

# UPLOOK

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AUGUST 1995



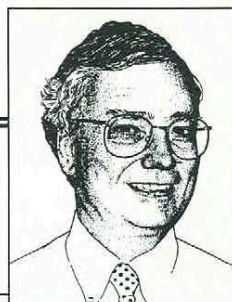
## It's Time

*REVIEW & REWARD*

*A CALL TO FAITHFULNESS*

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*LEXINGTON95* SEE DETAILS IN MIDDLE EIGHT PAGES



## It's Time

*Time, like  
the tides,  
ebbs and  
flows across  
the soul.  
In fact, the  
word tide is  
derived from  
the Middle  
English word  
for time.  
And whether  
at flood tide  
or ebb, it  
leaves its  
indelible  
mark on the  
spirit. Such  
times also  
leave their  
mark on  
eternity.*

**T**he young groom fidgets nervously in the anteroom, supported by his best man. Butterflies practice aerobatics in his stomach and a trip hammer works overtime in his ears. He thinks he can hardly stand another minute of this heart palpitation, this perspiration running in rivulets down his back, when the door opens: "It's time," says the smiling attendant.

We anticipate with joy the marriage of our son on September 30, Lord willing. As John and Janice prepare for their nuptials, vivid memories of our own marriage rise up from their secret place of storage, wrapped carefully in the intervening years, as fresh as the day they were laid away. We are as delighted in the Lord's plan for them as we were for our own—it's flood tide in our lives.

The family gather around the hospital bed. The stifling heat goes unnoticed. The room decor means nothing. The emaciated figure on the bed has been the object of more love and prayers in the last nine months than most people receive in a lifetime. Several times the doctor has warned that the young mother has only hours left. On more than one occasion her husband has been summoned from work for the final moments. But hours creep into days, then weeks, until the Father speaks the word: "It's time." With a final shuddering of the weary body, her spirit finds release.

On Friday, August 18, my brother Bill's wife, Rona, beat us Home. We wish we had all gone together, but it was not to be. For those who prayed that she would get better, their prayers were answered in a remarkable way: she didn't get better; she got best. And yet, though we rejoice for her, we cannot help but feel the ebbing of the tide—indeed, the neap tide at its ebb. For some of us, the waters have seldom run so low.

I was preaching somewhere years ago and quoted (or rather, misquoted) a passage from the book of James. I gave it like this: "Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that ap-

peareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will (this I emphasized), we shall do this, or that" (Jas. 4:13-15, JBN revised version).

After the meeting, an older brother gently rebuked me for leaving out the most important phrase in the verse! "It says, 'If the Lord will, *we shall live*, and do this, or that,' he stated emphatically.

He was right, of course, but why make an issue out of a few words? Didn't my version give the main idea? I thought to myself.

Then he explained. "You see, I have cancer. Every day I live, it's only because He wants me to live. 'If the Lord will, we shall live...' he quoted again so I wouldn't miss it. How could I? I had seen the sparkle in his eye, heard the certainty in his voice. He knew that if the Lord willed him to live another day, all hell couldn't change it. And if it was time to go, high-tech medicine, macrobiotics, vitamin E, faith healers, and all the apricot pits in Mexico couldn't keep him here. What a relief it is to know that our times are in His hands!

One of these days, the Place will be ready, festooned for the Social Event of the Ages. The Bride will have finished her white linen gown, one stitch at a time. The Special Music, composed in the darkness on a hill outside Salem's gate, will be ready to be presented to the Church of the Firstborn choir. The Bridegroom, having borne the billows that could not quench His love, now is about to crest the swelling tide of glory that will cover the earth "as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14).

The Father of the Groom will speak the word: "It's time." The Son will not need prompting. Time to plow up those hallowed furrows of "them which sleep in Jesus." Time to bring His long-awaited Bride home. Time to wipe those tears away. Time to unite families and friends severed for a while. Time to see Him, be like Him, with Him forever.

Oh, Lord, how long?

P.S. It's also time to send in your application for *Lexington95*. See middle spread. **U**

## UPLOOK

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## Too Good to be True

*In 1919, Charles Ponzi of Boston, MA, defrauded his clients by using current contributions from investors to pay off past investors at high returns. John G. Bennett, Jr. did it again. What are the lessons to be learned?*

**T**here were some groups conspicuous by their absence from the list of creditors, and others embarrassingly included. When the "double your money in six months" Foundation for New Era Philanthropy filed for bankruptcy on May 15, they listed \$551 million in liabilities and \$80 million in assets. Much of the money came from well-meaning donors who had sent gifts to about 100 religious ministries whom they thought were in need of their funds. Or so they had been told.

Evidently in most cases this was not true. Tens of millions of dollars are floating around the evangelical world, and apparently even that isn't enough. The Christian groups holding these assets—including International Teams, Moody Bible Institute, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Wheaton College, Youth for Christ, World Vision, Scripture Union, and Compassion International, to name a few—obviously were looking for more. Enter, John G. Bennett, Jr.

It's hard to believe that so many savvy financiers could believe Bennett's story that he could double their money in six months. Albert J. Meyer, the accountant who blew the whistle on the scheme, tried and failed to convince people at Moody, Wheaton, and his own college at Spring Arbor that this was a classic scam. His inches-thick file was labeled, "Ponzi-file: If it quacks like a duck, walks like a duck, and looks like a duck, could it really be a duck?" Eventually he went to the SEC.

The *Wall Street Journal* which ran a series of articles on the story, quoted Mr. Carnes, a member of the International Research Institute on Values Changes, who tried to discourage colleges from participating in New Era's program. He had little success: "They could just taste the money. I've never seen anything like it," he stated. "The weakness around the mouth, the desire in the eyes. I've always heard the expression, 'You can see greed written,' but I've seen the reality."

Not all these investors were motivated by

greed. Although the reasoning of Wesley Willmer,

board chair of the Christian Stewardship Association, rings hollow: "Greed suggests that organizations wanted more than they needed," he says (*Christianity Today*, July 17, 1995). Have we stopped believing that "My God shall supply all your need..."? If we need it, God will supply it.

Some blame a trusting attitude in the evangelical community, fostered by Bennett's associations and by word of mouth testimonies of others who had received paybacks. But it is a dangerous combination when our trust is mixed with promises of large amounts of money. "If a promise of return on an investment sounds too good to be true," reminds the Canadian Council of Christian Charities newsletter, "it probably is."

What are the lessons to be learned by rank-and-file believers who take their financial stewardship seriously?

A little healthy skepticism is a helpful thing. The Bible calls it discernment. Don't assume that everyone with a nice letterhead and a Christian-sounding name is doing "God's work God's way." Do a little checking. Albert Meyer says there is simply no substitute for financial statements. Ask godly Christians for recommendations.

Consider giving to ministries who follow the New Testament pattern for the Lord's work. Are they building up local assemblies? Or do they see local churches as handmaidens of para-church organizations, rather than the other way around? Do they solicit funds, promoting themselves, rather than simply looking to the Lord for His provision?

If the New Era scandal causes Christian empire builders to reassess what they are doing, and causes believers to realign their giving to match their biblical convictions instead of greasing the squeaky wheels, it will have provided a worthwhile, though costly, lesson. —J. B. N., Jr. with Lynn Cretney

**We're not naive dupes, I don't think.**

—former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, and New Era investor, before its collapse

**U**

## Front Lines

### A DOUBLE BLESSING

The Twin Cities area assemblies will be hosting the 84th Bible Conference in this area during the Labor Day weekend, September 1-4, 1995. Speakers expected: Liddon Sheridan (AL) and Keith Trevolt (KS). Meetings for children and young people.

Glen Ellis  
4549 5th Street, N.E.  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421  
(612) 572-1379

### FOLIAGE CONFERENCE

Honeyrock Ministries, Inc., begun by Mark Kolchin (NJ) to arrange conferences for the Lord's people, will be sponsoring a Fall Foliage Conference, September 18-22, 1995, with Tom Taylor (PA). The conference will be held at Camp-of-the-Woods, a deluxe conference center in the Adirondack mountains near Speculator, NY. The cost is \$245.00 per person. Contact:

Honeyrock Ministries, Inc.  
c/o Mark Kolchin  
P.O. Box 305  
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

### OPEN HOUSE

The 28th Annual Banquet and Open House of the Yonkers Gospel Mission Home will be held September 30 at 5:00 P.M. Speaker expected is Art Auld (OH). Contact:

Yonkers Gospel Mission  
191 North Broadway  
Yonkers, NY 10701  
(914) 968-6577

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The dates of October 3-5 have been set for this year's National

Workers' and Elders' Conference to be held at Kenilworth Gospel Chapel (Kenilworth, NJ). For lodging or information:

Don Dunkerton  
c/o Kenilworth Gospel Chapel  
103 South 23 Street  
Kenilworth, NJ 07033  
(908) 709-1373

### CONFERENCES ARE BIG IN TEXAS

The 1995 Houston Conference will be held, D.V., on October 6-8; hosted by Colonial Hills, Marvel, and Pineview Bible Chapels. Speakers this year are William MacDonald (CA) and Steve Hushizer (PA). Contact:

Dale Peters  
10507 Glenway Drive  
Houston, TX 77070  
(713) 469-3601  
Frank Martin  
21411 Tophill  
Spring, TX 77388  
(713) 353-0354

### MEN'S CONFERENCE

Southwest Bible Camp (Glenwood, NM) announces their 25th Anniversary Men's Conference on October 6-8, 1995. Gary Thompson, administrative director of Rawhide, Inc., will be the speaker. Send registrations to:

Dr. James Leeman  
Southwest Bible Camp  
9929 N. Black Mesa Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85742  
(520) 744-8564

### WOMEN'S MISSION CONFERENCE

North Ridge Bible Chapel (Raleigh, NC) will be hosting the Southeastern Women's Regional

### SORRY FOR THE DELAY!

You're receiving your August *Uplook* in September for several reasons: summer holidays and ministry activities have slowed us down, but the good news is: we have finished our *Modular Bible Lessons* curriculum—all 7,706 articles, plus artwork, plus verses, plus covers. That's 147 manuals and 1,365 papers! Thanks to everyone who helped us complete this monumental project in this our SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR at GFP.

Missions Conference on October 7. Expected speakers are Christine Schneider (Austria) and June Peck (Zaire). Contact:

Diane Weber  
(919) 876-5671

### THE MAINE ATTRACTION

The Spring Hill Gospel Hall will be hosting their Annual Bible Conference October 7-8. Roy Hill (UK) and David Adams (ON) will be the speakers. For more information, contact:

Dan Chick  
95 Maple Street  
Westbrook, ME 04092  
(207) 854-4968

### COLORAMA

Greenwood Hills Bible Conference & Camps will be hosting their annual Fall conference experience—Colorama I and II on October 9-13 and 16-20. Speakers Jim Harvey (NH) and Bob Gessner (PA) are expected. Contact:

Greenwood Hills  
7062 Lincoln Way East  
Fayetteville, PA 17222  
(717) 352-2150

### PRAY FOR THE GOSPEL

The Westmount assembly (Peterborough, ON) anticipates a week of gospel meetings with brother Joe Reese, Oct. 8-13. You can make a prayer investment!

