down. Before leaving to go back across town to finish the school day, he warned the police to send the kidnapers to a jail in another town for their own protection.

The police did not heed Queno's advice and that night, when the men came in from the fields, the women incited them to tear down the jail and kill the women. One woman was killed and another seriously injured.

The corrupt police are holding

Queno responsible for the murder.

That accusation is playing itself out in court. As reports indicate, the judge and prosecutor in the case allegedly broke eight federal laws when they searched for evidence. Another judge and prosecutor will now be appointed to the case. Family members are hoping this will bring about his release soon. Pray for Eugene Nij and his family.

▷ **THE BEAR AND DRAGON**

Signaling a new closeness after decades of suspicion, Russia and China signed a joint declaration that, according to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, will help define "a new international order." The agreement between the world's two largest countries endorses a "multipolar world," a concept aimed at limiting U. S. power and influence. —World

▷ **FAITHFUL IN ROMANIA**

In Romania, evangelical church members aren't giving up despite recent persecution there. Door of Hope International's Paul Popov says more than 700 Orthodox Christians allegedly attacked members of an evangelical church who were renting a hall in northeast Romania. Popov says this violence won't stop their efforts to build a youth training center. "The beating will encourage us that we must do it as soon as possible. And that, when we have summer camps and youth camps for the young people during the summer, we invite Orthodox as well as Protestant children." Popov says the violence won't stop evangelicals from worshipping, either. If the Communists couldn't put fear in their heart, the Orthodox mob is not going to be able to do it, he said.



Interested in evangelism?

**Like to see assemblies across North America
united in a gospel outreach?**

**Are you willing to help gather a harvest by prayer
and hard labor—a harvest ripe and waiting?**



**Then reserve the first two weeks
of June 1998 (D.V.)**

And pray.

And watch this space.

**For their rock is not as our Rock,
even our enemies themselves being judges.**

(Deut. 32:31)

The Parent as Intercessor

ANDREW MURRAY

*We remember Job for his problems,
his pain, and his patience.
But he ought to be remembered as well
for his prayers.*

And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually. Job 1:5

What a beautiful picture of a man in whose heart the fear of God lives! Job feared lest his children sin against God or forsake Him in their hearts. He was so deeply conscious of the weakness of human nature that, even when he did not know of any particular sin in their lives, the very thought of their having been in circumstances of temptation made him afraid. He so fully realized his position and privilege as parent that he took upon himself the continual offering of the needed sacrifice.

The book of Job might have been complete without this illustration, as far as the record of Job's patience

and faith is concerned, but we would have missed the much needed lesson that a parent's consecration to God includes the home life, too.

Let us study the lesson his example teaches.

A deep fear of overlooking sin in himself or his children is one of the marks of a wise Christian.

How superficial our views of sin often are! And how easily we are satisfied! Under the appearance of what is good and loving, sin may be hidden. Our children may be growing up renouncing God in their hearts! Let parents ask God to give them a right sense of what sin is in their children—its curse, its dishonor to God, its power.

Every thoughtful parent knows there are times and places when his child may be more influenced to yield to temptation. A praying parent should do what Job did when he sent for his sons; he prayed for them.

Intercessory prayer is a secret of parental power and blessing. Parents need to pray earnestly that God will enlighten their hearts to prevail in prayer for their children. In our family life, the first consideration should not be our personal happiness or the care of providing all the daily needs but the yielding of ourselves, as ministers of His grace to God's eternal purpose: the deliverance of our children from sin. And our family life shall evermore be lightened up with God's own presence and with the joy of the heavenly home.

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FATHER TO FATHER

*Father, today I bring to Thee
This boy of mine whom Thou hast made;
In everything he looks to me;
In turn I look to Thee for aid.*

*Hold Thou my hand as I hold his,
And so guide me that I may guide;
Teach me, O Lord, that I may teach,
And keep me free from foolish pride.*

—MOUZEN W. BRABHAM

Godly Fatherhood

CRAIG FUNSTON

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Heb. 11:7).

I can hardly think of anyone in the Bible who exemplifies the healthy balance between personal conviction and public expression more than Noah. He exhibits the same balance between his calling as a father and his calling as a preacher—and remains an appropriate model even today.

The text in Hebrews 11:7 spells out every pertinent detail that we need to know of this man. I want to consider him as an exemplary father for all of us. And even if we are not fathers, it would still be good for us as Christians.

THIS FATHER AND HIS FAITH

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet..."

Here was a man who believed God, even in the matter of rain. What was so significant here, of course, is that there had never been any rain before. Not only did he trust God for what he couldn't see, he had to trust God for what had never been seen by anyone.

His faith was more than some issue over raindrops. God called for a boat to be built in a certain way, within a certain period of time. His faith has been described as a *true* faith (he lived up to what God told him), an *active* faith (he carried out a task for God) and a *consistent* faith (he did this over a 120-year period).

We need fathers like Noah today. Our world is as wicked and perverse (Gen. 6:5), as well as corrupt and violent (Gen. 6:11), as Noah's was. If there is anything that should mark us as leaders in our homes, it is faith.

THE FATHER AND HIS FEARS

"Moved with fear..."

These three words pack a wealth of meaning. It wasn't a matter of being frightened: it was a matter of being marked with "reverential care" (Kenneth Wuest). As a man of faith, Noah was able to focus on the future and focus up above—and it didn't look good. He knew that judgment was coming, and that he had better do something about it.

We have seen his active faith; now we have his ac-

We sometimes imagine that the patriarchs had it easy. Country living. Pastoral scenery. No problems but wayward sheep. Oh, really? Noah's generation was so wicked God had to destroy it completely.

tive fears. He was "moved," that is to say, he did something about it. We all have fears as fathers. We have fears *from* some things and we fear *for* some things. There is, if you will, a cause and effect in fear. We may fear the world around us, or the world in our home. We may fear the trends in the churches around us, or perhaps something right in our own assembly. These are causes. And the effects are on our children. But remember, it is a godly fear, a holy concern, that is the issue here. Noah teaches us that we should have a divine concern ("fear") about something, followed by a divine conviction ("moved"). It is one thing to have some sort of upset over some issue, but it is entirely another matter to actually do something about it.

THE FATHER AND HIS FAMILY

"Prepared an ark to the saving of his family"

Noah combined a busy ministry life with his family life—a rare feat indeed. Ministry and family are often placed in one of three categories: Ministry *or* Family; Ministry *vs.* Family; or Ministry *and* Family. In other words, a contrast, a conflict, or a compliment. Noah chose the latter, and so can we.

His ministry model ("prepared an ark") was matched by his family model ("to the saving of his family"). Noah's efforts had a direct impact on his family. As he served, he also saved. My understanding is that they built the ark together. I would call that an *active family*. Do we have any so-called arks that we could build together as a family? This could involve singing together, visiting together, or cooking together; it could mean hospitality, outreach, or campwork.

THE FATHER AND HIS FUTURE

("By the which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.")

The world and eternity are contrasted here. His future lay beyond the raindrops and the ark: he was just

passing through, and his future was in the "things which are above" (Col. 3:1). He was *in* the world, to be sure, but he wasn't *of* the world. In fact, it seems that the text teaches us that his behavior was a real offense to the world around him.

Fathers, do we condemn the world by our actions? If we link the phrase "by the which" with the previous statement, it appears that the condemnation was in how he was raising his family. Do our child-rearing practices condemn the world? Does our family life bring shame upon the world? Or perhaps it shames the Lord!

