

end times
messenger



AUGUST/1978 VOL. 42 NO. 8

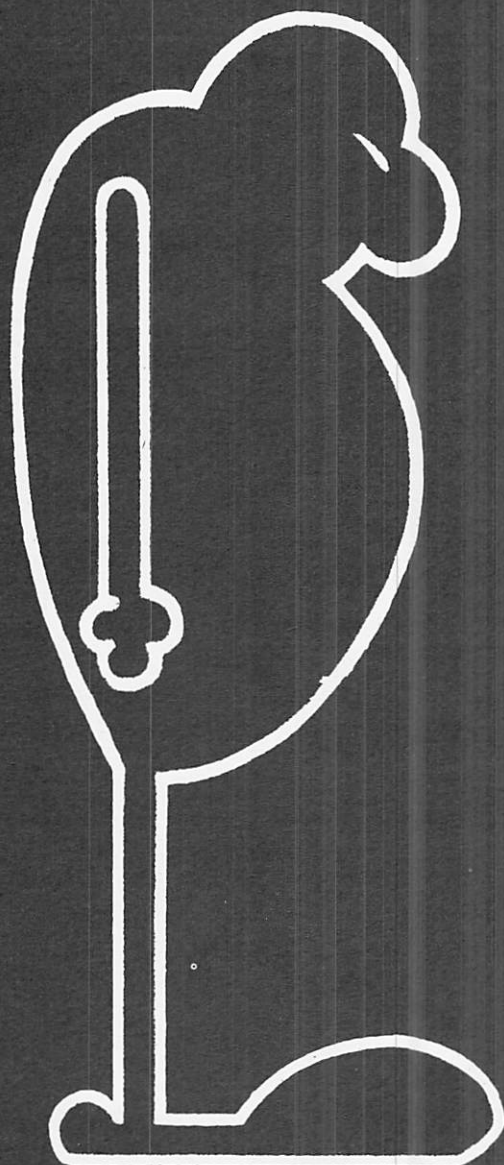


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RELIGION IS A DRAG

by ROY LESSIN

Let's face it! For you and a lot of other people, to become religious is a waste of time. The thing that's important to you is pleasure. Truly to become a religious person is an unnecessary hardship.

Sure, there are lots of so-called religious people in the world today, but there are many who take a more realistic approach to life.

The drug addict says, "As soon as I take this fix, all will be well again." Meanwhile the drug eats away at his body like a cancer.

The alcoholic says, "These next few drinks will bring release for a while." And yet his character is cheapened, his home divided and his money wasted.

Many say, "Sex brings the only real satisfaction"; and while their hearts burn with lust, they cheapen girl friends, destroy marriages, abuse themselves, and still, unsatisfied, long for more.

Even among the religious, earnest Jews have said, "I still have no peace." Devoted Catholics have said, "I still fear death." Active Protestants have said, "I'm trying the best I can and yet it all seems so empty."

We said religion is a drag, and it is. Going to church is boring, and reading the Bible and praying is a chore if God isn't real to you. After all, what's the use of "playing church" when your heart wants other things? Many realize this and have tried other means to find the answers. Yet they have failed.

Some have pursued fame and in the end have said, "What's it all for?" Some have tried fortune and have had

breakdowns because of the pressures.

What's the path of your life going to be? Don't make it formal, empty religion — that's a drag, a waste of time. By the way, it's also a waste of God's time. God doesn't want you going off in a hundred different directions. Instead, God wants to give you something, and it is not a counterfeit life; it is reality.

God doesn't want you to trust a set of laws, but a Person. He wants you to know His Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive right now. He came to earth and died on the cross to save you from a wasted life. He wants to come into your heart and life and fill the empty place. That is why you haven't been able to find the answers in all those things you've been trying. You were made to know God personally, for Him to live within your heart and control your life.

Jesus loves you. Sin has kept you from Him. Stop going in that direction in which you are heading. Instead, turn things over to Him. Tell Him you need him. Let Him come into your life so that you may learn what it means to have reality.

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Jesus is the One to come to — no one else. Will you come? Jesus also said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). There is no other way. He is waiting. Right now put your life into His hands.

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada Inc., is a Fellowship of Full Gospel churches holding forth the message of the power of God and the Gospel of the Grace of God.

WE BELIEVE: 1. In the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. 2. In the existence of One True God who has revealed Himself to this world as the Father, as the Son and as the Holy Spirit. 3. In the Saviour of men, the Lord Jesus Christ, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, very God and very Man. 4. In the creation, test and fall of man, as recorded in Genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to divine righteousness. 5. In the Gospel of the Grace of God, how that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day for our justification. 6. In the salvation of sinners by Grace alone, through faith in the perfect and sufficient work of Christ on our behalf upon the Cross of Calvary. 7. In Water Baptism of believers by immersion in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8. In the Baptism with the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to salvation, with the scriptural evidence; namely, speaking in tongues. 9. In the Gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in 1 Corinthians, being exercised and practiced as manifest in the early Church. 10. In the Lord's Memorial, commonly called Supper, for believers. 11. In the healing of the body by Divine Power, or Divine Healing in many aspects as practiced by the early Church. 12. In the eternal life of the believer and the eternal punishment of the unbeliever. 13. In the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world, and the perfecting of holiness in the fear of God as an expression of Christian faith. 14. In the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His church.

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Subscriptions . . .

and correspondence regarding subscriptions should be mailed to: End Times Messenger, No. 4 - 3026 Taylor Street East, Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 4J2.