### OUGHT'A GO TO OTTAWA

Ottawa Valley assemblies will be holding their Fourth Annual Fall Youth Conference, October 13-14, at Bridlewood Bible Chapel (Kanata, ON). Bruce Langevan (PEI) will be speaking.

Shawn Abigail

(613) 820-9720

or E-mail to:

ad873@freenet.carleton.ca

### LAND OF THE SKY

The Asheville Gospel Chapel (Asheville, NC) will be hosting the Land of the Sky Bible Conference on October 21, 1995. Herman Luhm (VA) and Dr. Harold Wells will be speaking. Contact:

Walter Peck

15 Bent Tree Road

Asheville, NC 28804

### UNDER THE PALMS

The Annual Women's Missionary Conference at Park of the Palms (Keystone Heights, FL) will be held October 27-28, 1995. Lord willing, Doris Pitman (Angola), Janet Anderson (Papua New Guinea) and Christine Schneider (Austria) will speak.

Park of the Palms

c/o Marion Barr

706 Palms Circle

Keystone Heights, FL 32656

(904) 473-4926

### STUDY ON WORSHIP

Share an intensive study on worship at Turkey Hill Ranch and Bible Camp, October 27-29.

Keith Trevolt and John Heller are the speakers. Children's meetings available. Cost \$30.00 per person, \$60.00 per family.

Turkey Hill Ranch

Rt. 71, Box 190

Vienna, MO 65582

(314) 744-5843

### MISSIONS—WESTERN STYLE

Tucson Bible Chapel (Tucson, AZ) will be holding their Annual Missions Conference on November 3-5. Speakers expected are Bill Clark (Guatemala) and Joe Reese (ON). The theme—*Doors and Barriers to Church Planting*. Accommodations are available:

Jim Yencarelli

2324 N. Norton Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85719

(520) 795-3194

### CALLING ALL FATHERS AND SONS

Sons, fathers, and father's fathers are invited for a Father and Son Retreat at Camp Iroquoia (NY) on November 10-12. Randy Amos is the scheduled speaker. For further information, contact:

Jim Weisbecker

(717) 967-2577

### THANKSGIVING IN FLORIDA

The Carrollwood Bible Chapel (Tampa, FL) will be hosting a Thanksgiving Bible Conference on November 17-18, 1995. The theme for this year's conference is *The Lordship of Christ*. O. J. Gibson (CA) and James Naismith (ON) will be speaking. Meal and nursery provided. Contact:

John Bromfield

16202 Pebblebrook Drive

Tampa, FL 33624

(813) 960-1302

### HOMECALL

Rona Nicholson, after an heroic battle with cancer, entered heaven on Friday, August 18, age 35. She leaves her husband, Bill, and three young children.

The last nine months since her diagnosis have evidenced such an outpouring of prayer and untold kindnesses, only the love of God could be its source. Rona's hairdresser, who attended the funeral, said she was determined to find out what made these Christians different.

The funeral was attended by more than 400, many of whom were unsaved acquaintances. Pray that the Word spoken and the silent witness of God's grace will bear a harvest for the Lord. The family is deeply grateful for the saints' love and the Lord's enabling in their time of need.

Alex Laos went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, July 18, three months after being diagnosed with cancer of the liver. During this time he bore a faithful testimony to the grace and enabling presence of his Saviour.

Alex was saved in 1958 at gospel meetings held by James Boswell at the Bible Chapel (Tucson, AZ). Saved from a Roman Catholic background, Alex was immediately zealous to reach others; he was also active in serving the believers. He visited Japan several times and was scheduled to speak at the Osaka Conference this November.

He labored faithfully as an



elder at the Bible Chapel (Tucson, AZ) and will be sorely missed for his God-given wisdom and zeal.

Please pray for his wife Joan, his four sons and two daughters during their time of bereavement. Our loss is heaven's gain.

### COMMENDATIONS

In our February *Uplook*, we reported that Bruce and Carol Taylor, missionaries to Brazil, had come home to Ontario for furlough and were planning to return to Brazil sometime this year. The saints at Bethel Bible Chapel (Shelburne, ON) have contacted us to say that Bruce and Carol are not returning to Brazil due to increasing health problems. Please continue to pray for them.

The elders of Fairview Bible Chapel, Boulder, CO, have informed us that Karl and Glynn Peterson have been commended to the work of the Lord in Mozambique with their new daughter, Elsa Grace. They have previously served both in the U.S. and on the foreign field.

The believers at Cedar Park Christian Fellowship (Abbotsford, BC) commend Rowan Jennings to the work of the Lord. Brother Jennings has been ministering the Word in that area, and

has a desire to help the Lord's people. The saints there appreciate his ministry and commend him to the Lord's work, whether in their area or elsewhere.

We have been informed by the elders of Selkirk Gospel Chapel, Selkirk, MB, that Harris (Aris) Ratelle is not now a commended worker from their assembly.

### NUCLEUS FORMING

The prayers of the Lord's people are appreciated for a small group of believers meeting in a home in northern Kentucky to remember the Lord and to edify the saints. If you live in the Florence/Ft. Thomas areas and would like information, contact:

Raymond and Korliss Schlagel  
64 West Cobblestone Court  
Florence, KY 41042  
(606) 594-4103

### BE ENCOURAGED

Richard Yarrall recently informed *Uplook* of the progress of two Latin assemblies in the Los Angeles area. He writes: "We have been encouraged by the Latin meetings at Westminster Bible Chapel and Avenue 54. In Westminster, several unsaved have attended the meetings recently due to the efforts of the believers. Several of the believers have powerful testimonies. What

a joy it is to sit with these at the Lord's Supper and hear them express their praise and thanks for His saving grace! The Latino assembly at Avenue 54 has recently had several requests from believers who desire to obey the Lord and be baptized."

Continue to pray for these two assemblies as they seek to be effective in reaching others for Christ in their community.

### MAKING ROOM FOR MORE

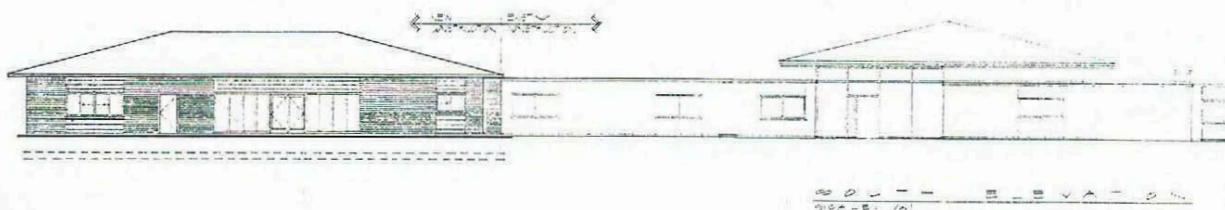
Construction has begun on an addition to Rest Haven Homes, Inc. (Grand Rapids, MI) that will provide an additional 13 resident rooms (26 beds). The objective of the expansion is to provide increased flexibility and capacity for the care of the aged. Presently Rest Haven has 45 apartments for independent living, 24 residents can be cared for in the Home for the Aged, and 24 more in the Nursing wing.

Besides the construction needs going on at the Home, the present Director of Nursing seeks help as the work grows and as she assists in other areas. Those interested, please contact:

Miss Terry Carrick  
Director of Nursing  
Rest Haven Homes  
1424 Union Ave., NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505



*New addition at Rest Haven Homes*



## The Emmaus Road in Estonia



*Estonia lies between the Baltic Sea and Latvia and Russia. Tallinn is the capital. Heino Promm (Richmond, BC) makes regular visits to Estonia.*

**T**he last time we reported (November 1994, *Uplook*), we were facing problems with the translators due to doctrinal differences. This led us to stop all work with them. For nearly 10 months—during which much prayer has gone up to the Lord—we have been looking for a new translator. We felt that we would have to go with a professional translator to have the work done properly. We are thankful for those who prayed with us about this.

Lord willing, I leave for Estonia on September 3. Charles Fizer, director of Emmaus Correspondence School, will join me in Tallinn. It is our purpose to visit the translator we trust the Lord has provided and go over the requirements for the course translation. We would be thankful for your prayers.

While in Estonia, we will be meeting with the Walstroms, missionaries among the Rus-

sian people in Tallinn. Together with them we will also see if we can establish a more suitable distribution method for the Emmaus Courses in Estonia. We do trust that the Lord's people will remember the Walstroms in prayer as they are in the need of a residence visa for Estonia. Up to this point they have used visitors' visas (renewed every three months). This type of visa is very limited. It does not allow them to own a car, which would be a great help to them in the work. Pray that God will meet this need.

Would you also pray for the Cottrills who are laboring in Finland and also doing gospel work in Estonia? I will be with them for a short period of time.

Looking at the immensity of the work, we can only give Him the glory and say with the Psalmist, "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad" (Ps. 126:3).

**U**

## And Elsewhere . . .

Charles Fizer

1. The distribution of Emmaus courses in prisons by a network of committed men and women continues to grow each year. From July 1994-June 1995, 292,000 courses were sold to prison coordinators. These are given away free to prisoners. Pray for each prisoner who studies a course.

2. There were over 2,000 requests for courses from the distribution of the 1995 World Soccer Games booklet. They represented more than twenty different language groups. A new booklet is being prepared by Pedro Dillon for distribution during the 1996 Olympics. It is estimated that 80% of the American public will be watching some of the games. These booklets can be distributed from the smallest towns to the largest cities. Emmaus courses will be used for follow-up. The period during the Olympics (July 19-Aug. 4) will also be used for an emphasis in assemblies on the Emmaus work. Those who respond will be asked to distribute the Olympic booklets in their areas.

3. This year *Lessons for Christian Living* is being printed in the English and Hindi editions for *Reader's Digest* in India. It is estimated that 4-5 million will read the English edition each month. Indian brethren in the US are sponsoring this. Emmaus courses are used as follow-up in India.

4. There are now 82 Emmaus centers in Russia and 101 in Ukraine. Andreas Reh from Kiev is seeking to establish these in Moldova as well.

5. We are praying with Myrtlefield Trust (ministry of Dr. David Gooding and his colleagues) about using the courses as follow-up. They have the names and addresses of 10,000 people that could receive Emmaus studies.

6. Praise the Lord for many believers around the world who use the Emmaus courses in small, but very effective ways. We thank God for each person involved in the work.

## What's Going On?

### BE ALERT

In Nigeria's heavily Muslim northern Kano state, Christians are on the alert following the latest outbreak of violence. In May 30 people were killed during a riot and a Bible teacher was murdered after several Christians received menacing threats. Two churches were also burned.