There is a future here, but it is not our future. We

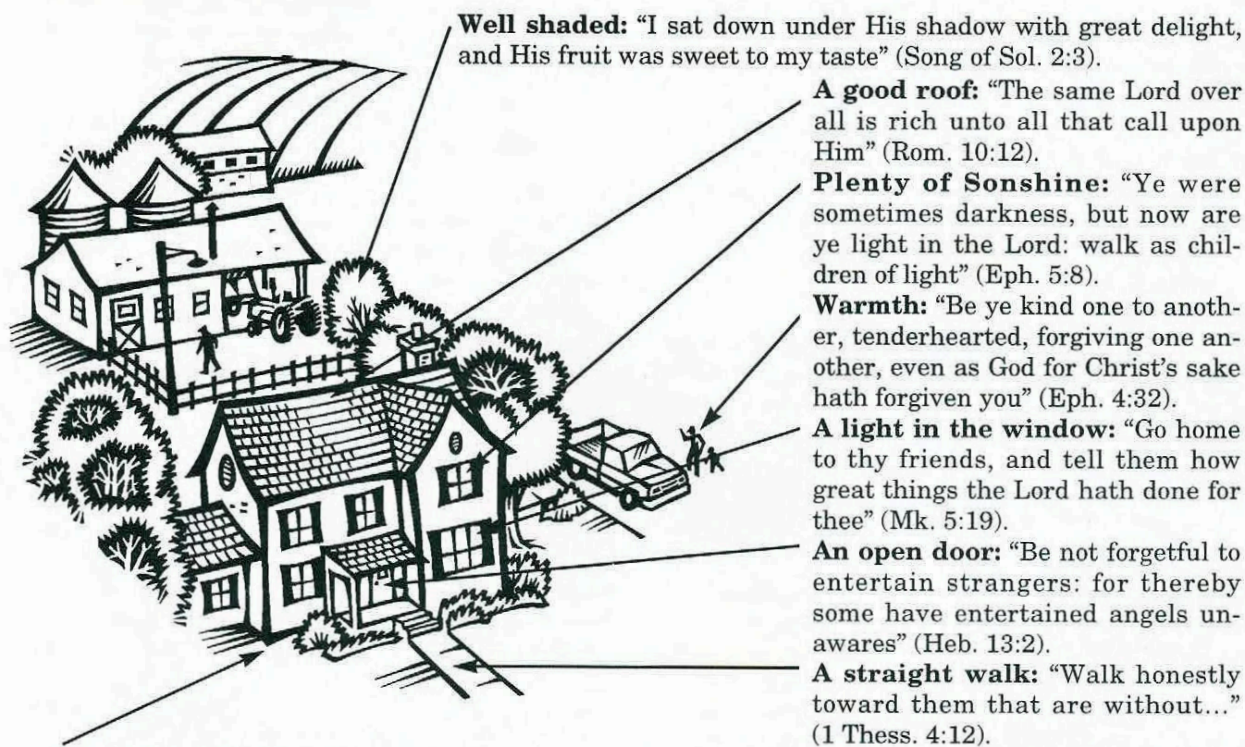
are training our children to serve in the next generation. Are we working at it? It doesn't just happen. It is a combination of everything that we have stated thus far:

1. We must have leaders in our homes who live by faith.
2. We must have leaders in our homes who possess godly convictions.
3. We must have leaders in our homes who know the blend of ministry life and family life.

God help us to follow the Noachic pattern of godly fatherhood in the days to come.

U

The Construction of a Christian Home



Well shaded: "I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste" (Song of Sol. 2:3).

A good roof: "The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him" (Rom. 10:12).

Plenty of Sonshine: "Ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8).

Warmth: "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

A light in the window: "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee" (Mk. 5:19).

An open door: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Heb. 13:2).

A straight walk: "Walk honestly toward them that are without..." (1 Thess. 4:12).

A solid foundation: "As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation" (Prov. 10:25).



RISE UP AND BU/LD 97

Seminar Topics & Leaders

December 30, 1997 through January 2, 1998 at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency, in Dearborn, MI.

Choose one seminar and one alternate for each time slot. Then enter your choices on page 2 of the registration form. We will make every effort to honor your choices; however, seminars will be filled in the order that registrations are received.

The **Youth Track (YTS)** is designed for high school and college age (numbers 3, 4, 14, 24). Of course, they are not limited in their selection to any or all of these four electives.

Five seminars (numbers 5, 9, 17, 32, 33) are *for women only (WOS)* and one (number 6) is *for men only (MOS)*. Two seminars are three-part (25 & 26) and will fill three slots each on your form.

CHRISTIAN LIVING

1. *Family Finances*—DAVID M. ALLISON

A common cause of conflict in families is money. Money matters are mentioned more often in the Word than heaven and hell combined! How can we achieve a balance? Discuss accurate record keeping, planning, budgeting and investment strategies.

DAVID is Trust Services Administrator of Emmaus Bible College (Dubuque, IA), previously serving as Business Administrator. Dave was a director of a Trust Company in Zimbabwe.

2. *Estate Planning for Christians*—DAVID M. ALLISON

We live in a day of unequaled wealth, but with the privilege is corresponding responsibility. The Bible gives guidelines for exercising our stewardship. In this seminar you will be introduced to the tools you need to be a wise steward—through the creation of wills, charitable remainder trusts, etc.

3. *Male and Female Relationships*—JOHN & ANN GORDON

You're not yet married, maybe you don't even date... But you can prepare for marriage tomorrow by conducting yourself in relationships of integrity today. (YTS)

JOHN has been a commended worker in North Carolina for 12 years. Involved in Bible teaching and conference ministry, he is also active in VBS and camps for children in the Southeast. With his wife, Anne, and their five children, John lives in Raleigh, NC.

4. *Choosing a Vocation in the Will of God*—HAROLD SUMMERS

What jobs make the best use of the abilities the Lord has given you? How will your vocation affect your future: for marriage and family, assembly participation, and perhaps full-time Christian ministry? In this seminar you will look at scriptural principles to guide you to that right vocation. (YTS)

HAROLD has been active in the Lord's work in the Vancouver area for many years, serving in oversight, preaching, youth work, and home Bible studies. He worked in government and the forest products industry prior to entering the real estate business.

5. *Valuing the Homemaker*—JOYCE REIMER

Do you feel like the world is passing you by while you're stuck at home washing dishes, mopping floors, and raising kids? Don't buy into the world's lies! Join other women, both part-time

and full-time homemakers, as we explore the value God's Word places on this role. Get a better grasp on how we can have a "Mary" attitude about the "Martha" things in our lives. (WOS)

JOYCE and her husband, Jon, have two teenage sons. They live in Augusta, GA, where they are active at Believer's Gospel Chapel. Joyce's profession was counseling, but she chose full-time homemaking 18 years ago, where serving Him is her life's joy.

6. *Moral Issues for Men*—JOE REESE

This seminar will expose some of the enemy's most vicious attacks on the men of our assemblies. We will note examples from Scripture of those who have fallen prey to the enemy, and those who have found that "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." A must for every man in our assemblies. It will not be taped due to the sensitivity of the issues involved. (MOS)

JOE and his wife, Ann, currently reside in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. Joe began working among the assemblies in 1979, being commended by several assemblies in Ontario in 1983. He is currently involved in evangelism, discipling, and conference work.

7. *Church Values & Family Values*—RANDY AMOS

Are church values and family values in competition with each other? This seminar will dig into God's Book to find solid answers to these and other pertinent questions. In a day of extremes that focus on the family at the expense of God's church or focus on the church at the expense of the family—what does our Lord want?

RANDY was commended in 1980 by Linwood Gospel Chapel (NJ) to a preaching ministry. He, his wife, Sylvia, and their family attend Northgate Bible Chapel (Rochester, NY). Randy travels widely, speaking at camps and conferences throughout the year.

8. *Missions: Answer the Call!*—REX TROGDON

Missions is very much on God's heart. It's what He talks about in His most intimate conversations in the Word. Listen in and you can hear the Call. The Lord Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields." Have you done that? Practical suggestions on preparation for missions—the biblical way.

REX and his wife, Nancy, served the Lord in Zaire from 1983-91. They worked among the assemblies, began a Bible school, and labored among the Pygmies. They make trips back to minister and distribute study materials. Since 1992, their ministry is primarily in their assembly (Charlotte, NC), and in itinerant ministry.

9. *Inner & Outward Beauty of a Godly Woman*—NANCY TROGDON

Women spend billions annually trying to make themselves beautiful. How does our image of the ideal woman compare with the biblical definition of beauty? Explore that question: look at true beauty—the hidden person of the heart. (WOS)

NANCY and Rex served the Lord in Zaire from 1983-91. Since then their ministry has been primarily in North America. They live in Charlotte, NC, where they work with the local assembly, Fairbluff Bible Chapel, and Nancy also speaks to ladies' groups, women's conferences, and girls' camps.

10. *Why I Like the New Testament Assembly*—LARRY PRICE

Is there really any difference which form a church takes? How does form relate to function? What is so great about the design of a New Testament assembly, anyway? This seminar will look at the biblical authority for the assembly, and the blessings and benefits of the church as God designed it.

LARRY was saved out of a rough background in 1978. He and his wife, Wanda, have 3 children. Commended in 1982, he worked for several years in Christian radio, and served for 3 years as director of Camp Horizon (FL). He preaches God's Word, desiring that God's people might be better equipped for His use.