Subscription Rates

Single Subscription, 1 year \$3.00
Two Years \$5.00
Single Copies 35 cents each

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Second Class Mail Registration No. 0088

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How Your Church Can Grow



by C. PETER WAGNER

Celebration + Congregation + Cell = Church.

What does this mathematical expression mean? Let's take it apart and consider it one element at a time.

Celebration

One of the things a large church can do well is celebrate. By "celebrate" I mean roughly what most people mean by "worship," but not entirely. A person can worship God beside a babbling brook in a forest or in his car on a freeway or with his family around the dinner table.

However, none of these situations is conducive to what I mean by "celebration". The occasion for that in most churches is on Sunday morning.

happened to God's people during those celebrations that would not have happened without them.

The great camp meetings of a century ago, Finney's revivals, Billy Graham crusades today, summer Bible conferences, Urbana missionary conventions — all these have operated basically as celebrations. They were and still are functional substitutes for the Jewish festivals. Christians love to go to them.

Some Sunday morning worship services in our churches are exciting, too. Unfortunately, however, in a large number of our churches, the Sunday morning service is more like a funeral than a festival. There is nothing unauthentic about that kind of worship service — true, committed Christians can and do get through to God under

**Not all bigness is carnal,
and not all smallness is spiritual.
Not even concerning churches.**

When people come together, hungry to meet God, a *special* kind of worship experience can occur. That experience is what I want to call "celebration".

While the relationship is not a direct proportion, size has something to do with the quality of a celebration. As every sports fan knows, there is something about a game played before 75,000 spectators that makes it superior to the same game before 1,500.

God's people have known about celebration for a long time. The fact that the Temple was the focal point for the worship of Jehovah helped immensely in keeping the twelve tribes of Israel and their respective clans together as the people of God. The Temple was so designed that many people would be there at one time seeking God and seeing others do the same thing.

By divine appointment not only was there a weekly Sabbath, but great yearly festivals such as Passover, Pentecost, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and later Purim and others. Something good

such circumstances. But it is not the kind of experience that they are very enthusiastic in inviting their unconverted friends to.

This is probably one reason why many churches have remained small over the years. Most of them, especially when a new pastor has arrived, have tried to beef up their worship service from time to time so it would be more attractive to outsiders. But in many cases nothing seems to work. The problem could very well be that the churches are simply too small. good celebrations need large numbers of people to make them attractive.

Of all the pastors I have been associated with, Raymond Ortlund, my own pastor, has most thoroughly grappled with the theology and practice of worship. He says: "Worship is top priority. Everything, absolutely everything, must be put aside to do this thing that God has called you to do. Worship is lofty business — but, friend, we do it so poorly."

Ortlund knows that good worship does not just happen. It has to be planned and worked on. So he gives a

great deal of his energy to the Sunday morning worship at Lake Avenue Congregational Church in Pasadena. And one of his key staff, Bruce Leafblad, has been called by the church virtually to do only one thing; see that Lake Avenue Church has an exciting celebration at 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 every Sunday morning.

Leafblad has what many churches need: a spiritual gift for designing recipes that combine choirs and Scripture and preaching and announcements and organ music and offerings and prayer and solos and standing and sitting and noise and silence in such a way that fifty-two times a year 2,500 people go home to Sunday dinner feeling that they have just had an important meeting with almighty God and that because of it they are not the same.

Worship, of course, can never be a oneway street. With all the skill in the world on the platform and in the pulpit, a person in the pew will not meet God if he or she does not put anything into it. Christian people have to be motivated and trained to worship well or they will end up "playing church". In our church we are told from the pulpit to avoid this with the same finality that we are told to avoid cheating, stealing or adultery.

This is not at all to say that Lake Avenue Church had the best or the only kind of celebration that will help a church to grow. We do know that it is good for the people in our community at this particular point of history. Yet I have seen dozens of other equally effective patterns of celebration. If these celebrations bring people to God in such a way that they say to their unchurched friends, "Hey, how about coming to church with me — you'll have a great time!" they will help the church grow.

Congregation

A good celebration alone does not make for a healthy, growing church. The celebration will generally be there, but it will also be properly balanced with the other two major functions of a local church: congregation and cell.

Celebration + Congregation + Cell = Church. Most churches do not choose one or two of these elements; they combine all three.

The distinction between the celebration and the congregation is a

crucial one. Some avoid a celebration because they feel that if they encourage too many people to gather together on a Sunday morning they will lose the sense of personal fellowship, which they value very highly.

They are concerned that a Christian in a large celebration might be anonymous. They even feel that fellowship and worship must be so closely related that they arrange church seating in a circle rather than in rows. They want eye contact with each other rather than with those on the platform. Eye contact and fellowship are necessary, but in the congregation and the cell, not in the celebration. Anonymity in a celebration is not bad at all. The fact that I am not acquainted with the persons in front of me or behind me in the Dodger Stadium, for example, has no effect on my personal involvement in the game.

The same thing applies when I go to church to worship God on Sunday morning. I do not go there to widen my circle of friends or to discuss and dialogue. My goal is to meet God, and that ultimately involves just God and me.

However, if all a church has to offer is celebration, it may well not be a church. If a believer misses two or three celebrations in a row, no one is the wiser. But if he misses two or three meetings of the "congregation," he is worried over, called upon, prayed for and made to understand that there are people around him that care. Deep down, everyone needs to have others know his or her name and use it. The congregation is the place where people know each other's name.