—Pulse

### GIVE US LAND

Israel has resettled approximately 80,000 Bedouins from their traditional lands in the Negev to nearby towns. One clan, the Azazme, is resisting by squatting on barren land at Revivim. The government does not want to be too forceful; most Israelis respect the Bedouins for their pastoral culture and proven loyalty to the state. All the Bedouins want is their own land back.

—Spotlight on Israel

### MARTYR COMPLEX

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that the Israeli-PLO peace talks have produced a strange twist in how Palestinians are dying these days. Muslims have no certainty of their heaven—unless they are *shahids*, or martyrs who die in a religious war. Now fewer and fewer are dying that way. What to do?

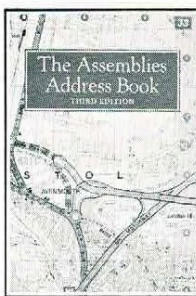
When PLO official Khalid al-Hassan died recently, he was included in a growing list of martyrs, even though he had succumbed to a bout with cancer. He joined those who have died in car accidents and farm mishaps. The announcement of their martyrdom is usually announced in a

newspaper ad paid for by relatives. Some Palestinian religious leaders say that martyr-inflation is out of control.

"Nowadays, everyone who dies can be called a martyr. There has to be some standard," the *Journal* quotes Ali el-Khalil, a Palestinian author. "But it's not easy to come to a family and say, 'Your relative is not a martyr. He's just dead.'"

### TRAVELLING OVERSEAS?

Planning a trip to the UK or the Continent? The Assemblies Address Book (UK edition) is a guide you don't want to be without. In addition to listing many of the assemblies with times of meetings and contacts, it also provides information on scores of guest houses and Bed and Breakfasts that are operated by Christians. This useful planning tool, published by Christian Year Publications of Bath, England, is available from GFP for US\$9.95; CDN\$13.95.



### HE'S BACK IN THE NEWS

Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the Brooklyn leader of the worldwide ultra-Orthodox Lubavitcher movement known for erecting menorahs in public places, was honored on Capitol Hill last June.

At a Senate caucus room breakfast, House speaker Newt Gingrich praised the rabbi, who died on June 12, 1994, at the age of 92. Mr. Gingrich lauded the

high ideals of the rabbi's followers, and contrasted them to lobbyists driven by self-interest.

Rabbi Abraham Shemtov, director of American Friends of Lubavitch said, "This is an indication of the inner desire for [spiritual] direction beneath the surface" of American society.

### BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES...

According to a recent study conducted by the Media Research Center, over half the portrayals of religion on prime-time television are either negative or neutral.

The study examined the religious content of 1994 sitcoms, dramas, telefilms and miniseries on ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC. Researchers found that during the 1,716 hours of original prime-time programming in 1994, there were 253 portrayals of religion; 22.9% were negative depictions and 33.6% were mixed or neutral.

According to the report, ABC had the most negative portrayals, followed by FOX, NBC and CBS.

### A GREAT GULF FIXED

In the twelfth encyclical of his 17-year papacy, Pope John Paul II called for greater efforts to overcome the denominational divisions that have marred Christianity for 1,000 years.

In this 115-page letter to his followers, John Paul cites five broad areas of division: "the understanding of Scripture and sacred tradition; the understanding of the Eucharist (Holy Communion); ordination to the priesthood; the Magisterium, or teaching authority of the Roman

Catholic Church; and the place of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in the church."

We are living during a time of great compromise. The choices are simple. Either we agree to conform our faith to include the entire spectrum of belief under one umbrella of unified truth, or we take our stand with God on His infallible Word.

### **NO ROOM**

Moslem leaders in Jerusalem have strongly opposed any suggestion that Jewish people should be allowed to pray on the Temple area. They say that the whole area is a mosque and according to Islamic law it is forbidden for non-Moslems to pray at a mosque. A Moslem spokesman has said, "If Israel intends to change its policy and allow Jews to pray at Al-Aksa, it will find itself up against the entire Islamic world."

### **TRACING THE DEVIL'S ROOTS**

Elaine Pagels is disturbed, perhaps in more ways than one. In her new book *The Origin of Satan*, published in June by Random House, she argues that the concept of the devil as we know him originated with the efforts of the first-century followers of Jesus to define themselves by demonizing their enemies—especially Jews, pagans, and heretics.

She presents what she calls a "social history of Satan" whom she contends was invented by early Christians to identify its enemies and further solidify their own ranks. She calls this "the dark side of Christianity that I don't like to see. I wish it weren't

there."

It should be pointed out that in addition to misusing the Gospels, Mrs. Pagels (who has authored many books on Gnosticism) supports her claims by using the Gnostic Gospel of Philip.

One can't help wondering if people would be so bold to think this way if Christians were out there preaching the gospel of Christ on a consecutive basis.

### **OLD TRANSLATION**

The world's oldest known Old Testament in book form was smuggled into Israel one page at a time by Syrian Jews.

The Aleppo Codex was written in Tiberias some 1,000 years ago. It was the first known Old Testament produced in book form rather than on scrolls. It is considered the most authoritative and grammatically perfect Old Testament in existence.

The Aleppo Jews told Syrian authorities that the book was lost when their synagogue burned down in anti-Jewish riots after the United Nations voted to establish the state of Israel in 1947.

About two-thirds of it (295 pages) were smuggled to Israel in the 1950's. Syrian Jews allowed to emigrate in 1992 have been bringing the missing pages one page at a time ever since.

### **FIRE IN THE CHURCH**

We recently received word from a reader that a fire destroyed the inside of Hillcrest Gospel Chapel (Kew Garden Hill, Queens, NY). Fire department officials have determined that the blaze began in a downstairs room of the structure, and

are calling the fire suspicious. If you would like more information, contact:

Philip Clifton  
PO Box 13367  
Springfield Gdns, NY 11413  
(718) 527-7348

### **TECHNO-RABBI**

Rabbi Levi Yitzhak Halperin, founder of the Institute for Science and Halacha (Hebrew for Jewish law), has devised dozens of products to reconcile the mundane devices of our day that clash with Halacha.

Many Jews believe that activating electrical appliances (of any kind) violates the Sabbath law which prohibits doing any work on the day of rest.

Some of Halperin's devices include a telephone which uses a steel pen to interrupt beams of light aimed at photostatic cells, which sets off dialing. Halperin argues that this complies with Sabbath laws by merely *interrupting an existing electrical signal as opposed to causing one*, thus breaking a Jewish law against creating electricity on the Sabbath.

Halperin has also re-invented the elevator. If you find yourself in one of his elevators in Israel during the Sabbath, I hope you aren't in a hurry. Halperin's elevator is pre-programmed to stop at every floor on the Sabbath. Many hospitals, hotels, and high-rise apartment buildings are using his design.

Some modern Orthodox Jews, however, are not impressed. They believe that the institute's equipment could create an obsession about the form rather than the substance of religion. So what else is new?

**U**

## Life On the Line

*An auto worker in the General Motors Transmission plant, Paul Ford lives in Windsor, Ontario, with his wife Darlene and their daughter Channaine.*



On September 18, 1981, I was well on my way to a night of drunken revelry in a Windsor, Ontario, tavern. Suddenly and for no apparent reason I was overwhelmed by fear. Rushing into the washroom, I tried to get a grip on myself. It was to no avail.

As though pursued by an unknown foe, I fled outside and raced away on my motorcycle. I was oblivious to my lunch pail and rain suit which fell off the bike. Minutes later, I pounded on the door of my parents' home. Because it was late and there was no answer, I smashed my helmet against the house. Fear had turned into rage.

Without a helmet, I sped towards my brother's house and drove right up to the front porch with my bike roaring. Obviously frightened, my sister-in-law refused to open the door. I lost control of my sanity and destroyed the lawn with my motorcycle before speeding away with no destination in mind.

Details of what followed in the ensuing hours have been gathered from relatives, my wife, and the police. Apparently I set out to kill myself by traveling down the white center line of several Windsor streets at speeds in excess of 90 miles per hour, without stopping for lights and traffic. The police considered it unsafe to pursue.

I crashed while trying to negotiate a turn at an impossible speed. In spite of the severity of the accident, I was totally uninjured. Viewing the damage, I cursed the bike, kicked it and threw my gloves at it before walking away. When the police apprehended me two blocks down the

road, I crouched in terror against a building. "Please don't hurt me," I pleaded.

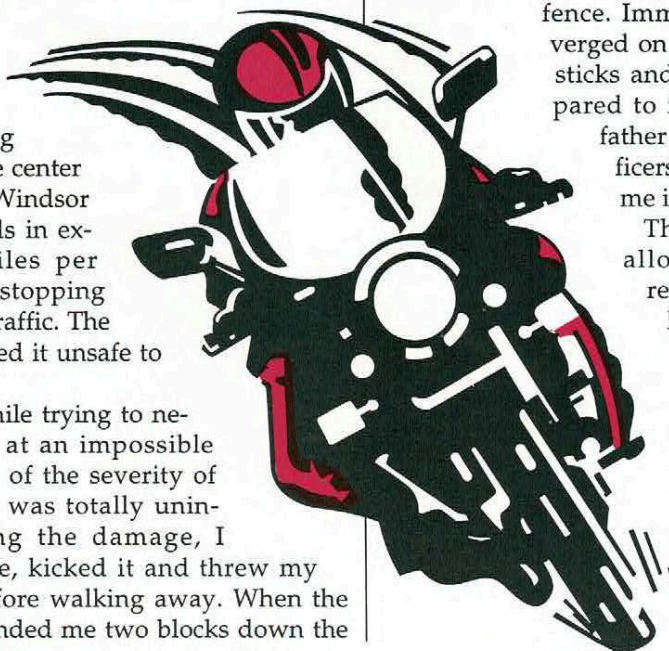
My wife Darlene was called to the accident site along with my dad and brother. As we drove home, I was suddenly gripped again by fear. Cowering against the passenger door, I pleaded with Darlene, "Don't hurt me." Seconds later, I jumped out of the moving car and ran behind some nearby buildings. The others gave chase, only to find me crouching in terror.

They pursued me to an empty gas station where I flew into an uncontrollable rage and threatened them with physical force. Wisely, my brother prevented my dad from trying to subdue me. I fled into the night.

During the next few hours, several policemen and family members were unable to find me. Apparently in that time I badly damaged a parked van by kicking and punching it in a fit of rage. For injuries incurred in that incident, I twice checked into a hospital that night but left before receiving treatment.

Upon my return home at dawn, I snuck into the back yard by climbing the fence. Immediately I was converged on by police with night sticks and guns drawn. I prepared to fight them until my father pleaded with the officers for a chance to talk me into the house.

The police withdrew, allowing my father to reason with me. After hours of fear and rage, my body was spent and I collapsed. When the realization of what had transpired hit me as I awoke later, I wept for two hours. "I could have killed Dar-



lene, myself, and countless others," I reflected.

"Why has this happened? Why am I safe and unharmed?" There could only be one explanation. God had to love me!

For the next two years, I quit drinking and set out to find God in the only place and way that I knew. Darlene and I poured ourselves into religion. To my dismay, God wasn't in the place where I expected Him to be. God was nowhere to be found in religion.