11. *Practical Helps to Worship*—J. BOYD NICHOLSON, SR.

Worship is the highest service for the believer. Not surprisingly, the enemy hates worshippers. Do we rise to this privilege? This seminar will consider the privilege of the worshipper, assess the problems, and encourage the practice of true worship.

BOYD, born in Scotland, was saved as a teenager. He and his wife, Bernice were commended in 1960 to full-time work. His ministry has taken him around the world. He has been a contributor to the Family Bible Hour and to various Christian periodicals. Editor of *Counsel* magazine, he lives in St. Catharines, ON.

12. *Ten Ways to Encourage Your Assembly*—BRIAN GUNNING

Many assemblies feel they are just "hanging on." While no man-made program will secure blessing, there are simple steps found in the NT that we can take to foster encouragement and blessing. This seminar is for builders, not demolition experts.

BRIAN, his wife, Marlene, and their four daughters live in St. Catharines, ON, where they fellowship at Brockview Bible Chapel. Brian is an elder, and has an active preaching ministry, in addition to board responsibilities with *Uplook*, *Counsel*, and the Family Bible Hour. He is a self-employed accountant.

13. *How Can I Be a Peacemaker?*—E. J. CARTER

Sometimes differences between saints become so serious that peace is severed, with ruined testimonies and broken hearts. The Spirit gives us the opportunity to be peacemakers. In this seminar both principles and practices are examined. Topics include: How differences became conflicts; dealing with doctrinal issues, moral issues, and "doubtful things." The profiles of peacemakers and peacebreakers; follow-up to peacemaking; secrets of true peace.

EDWARD (E. J.), in fellowship at Garland Bible Chapel (TX), serves the Lord as an elder and teacher. He and his wife, Mary Ann, are the parents of two sons.

14. *Let No Man Despise Thy Youth*—JOE MIKHAEL

What has the Lord called me to do? We have the privilege of being co-workers together with God. Using biblical examples, with special emphasis on young people, we will find that God has a unique plan for you as a young person in His great work. (YTS)

JOE has recently completed medical school (U. of Ottawa), and is now pursuing specialty training. He has the opportunity of travelling in North America to preach the Word. He has a particular interest in young people, speaking at youth rallies and retreats.

15. *Fellowship in the Local Church: What Is It?*—DOUG KAZEN

The local church is a functional body of saints knit together by the Spirit. A body must function as a unit to achieve its healthy purposes. The foundation of local church fellowship is doctrinal purity. The contrived "unity" based on ecumenism is not fellow-

ship. Also, a body knows which are its component parts. Permissiveness that tolerates fuzzy uncertainty as to who is in or out of fellowship, is not scriptural. Other practical issues to be discussed.

DOUG is founder/owner of a medical and dental products manufacturing firm in Woodinville, WA. With more than 30 years in business, Doug has had ample opportunity to see the needs of people worldwide. An elder for more than 25 years, he travels extensively in a speaking and conference ministry.

16. *Let the Older Women Teach the Younger*—RUTH STEIFLER

Some women of Scripture show us what God wants a godly woman to be. We are always examples, but what are we teaching by our example? How much do we care about younger women? Areas of teaching: home life, Sunday School or children's clubs, camp counseling, women's Bible studies, hospitality, outreach, etc. A very needed ministry today! (WOS)

RUTH was brought up in PA. After nursing, and visiting mission fields, she worked at CMML and camp until marriage. She travels with her husband, directs Greenwood Hills Girls' Camp, and other camp work. They have a hospitality ministry at home.

17. *An Effective College & Careers Program*—DAVID BROADHEAD

Is it possible to have a successful college and careers group in your assembly? Yes! This seminar will show you one method that 3 couples used to grow a group from elementary school to college age. Subjects include: assessing the need, finding helpers, using discipleship, and reaching out to unbelievers. Not much theory—rather a simple outline you can implement with your assembly.

DAVID BROADHEAD serves the Lord at Salem Acres in central Alberta. With his wife, Ruby, and children Cameron and Melanie, he is involved in youth work, camps, and teaching. He is strongly committed to the value of personal discipleship.

CURRENT ISSUES

18. *Ethical Decisions in a Relativistic World*—PANEL

How does a Christian deal with issues such as homosexuality, divorce, assisted suicide, abortion, gambling, and soon, cloning? Living in a world of relative truth, we have the absolute truth of God's Word. This panel of men with medical, legal, and academic backgrounds will address these and other issues. You will discover the *biblical principles* which lead us to right decisions.

JON REIMER, chairman, is a Family Physician in Augusta, GA, and elder at Believers' Gospel Chapel. He is married with two teenage sons and active on the school and camp boards.

JOE MIKHAEL has recently completed medical school, and is now pursuing specialty training. He also travels in Canada and the US to minister the Word and preach the gospel.

RALPH CARR was born and raised in Timmins, ON. He fellowships at Grace Bible Chapel where he serves as an elder. He has practiced law in Timmins for 21 years, being appointed to the Bench as a Criminal Judge in 1991.

JOHN BJORLIE contributes articles regularly to *Uplook* magazine. He has been involved in open-air preaching on university campuses over the last 15 years. He and his wife, Ann, live with their nine children in Grand Rapids, MI.

DOCTRINE/BIBLE

19. *How to Study the Bible*—WILLIAM BURNETT

Get the most out of personal Bible study time. The seminar will not be technical, but will focus on practical helps. Topics: daily Bible study habits; the use of study helps (concordances,

continued on page 19

commentaries, software programs); note taking; study methods.

WILLIE and his wife, Beth, live in Burlington, ON, and fellowship at Hopedale Bible Chapel. Recently retired from an oil company where he managed major capital projects, he now devotes his time to serving the Lord. He contributes to the *Choice Cleanings* calendar and *Counsel* magazine, on whose board he also serves.

20. *Expository Preaching*—WILLIAM YUILLE

Expository preaching is *important, biblical, and relevant!* It involves clearly explaining Scripture so that others understand its meaning and its application to their lives. This seminar includes: What is expository preaching and why is it important? What place should it have in our meetings? What is involved on the part of the preacher? What is involved on the part of the hearers?

BILL was employed by Ontario Hydro until he took early retirement in 1993. As president of MSC Canada, he assists in the office. He and his wife, Naomi (three children), live in Markham, ON, where Bill serves as an elder at Markham Bible Chapel. He is also widely appreciated as a Bible teacher.

21. *Things That Differ*—WILLIAM MACDONALD

Your study of the Bible will be greatly helped if you observe key doctrinal differences. Learn to distinguish between issues such as: Three Tenses of Salvation; Position and Practice; Relationship and Fellowship; Judicial and Parental Forgiveness; the Two Natures; Indwelling, Baptism and Filling; the Church and the Kingdom; Phases of Christ's Return; and Major Covenants.

BILL has, for more than 40 years, spoken plainly and written directly about the key issues of Christianity. His more than sixty works published have been translated into many languages. Mr. MacDonald presently resides in California where he is involved in a writing and preaching ministry.

22. *A Short & Sweet History of "the Brethren"*—JOHN BJORLIE

This seminar will point out those distinctive teachings and activities that bear the impress of God's approval in the so-called "brethren movement." Aware that church history did not begin in the 1830s, we will steer clear of parochial interests, to show how the awakening of the 1800s was influenced by the church at large, and how that awakening affected the church. This generation should know the saints God raised up at this crisis in history.

JOHN contributes regularly to *Uplook* and assists in graphics and editing at Gospel Folio Press. Commended in 1984, he is involved in open-air preaching on college campuses. He and his wife, Ann, (nine children) live in Grand Rapids, MI.

23. *Can We Expect a Pretrib Rapture?*—DR. JAMES T. NAISMITH

The Lord promised to return to take His people Home. Differentiation must be made between the "Rapture" and the "Revelation." Subjects to be considered: the time of the Rapture and who are included; the relationship of the Rapture to the Tribulation; and how the Rapture should affect our lives. The position will be Pre-Tribulation, but consideration will be given to other views.

JAMES was born in India of missionary parents, educated in Scotland, and graduated in medicine (Glasgow). He came to Canada in 1959, practicing medicine through 1983. He then was commended to the Lord's work. His ministry includes teaching Eschatology at Kawartha Lakes Bible College.