The major characteristics of the congregation, as I see it, is that everyone in the congregation is supposed to know everyone else. Here is where fellowship starts, although it does not end here. In smaller churches, of course, the fellowship group and the membership group are

likely to be one and the same. In a church of one or two hundred members you are supposed to recognize a stranger if he wanders in on Sunday morning, and you expect to be missed if for some reason you do not attend.

But not so in a larger church. The congregations there take forms other than that of the membership group. Undoubtedly the most common form of a congregation within a larger church is the Sunday School class.

But it can take other forms as well. It can be structured as a neighborhood group which meets regularly. It can be a task-oriented group such as the choir or the evangelism team or the bus ministry leaders or the commission on social involvement. It can be activity-oriented — a softball team or a camping club. In many ways except for celebration, these several congregations within the larger church function exactly like a small country church would be expected to function.

Churches can grow for a time with just a great celebration. But such growth can be illusory.

The First Baptist Church of New York City was one of the great Christian centers of the nation around the turn of the century. I. M. Haldeman was an outstanding man of God and such an exciting man of God and such an exciting preacher that people would line up for blocks just to get a seat at one of his services. The celebration was superb. But when Pastor Haldeman left, decline set in.

At around the same time, Pastor George Truett was developing a similarly influential church at First Baptist in Dallas. He matched Haldeman's pulpit ability and served his church for forty years. Many people thought that when Truett left the church would decline. But it did not. The church continued strong and it has become even stronger under the new pastor, W. A. Criswell.

continued on next page

**The congregation
is the place where people
know each other's name**

The major difference between the two churches was the strong Christian education program developed in Dallas. By the time Truett left, his staff had built the largest Sunday school in the South. In other words, both churches had a wonderful celebration, but the one that ultimately survived combined *celebration* with *congregation*.

What is the optimum size for a congregation? Some groupings may be considered congregations which are not congregations at all.

The maximum optimum growth of a congregation is limited by its primary objective of fellowship. Larry Richards suggest 250 as the maximum size. Most people are stretched beyond their capacity to be able to relate to 250 others on a first and last name basis with contacts as infrequent as five or six times a month.

For most, 250 will be too many. Thus, if your church has congregations that have grown to 250, or in many cases even fewer, it might be time to think of dividing them. If you do, it will probably help your church grow.

I feel so strongly about the need for combining the membership group with the fellowship group that I think joining a "congregation" ought to be a membership requirement for an adult joining a church. As a part of the membership class, the adult candidates should be required to become aware of the various congregations, visit the appropriate ones and, by the time they are taken into membership, decide which one they want to join. If this were done it would strengthen a church as steel rods strengthen poured concrete.

Cell

The third part of the formula is the cell. I mentioned before that the congregation is only the beginning of the fellowship circle. It is possible to

**The cell has a
very special relationship,
like a family situation**

fellowship with one or two hundred other people, but it is not possible to enter into the deeper kind of interpersonal relationships that are necessary to meet another important set of human needs. The cell, sometimes called a "small group", is a very special relationship. It is so close to a family situation that I like to call it a "kinship circle" to contrast it from the membership (celebration) circle and the fellowship (congregation) circle.

I am not by nature a small group person, nor is my wife. However, I do listen to my pastor who has told me more than once: "You're a fine Christian, but you'll be a much better one if you let God get hold of you in a small group." I think he's probably right, and I keep trying, but feebly.

I also listen to people like Larry Richards who have a deep personal involvement in spreading the small group movement. Here is how he defines the cell: "Eight or twelve believers gathered to minister to each other, to grow in their sensed love and unity, and to encourage one another to full commitment to Christ."

Pastor Daniel Baumann of the Whittier Area Baptist Fellowship has utilized the small group dynamic for church growth as well as anyone I know. His church, a spin-off from another Baptist church, began with 350 members in 1971 and in four years grew steadily to 820 members. This figures out to a rate of 740 per cent per decade, and that in spite of a facilities problem caused by their sharing a church building with a congregation of another denomination.

Baumann feels that one of the keys

to their growth has been what he calls their "Circles of Concern" program. The purpose of this program is "to help us reach out to the other members of the Body of Christ, to assure that no person who comes to our church ever leaves feeling alone or unwanted, but is involved in a meaningful relationship with others who show him love and personal concern."

Each Circle of Concern starts with approximately four couples. Children are also included. The average size is six family units. They are required to meet at least once a month and also to become involved in some kind of service to the community.

In 1975 the church had thirty-two active Circles of Concern. This means that nearly 200 *families* had developed a level of activity and commitment far above that of the average church member in America. It has contributed to dynamic growth in the Whittier Area Baptist Fellowship. I believe a similar kind of program will contribute to church growth wherever it is put into practice along with the other major functions.

Remember: *Celebration* + *Congregation* + *Cell* = *Church*.†

The Alliance Witness.

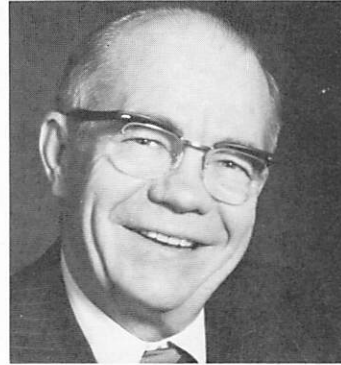


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From Your Church Can Grow (Regal Books).
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Bible Faith

by LORNE O. PRITCHARD



I. The Bible is The Word of God

Matt. 22:29-31; Daniel 9:10,11; Mark 7:10, 13; 1 Thess. 2:13; Hebrews 1:1.