Once again I grew restless and slowly withdrew from church involvement. Newly employed at General Motors, old habits were revived as I listened to the men on the assembly line brag about their weekend exploits. Then there was Bernie—a "religious nut" who was the object of ridicule and scorn by everyone.

Bernie never missed the opportunity to share Jesus Christ with me. I was getting fed up. "Leave me alone, Bernie" I warned him. After days of silence, Bernie said, "I have four questions to ask you."

"Go ahead," I grumbled.

"Do you believe in Jesus Christ? Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Do you believe Jesus Christ shed His blood and died on the cross for your sins?"

To those questions, I answered, "Yes."

Bernie went on, "Do you know, then, that you can know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you are saved?"

I hesitated, "Well, no. Don't we all have to be judged?"

Then I understood what Bernie was telling me. If I received the Lord Jesus for myself, if I took Him personally as my own Saviour, I would be saved by His grace alone. Was I willing to do that?

At that precise moment, tears welled up in my eyes and streamed down my cheeks. Bernie wept, too. God opened my eyes and heart to see that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross was sufficient for my salvation. Bernie and I could not look at one another that day without great joy after having witnessed a miracle of God's grace toward me.

I was wonderfully saved that day, December 22, 1983, on the assembly line at General Motors. A short time later, Darlene and our daughter accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour through His grace exhibited in my life.

To God be all the glory



*I spoke to you about your soul today.  
Perhaps you wished that I would go away  
And say no more and let you be. But, oh,  
My cherished friend, if you could only know  
The longing in my heart for you, the dread  
Of looking forward, after you are dead,  
Unto that certain day when you must stand  
Before the throne of Christ! Works of your  
hand,  
Fruits of your heart, will not avail, for He  
Will ask you, "What did you do with Me?"  
Dear friend of mine, there is no other way  
Except through Him, whom you deny today.  
How could I bear it, if in your despair  
And bitter grief, you cried, "Did she not care  
Enough for me to speak? to point the way?  
To save me from this anguish and dismay?"  
My heart is bleeding, thinking of your woe,  
Your terror, and your helplessness and so  
I spoke to you about your soul today.  
I could not leave you, could not go away.*

—MARTHA SNELL NICHOLSON

# Seminar Topics & Leaders



13

If you're planning on joining more than 1,000 believers in Lexington, D.V., this is the information you've been waiting for, to make application. Watch next month for group travel contacts.

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 young people (numbers 16-19). Of course, they are not limited in their selection to any or all of these four electives. Two seminars (numbers 4 and 23) are for women only (WOS) and one (number 22) is for men only (MOS).

## SPECIAL INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY SEMINAR

### 1. *The Glorious Gospel of the Blessed God*—Dr. David Gooding

This special four-session elective will deal with the scope and nature of the gospel, considering particularly the issues related to God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. This elective will include a verse-by-verse exposition of key passages. Those who choose this seminar are limited to two other seminars. All registrants are requested to study Romans 9-11 prior to the conference. This is the chance of a lifetime for serious students of the Bible.

David Gooding is Professor Emeritus of Old Testament Greek at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. He is recognized worldwide as an authority on the Septuagint and for his fresh and helpful expositions of Scripture. He is author of *According to Luke; An Unshakable Kingdom* (Hebrews); and *True to the Faith* (Acts). In addition to a full preaching schedule, he currently writes articles on biblical themes for publication in Russian newspapers.

## CHURCH LIFE

### 2. *Appreciating, Selecting, and Leading Hymns*—Art Auld

The right hymn sung well can set the tone for the meeting; the wrong hymn (or the right hymn poorly sung) can cripple it. Learn how to evaluate hymns for their content and suitability for various situations, and how to encourage the kind of singing that honors the Lord and stirs the saints. Of interest to both song leaders and musicians.

Art and Debbie, from Ashtabula, OH, were commended to the Lord's work in 1993. Their ministry includes itinerant preaching, camp work, and public school Bible clubs. Art serves on the board of Gospel Folio Press.

### 3. *Caution: Shepherds at Work*—Brian Gunning

Not just for elders! What does an elder do? How do I train

to become one? How can I help my elders? What are the skills necessary for good shepherding and how can we foster them in ourselves or in others? No dry theory; practical insights from real-life experience.

Brian is an elder at Brockview Bible Chapel in St. Catharines, ON, and is involved in preaching, conference planning, and boards of various assembly-sponsored ministries. He also runs an accounting practice. Brian and his wife, Marlene, have four daughters.

### 4. *Ministry Opportunities for Mature Women*—Madge Beckon

Children grown and gone? A widow looking for more opportunities to serve? A "mother in Israel" with a heart for young women? How can we best use our time for the Lord? How can we fulfill our biblical mandate in Titus 2? What if the younger women don't want my help? There has never been a more needy ministry, and at such a time as this! (WOS)

Madge sailed for China in April 1947, with her husband, Gifford, and infant daughter, Ruth. In 1949, because of Communist activity, they were evacuated to Hong Kong and later went to Japan. Gifford and Madge worked as a team until the Lord took him Home in 1974. Madge continued in Japan until 1987, when she relocated to the Denver, CO, area. She is involved in Bible classes for Japanese women and students.

### 5. *An Overview of Bible Translations*—Dr. Arthur Farstad

How do we assess the major English Bible translations available today? Helpful information about the translators, translation methods, textual issues, and style. Dr. Farstad will also deal with some of the concerns raised by the "KJV Only" movement and the book, *New Age Versions*.

Dr. Farstad is the executive editor of the New King James translation of the Bible, co-editor of *The Greek New Testament According to the Majority Text*, and editor of William MacDonald's *Believer's Bible Commentary*. He was a professor of Greek at Dallas Theological Seminary for a number of years and is an elder at Christ Congregation in Dallas, TX.

### 6. *The Priesthood of Every Believer*—Gary McBride

All evangelicals profess to believe in the priesthood of believers. It is, perhaps, the Christian's highest honor. But how do you practice it? Do we have priestly garments? Sacrifices? Other responsibilities? Is it only for men in public meetings? How can we function most effectively as holy and royal priests?

Gary and his wife, Gloria, have been commended to the Lord's work since 1979. For a time they served in Zambia. Now making their home in Timmins, ON, Gary is involved in Christian camp work and Bible teaching, primarily to the needy works in northern Ontario. They have two children.

### 7. *The Family & Assembly Work Together*—Dr. Boushra Mikhael

14 Often today the family is seen in competition with the assembly for time and attention. But nothing could be further from the truth. Healthy homes make for healthy assemblies—and vice versa. See how the home can teach servanthood, sacrificial giving, co-operation, and faithfulness to commitments—all essentials in the functioning local church.

Boushra Mikhael is an elder at Rideauview Bible Chapel in Ottawa, ON and active in preaching and camp work. He is Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery/Urology at the University of Ottawa and Chief of Surgery at Queensway Carlton Hospital. He and his wife, Nadia, have raised two sons who are both active in Christian work.

8. *Preparing and Preaching a Message*—J. B. Nicholson Jr.

In many places the caliber of preaching is less than adequate. It doesn't need to be! For those who want to improve their preaching style or for those who want to encourage others in their public gift. Learn, step-by-step, the basics of preparation and communication, of substance and passion. The same principles apply for those interested in writing skills.

Jabe resides with his wife, Louise, and seven children in Grand Rapids, MI. Commended to the Lord's work in 1975, he is the editor of *Uplook* magazine and president of Gospel Folio Press. He has a Bible teaching ministry across North America and overseas.

9. *Missions and the Local Church*—Bill Yuille

While it's true that everyone is either a missionary or a mission field, there is a crying need for overseas cross-cultural missions. How can the local assembly raise prayer interest in world missions? What resources are available to prospective missionaries who want to follow the New Testament pattern? What can those in leadership do to fulfill their responsibility to encourage young people to consider missionary work? How can elders help potential missionaries prepare? Discussion of requirements, pitfalls, and biblical plan for missions.

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

## EVANGELISM

10. *I Want to Reach My Neighborhood. Help!*—John Gordon

We know it's good to start evangelism at home. But how do we begin? Practical pointers on how to start and sustain a gospel outreach in your own community. Not just for gung-ho evangelists, there are great ideas for the more timid, too.

John has been a commended worker in North Carolina for 10 years. He is involved in Bible teaching and conference ministry. He has also been active in Vacation Bible Schools and camps for children in the Southeast. With his wife, Anne, and

their five children, John lives in Raleigh, NC.

11. *Tough Love for Troubled Youth*—Ken Hampton

Millions of young people are growing up without a hope. They are surrounded by crime, violence, homelessness, illiteracy, joblessness, and sin of every kind. The worst of it is: they never hear the gospel. How can we help? Secrets to building bridges with troubled young people. Chronic problems and biblical solutions. Get involved in winning this generation for Christ.

Ken Hampton is a former police officer who now directs the Grace Chapel community Youth Center located 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.

12. *Good News for Catholics*—Jim McCarthy

A summary of the Roman Catholic understanding of the way of salvation. Proven techniques for explaining the gospel to them. A brief update on the growing ecumenical movement, especially among evangelicals.

Commended to the Lord's work in 1984 from Hillview Bible Chapel, Cupertino, CA, Jim served for two years as a missionary in the Republic of Ireland. In 1986, he was invited to join the faculty of the Discipleship Intern Training Program at Fairhaven Bible Chapel. He serves there today with his wife, Jean, and three daughters. A former Catholic himself, Jim is also the founder and director of Good News for Catholics, Inc. He is best known for producing the popular video, *Catholicism: Crisis of Faith*. Jim has recently finished a new book, *The Gospel According to Rome*.

13. *Recapturing the Gospel Offensive*—Jim Paul

Where are the evangelists? It's time to see North America as a mission field. It's time to stir up the saints with gospel zeal and equip young Christians to share their faith. It's time to see the return of a vigorous, aggressive offensive in the gospel by assemblies across the continent. The Man! The Message! The Ministry! You won't miss the point, or the steps needed if we're going to recapture the gospel offensive.

Jim and his wife, Elizabeth, were commended to full time work in 1980 from the assembly in Broxburn, Scotland, and by the Kanata and Ottawa assemblies in 1990. He has served the Lord for the past nine years in the Ottawa, ON, area in camp, prison, hospital, and door-to-door outreaches. Jim loves to preach the gospel.

14. *Meeting the Challenges of Inner City Work*—Henri Sanchez

Cry for the cities—but don't just cry! If you want to help, you need to be equipped. Learn about the needs, challenges, and resources available for this ministry. How can you help single-parent families? Dealing realistically but compassionately with poverty, crime, illiteracy, and other inner city crises. Hear about short-term opportunities.

Henri Sanchez was commended to the Lord's work in 1964 and has worked extensively with inner city youth in and around the New York area. Henri and his wife, Sara, have raised their family in Brooklyn where they daily face the chal-

(continued on page 19)

lenges of a population rife with drug addiction, AIDS, high unemployment, and troubled homes. He also arranges short-term opportunities for young people in the inner city and serves in camp ministry during the summer.