24. *Creation/Evolution*—DON GRAHAM

Recent books by prominent professionals challenge Darwinism and philosophical naturalism. Why is this important to believers? Discuss: Why is belief in a Creator crucial to Christianity?

What evidence is there for an Intelligent Designer? Can a creationist be accepted in the scientific community? What are some of the key facts and experiments that challenge evolution? What resources exist if you want to dig deeper?

DON is an elder and teacher from Martin Road Gospel Chapel in metro Detroit. He holds BS and MS degrees in physics and metallurgy. The holder of several patents, he has authored numerous scientific papers. He and his wife, Barb, have 5 children. (YTS)

25. *Contending for the Faith in a Hostile World*—DR. JOHN LENNOX

In the media, courts and government, and in the halls of academia, Christians are ridiculed for their beliefs. How can a Christian face this attack? Is the gospel really intellectually defensible? This three-part seminar will deal with these issues: Is Naturalism, the prevailing world view, logically defensible? The problem of pain and suffering; Do all religions lead to God?

JOHN is a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cardiff, Wales, and a lifelong student of the Word. He has defended the faith before academics in the UK, the US, Russia, and Eastern Europe. With Dr. Gooding, he publishes as biweekly column in the Russian newspaper, *Uchitel'skaya Gazeta* (The Teachers' Gazette), contending for the Christian faith.

26. *The Christian Answer to Pagan Philosophies, Ancient & Modern*

—DR. DAVID GOODING

We are facing the same pagan influences that 1st century Christians combatted. The New Testament has already answered your Gnostic, Stoic, and Epicurean friends. This study will help us understand how non-Christians think. It also should impact our gospel presentation. This is a three-part seminar.

DAVID is professor emeritus of Old Testament Greek at Queen's University, Belfast, and a Member of the Royal Irish Academy. He travels extensively in a Bible teaching ministry and, besides academic works, is the author of helpful expository books on John 13-17, Acts, Hebrews, and Luke.

ELDER/WORKER

27. *Principles & Procedures of Church Discipline*—HERMAN LUHM

While often unpleasant, discipline is necessary for a healthy and fruitful assembly. Church discipline, like every other facet of assembly life, is outlined for us in the Bible. With God's direction and the Holy Spirit's control, this ministry can be singularly blessed by God. Church discipline *can* bear "the peaceable fruit of righteousness" (Heb. 12:11). When and how this process takes place will be the theme of our studies.

HERMAN was born and raised in San Diego, CA. He trusted the Saviour while attending an assembly there, and was later commended to the Lord's work by that assembly. He has served the Lord (chiefly in WV) for more than 50 years.

28. *Shepherds Wanted for the Work of God!*—DR. PETER ACETI

We need qualified, committed shepherds to get to work! Leaving this responsibility unfulfilled, or done half-heartedly is a loss for you and your assembly. Needed: men of conviction, empowered by the Spirit; shepherds who live model lives and stand firm on God's Word. Look at the requirements, characteristics, and work of an elder. Keeping all our responsibilities in balance is demanding, but with the Lord's help, it can be done.

PETER is a Doctor of Optometry in general practice in Sault Ste. Marie, ON, where he is an elder in Queen Street Bible Chapel. His ministries include shepherding and preaching the Word. He and his wife, Marilyn, have two children.

29. *Helping the Poor in North America*—RICH BISHOP

The Lord Jesus came to preach the gospel to the poor. Many of our grandparents were poor. Once saved, however, they became careful with money, and they and their children moved up in the world. Has our assembly lost touch with the poor? How can we make contact? The pros and cons to practical aid to the poor.

RICH and his wife, Betty, make their home in Clifton, CO, where they are involved in assembly life. A teacher by profession, Rich has an upholstery (tentmaking) business which the Lord has used as a means of reaching into the community.

30. *The Changing Face of World Missions*—PATRICK LONG

Travel, communications, education, length of stay on the field—all have changed significantly over the past forty years. Are all of these changes for the better? Or has something important been left out of the equation? Examine these, and other key topics.

PATRICK was born in Angola, the son of missionaries. A graduate of Mining Engineering and a former school teacher, he and his wife, Gael, served in Colombia for seven years. He now is involved with Emmaus Correspondence courses, Everyday Publications, and MSC. Active in an itinerant ministry, he has been an instructor at the CMML/MSC Missionary Orientation Program.

31. *How to Start and Carry On a Prison Ministry*—GERRIT BLOK

Our needy Samaria includes our prisons, which contain the outcasts of our society. Prison ministry may not be for everyone, but it is an excellent assembly outreach. At present, there are 32 assembly-based prison ministries in North America. Learn how you or your assembly can become involved in this vital work.

GERRIT and Susan, from London, ON, became involved in prison ministry in 1980, while Gerrit was a teacher. In 1987, the ministry necessitated their full attention. They were commended at that time to New Life Prison Ministry on a full-time basis.

32. *Be More Effective in Your Sunday School Work*—ANN REESE

Look at ways to maximize the effectiveness of your Sunday School class. We will be addressing such topics as teacher preparation, knowing your students, behavior problems, discouragement, teaching ideas, and resources available. (WOS)

ANN REESE and her husband, Joe, reside in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. They were commended by several assemblies in Ontario in 1983. As well as her role of wife and mother, she currently teaches Sunday School in their home assembly.

33. *How to Reach the Unreached Children*—DEBBIE AULD

The best way is just do it! But few people seem to have an exercise to reach children not exposed to the gospel. Backyard clubs, school clubs, DVBS, Sunday School—the possibilities are endless. Gather some ideas, including materials, methods, and motivation. Explaining laws concerning public schools will dispel the lie that it is illegal to evangelize this mission field. (WOS)

DEBBIE, from Ashtabula, OH, was saved at the age of 11 in a Vacation Bible School. An RN, she left employment after being commended with her husband to pursue an extensive Bible Club work in the elementary schools in Ohio, as well as in her home.

34. *Creative Ways to Evangelize at Special Events*—DAVE STIEFLER

There are many ways to evangelize on special days or occasions—such as Mother's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, and the Christmas season. We will offer samples of tracts that are rarely refused, and encourage you in giving out the Word of God.

DAVID was commended to full time service in 1959 by Blasdel Gospel Chapel, NY. About 18 weeks of each year he conducts Family Week series, using blacklit visuals. Summers are spent in camp work. The rest of the year, he ministers in the home area.

35. *Ministering to Urban America*—KEN HAMPTON

How can we minister effectively in the inner-city? Is a cross-cultural ministry for everyone? Many of God's choicest cross-cultural servants were not of the same race of their converts. But there are problems. Most of these challenges are a result of fear, ignorance, or falsehoods spread by the media. Also the historical perspective: racism, education, employment, and economics.

KEN, a former police officer, now directs the Grace Chapel community Youth Center in Detroit, MI. He is an elder of Grace Chapel and has a deep burden for the needs of inner city youth. He and his wife, Ellen, were commended in 1985.

36. *Relief & Practical Work on the Mission Field*—PANEL

We ought to C.A.R.E. for our brothers and sisters in need. This panel of men, who have been involved in helping during disaster or poverty relief, will discuss: Communicating the need; Accountability of finances; Responsibility for resources; and Effective testimony of workers. Objectives and blessings in practical relief.

SAM CAIRNS, moderator, has served for many years as an assembly elder. He was involved in retail and wholesale management positions until he and his wife, Beth, recently moved to Uplook Ministries. He oversaw major assembly relief work following the 1979 hurricane disaster on St. Lucia/Dominica, West Indies.

37. *Opening Doors in Your Neighborhood*—JIM PAUL

This seminar will cover some aspects of reaching neighborhoods with the gospel: how to approach people; what to expect at the door; some of the barriers people put up; ways of overcoming those barriers. Jim will also look at steps in soul winning—where to start, what to include, and how to do follow-up.

JIM and his wife, Elizabeth, were commended in 1980 from the assembly in Broxburn, Scotland, and by the Kanata and Ottawa assemblies in 1990, serving for the past nine years in the Ottawa area in camp, prison, hospital, and door-to-door outreaches.

38. *The Evangelicals: an Assembly Perspective*—DAVID DUNLAP

Compromise and toleration of secular trends is beginning to define the evangelical church in North America. Biblical doctrine, aggressive evangelism, and separation from the world have given way to religious entertainment, cooperation with Roman Catholics, and embracing worldly principles to attract the lost.