It is an experience to be saved. It is another experience to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is an additional experience to have the Holy Spirit make the Word real in the Heart. It is the Holy Spirit that makes the Bible the WORD OF GOD to one's heart. And when the Holy Spirit bears witness one needs no other argument!

II. The Bible Produces faith

This brings us to our subject; "Bible Faith" and as we meditate on the Word may our faith grow and increase more and more.

1. All Men Have Not Faith

2 Thess. 3:2, "All men have not faith . . ."

2 Tim. 3:5-8, men without faith reject the gospel (vs.5) they ever learn but never learn (vs.7) they resist the truth, they have distorted, twisted corrupt minds, and they are reprobate concerning faith (vs.8).

Romans 12:3, "to every man the measure of faith" according to context, only applies to believers.

2. All True Christians Have Faith

Matt. 6:30, some have "little" faith
Matt. 8:10, some have "great" faith

Rom. 4:19, some are "weak" in faith

Col. 1:4, but all have faith **IN** Christ Jesus.

Eph. 2:8, all are saved . . . by faith
Gal. 2:20, all live by faith of the Son of God.

3. Bible Faith Comes Through The WORD of God only and alone

Romans 10:17 . . . faith cometh by hearing . . . the WORD of God. Faith does not come from hearing testimonies.

Faith does not come from hearing sermons.

Faith does not come by reading magazines.

Testimonies, sermons, etc., may encourage or strengthen a faith that you already have, but they do not impart faith.

Faith does not rest on reason, it rests on Revelation. God has given us a Revelation (The Bible) which we can accept or reject, but we cannot tamper with it!

4. Bible Faith Gives One A New Dimension

Heb. 11:3, by faith we **understand**. There is no such thing as "blind faith". Faith is built on knowledge and that knowledge is found in the

Bible! It is knowledge built on Revelation, a revelation that is of God.

Today we have panel discussions on everything. And young and old are asked, and what do YOU think the truth is, it doesn't matter much what one thinks if he doesn't know!

A cartoon in "Christianity Today" expressed this very well. The Philippian Jailor was pictured asking Paul and Silas, "what must I do to be saved?" And Paul replies, "Well, what do YOU think?" You see, there are certain subjects where the thinking of people is useless, because they don't know, and therefore what they think isn't worth thinking! But faith gives one an understanding.

1 John 5:20, "And we know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding . . ." See also 1 Cor. 2:14, 15; John 9:25; 1 Cor. 1:18-29.

5. Bible Faith Gives One Conviction

2 Tim. 1:12, "I **know** . . ."

Rom. 8:28, "And we **know** . . ."

2 Cor. 4:13, "We having the same spirit of faith."

There is a Spirit of faith!

There is a Spirit of unbelief!

2 Cor. 11:4, talks about Jesus, another Spirit and another gos-

continued on next page

pel. If it is another Jesus, it brings another spirit. BUT if it is the same Jesus, it always brings the same spirit. And this same spirit always brings conviction of faith.

6. BIBLE Faith is Something to Thank God For

2 Tim. 1:3-5, I thank God for the unfeigned, that is genuine faith, in thee, in thy grandmother, in thy mother . . ."

Rom. 1:8, "I thank God that . . . your faith . . ."

Col. 1:3,4, "We give thanks. . . since we heard of your faith. . ."

Rom. 1:17, "it is from faith to faith . . ."

True, saving faith is an individual thing, but it is the revelation of the Word of God that faith is to be "from faith to faith". That is grandmother's faith is to reach mother, and mother's faith is to reach her boy and so on. And what a blessed thing it is to see the same kind of faith in the rising generation that was seen in father and in grandfather! This is something to really thank God for.

7. BIBLE Faith Removes Fear and Superstition.

Paganism, Popery and ignorance prevail without the Bible. Black cats, broken mirrors, unlucky thirteens, four-leaf clovers, and all indicate our heathen background! And without the Bible these things have a real hold on people.

John 8:30-32, "the truth shall set you free."

Rom. 6:14, "this is **truth!**"

Rom. 6:18, "this is **truth!**"

Phil. 1:23, "this is **truth!**"

Therefore we need not be afraid. Phil. 1:28, "in nothing be terrified . . ."

Col. 1:13, "He **HATH** delivered us from the power of darkness."

2 Tim. 1:7, "God hath not given us a spirit of fear . . ."

Many people do not need prayer, they need faith in God's Word. People request prayer in order that they may be delivered from fear. This can come only by FAITH in what is written!

8. Bible Faith Cannot Grow Without The Bible

Matt. 12:1-3, "have ye not read?"

Matt. 19:3-5, "have ye not read?"

Matt. 21:16, "have ye not read?"

Matt. 22:31, "have ye not read?"

Rom. 15:4, through the scriptures we have hope.

Acts 17:2-3, proved by the Scriptures.

2 Tim. 2:15 . . . study to be approved of God.

Acts 11:26, . . . first Christians were Bible students.

We encourage the study of history, of music, of sciences, but do we really encourage the study of the Scriptures? The study of the Scriptures bears on morals and manners. Today higher education has little or nothing to say about morals! And of what value is education without morals?

1 Peter 2:1,2, We must do verse 1 before we can do verse 2! It is only by the milk of the word that we grow.

Faith is made up of knowledge, belief and trust. It is based on knowledge that comes from the Bible, therefore it cannot grow without the Bible.