15. *Keys to Mass Evangelistic Outreach*—Chris Schroeder

The New Testament church preached the gospel both publicly and from house to house. If we are going to be faithful to our commission, we will have to be involved in mass evangelism. How do you get started? What should you watch out for? Learn some tried and true methods from a veteran.

Chris is Executive Director of The Ezekiel Project, an assembly organization which specializes in training individuals in the techniques of open-air evangelism. A commended worker, Chris has been in full-time ministry for over 19 years in evangelism, as well as a preaching and conference ministry. He is a graduate of the Moody Bible Institute and an elder in his home assembly. He resides with his wife, Barbara, and family in Mt. Clemens, MI.

## CHRISTIAN LIVING

16. *YP Track: Decision Making and the Will of God*—Jamie Hull

I know God has a will for my life; how do I figure out what it is? How do I know if God is calling me to the mission field or full-time service? (YTS).

Jamie currently resides in Colorado Springs, CO, where he fellowships with the believers known as the "Westside Christians." He helps manage a real estate development and construction business and is active in ministering the Word at camps and conferences.

17. *YP Track: Basics for New Believers*—Joe Reese

A good foundation at the beginning of your Christian life is invaluable. How can a new Christian get off to a good start? Assurance and eternal security, baptism, victory over sin, and fellowship. If time is available, the seminar will also answer basic questions on how to maximize your quiet time, prayer, witnessing, and Bible study (YTS).

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

18. *YP Track: Christianity is Exciting!*—Dr. Tony Martin

Is your Christian life ho-hum, hum-drum? You need a visit to the Doctor—not Dr. Martin, the Great Physician! If everything in the Bible is true, there is nothing more thrilling in the universe. This seminar is the cure for mid-winter, mid-term blues. But if we get the message, the remedy gives permanent results (YTS).

Dr. Tony Martin maintains a chiropractic practice in Timmins, ON, while actively involved in a local assembly as an elder. He also hosts a cable TV program called *Touched by the*

*Master's Hand*. He travels extensively throughout Ontario preaching the gospel and encouraging young people "to fight the good fight of faith." He and his wife, Rosie, have three children.

19. *YP Track: You're Gifted: Use it or Lose It!*—Rex Trogden

Everyone in the church is gifted by the Spirit. But what is a gift? And what are the gifts? And what is *your* gift? How to define, discover, and stir up your gift. One of the secrets of a productive and blessed life (YTS).

Rex and his wife, Nancy, have served the Lord in Zaire, Africa from 1983 till they returned home in 1991. Their efforts were in three areas: Working among the assemblies; beginning a Bible school work; and also working among the Pygmies. They've made two trips back to Zaire for the purpose of ministry and the distribution of Bible study materials that Rex has written in Swahili. Since 1992, their ministry has been primarily in North America. About half of their time is spent in their local assembly in Charlotte, NC, and the other half in itinerant ministry, conference speaking, and camp work.

20. *The Joys of Christian Giving*—Dr. Peter Aceti

We work hard for our money! We handle it every day. But are we carefully investing it—not to earn interest from the bank, but eternal dividends in God's kingdom? The focus of this seminar will be on maximizing your stewardship, financial privileges and responsibilities in relation to your local assembly, home workers, missionaries, family, and the poor.

Peter Aceti 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.

21. *Winning the Battle: Stewardship of Time*—William Burnett

How does a Christian cope in the rat race of the 1990's with business and financial pressures, and still find the time to be a good father, take responsibility in the local assembly, spend regular time in Bible study, and still maintain sanity?

Willie Burnett and his wife, Beth, live in Burlington, ON, and fellowship at Hopedale Bible Chapel. Recently retired from a major oil company where he spent his working years managing major capital projects, he is now able to devote his time fully to serving the Lord. He is a frequent contributor to the *Choice Gleanings* calendar and *Counsel* magazine, on whose board he also serves.

22. *Husbands, Love Your Wives*—Jim McKendrick

For men only! If Ephesians 5 means what it says, husbands have the greatest object lesson in the world to daily show the love of Christ for His church. This seminar is suitable for those anticipating married life or those who want to enhance their marriage. The home is under attack; learn how to protect your investment (MOS).

Jim McKendrick and his wife, June, live in Grand Rapids, MI. Jim was commended in 1986 and is currently engaged in an itinerant preaching ministry. He is a contributing editor to *Uplook* magazine and helped prepare the *Modular Bible Lessons* for Gospel Folio Press.

20 23. *Handmaiden, Helpmeet, Homemaker*—Louise Nicholson

Especially for younger women. A practical discussion of the three spheres of life for the Christian woman: as handmaiden of the Lord, as helpmeet for her husband, and as homemaker of the family. Practical hints and biblical principles that go hand in hand. (WOS)

Louise is the mother of seven active children from toddler to young adult. She has had ministries with Sunday School and among young women. She recently completed 21 quarters of primary material for the *Modular Bible Lessons* and was general editor for the *Building Blocks for Beginners* series. She and her husband, Jabe, were commended to the Lord's work in 1975. Their home is in Grand Rapids, MI.

24. *Singleness: A Gift from God?*—Harold Summers

Whether you see the single life as for now or for good, you can turn seeming liabilities into assets. Learn about the resources the believer has to fulfill the Lord's purposes in this chapter of your life. Principles from the Word reinforced by practical lessons from experience.

Harold Summers 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 received a doctorate in business administration from Indiana University and worked in government and the forest products industry prior to entering the real estate business in which he is now employed.

25. *Maximize Your Bible Study*—J. B. Nicholson Jr.

When you open your Bible for serious study, where do you start? When you have limited time for intensive study, how can you make the most of it? A look at the seven families of doctrines, types of biblical literature, short-cuts for word studies, and practical ways to maximize your Bible study time. Helpful hand-outs.

Jabe is originally from St. Catharines, Ontario, but now resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was commended to the Lord's work in 1975, and is the editor of *Uplink* magazine, a publication of Gospel Folio Press. He has a wide-ranging ministry in both Canada and the USA.

26. *The Life that Pleases God*—J. Boyd Nicholson Sr.

Mistaken notions about holiness have discouraged many earnest believers in their quest for sanctification. But God is holy, and His people are commanded to be holy, too. Therefore holiness must be possible for every child of God. Find the practical Bible answers to the life that pleases God.

J. Boyd Nicholson was born in Scotland and was saved as a teenager. He and his wife Bernice (three children, thirteen grandchildren) were commended in 1960 to full-time ministry in Canada and USA. His ministry has taken him to several countries in Central Africa, South Africa, India, the Far East, Central America, and the Caribbean.

For many years he has been a contributor to the Family Bible Hour radio ministry and to various Christian periodicals. He is the editor of *Counsel* magazine and lives in St. Catharines, ON.

FACING THE ISSUES HEAD-ON

27. *The Spirit of the Age*—Randy Amos

There are certain key philosophies and movements today that permeate our culture. If you want to be an effective witness, a parent that equips your children for the world around us, or an elder who wants to guard the flock, this is the seminar for you. But every believer should be on guard for these dangers. Learn to evaluate such movements by the Word and how to answer their often subtle attacks on Christianity.

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

28. *Heroes of the Faith*—John Bjorlie

Discover the benefits of knowing the notables of Church History (Heb. 13:7-8). The compiler of the well-known "Heroes" column in *Uplink* magazine will take you on a journey over the last two millennia of Church history to discover amazingly up-to-date answers to the issues of the day. This seminar emphasizes the wisdom: "Those who are ignorant of the errors of the past are destined to repeat them."

John contributes articles regularly to *Uplink* magazine and assists in the graphic and editing department of Gospel Folio Press. Commended to the Lord's work in 1984, he has been involved in open-air preaching on university campuses over the last 15 years across the Midwest. He and his wife, Ann, live with their nine children in Grand Rapids, MI.

29. *Current Evangelical Fads*—Steve Hulshizer

How do present-day trends (Promise Keepers, Toronto Blessing, Pop Psychology, etc.) relate to the Scriptures? How do you biblically assess movements like these? What lessons can we learn from the upheaval today in the religious world?

Steve Hulshizer was commended to the Lord's work in 1983. In addition to his writing and itinerant Bible teaching ministries, he is the editor of the monthly publication *Milk & Honey*. He also serves on the boards of Spread The Work, Inc., and Greenwood Hills Bible Conference Association, and is founder of the Bible Study Program located in York, PA.

30. *God's Order for the March of Time*—Doug Kazen

Does God have a plan for this world? Where are we now? What characterizes God's dealings with man in this dispensation versus the next? Expect a clear, bird's-eye view of history from God's official Record. The Dispensational view is under siege today, but it's the only hermeneutic that gives a consistent view of all the facts.

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



## Felix Manz

*He has been called the first Protestant to be martyred by the Protestants. Felix Manz gave his life in the struggle to restore the church to its ancient simplicity and purity. His sacrifice makes us ask if the church should be a gathering where the ungodly are made comfortable, or whether it should be like the assembly in Jerusalem that none dared to join (Acts 5:13).*

**F**elix Manz (1490-1527) was in the inner circle of the Swiss "Anabaptist" revival at the time of the reformation. The son of an unwed mother, his father was the canon of Grossmünster in Zürich. There were many illegitimate children as a by-product of the rule of celibacy in the priesthood. These included some of the main players in the Reformation: Erasmus, the great Greek scholar and Henri Bullinger, who succeeded Zwingli. No doubt their firsthand knowledge of the iniquities flowing from the celibacy rule moved them to agitate for reform in the state church.

Having a Roman Catholic priest as a father did give the child a better chance for an education in those days, and young Felix became an avid student of Greek and especially of Hebrew. The priests' violation of the celibacy rule was notorious.

In 1524, with several others Manz arrived at the conviction that infant sprinkling had no biblical support. Ulrich Zwingli appeared to have a large area of agreement with these young brothers. Zwingli was a gifted clergyman who had begun preaching the gospel in about 1516. Thereafter he spoke out against venerating statues, fasting during Lent, the celibacy rule, the sacrifice of the mass, and baptismal regeneration. He also became a mentor to Felix Manz, Conrad Grebel, and other promising young scholars in Zürich, Switzerland. But on the issue of baptism Zwingli drew back to the state church position on christening. Manz and Grebel criticized Zwingli for his waffling on this point. A debate followed and schism resulted.

To understand the issue that divided these men, we have to see beyond particular rituals and arguments over the timing or the method used in baptism. The issue was really about whether the Bible taught that the church should be composed of believers only. Should the church allow the unconverted to be members? If you baptize a baby, it would thereafter mean that that child had some foothold

in the church, whether he or she grew up to believe in Christ or not. The Reformers saw the church as an earthly institution, somehow connected to the civil magistrate, therefore your baptismal certificate was almost synonymous with your citizenship papers. This view made a purified church an impossibility.