DAVID was saved at college. After working in New York City's financial district, he was commended by Bethel Bible Chapel (Middletown, NJ), to Belgium (1983-89). He lives in Tampa, FL, laboring in teaching and evangelism. Editor of the *Bible & Life Newsletter*, his articles have appeared in *Uplook* and *Milk and Honey*. He and his wife, Faith, have three children.

39. *Readable Writing*—WILLIAM MACDONALD

Christians have the greatest of all messages, and, with the written word, they can reach into places that they could not go personally. But the message must be written clearly, simply, and interestingly. What are the ingredients of good writing? What are some of the things that should be avoided?

BILL left a promising business career "at the foot of the cross." He has been involved, worldwide, in the spread of the Word of God. His more than sixty works published have been translated into many languages. He presently resides in California.

Harold St. John

JOHN BJORLIE

Harold St. John (1876-1957) preferred to have his name pronounced *sin-jun*, feeling that the title of "saint" was too superior sounding. But if anyone wanted an example of saintliness, they could have pointed in Harold St. John's direction.

His father had a government position as the treasurer of Sarawak, a state in Malaysia. Later his family would also spend time in Germany and Belgium. After his mother, Blanche, became a believer, she quickly applied the principles of Christian child rearing to her home. By God's grace, Harold and his five siblings came to know and love the Lord Jesus. In their stays in England, the St. John family had Bible teachers such as W. J. Lowe around the tea table, and Harold recounts paying visits to old veterans like Charles H. Mackintosh.

Harold was eighteen when he definitely came to know Christ.

I remember the day—I shall never forget it, when I saw my Saviour with the giant's head in His hand, unchallengeable proof that the work of salvation was eternally finished, for He had destroyed him that had the power of death, and, through fear of death, had imprisoned those who all their lifetime were subject to bondage. And since that day, when I knew my Saviour had destroyed the giant and broken his power forever, and carried the witness of His victory up to the City of God—since that day, I have never known the slightest challenge or fear in my heart as to my eternal security in the Lord Jesus Christ...He has triumphed, He has gone up to God, and by His mercy I am going there, too.

About this time, he secured a position at a London bank. His normal workday lasted nine hours, after which he would catch a quick tea and march off to a preaching appointment. Vacation time was given to helping Lord Radstock in his evangelistic work on the continent. To mix in with the highbrow element would have been natural for this oh-so-proper Englishman. But he had already set his course, and his brush with

At the close of a meeting, a lady said, "Mr. St. John, I would give the world to know the Bible as you do." With a courteous bow the preacher replied, "Madam, that is exactly what it costs."

from Harold St. John, A Portrait by His Daughter



aristocracy did not turn his head. Percy Rouff worked at the bank, too, and said that he never saw him dawdle, on the street or in life. Together they would descend to places like "The Mile End Waste" to preach in the open air. Ada Habershon also did personal evangelism among the street people of London and Harold helped. He was willing to do this kind of work, but it did not come naturally to the upscale bank employee.

Many nights he preached in the open air, or in flop houses, but was disturbed by the way his less fortunate audience took to his message:

When I was quite young I used to go down to the slums of London. I would go into a common lodging house on a Sunday night dressed in a frock coat and a silk top hat and I would stand there with a Testament in my hand and preach and preach, and be very much surprised that the people did not listen to me. I was enormously impressed at their iniquity! Here was a young man in a frock coat and a silk top hat, and they didn't even listen to him! Then I discovered the reason why they would not listen. I got hold of the oldest suit I could borrow and in the pocket of that suit I placed the sum of four pence. In the evening I went, with the ragtag and bobtail of the district, to that lodging house where two or three hundred men were to sleep for the night.

I sat where they sat, and the fleas that bit them bit me; the same crawly things that crawled on them crawled on me. I spent some nights in that dreadful chamber silently listening to their needs and woes. Then at six o'clock one morning, when they were getting their breakfast, I arose and began to speak to them. Now I found there was not the slightest difficulty in obtaining their attention. I understood how the seas of life were buffeting them, and they were perfectly willing to listen to a man who had sat where they sat.

The greatest day in our history was the day when it came to the heart of God to draw closer to us than He had ever done before, after forty centuries of dwelling in cloud and thick darkness. But He did not send His Son

Harold St. John

to start preaching some code: when our Lord went into the business of Redemption, for thirty years He never said a word of public ministry. For thirty years He sat where men sat and listened to their thoughts and experiences. For thirty years He knew hunger, weariness, poverty, and the cares of that little home. Then He began to speak. And the world has been listening ever since.

The Lord Himself had become his objective, and thereafter a mediocre Christian experience could not be tolerated. He complained about delivering "a dispiriting lecture to a handful of resigned looking people. London is a freezing place spiritually." But in that chill atmosphere Harold overcame. The intensity of his early Christian life shows in his diary entries.

"Jan. 8. Hall full and prayer meeting after. Is revival beginning? O God, give me purpose in prayer. Guard my lips from folly and open them for testimony.

"Jan. 15. Hall full, but, oh for power! True teaching and natural freedom useless. Why is it withheld? More prayer and obedience to the will of God. A watch tells time if in harmony with the universe.

"Jan 29. Hall well filled. By grace some power, but it is not revival. Oh, let it come; my heart breaks for it. I haven't begun to live the Christian life. I need ways directed by the Word and sympathies in harmony with the mind of Christ.

"Feb. 24. Spent all night in prayer with M.G. Preaching next day, voice failed and spirit, too. Wonderful stories of revival in Wales. Why not here?"

In April of 1905, Harold enjoyed a taste of that longed for revival in a fishing village of St. Ives in Cornwall. He had taken his Easter vacation to hold gospel meetings with his older brother Arthur when the blessing fell.

"11th. Crowds at first meeting. Fifty more came in at 9:30. Five cases of conviction. Left the hall at 11:00. I sorely need wisdom to direct.

"13th. Five to ten cases of conviction. I spoke on 1 Corinthians 14:34. Rowdiness in the meeting. Stayed till midnight with backsliders. Two young men confessed grandly. One dropped down on the floor crying,



Harold St. John with his sons and daughters.
Left to right: Hazel, Farnham, John, Oliver and Patricia.

'If that's the gospel, I accept Christ.'

"14th. T.C. broke down and came out well for Christ. A fine brother's meeting re converts. Several more till midnight. Beginning of real opposition.

"Wed. Reaping day. Nine cases of conversion. One said, 'I needn't go upstairs; I received Christ here.'

"Thur. Landlord of the Inn closed his pub, saying, 'I can't serve God in this business.'

"Fri. Huge overflow; many turned away."

At the close of those meetings three hundred people came out to see the St. John brothers off on the train. Decades later, they still spoke of that season of blessing. Can we attribute these results to natural talents? Percy Rouff said, "St. John, with his powerful voice and fluent tongue, drew and held the crowds with his graphic word pictures and his youthful, ruddy appearance. Either alone or with one other, he would go to Hyde Park and preach to the crowds." Yes, there was natural ability. But we judge by the fruit that there was an immense hidden root system in his life that drew on God's supernatural powers.

Once St. John stood in the private chapel of Keble College, Oxford, viewing a copy of Holman Hunt's masterpiece, *The Light of the World*, when some tourists sauntered by. The guide intoned, "The original of this picture was sold for £5000." Before the words had died on the air, St. John's own voice announced: "Ladies and gentleman, may I add that the true original of this picture was sold for thirty pieces of silver." Only silence followed Harold's words. The stunned tourists lingered long enough to let this message penetrate, and, with new reverence, filed out of the chapel.

In 1913, he astounded his superiors by resigning

from the bank in order to pursue missionary work. His manager asked, "How will you live, and who will provide for your expenses, since you are not going out under any recognized missionary society?"

Harold answered, "I'm going out to do God's work. God is sending me, and God will provide."

"Well, St. John, I wish I had your faith."

In July of 1914, he married an equally devoted Christian, Ella Swain, and that fall they sailed to Buenos Aires, Brazil. Harold's experiences among the slum dwellers was good training. Their home there was infested with beetles and other creeping things that would immerge from the cracks and crevices at night. The legs of their camp beds stood in pans of kerosene to deter the ones that could not fly. There Ella learned to share a kitchen with four other families. Such were the St. John's romantic missionary beginnings.