9. Bible Faith is Impossible if the Bible is Not True

Today theologians are writing, "the story of Adam and Eve did not happen, it is not history. The virgin birth did not take place, it is scientifically impossible." These and many other statements are really saying, "the Bible is not true!" Such an approach to the Bible can never produce faith! Daniel 9:15, "THY TRUTH." Here Daniel had references to the Books of Moses.

2 Tim. 2:15, "Study . . . the Word of **TRUTH** . . ."

John 17:17, "Thy Word is **truth.**"

James 1:18, "The Word of **Truth.**"

1 Cor. 10:11, all of these (O.T. stories) **really** happened!

10. To Reject The Bible is to Reject Knowledge

a. In current literature the question is asked, "who wrote Genesis?" The answer is given, "we do not know." Such a reply is a lie! The answer is only possible if we reject Bible knowledge. It is willful ignorance. 2 Peter 3:5.

Jesus tells us definitely that Moses wrote John 5:46 and 47.

b. The results of rejecting Bible knowledge are stated in Hosea 4:6, "my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge because thou hast rejected knowledge . . ." Zeph. 1:17, "And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men because they have sinned against the Lord . . ." Mal. 2:7-9, verse 9, Therefore have I made you contemptible and base before all the people . . ." If a preacher ignores the Bible, he becomes base before men. Therefore the reverse is true, proclaim the truth and God will bring honour, God will magnify the minister even as He magnified Joshua before the eyes of Israel.

Rejecting the Bible is really the result of unbelief. And unbelief will always limit God. Psalms 78:41, Mark 6:5,6.

If we will not believe we will not be established. Isaiah 7:9; 2 Chron. 20:20.

2 Tim. 2:13; Hebrews 3:17-19 . . . God cannot deny Himself, if we believe not He will not because He cannot lead us on in unbelief. The sin that besets (Hebrews 12:1) is the sin of unbelief.

11. Bible Faith Removes Sadness, and Gives Joy and Gladness

1 Tim. 6:17, God wants us to enjoy life.

Luke 24:17,27,32, The sadness was removed by the Scriptures.

Nehemiah 8:1-12, Notice the place here for the BOOK.

Romans 15:4, Through the Scriptures we receive comfort.

A little girl was reading a Bible to her grandmother. An atheist stopped and asked, "why do you read THAT book? And the little girl replied, "Why, to comfort her heart, of course." To this answer he had no reply. And as he went on his way he asked himself, "what other book could I give her to read that could do that?" YOU answer that question!†

Lorne O. Pritchard is Principal of Jubilee Bible College, Vancouver, B.C.

BELIEVING AND UNDERSTANDING

First Believe

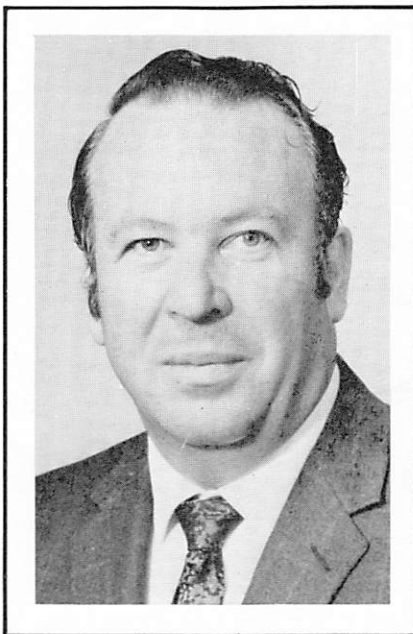
In looking at believing and understanding, these are two words and happenings that are entirely different and follow a definite order. First, believe with the heart, and understanding will follow in the mind. To believe clears the pathway for understanding. Unbelief hinders understanding. Jesus was hindered from helping the people because of their unbelief.

My believing has a higher capacity of acceptance than my understanding. For instance, when I turn on a television set a picture appears on the picture tube and sound comes over the speakers; and in watching this process take place I could ask myself, "Do I understand all the functions of the tubes, resistors, transistors, etc. Do I understand TV cameras, TV broadcasting stations, towers, frequencies, etc?" My answer to these questions would be that I do not fully understand how it all happens and if it depended on my understanding to turn on a TV set it simply wouldn't ever get turned on. To watch a program of my choice it's my belief that turns on the TV set and from my believing I can grow in understanding as to all that takes place in the electronic parts.

One common practise is to believe what the world teaches then with this worldly type of understanding people try to believe what God says and does. Unbelief usually follows for worldly understanding (natural; flesh) does not comprehend spiritual things. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:6,7). The born again experience (born from above) takes place in our spirit and a renewing of the mind follows.

The level of believing and understanding God's Word is dependent on one's choices and level of asking, seeking and knocking. God is our source of all things and in our believing God is also our source. To me it's similar to the tuning forks. One fork can be the source of the sound of waves and the other fork will pick up the sound waves and soon will be

by MURRAY F. HOWELL



Murray F. Howell was saved and trained in a fundamental church. Received the baptism in a Full Gospel Business Men's meeting and now has taken up the ministry of God's healing power at the Gospel Chapel in Souris, Manitoba.

vibrating (in harmony) with the source.

God's power is available to us at all times - we can let it go by or accept it with all our heart.

"... If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness; "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1,2).

Be Like Jesus

Children are the world's greatest imitators, especially of their parents. The actions that the parents are doing, the child will also be doing. In these imitations the child is more than identifying with his parent, he is desiring to be identical. Our two-year old son likes keys, especially car keys, and so out of some old keys a set was made up for him. He was having nothing to do with them because they were not the ones that worked or the ones that Dad used. This is the same with true believers in Christ. The true believers want to be identified with Jesus, and also have a great desire to be like Jesus. "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).