When Manz and Grebel pled with Zwingli that the only ones to be baptized were those who were Christians, and that the church should maintain discipline and excommunicate unrepentant sinners, Zwingli made his appeal to Christ's words, "He that is not against Me, is for Me," and to the parable of the tares and the wheat. Zwingli reasoned that if all the tares were to be rooted up now, there would be nothing left for the angels to do on the day of final separation! He was not ignorant of the Lord's plain statement that "the field is the world" when he gave that interpretation. To Zwingli and the rest of the Reformers, the world and the church were not two mutually exclusive entities.

In working for a purified church of believing members, Grebel, Manz, and Blaurock and thousands more endured torture, drowning, and the stake. Today from the parapets of heaven this cloud of witnesses looks down on us to see if we will take seriously the New Testament record of a believing church. The modern religious world, with its mega talk and mega methods, only gives lip service to the idea of the local church being comprised only of believers, and where there is divine authority vested in the church to discipline and even excommunicate the unrepentant. To many contemporary evangelicals, the church is very much an institution in and of this world, whose social, political, economic, and cultural clout is not to be jeopardized by a gang of idealists. So the particulars may have varied some, but the jargon is not that different, and at heart the issues are the same.

In the beginning of 1525, the Zürich Council arranged for a conclusive disputation with all the prominent parties, Zwingli, Grebel and

Manz all being present. Zwingli was a dynamo behind the debater's lectern, as well as an able student in the original languages (some suggested that he was second only to Erasmus in his knowledge of the Greek). Each side defended their position. But as expected, the Council disregarded the weight of Manz' arguments and decided in favor of Zwingli. The council ordered all infants in the area to be baptized within eight days, and those who refused to baptize their young faced expulsion from the city. The edict also demanded that Manz and his colleagues hold their tongues.

The losers in the debate did not cower; instead they took their own offensive. When they heard the council's decision, about a dozen sympathizers passed through the snowy lanes to the home of "Mother Manz" in nearby Zollikon. There followed an all-night meeting where they prayed, read Scripture and deliberated on what their response should be. In that meeting, George Blaurock stood up and asked to be baptized. Grebel obliged and thereafter George baptized all the others present. This step created a sensation throughout all the region. These brothers, Manz, Grebel, and Blaurock, spent the next months traveling, preaching repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They baptized converts and organized congregations. They were repeatedly incarcerated. Conrad Grebel's father rescued them after their first arrest, engineering their release. Thereafter they were driven about as fugitive evangelists.

The Zürich Council ordered these brethren to be drowned in March of 1526. George Blaurock and Felix Manz were arrested in 1527. Blaurock was not a citizen of the area, so they only exiled him after a severe beating. But Manz was condemned to drown. This was an innovation since the heretics had previously been burned (basing that mode of execution on John 15:6, they both tortured the man and the verse).

Two years before this, when Blaurock, Manz, and Conrad Grebel had argued with Zwingli about the unscripturalness of infant sprinkling, they had told Zwingli that believer's baptism signified "the sub-

merging of the man of sin." They said this to argue that the true believer has been now raised into a new life, and that evidence of new life is a condition of church membership. Of course, the state churches, which Zwingli was tied to, were populated by a

mixed multitude. Zwingli was in a corner, and lashed back, "Let those who talk of going under go under indeed!" Sadly, Zwingli had the backing of the civil authorities, so that when Manz was convicted in court, he was sentenced to death by drowning ("going under").

The court records give the basis for Manz' execution: "Because he has, contrary to Christian order and custom, become involved in re-baptism...has confessed to having said that he wanted to gather such as want to accept Christ and follow Him, to unite himself with them through baptism...so that he and his followers have separated themselves from the Christian Church, to raise up a sect of their own...such doctrine being harmful to the united usage of all Christendom and tending to offense-giving, to insurrection and sedition against the govern-

ment." Manz had earlier composed a poem including these lines:

*They call out the magistrate  
to put us to death,  
For Christ has abandoned them.  
To shed innocent blood  
Is the most false love of all.*

Felix's mother, who had served as a hostess to that courageous band on that chilly January evening, stood on shore within sight of the courthouse where her son had debated Zwingli. She shouted to her son to remain firm. Manz' last recorded words were, "Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."

"He was placed in a rowboat with his wrists firmly tied together and passed over his cocked knees, and a heavy piece of wood thrust between his bent knees and his elbows. Trussed up in this manner—making swimming impossible—he was rowed to the other side of the Limmat River, thrown overboard,

**When some  
believers had  
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their being  
baptized, Zwingli  
scoffed, "Jolly  
tidings! Let's all go  
for a dip in the  
Limmat!"**

and thus made to perish." Thus the tortured man received his "third baptism."

As far as we know, Zwingli never repented of his bitter animosity toward his opponents. He angrily and sarcastically rejected the teaching that baptism was an emblem of a changed life. On one occasion when some believers had spoken of how they had experienced a moral turnaround at the time of their being baptized, Zwingli scoffed, "Jolly tidings! Let's all go for a dip in the Limmat!"

Did this blow halt the missionary work Manz had begun? Was that work commenced in 1525-1527 the work of Felix Manz or the work of God? It is generally conceded that the state churches of Europe were not making serious efforts at world evangelization. The great commission did not appear to have a great place in their theology or their practical agenda. But outside of institutional religion, a different agenda held sway.

Franklin Littell writes: "The original circle at Zürich scattered widely and apparently on a spontaneous basis: Blaurock, after working with Manz in the Grisons, went on to the Tyrol; Reublin and Sat-

tlar went to Alsace and Swabia, Hetzer to Nürnberg and Augsburg, Gross to Strassburg and Augsburg. Waldshut, center of a great reformation under Hubmaier, was the center of concentric circles of influence: Ulrich Teck and Jakob Gross were especially active in trips from this base of operations.

"Recorded planning began with the famous Martyr Synod of Augsburg, August 20, 1527, which could as well be termed a Missionary Synod. This synod not only affected co-operation between the parties led by Hans Hut and Hans Denck, but divided the land on a grand map of evangelical enterprise. Brethren were sent out from it to centers in South Germany, Switzerland, and Moravia. Those attending included outstanding leaders—Denck, Hut, Jörg von Passau, Hetzer, Jakob Gross, Jakob Dachser, Sigmund Salming, Eitelhans Langenmantel, Leonhard Dorfbrunner, Gall Fischer—most of whom died as martyrs within a few years. The fate of an Anabaptist missionary ("agitator" in Christendom) usually was sealed without adequate trial.

"Only two or three of the Martyr Synod lived to see the fifth year of the movement. (A long list of those martyred, 1527-1531, is still extant.)"

This revival that occurred right under the nose of the Reformers could not be dismissed as a tempest in a teapot. Already by 1528, only three years after the baptisms of Blaurock, Grebel, and Manz, there were congregations appearing throughout the region. In Swabia, the officials commissioned four hundred special police to apprehend these believers who functioned outside the control of the state church. When it became obvious that they were failing they increased the number of police to one thousand. Thus the ripples from Felix Manz' baptism continued spreading to the very shores of eternity.

MATERIALS FOR THIS ARTICLE HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM:

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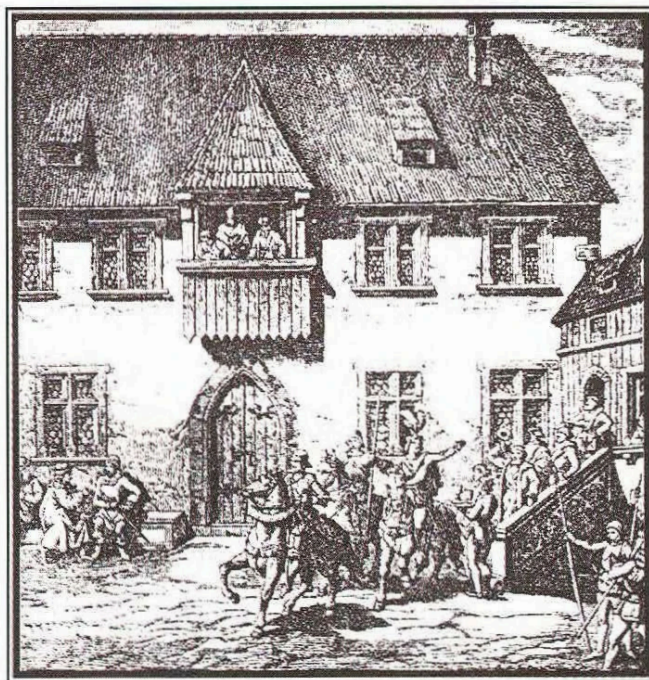
*Renaissance & Reformation*, Eerdman, Wm. R. Estep

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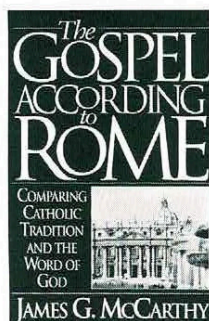


*Rathaus, Zurich, where Felix Manz and Conrad Grebel debated Ulrich Zwingli in January of 1525.*



## According to Rome

Billy Graham said after an interview with the present pope, "I've found that my beliefs are essentially the same as those of orthodox Roman Catholics." Is it true?



*A Woman Rides the Beast and The Gospel According to Rome* are available from Gospel Folio Press for \$11.95 (US) each.

**O**n October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 thesis on the door of the Wittenburg Church and officially the Reformation had begun. On March 29, 1994, a number of leading evangelicals signed a joint declaration titled, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the 3rd Millennium." This document had the approval of the Vatican and was the culmination of more than two years' work. It essentially says that Evangelicals and Catholics are on the same side; outside of some differences, they are in the same ballpark. If they were so wrong in 1517 and so right in 1994, the Catholic Church has come a long way and must have fundamentally changed, right?

This is the question David Hunt asks in his book, *A Woman Rides the Beast*. The justification by faith alone that Martin Luther found, and that Billy Graham preaches, and has led millions to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus, are alike. Therefore it must be the Roman Church that has changed.

Of course, this same pope told the Moslems that Christians and Moslems "meet one another in faith in the one God." After taking off his shoes in a Buddhist monastery, he praised the "ancient and venerable wisdom" of the Asian religions. This pope gathered 130 leaders of the 12 major religions to pray for peace in Assisi, Italy, allowing the Dalai Lama to replace the cross with Buddha on the altar of St. Peter's Church in Assisi.

Dave Hunt, in his incisive way, demonstrates that the Church of Rome has not changed her essential thought, just her methods. She has put on a velvet glove to woo all religions to herself in order to become the one world empire, dominating not only the religious, but the political affairs of the world.

The woman on the beast (Rev. 17-18) is still dripping with the blood of millions. This book is not pretty reading; in fact I found it to be rather gruesome. But it is necessary for our times where love and unity are preached with

no apparent regard for the truth. Love apart from the truth is no love at all.