When expecting their first child, Ella received news that her father was gravely ill back in England. They elected to have Ella sail to England, to be with her father and wait to deliver her first child. This disruption to their family life was worsened when Ella and baby Hazel could not return to Brazil because of World War I. Harold and Ella accepted these awkward and difficult situations as a part of God's will in their lives. The love and spiritual reality that reigned in the St. John home by all accounts was true.

Harold had linked up with Homer Payne and gone on extended missionary trips into Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina, often by horseback and on foot. Then in 1917, he and Stuart McNair began a more localized teaching ministry in Carangola, with a Bible School, stating, "Our chief desire is that there may be an atmosphere of prayer and spiritual power, in order that, while progressing in study, there may be still more progress in the knowledge of God."

In 1921, he left Brazil for a trip to British Guiana, and to pursue an expansive itinerant ministry. From there he extended his ministerial confines beyond South America to the Northern Hemisphere, the West Indies, Europe, North and South Africa, Palestine, Australia, and New Zealand. He co-labored with many honored servants of Christ, including E. H. Broadbent, Harold P. Barker, C. F. Hogg and W. W. Fereday.

Fred Mitchell, the home director of the China Inland Mission, was a dear friend who said that St. John

"knew his Bible better than anyone else in Britain." His extensive studies in God's Word have recently been made available by Gospel Tract Publishers of Glasgow in 2 large volumes (available from Uplook Ministries). Reading them, we can see why F. F. Bruce referred to St. John as "The Maestro" and said: "For detailed acquaintance with the text of Scripture he had few equals."

Evangelist Eric Hutchings wrote: "Mr. Harold St. John has been one of the greatest spiritual influences of my life. It was he above all others who inspired me to get down to a detailed study of the Bible, to seek the plain and obvious meanings of the words, rather than to attempt to see typical meanings, sometimes abstruse and remote, in everything. By this sane, prayerful approach, the true typical teaching of Scripture emerged. In other words, he taught me that it was necessary to go to the Scripture first and let the Word of God unfold itself, rather than to get hold of some dispensational or typical outline and force the interpretation of such a meaning. He stayed with us in Manchester many times during the years 1935-1945, and even when he was not staying with us, we would lunch together once or twice a week to discuss the things of God. My last meeting with him was typical...It was the last time I saw him...his face radiant with the glory of God."

This word "radiant" was used repeatedly to describe the currents of joy that friends saw in him. There was a luminous quality about his face. He was tall, his hair had turned a clean white, and a rosy shine seemed to come from beneath the skin of his face. A man who enjoyed a long walk to his preaching appointments, he would stride along, his lips moving in what he called "perambulatory prayer," arms swinging, oblivious to passersby. Once in the pulpit, he stood before the saints and, without looking at his Bible, would recite from memory the passage to be studied.

His final year was spent in Abergele, North Wales, where Ella's sister was headmistress of a girls' school. Brother St. John's closing Bible teaching was to the pupils. Nearby in Malvern was the Gospel Hall where the family met with the believers and where he had baptized all of his five children.

In a letter to Ella he wrote, "Take plenty of time for peace and quiet, and keep a good wide margin for giving thanks for the children. We have been so terribly

happy in all five—and in the three daughters-in-law. You met me at the foot of the hill, and I am nearly at the top, but oh! what a lovely climb it has been, and what a world of wealth and music they have brought us—and what a joy that we are all, without exception, one in Christ Jesus.”

To the end, Harold St. John kept himself in the sunshine. From his deathbed he said, “I am too weak to pray, I am too tired to love Him much, but I’m just lying here, letting Him love me.” In and out of consciousness, he would murmur, “When I go in to see the King it will be very bright...the King in His

beauty...pure, cloudless joy...it’s all gone, all my sins, all my fears...only Christ now...I’m the happiest man alive...It’s all bright, all bright!”

MATERIAL FOR THIS ARTICLE WAS TAKEN FROM:

Fredk. Tatford, *That the World May Know, Volumes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10*, Echoes of Service

Patricia St. John, *Harold St. John, A Portrait by his Daughter*, Pickering & Inglis

The Collected Writings of Harold St. John, Vol. 1 & 2, Gospel Tract Publications

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Lifting Sixteen Years of Heavy Baggage

I was standing by the side of the road not long ago, with two heavy bags. There were no buses and I was about a mile-and-a-half from the conference which I wished to attend, so I asked the Lord about the matter and told Him my position.

Just as I was telling Him, a man drew up and said, “Excuse me, can you tell me where such and such a place is?”

I said, “It’s three miles up the road.”

He looked at me and said, “Can I give you a lift?”

“Thank you,” I replied. After I’d been in the car a few minutes, I said, “Do you know what I thought of as I got into this car? It’s a word in the old Book that says, ‘Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.’ Do you know anything about that?”

He stopped the car, swung round on me, and said almost fiercely, “Why do you say that word out of the Bible to me? The last time I was in church, sixteen years ago, the minister preached on that text, and I’ve never darkened the door of a church since.”

“Well, what was wrong with that Scripture?”

“Oh,” he said, “he read the beginning of some chapter, ‘Bear ye one another’s burdens,’ and then he read almost in the next verse, ‘Every man shall bear his own burden,’ and I asked the clergyman what he meant by those verses, and he said he didn’t know.”

“Very well,” I said, “we will look it up for one moment. For there are two words for burdens. The first, in

the verse, ‘Bear ye one another’s burdens,’ means a load under which a man is staggering. It is a simple exhortation to kindness, to do as Christ did. In the next verse, the word ‘burden’ is a nautical word, the word sailors use; it’s used of the cargo of a ship. Now a ship’s captain never wants anyone else to carry his cargo, for he would lose all his profit. And that means that everyone must carry his own burden of responsibility.”

“Is that really right?” he said.

“Yes,” I answered, “and doesn’t that look as though the Book is not so stupid as you thought? Now you just drive up to that place where I’m going, and we’ll sit down in a quiet corner. We’ll go over those sixteen wasted years; then I’ll tell you what the Lord Jesus has done for me, and what He can do for you.”

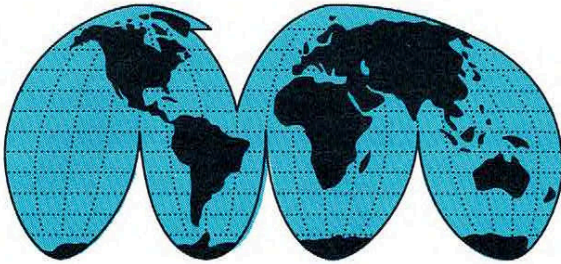
So there we sat for nearly an hour in a side road, and I preached to him Jesus.

I gave you that illustration to show you that you meet the strangest, most out-of-the-way people, and thousands of them are ready, if we will only preach to them of the wisdom of Christ. It is extraordinary to see how grateful people are that someone takes an interest in a stranger’s soul. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, for the sake of the people around who are dying without Christ. We know the way out of the wilderness, and they don’t; we have the key to the dungeon, and they haven’t; so for our own sakes, for their sakes, and for His sake, let us say so.”

—H. St. John

Raising Families in the West is Tough

IS IT?



Of course it isn't easy to raise children in a pagan society. But if we only compare our country to the way it was 40 years ago, we miss the true picture. Compare it to Turkey or Sudan!

Information from VOICE OF THE MARTYRS 1997 special issue

Afghanistan: Non-Muslims are denied freedom of assembly, and open profession among refugees has often led to deaths. Islamic radicals rule the country.

Azerbaijan: Although Azerbaijan officially guarantees religious freedom for all, the nationalists are becoming more Islamic and anti-Christian.

Bangladesh: One of the poorest nations on earth, Bangladesh suffers from overpopulation, flooding, and cyclones. Believers are often denied access to public water wells by Muslim extremists.

Bhutan: Buddhism is the state religion. All public worship, evangelism, and proselytism is illegal.

Brunei: Constitutional guarantees for religion are eroding; no evangelism is allowed among Muslims. Only Islam is taught in the schools. The government routinely bans religious teaching materials and Bibles.

China: With its high population, China experiences more persecution than any other country. Even so, an estimated 3,000 Chinese come to Christ each day! China's new "Strike Hard" policy has brought increased pressure against Christians; Bibles are regularly confiscated and believers jailed or beaten.

Comoro Islands: All open witness is forbidden in this Islamic state. Less than 1% of the population knows Christ, and any meeting openly are persecuted.

Cuba: Although some material help and Bibles are being carried in by Christians from the West, this last bastion of Communism in the Western Hemisphere is hard on believers. Some are imprisoned; most are suffering privation; all are restricted in their witness.