As Jesus did the work of the Father, the disciples followed doing what Jesus did by the power of the Holy

continued on next page

Spirit. As Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the work that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:12,13). In the world today there are many mind-stretching, mind-bending activities that one can engage in, but the danger in stretching anything is that it will snap and the damage is done. One can go the limited unsuccessful way, but why choose that when through Jesus we can enter into the unlimited for with God all things are possible. Praise the Lord!

Power In Doing

There is power in obedience. Men have done fantastic things by doing them in line with the laws of gravity, space, combustion, etc. Man has landed on the moon simply by seeking out the ways and means (laws) and following them in total obedience.

There have been many breakthroughs in all the sciences; man-

kind through these discoveries, is able to accomplish great things that were thought impossible before. These laws have always been there, established by God, for our benefit. As man seeks he shall find, and in finding and obeying these laws, great and new feats can be accomplished.

Laws which are ways and means of living in our environment are also boundaries that cannot be broken and when not followed or when other choices are taken, serious consequences follow.

As there have been breakthroughs in the physical realm there are also breakthroughs in the spiritual realm. All truth is parallel (all truth is in harmony and all lies are in discord). As time is rolling along, God is revealing to His followers more and more spiritual truths through revelation by the anointing, visions, prophesy and signs and wonders in the heavens above and signs in the earth beneath (Acts 2:17-21).

Never before has there been so many radio, TV and film stars finding Christ as their Lord and Saviour. In all the wickedness that there is in the world, people all over the world by the thousands are finding Jesus as the only answer to their every need.

Never before has there been so many earthquakes. The pace of life has picked up to a tremendous speed; one moment in peace and the next in war, one moment in security and the next in turmoil.

We have come into a time when obedience to God's Word is the only way out. Jesus is the living Word of God. Only as disciples, as followers and learners of Christ can one have authority, love and power to cope with oncoming circumstances.

As scientists are obeying the physical laws and accomplish their objectives, so believers obeying and following the Word of God through Christ are also able to do the impossible.

Yes, there is great power in obedience (surrender) in following God's Word. As one is doing the Word (not hearing it only) one is coming into harmony with the spiritual kingdom of the Son. Jesus walked on the water, healed the sick, calmed the storms, raised the dead, and met the needs of the people for he had dominion over physical laws.

Jesus gave us an example of the power that is in the Word:

"... be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only ..." (James 1:21-23).†



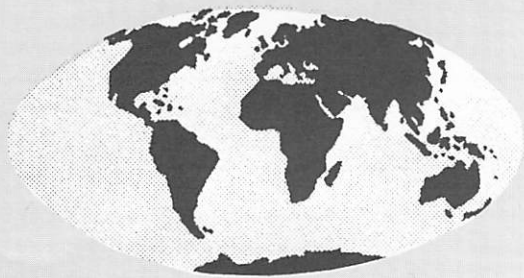
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Hearing the good news of God's love.

AFRICAN OUTREACH

by LIONEL BATKE

"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy" (Psalm 61:1-3).

For those born and raised on that rich, red African soil — some of it now threatened by the ominous rumblings of political confrontation and war — there is a turning and lifting of hearts unto God for shelter and strength.

MALAWI

Arriving in Blantyre on April 1st, I was met by Jim and Doris Lapka and although he was laboring under the effects of malaria, we travelled over 200 miles north to Namitete that evening. Along the way, the vehicle's fan belt came apart. A few minutes later, some Nazarene missionaries "just happened along" with an extra belt that fit perfectly!

Farther along we nearly slammed into the back of a lightless truck in the dark, deep fog. We finally arrived at the mission station in the midst of an old fashioned thunder storm with all the trimmings.

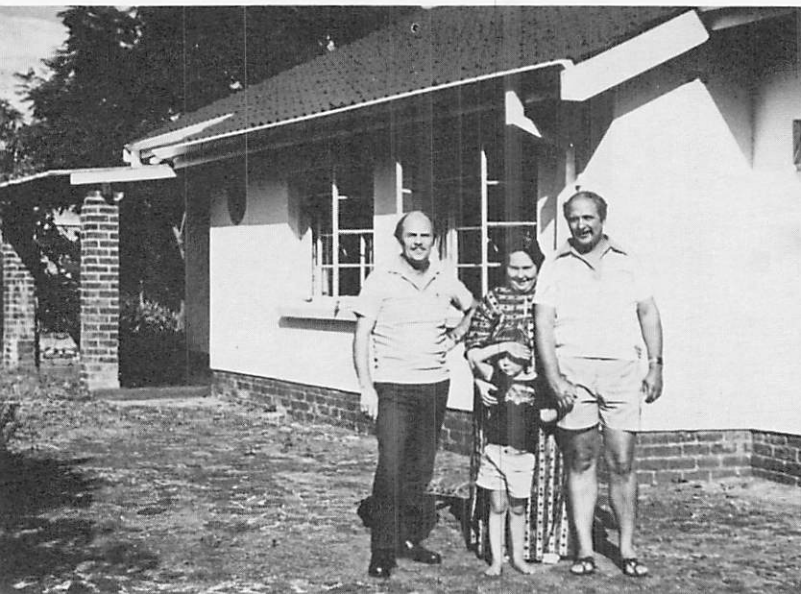
Isabel Duncan and Annita Cole had started the meetings that day because I had missed a plane in Rio de Janeiro, so the folks had been told I wasn't going to make it. They were surprised and all the happier to see me.