Another book written on Roman Catholicism is Jim McCarthy's *The Gospel According to Rome*. In this book, McCarthy doesn't touch the dark side of Rome as Hunt does. Instead he tackles the doctrinal aspect of the Church of Rome, asking the question, "Is what the Catholic Church teaches in agreement with the New Testament gospel?" His answer is a resounding "No." In a captivating way, he takes the reader inside the rituals of Catholicism and shows exactly what happens. Infant and adult baptism, the Mass, the Last Rites, etc., are all shown through the eyes of a devout Catholic family. Then, quoting from the Catechism, he shows the reader what these rituals mean doctrinally. Then he adeptly shows what the New Testament teaches in the areas of justification, sanctification, grace, eternal life, and the assurance of salvation. In each of these cardinal areas what the Catholic Church teaches is diametrically opposed to what the New Testament demonstrates.

He divides the book into four categories: Salvation, the Mass, Mary, and Authority, and shows that what the Catholic Church teaches and the gospel of the message of the Bible are two entirely different things. This book is written to be a help to any Catholic that is searching the doctrines of his church and is open to an honest examination of the Scriptures. There is no rancor or cynicism in this book. It comes from the heart to reach those enmeshed in this system. To one like me who had never been enlightened to Catholicism, it was fascinating and informative and would certainly help me witnessing.

I agree with Mr. Hunt that we need to "come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins," but more than that, we need to reach our Catholic neighbors with the true gospel—seeing them not as enemies, but as desperately lost people who need the Saviour. That is what Mr. McCarthy showed me.

**U**

## A Call to Faithfulness


*Steadfast,  
Loyal, Con-  
scientious,  
True, Com-  
mitted—  
These are  
only a few of  
the words  
which help  
us define  
faithfulness.*

**F**aithfulness produces both blessing and suffering. We all like blessing but tend to avoid suffering. Yet we cannot have one without the other. Proverbs 28:20 says, "A faithful man shall abound with blessings." A good example of this is Abraham who was blessed by God and was in turn made a blessing to the world. Nehemiah 9:8 says of him that his heart was found faithful before God. We must also remember that Abraham endured considerable suffering and self-sacrifice.

### WHAT DOES GOD REALLY EXPECT FROM US?

*"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not" (2 Cor. 8:12).*

God expects us to be faithful according to what we have. He does not expect more than we have, even though what we have doesn't seem like much. Remember the multitude Jesus fed with only five loaves and two fish?



### What good will our little bit do?

Philip spoke for many of us when he asked, "But what are they among so many?" (Jn. 6:9). There is so much to do and we have so little to give! What good will our little bit do? What good is it for us to be faithful? John even emphasizes that the fish were "small," yet somehow as Christ broke them into pieces, thousands of hungry were satisfied.

If only we are willing, as the verse says, the Lord will accept what we have, and in His hands it will be multiplied. When we foolishly look around and see others who have more to offer, we begin to make comparisons, and discouragement sets in. Some may have two small fishes to place in His hands and others may have more—but nothing we give is sufficient to feed the crowd without His touch. Remember, He is the One who accept-

ed the two mites of the poor widow and pronounced the amazing news that what she had given far surpassed the wealth tossed into the treasury by the prosperous, whose pockets still bulged with their riches as they walked away (Mk. 12:41-44). She wasn't rich, but she was faithful. She gave all that she had.

### HOW DO WE REGARD OURSELVES?

*"Let a man so account of us (regard us), as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:1-2).*

It may be fine for us to recognize our own job descriptions in our life and ministry, but more than anything else, we ought to regard ourselves as servants of Christ, as those whose chief ambition is faithfulness to Him. Faithfulness is really a motive of the heart. It is what motivates a man to do what he should, when he should, regardless of what people think of him. Actually, it matters very little what others think of you and me. Paul said, "With me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment" (v. 3). Just because others think we are doing a great job does not necessarily mean we are being faithful to our stewardship. What really matters is what God thinks.

We live in a day of modern advancements to speed the spread of God's Word. However, let us remind ourselves that none of these can replace the desperate need of being faithful.

### IS OUR CONDUCT FREE OF CORRUPTION?

*"Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him" (Dan. 6:4). One translation says, "They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent" (NIV).*

Historically, many people who serve in governmental affairs, as Daniel did, fall prey to corruption and negligence. Have you no-

ticed how quickly political parties expose any failure in the lives and conduct of those in opposition? We have also seen how quickly and gladly men expose the corruption that sadly is all too prevalent today in the lives of those in Christian leadership. Daniel's life is a blast of fresh air to those of us gasping for breath in the pollution of unfaithfulness around us.

How glad these wicked men would have



## Would our lives bear such scrutiny?

been to find some tarnish in Daniel's character, some proof of his taking advantage of his positions, some record of his directing government funds to his own pocket, some foolish, morally compromising behavior. Yet, as they scrutinized his life, they came up empty! Would our lives bear such scrutiny? Paul wrote to Titus, "A bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God" (1:7). There is no "shortcut" to realizing this. We must choose to be faithful a moment at a time to conduct ourselves as good stewards. If we have failed, God's grace is there for us. Corruption and negligence enter our lives seemingly by the small choices we begin to make and then continue to make. Entertaining thoughts we shouldn't, putting off doing things that we should do, ceasing to read and meditate daily on God's Word; generally "letting things slip," spiritually.

### DO WE HAVE THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE?

*"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much" (Lk. 16:10).*

We all have referred to the old saying, "Putting the cart before the horse." It means we are trying to accomplish something the wrong way. A horse is meant to pull the cart; the cart is not capable of pulling the horse. It makes no more sense to put having responsibility before being a faithful person. Some mistakenly feel that as their responsibility becomes greater they will naturally respond with greater faithfulness; however, the cart of responsibility is then placed before the horse of faithfulness. The unfaithful person scoffs at little things to

do as though they are too insignificant to be considered. He deceives himself into thinking, "If only I were given something important to do, I could show people how faithful I am! Poor me, I can't be faithful because I don't have anything really big to do!"

A faithful person does not stumble over what he has to do by trying to evaluate its importance. He is taken up with the One he is to please—then nothing is too great or small. We must be convinced that faithfulness is not determined by the task. It is an attitude that each of us can choose for ourselves and apply to each day with its challenges.

What do you have to do just now? Some tasks throb with excitement; others are quite mundane. As we learn to choose faithfulness, we understand how to apply ourselves to everything we do with all of our heart. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:23).

### ARE WE PRODUCING FAITHFULNESS?

*"Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men" (Ps. 12:1).*

Science records that many creatures have become extinct because of adverse conditions and failure to reproduce their own kind. Many creatures are now considered endangered species, on their way out unless their fate can somehow be reversed by careful management. What about faithful men and women in the service of Christ? Are they an endangered species? Should we be concerned as the writer of this Psalm seemed to be? As parents, are we teaching our children the importance of faithful attitudes and behavior? This generation has lost much of the drive to be conscientious and committed. Psalm 12:1 is definitely a prayer we should raise to God. What is the



## Do we think we can please Him without it?

use of all the training we receive, the skills we learn, or the tools we acquire if we fail to learn faithfulness? Do we really think we can get the job done without it, or that we can please Him without it? May God give us a longing to learn faithfulness and the ability to reproduce it in others.

**U**

## Out of This World



*Samuel Johnson was given an extensive tour of the palatial estate of an acquaintance. Moving from room to room, from tapestry to painting, from building to gardens, he walked on in silence. Finally, his host expectantly asked: "Well, what do you think?"*

*"What do I think?" Johnson replied. "I think that these are the things that make it hard to die."*

*Glorious day when we stand in His presence,  
All of our heartaches and sorrows are past,  
No more burdens too heavy to carry—  
We shall see Jesus at last!*

*Wonderful day when we shall be like Him,  
Features were marred by sin here below;  
Now they are radiant, beautiful, glorious!  
Cleansed by His Blood, made whiter than snow.*

*Marvelous day all suffering ended,  
Glorious bodies now, like to His own;  
We will be kings and priests in God's Kingdom,  
With glory and honor around the great throne.*

*Radiant day—the day of His crowning—  
The thought of this day is immeasurably sweet;  
Then we will stand transformed in His likeness,  
Casting our trophies and crowns at His feet.*

*Victorious day—the day of the Rapture,  
The Lamb who was slain is now become King!  
The Bride of the Lamb, in garments all glorious,  
Is singing sweet songs the Bride only can sing.*

*Triumphant day—great day of His power!  
All the kingdoms of earth will crumble and fall;  
The saints of all ages in garments of splendor  
Are crowning Him King to rule over all!*

—A. H. Dixon

God's bookkeeper makes no mistakes.

**He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.**

Matthew 10:41-42

Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned. —Peter Marshall

Failure to look daily for the Lord's appearing is conducive to complacency, the stultifying of devotion, the watering down of praise, and the tendency to surround oneself with secular things—props that go down in a moment. Hope in His sure return enables us to live each day with Christ filling our horizons, His love filling our hearts, and His work filling up the golden hours.

When the British government sought to reward General Charles Gordon for his brilliant service in China, he declined all money and titles, but accepted a gold medal inscribed with the record of his thirty-three engagements. It was his most prized possession. But after his death at Khartoum, the medal could not be found. Eventually it was learned that he had sent it to Manchester during a severe famine, directing that it should be melted down and used to buy bread for the poor. Under the date of its sending, these words were found written in his diary: "The last earthly thing I had in this world that I valued I have given to the Lord Jesus Christ." He was turning earthly treasures into heavenly ones.

A man's reward is not only in what he receives at the Judgment Seat, but also in what he becomes.

**Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.**

1 Corinthians 3:8

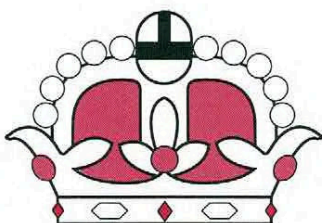
Graven in marble, it perishes; written in kindly deeds, it lives forever.

**And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

Revelation 22:12

## Review and Reward

*God has  
been  
pleased to  
reveal  
Himself  
both as the  
Rewarder  
and the  
Rewarder  
of His  
people.*



**T**o Abram, called from the luxury of city life to be a sojourner in a strange land, God said: "I am thy Shield, and thy exceeding great Reward" (Gen. 15:1). Was Abraham a loser? Whatever he left, he had God as his present Reward. But in connection with a man who lived centuries before Abram, we read that God is "a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6). He is the Reward in the present, and will be the Rewarder in the future of men who put Him first.

Of course, there is such a thing as *present* reward for the Christian. For instance, Paul, speaking of himself as a servant of Christ, exclaims: "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16). He continues: "If I do this thing willingly, I *have a reward*." It is not here a question of the future, but of what Paul had during his life on earth. "What is my reward, then?" he asks. Note his noble answer: "That when I preach the gospel I may make the gospel of Christ without charge."

But, generally speaking, reward is reserved for the future. For the Christian the time of reward will be that period called "the resurrection of the just" (Lk. 14:14), when he will appear before the Bema. The Lord distinctly says: "Behold, I come quickly, and *My reward is with Me*" (Rev. 22:12).