Iran: Shi'a Islam is the state religion. The press is censored. Ministry among Muslims is prohibited, and spies are infiltrated into Christian groups.

Laos: Evangelism is strictly prohibited, and it is illegal to bring in foreign literature. Christian leaders are jailed for their faith.

Libya: No form of witness is allowed from Christians, who compose less than 3% of the population.

Maldives: All citizens are required to be Muslims. No Christian places of worship are allowed, and open witness can result in severe punishment.

Mauritania: Only Sunni Muslims can be citizens. The only Christian church service allowed is restricted to foreign Christians. The constitutional guarantees of religious freedom do not extend to Christians.

Oman: Only foreigners are allowed to legally practice Christianity. There is only one indigenous group known to exist, with about 20 believers.

Pakistan: The government is attempting to "Islamize" all public life in this country. There is a blasphemy law here that calls for life imprisonment for any who insult the prophet Mohammed.

Qatar: Qatari Christians have suffered much for their faith. Witness to Muslims is forbidden and only foreign Christians are allowed to meet.

Saudi Arabia: When Islam gained control in the land of Mecca 1,300 years ago, all Christians were expelled. Things are not much brighter today. Even expatriate Christians are not allowed to meet. Anyone evangelizing faces jail time, expulsion, or even execution.

Sudan: The Christians here are facing unparalleled persecution: entire villages are slaughtered; children are sold into slavery; hundreds of Christians a day are perishing at the hands of Muslim extremists.

Space does not allow us to tell of Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Tibet, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Uzbekistan, or the believers who raise their families in animistic societies. *Oh, God! Keep us from our whining complaints. Help us to appreciate that we can live "quiet and peaceable" lives in these lands (1 Tim. 2:2). Help us to pray more earnestly for our "brethren in bonds." Show us how to buy up the opportunities we have on every hand!* **U**



Sing unto God, sing praises to His name: extol Him that rideth upon the heavens by His name JAH, and rejoice before Him. A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in His holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families: He bringeth out those which are bound with chains. Psalm 68:4-6

A number of graduate students at the University of Chicago, when asked where they got their main ideas on morals and religion, replied, "Through the conversation of our family at mealtime."

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:27

A young couple on a train were obviously newlyweds off on a honeymoon. A silver-haired man leaned across the aisle and asked, "Is there a third party going with you on your honeymoon?" The couple were bewildered. The old man added, "When Sarah and I were married, we invited Jesus to our marriage. One of the first things we did in our new home was to kneel and ask Him to make our marriage a love triangle—Sarah, myself and Jesus. And all three of us have been in love with each other for over fifty years!"

A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones. Proverbs 12:4

When alone, watch your thoughts; when in a crowd, watch your tongue; when with your family, watch your temper.

Dwight L. Moody once wrote of his boyhood: "Dad died when Mother was forty-one. What a struggle she had with us; six besides myself, and then the twins were born after father's death...I can hear Mother now, solemnly adjuring us to walk in the ways of God, as she read from the big Bible to us. After Father died, Mother wept herself to sleep every night, my sister said, and yet we younger ones who slept soundly in our blissful ignorance, knew it not. She was always cheerful to us. Brave old Mum! Her motto was: "Give others the sunshine, tell Jesus the rest."

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which He hath given thee under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 9:9

A successful parent studies the art of speaking in the spirit of love, by striving to make his whole life an attractive example of what he has taught. —Andrew Murray

No better advice for parents has ever been given than that offered by Moses: "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house." The idea was to make the law of God penetrate deeply into the minds and hearts of the growing generation by weaving it into daily living.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Ephesians 6:1-3

JUST DESSERTS

One handful of forgiveness; one heaping cup of love; a full pound of unselfishness. Mix together smoothly with complete faith in God. One teaspoon of good nature for flavor; then sprinkle generously with thoughtfulness. This makes a wonderful dessert for the family!

Five Widows

JAMES FORD

It is the privilege of some of us who are serving the Lord overseas to have praying for us some faithful elderly sisters, who give themselves unstintingly to the ministry of intercession. This ministry may be hidden from men, but it must be very precious in the sight of God, and there is no doubt that we, as the Lord's servants, benefit greatly thereby, in ways known and unknown.

This is no new thing. There are many records in the Holy Scriptures of the devotion to the Lord of honorable women, and I was recently impressed by the fact that in Luke's Gospel alone there are no less than five widows specifically referred to. Their characters and circumstances vary tremendously. In fact, one can say that perhaps the only thing they have in common is that they were in fact widows, yet each one of them has, I believe, a very definite message for us.

Four of these were real living persons, and the one of chapter 18, although a parabolic character, may well have also been a living personage whom the omniscient Christ used as the subject of His story. Let us

consider these five widows individually and seek to deduce the varied, yet united testimony which they bear to help us in our Christian walk and service.

THE GODLY WIDOW
(Lk. 2:36-38)

Anna had probably been a widow 84 years; married 7 years; if, therefore, she were in the region of twenty years of age at marriage she was approximately 111 years old when her long life of worship, consisting of day and night fast-



“Widows indeed” should be highly valued in the assembly. If before their bereavement they have “washed the saints feet,” they should be cared for by the believers and encouraged in an ongoing ministry.

ings and supplications, was crowned by the wondrous sight of the Promised Messiah, then but a babe in arms. In this gracious woman the words of Psalm 84 were exemplified: “How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord...Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house: they will still be praising Thee.”

This saintly widow, we are told, departed not from the temple. To her it was divinely revealed that this child was none other than the Lord's Anointed. She spoke of Him to all that were looking for the redemption of Israel. From this first widow we see clearly that consecration of life results in certainty of testimony.

THE GENTILE WIDOW (Lk. 4:25-26)

The Saviour used this Sidonian widow as a unique illustration of the truth that a prophet is unacceptable in his own country. In the days of Elijah there were many widows in Israel, but to this Gentile woman the prophet was sent in an hour of desperate famine. Space forbids our going into all the details of God's amazing provision for His servant in the humble home of this poor widow, and of the blessing which she herself received in consequence. Suffice it to say that I believe the Lord referred to her in that synagogue at Nazareth to show us all that if we refuse to accept into our hearts and homes the gracious ministry and person of Jesus Christ, then this great benediction will go to others. There is a special word here for any in Christian homes who may read this magazine and are as yet themselves unsaved. Grasp now your opportunity of salvation by trusting the Saviour before it is too late.

There is, of course, a second lesson which lies right on the surface, and it is this—in providing for the Lord's servants, your barrel of meal will never empty nor your cruse of oil fail.

Five Widows

THE SORROWING WIDOW (Lk. 7:11-17)

Have you ever pictured in your mind that tremendous scene at Nain so long ago? Here we have two throngs of people, moving in opposite directions, and following different persons. Drawing near to the city is a great crowd following the life-giving Son. Coming out of the city is a second crowd following a lifeless son.

When these two opposing throngs meet, something is bound to happen. Someone must triumph. The issue is never in doubt. "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise."

"He that was dead sat up and began to speak, and He gave him to his mother." The widow's sorrow was turned into joy, and she reminds us that in the person of Christ, death, our greatest enemy, has met its Master.

THE PERSISTENT WIDOW (Lk. 18:1-8)

We do well, when our prayer life is flagging, to get back to this amazing parable. Here was this widow unwelcome, unwanted, calling for justice, coming to a man in authority who was unjust, unmerciful, and selfish to the last degree. Despite all these discouragements she got what she wanted, simply because she wanted it badly enough to keep on when the cause seemed lost. What a contrast to our privilege as children of God! We are invited to come; we have an Advocate before the throne; we have the all-prevailing Name in which to make request, we are promised the ear of a righteous God, who is also our Father and who

loves His children. Shame on us, then, if we do not pray. Brother, sister, remember this widow. Pray always, and faint not.

THE POOR WIDOW (Lk. 21:1-4)

I always feel that the most significant thing about this dear woman's giving was this—she had two mites and she gave them both. Had she given only one she was still exceeding by 40% her obligation to give 10%. But she gave all she had—100%. The all-seeing eye of the Son of God saw not only the size of the gift, but the size of her love and gratitude to God. Hers was indeed true worship.