I was greeted with many heartfelt words of welcome by the 7 pastors and 6 visiting churches they represented. One pastor brought his choir (robes and all), walking from a place 18 miles away by car. The blessing of the Lord was evident as we ministered on the "Believer's Authority Over Satan", this followed by communion.

The Annual Pastors' Conference of Malawi, held during the first week of April, was attended by about 25 men at Mponela where Isabel and Annita are stationed.

Again, they seemed to receive me and the word of the Lord which flowed throughout the week, totally without reservation. The Lord had shown me before leaving home that I would minister prophetically to leaders at that conference. Of those who entered in with us, only 2 had ever prophesied before.

Lionel Batke with missionaries Joan and Jim Borden in Gwelo, Rhodesia.



We ministered on the theme "How to Gather Unto Him": gathering as a family, in love and unity as one people, as the Body comes together, in worship and ministry unto the Lord and others, and as a harvest of fruit from your life and ministry. One of the pastors and a house boy received the Holy Spirit there.

When Brother David Maganga from Mpando (near Blantyre) was ordained Friday afternoon, we had communion and everyone entered into the fellowship and shared the bread so beautifully.

This was followed by a late evening, African style love feast of "nsima" (unsalted white corn meal) and beef boiled in a clay or iron pot. This, of course, is eaten with your fingers.

The following week we had meetings in the Blantyre area where the Lapkas live. There are 11 new works here making a total of 44 Church groups in Malawi. The first night, we slipped into a ditch in the rain, but because the Lord is our Helper, we still made it to the meeting.

Brother Hugh Cruickshank roared in from the Philip-

Brother and Sister Steel Mahongo, African Overseer.



ines on Thursday (better late than never) and we spent the remainder of my 45 day tour ministering together.

That weekend, we went out to Mpando village where Brother Maganga pastors. Some gave their hearts to the Lord and 10 or 15 received the Holy Spirit. Among these was the Chief of the village who was so strengthened in his body that he was leaping around the altar and praising God, saying how he could now rule his people in the power of the Spirit.

The most obvious case of healing was that of a young man, the leader of another group, whose arm had gone dead the Sunday before. He received ministry on Saturday, and again on Sunday morning. By that afternoon service, he was swinging his arm around and rejoicing in the Lord.

A blind man with his wife and baby walked 30 miles down off of a mountain on a rocky road. It took 3 days and needless to say, God met him and filled him with the Holy Ghost.

So many could have testified that we just asked those who had been saved, filled or healed to stand. The majority of adults in an assembly of over 70, including children, stood up.

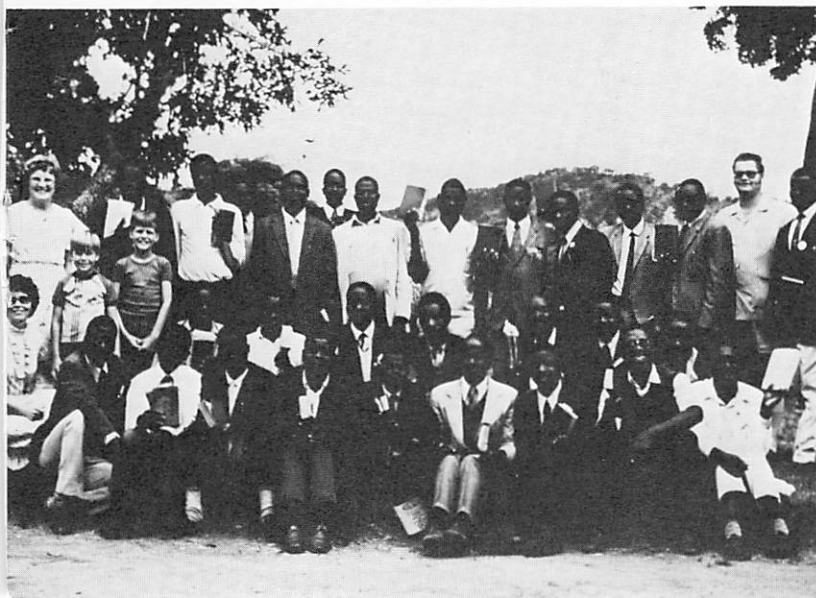
Monday night, 10 year old Robert Lapka sweetly received the Holy Spirit at home. That made Mom and Dad pretty happy.

In May, the Love Africa Congress with Brother Andrew was brought to a profitable conclusion in Blantyre. Hopes are high that the Morris Cerrullo meetings will both draw thousands to the stadium next year and help to heal that land.

His Excellency the Life President, Ngwazi Doctor Hastings Kamuzu Banda is over 70 years old and a concern was expressed as to who will succeed him. We're asked to pray that God will provide good leadership and ensure continued complete freedom for the 250 Canadian missionaries now serving there.

In March, an event of historic significance took place. For the first time ever, all the Pentecostal leaders in Malawi gathered together, deciding God had brought them there to plan ways to express the unity of the Church!

Pastor's Conference of Malawi at Mponela.



SOUTH AFRICA

In the same spirit of unity Bill Burnett, Anglican Archbishop of that country, publicly apologized to Pentecost last September at an 8-day Charismatic Conference in Johannesburg for giving us the cold shoulder. No wonder 12 out of 22 Bishops there are Spirit-filled!