### INVESTIGATION

Our Lord likens Himself to a king who will "take account of His servants" (Mt. 18:23). He "cometh and reckoneth with them" (Mt. 25:19). He is like one who calls his servants to him "that he might know how much every man had gained" (Lk. 19:15). The Lord is going to investigate the measure of our fidelity, how far we have acted in His interests, what we have done with the time, influence, ability, wealth,

strength, and opportunity He has entrusted to us. The result will be far-reaching indeed.

We are sent into the world (Jn. 17:18) with a definite mission: to glorify God and do His will, to represent our Lord Jesus Christ and do our best to make Him known. What will unfaithfulness on our part mean? Not the forfeiture of our relationship, not exclusion from heaven, but loss of the glorious reward which might have been ours. "He shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved" (1 Cor. 3:15). There will be a solemn and searching investigation into what we have said and done.

### MANIFESTATION

"Every man's work shall be *made* manifest; for the day shall declare it." "The Lord...will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make *manifest* the counsels of the hearts" (1 Cor. 3:13; 4:5). Everything will be disclosed in the light of His presence. We shall get His estimate of all.

As our lives are reviewed, how we shall magnify the goodness and mercy that followed us "all the days" *without missing one!* We shall see how again and again His grace intervened for us and stood between us and the powers of evil. We shall know then what is of true worth and what is of little value.

I am sometimes asked: Will *everything* be manifested at the judgment seat? Has not God said that He will remember our sins no more? Do you not want to see all that you have ever said and done in the light of His grace? Could we rightly appreciate all that Christ has done for us if we did not know what we had done? It is not that our sins will be remembered as sins, nor will they be brought up against us. But it would be impossible for us to understand our lives without being shown the love that has forgiven all.

### COMMENDATION

The Lord will say to those in whom He has found fidelity: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Mt. 25:21). The day is com-

ing when those who have lived to God, and not to men, will receive their praise. When the day of manifestation comes, "then shall every man have praise of God" (1 Cor. 4:5).

It will be helpful to enquire as to what *doing well* really means. The apostles, while the Lord was here, were great at *saying* good things. "Ye call Me Master and Lord," said He, and "ye *say well*." But He went on to lay stress on *doing*: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye *do* them" (Jn. 13:13-17).

Even good men sometimes think they are doing well when they are doing extremely ill. Jonah was giving way to what he would have called righteous indignation. Twice God asked: "Doest thou well to be angry?" He replied, "I do well to be angry." But the dear man was doing exceedingly badly. He could say: "I knew that Thou art a gracious God, and merciful," but he was out of touch with the grace of God's heart. So we must seek instruction from the Scriptures as to what "doing well" really means.

We come now to the question of *what kind* of things will be rewarded at the judgment seat.

#### PUTTING AWAY OUR IDOLS

In the story of good King Asa, we read that a prophet came to him and said: "Be ye strong, therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded" (2 Chron. 15:7). What work?

"He took courage and *put away the abominable idols*" (v. 8). This is a thing for which a reward will be given: putting our idols away. If anyone questions the application to Christians, one need only remark that it was Christians who were exhorted to "flee from idolatry" and to "keep yourselves from idols" (1 Cor. 10:14; 1 Jn. 5:21; 1 Cor. 6:11; 10:7).

It is quite possible for us to be theologically orthodox and ecclesiastically correct, and yet to set up idols in our hearts (compare Ezek. 14:4). God help us to put them out of our lives and reap future reward.

Asa also "*renewed the altar of the Lord*" (v. 8). We sometimes hear the phrase "the family altar," meaning prayer and Scripture reading in the home. This is important and good, but has little value unless there be also a personal walk with God. Perhaps the greatest insult that can be offered to God is to join in public worship on Sunday and live the rest of the week as if He did not exist. We resent the insults that atheists heap upon His holy Name. Let us beware lest we commit the greater sin. To seek the restoration bro-

ken by our backsliding is to ensure a reward.

#### SOWING RIGHTEOUSNESS

To the person who sows right deeds, we are told, there "shall be a sure reward." What precisely is meant by this? Have you ever seen a man sowing grain in the old-time way, scattering the seed by hand? When he gets across the field, he looks back and sees a straight trail of seed. So with those who sow righteousness. They leave behind a trail of *right doing*. To be honest, pure, truthful and kind; to avoid lying, deceit, selfishness and bad temper; to do the things that are pleasing in the sight of God.

But righteousness goes hand in hand with readiness to forgive those who do us an injury. So in Proverbs 25:22 we read that if we find our enemy in need, we are not to revenge ourselves upon him, but "heap coals of fire upon his head," and *the Lord will reward us*. We gather from the verse a general idea of being kind to one who has wronged us, even if the significance of the coals of fire is not understood. For such kindness, "the Eternal will reward you."

#### A CUP OF WATER

"Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in My name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward" (Mk. 9:41). The cup of water is of little value in itself. It is the motive behind the gift that makes it precious to Christ and for which the reward will be bestowed—"Because ye belong to Christ." Whatever is done from love of that dear Name will assuredly come up for commendation and reward "in that day."

#### PRIVATE PRAYER

The Lord taught His disciples: "When thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Mt. 6:6). There is nothing here about God *hearing our* prayers, but there is a twofold assurance: He sees and will reward openly.

Is it not a great comfort to remember that God is looking on when we pray to Him behind the closed door? Even when the words will not come; when we are too weary to concentrate on what we are saying; when our hearts are too broken for us to be able to frame definite petitions; when we kneel, not knowing what to pray for as we ought; *then* God sees.

All this, however, is secret. But the day is coming

when the reward will be given. God will testify how dear to Him are the cries of His children. He values the expression of our confidence and will openly reward those who have sought His face in secret.

### SUFFERING AND REPROACH

The Lord taught His disciples that a great reward awaited them: "Blessed are ye when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil for the Son of Man's sake; rejoice ye in that day and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven" (Lk. 6:22-23). All that has been endured for Christ will be richly rewarded. While suffering in itself is valueless where love is lacking (1 Cor. 13:3), yet all that is endured for love of Him is unspeakably precious to Him. All those who suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12) shall reap a rich reward.

### A FULL REWARD

In Ruth 2:11-12, Boaz says to the desolate young Moabite widow: "It hath been fully showed me all that thou hast done unto thy mother-in-law...the Lord recompense thy work, and a *full reward* be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." Naomi was even more desolate than her daughter-in-law, for death had robbed her of her two sons, as well as of her husband. Mothers-in-law, when widows, are often thus, made to feel that their presence is a burden. How gracious of God to have this passage about kindness to a mother-in-law. Not only a reward, but a *full* reward is promised to those who show her kindness!

In 2 John, verse 8, we read: "Look to yourselves, that we (servants of Christ, apostles, preachers) lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." Really, this is extraordinary! Is it possible that John, for instance, will miss the full reward because of the failure of his converts to walk as consistent Christians? It looks like it. It was because of their happy and consistent conduct that Paul could say of his converts at Thessalonica: "What is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?" (1 Thess. 2:19).

In some way the preacher's reward is connected with the way his converts conduct themselves. Surely the patient, faithful labor of those servants of Christ who have the sorrow of seeing their children

in the faith turn back to the world and the crooked ways of sin will not be forgotten

by their Lord. But the teaching of 2 John 8 is there for a purpose. Surely it is that we who preach the gospel may be more diligent in prayer, and more concerned about the walk of those whom we have been enabled to lead to Christ. You cannot say "good-bye" to a convert and leave him to his own devices without risking the partial loss of your own reward.

### BEGUILING US OF OUR REWARD

We learn that there is the possibility of somebody beguiling us of our reward (Col. 2:18). Most of us would rather give a man a dollar than be "done" out of a quarter. This word "beguile" means just that. We must let no one *do us* out of our reward.

May I beg my younger brethren and sisters to remember this when the proposition of marriage is before them? It is so easy for us to link our lives with those who will do us out of our reward. It is not enough to know that the one you think of marrying is a believer. He or she may be that, and yet not be God's choice for you. Unless we make earnest prayer to God for guidance, we run the serious risk of taking a life-partner who will do us out of our reward.

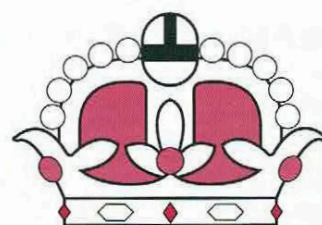
### THE PRIZE

Rewards are many, but the prize is one, "the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14). Paul tells us it was the goal towards which he hastened. His body could hinder his running. So he brought it into subjection that he might secure an incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

Crowns are also spoken of as rewards, and it is noteworthy that they are primarily connected with the affections of the soul. The Lord promises "the crown of life" to them that *love* Him (Jas. 1:12). A "crown of righteousness" awaits all that *love* His appearing (2 Tim. 4:8).

Have you ever heard anyone say: "I'm not thinking of reward; it is enough for me to be in heaven with Christ"? It sounds so religious, doesn't it? But when the Lord speaks so much about reward, and desires to give us one, it seems a rather low-down thing to depreciate it. We read of Moses that "he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:26). We shall not err if we follow him.

**U**



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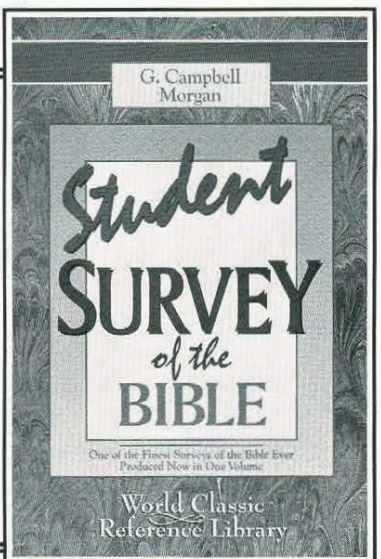
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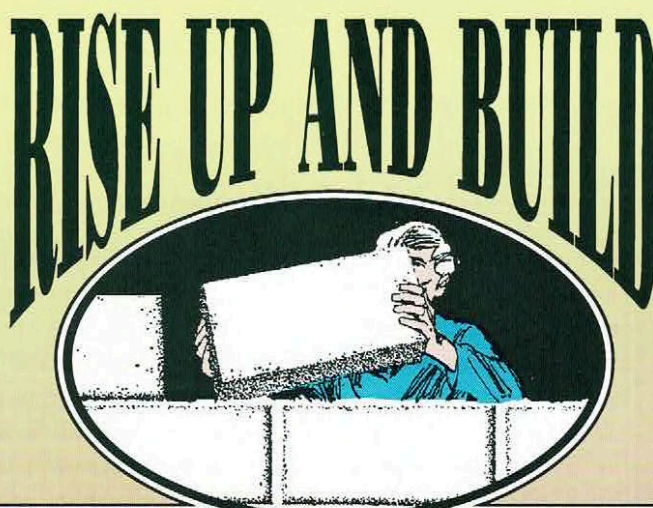
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