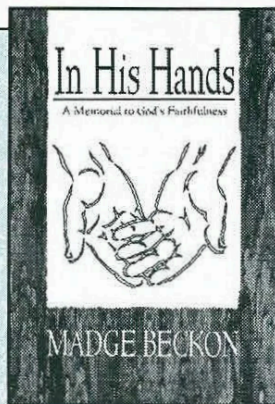
The Gospel record does not follow her footsteps, penniless footsteps back home from the temple, but we may be assured of one thing—that poor widow did not die of starvation! Her message to us simply cannot be mistaken: give as unto the Lord, and not as unto men. Someone has said, "Christianity affects us in three stages—first, our heads; second, our hearts; third, our pockets; but between the second and third stages there are cataracts broader than those which block the Nile."

In conclusion, let us hear again the message of the five widows:

1. Live a consecrated life.
2. Receive the grace of God.
3. Triumph in Christ.
4. Pray without ceasing.
5. Give sacrificially and joyfully.

Refuse old wives' fables, but follow the wisdom of these widows!

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NEW!

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Three Cheers for the Sunday School!

BRIAN GUNNING

Whatever the social changes that have taken place over the years and their damage to the Sunday School, none can overcome the power of the gospel to reach boys and girls. It is true that we need not cling to an outdated program just for tradition's sake. But there is reason to believe God can do a mighty work again in the Sunday School. Here are some suggestions of ways to improve the Sunday School.

1. We need to think of the Sunday School in terms of a work for God rather than a program to manage. In discussing Sunday School work of the past with older Christians, I discovered that what made the Sunday School was work done by dedicated teachers who loved children. Too often the Sunday School is a program we operate: a certain number of classes are arranged; a corresponding number of teachers must be found, and a last-minute plea is made to fill the ranks. Curriculum is ordered and programs planned. While a certain amount of order is needed to work together, the real vision of Sunday School is reaching boys and girls with the gospel. Years ago, teachers were prayer warriors, Bible students, home visitors, chauffeurs, and Sunday School picnic enthusiasts. This is what made Sunday School alive and the kids knew it.

2. We need to remember children are lost. I suppose it is pretty much official—we live in a godless, pagan society. The dysfunctional family is everywhere. We are easily moved by their poor home environment. But these are mere symptoms of the power of darkness. It was a hopeless, pagan society that the early apostles turned upside down. Children are perishing. The Sunday School can reach them.

3. We need to use Sunday School as a training ground for young believers. This takes work. It is not a matter of just throwing them into responsibility and seeing how they do. Under the watchful eye of interested elders and the superintendent, young people can learn responsibility, Bible study, dealing with people, problems, discouragement, and blessing. Here is one place where future workers are developed. Many elders, preachers, missionaries, deacons, and hard

working saints got their start in Sunday School.

4. We need to immerse the Sunday School in prayer. Think about keeping information before the assembly. Keep it specific and interesting. Provide lists of teachers to be prayed for. Spreading missionary news goes back to New Testament days. It was a good idea then; it is a good idea today. Keep praying those kids into the kingdom.

5. We need good curriculum. The temptation is too great not to mention *Modular Bible Lessons* from Gospel Folio Press. *Modular Bible Lessons* are based on a proven strategy in building spiritual truth the way the Bible does. Many curriculums today are designed for the widest possible church market—big on artwork and light on content. There is a subtle message of salvation by good works in many products. Teaching little Mary to be obedient to Mommy or not to be afraid of the dark is pointless if we haven't first taught Mary about her need of a Saviour to overcome her disobedience and be her Friend in the dark. Check out your curriculum. Does it demand Bible study on the part of teachers, or has it done all the work requiring only ten minutes on a Saturday night? No wonder kids get bored in Sunday School. If teachers aren't moved by the message, don't expect the kids to be.

6. We need to love the kids. You can't beat love. It gets everyone's attention. It beats TV, videos, and computer games. Children respond to genuine attention and affection. It is the means whereby the gospel gets an audience.

7. We need to keep the singing bright and Bible-based. Kids will sing if there is something to sing about. There are lots of good choruses and gospel songs with a message and a melody. Throw out the stuff that doesn't line up with the Book and get those kids singing.

The Lord Himself spent time with children. The disciples turned children away in the middle of an adult conversation, but the Saviour was willing to be interrupted to take them up in His arms, and bless them (Mk. 10:16).

Three cheers for the Sunday School...for of such is the kingdom of heaven. **U**

We need a fresh vision of the Sunday School. Too often we hear about what the Sunday School used to be and not enough about what it can be.



How Important is the Family Anyway?

WARNING: CURVE AHEAD

The answer seems obvious. Of course the family is important! Our western civilization is collapsing for this very reason: people have lost sight of the importance of the family. Leisure activities, career advancement, financial security, just about anything comes before family today. The family is the building block of society, and when the family crumbles, the society is doomed.

In all fairness, however, we must ask another question: Why does the New Testament have so little to say in directly addressing the family? Are there a few dozen verses? Apart from Ephesians 5:22-6:4 and Colossians 3:18-21, there are a few scattered references in 1 Timothy 4 and 5 and Titus 1 regarding elders and deacons, 2 Timothy 3:14-15 regarding Timothy's personal life, and Peter's exhortation in 1 Peter 3:1-7.

When the Lord discussed family issues, He repeatedly called us to recognize a higher claim on our loyalty: *"If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple"* (Lk. 14:26; see also Mt. 19:29). Did He mean that?

We can draw inferences from His blessing little children, attending a marriage in Cana, and reuniting family members who had been severed by death. Did Christ think the family was important? Of course! He designed it. Why, then, is there so little about the family in the New Testament? And why so much about the church? Is He telling us something?

Some Christians are putting all their energies into the family at the expense of the church. Others are prepared to leave their assembly to find a large congregation where their children will have more activities. How often we hear the refrain: "My parents put the assembly first and we suffered for it. We're going to put the family first!"

But is it one or the other? Has the Lord forced us to choose one and lose the other? Did He give us two wonderful gifts—our family and His fam-

It's important to get a little different perspective on issues now and again. It's also important to test views against the Word of God.



ily—so we must decide for only one?

It's easy to overreact to the carelessness of the pagan world regarding family by seeing our human family as the most important thing in life. It can become a kind of extended egotism. I can excuse my self-centered lifestyle by saying, "It's not for me, you understand. It's for my family."

Many of God's people, frantic because of the decay around them, are looking for some fool-proof formula that will guarantee success with their children. Parents *do* have a solemn responsibility, but children have their own response. Remember that the best Father in the universe has had much heartache with wayward children!

One is hard pressed to find model families in the Bible. With few exceptions, the families featured in the Word of God would be labeled dysfunctional by society today. You know the stories. The first son in history commits patricide. Abraham, father of the faithful, takes an Egyptian slave girl to bear him an heir, then disposes of her in the desert. Isaac's family, rife with favoritism, is torn apart at the seams. Jacob's boys hate their young sibling, Joseph, and plot first to kill him, then to sell him into slavery in Egypt.

The sordid tale continues. Eli has scoundrels for sons. And what of Samuel's sons? Or David's? Or Solomon's? New Testament families fare little better. Our Lord's own half-brothers, reared by godly Joseph and Mary, mocked His claims.

There are bright exceptions. Othniel and Achsah. Ruth and Boaz. Loyal Jonathan. Resolute Abigail. Timothy's mother and grandmother (where were the men?). Aquila and Priscilla; Andronicus and Junia; Rufus and his mother.

Such a review teaches us to be vigilant for our families, to seek to be a bright exception to the rule. Of course, our families are important! But never forget that earthly relationships will no longer function as such in Heaven's country. The best thing you can do for your family now is to set their sights on eternal things and invest your lives together in God's Forever Family.

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A Prayer for the Household Robert Louis Stevenson

Lord, behold our family here assembled.

We thank Thee for this place in which we dwell;

For the love that unites us;

for the peace accorded us this day;

for the hope with which we expect tomorrow;

for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies that make our lives delightful.

Let peace abound in our small company.

Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge.

Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere.

Offenders,

give us grace and strength to accept and to forgive offenders.

Forgetful ourselves,

help us to bear cheerfully the forgetfulness of others.

Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind.

Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies.

Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors.

If it may not,

give us the strength to encounter that which is to come,

that we may be brave in peril,

constant in tribulation,

temperate in wrath and in all changes of fortune,

and to the gates of death loyal and loving to one another.

As the clay to the potter, as the windmill to the wind, as children to their sire,

We beseech of Thee this help and mercy for Christ's sake.