There were over 2000 people in attendance, so it wasn't done in a corner. I wonder if we are prepared to accept that apology in the **spirit** of grace, and forgive these people so we can walk on in the light?

The FGBMFI has made a real impact on that nation through the Pentecostal Churches. They've had multi-racial meetings that so impressed the government with their pure motives and love for one another that such integrated worship is now permitted in urban areas.

About 10 miles out of Barberton (200 miles east of Johannesburg and an hour and a half from the Indian Ocean by car), meetings were held in a Free Methodist Church building at Consort Gold Mine.

A big, powerfully built black man (of whom the whole valley is still afraid) was gloriously filled with the Holy Ghost the first night. Thrusting his arms about like a boxer, he fairly preached in tongues, and his salvation had been no less dramatic.

continued on next page

Lloyd Schuetz, Overseer of Central, South Africa.





Pastor's Conference of Malawi at Mponela.

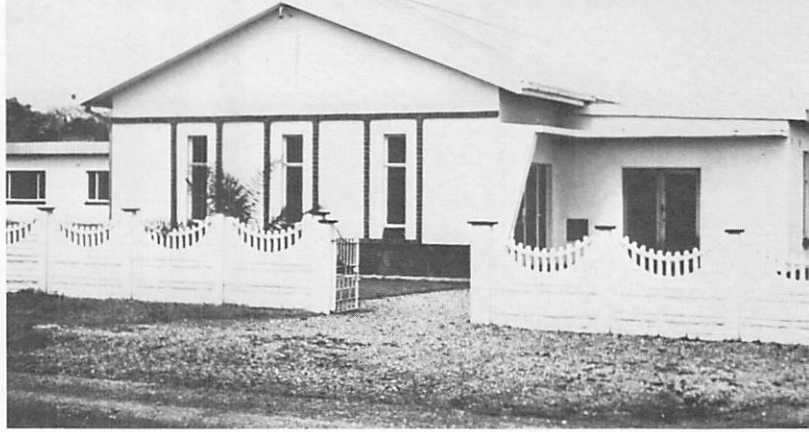
Previously approached by a man with a Bible, the black was about to split the man's head open with a pipe. But when the brother said, "You're dealing with God and his Word, not with me," the black fell backwards with pipe in hand, and was smitten to the ground: he was saved on the spot.

Others were filled that night including the interpreter (which helped) and on Saturday, but the pay-off came Sunday when the place was packed with 200 people and their pastors from 6 other denominations including Methodist, Presbyterian, Assemblies of God, Dutch Reformed, Swedish Mission and the Zionist Church.

There seemed to be a nearly wholesale response to the altar call, but because of the crowd and the language barriers, we've no idea how many received the Holy Spirit that morning. Just as Lloyd Schuetz was closing the meeting, one of the pastors exploded in some kind of ecstatic utterance. The Assemblies Pastor turned to explain that he was praising and glorifying God in Sesotho, another African language the recipient knew nothing of.

That afternoon we met at the Caldonian Mills in the Methodist Church building. Here others came from Dutch Reformed, Zionist and Roman Catholic Churches.

Because they hadn't been introduced to the Holy Spirit,



we went straight into salvation and healing. When the meeting was over literally scores of people had responded to repent of their sins and receive the Lord Jesus for the first time.

Black Africans are by nature responsive and seem to receive things from the Lord easily because of their child-like faith. Because of this we saw a greater demonstration of healing power in that meeting than in any other during our entire outreach.

The real hope of South Africa lies in the restoration of the Dutch Reformed Church. To this point she's been steadfastly resistant to renewal, but through that same steadfastness has come the stability of the nation.

The Church exerts a powerful influence on government and educational policies, these decidedly more Christian than Canada's. Things like gambling, pornography and television are stiffly censored.

President Diedericks is Dutch Reformed. Prime Minister Vorster (pronounced Foster) is a known believer. Missing from bed early in the morning, his wife has often found him on his knees praying for wisdom in making decisions which affect the direction of that nation.

RHODESIA

An official prayer for the nation is made over the radio every day at 1:05 P.M. Since the churches have begun to pray for the nation, some of them at 5 A.M., there have been remarkable stories of divine intervention in terrorist activities.

When two farms were attacked recently, the guerrillas were asked why they left the one in between untouched. Their response was, "We saw soldiers in white uniforms standing around the perimeter of that farm." The owners are Christians.

God has so confused the enemy that they put many of the pins into their land mines backwards, making them impossible to detonate. As a result, an incredible number of bombs have not gone off. According to one Pastor, even some of the terrorists are coming to know the Lord.

Brother Tony Lightness has been approached about building a Theological arm of the University of Rhodesia that would have such a Holy Spirit orientation and emphasis that doctrinal differences and denominational divisions would fade out of focus.

The M.P. responsible, Dennis Walker, former Minister of Education, said in May, "Now is the time for Rhodesia to become a Christian nation."†

you were asking

by ART & GRETA SHEPPARD



"I just can't understand why I don't get asked to do things in our church? Don't they recognize my ministry?"

It was wise Solomon who said, "A man's gift maketh room for himself."

I have often been perplexed that the music director never asked me to sing a solo, and certainly I've never even been asked into the choir, or to play in the orchestra. Then one day I understood it - "These are not my gifts," so I have now been able by God's grace to see what my gift is, and where it fits, and I'm much happier.

I would say to you, seek God to know just where you fit best in "The Body" - (and remember, you **do** fit somewhere); seek wise counsel of your pastor, and have him pray with you to find your place.

In my pastoral experience, this has been one of the main concerns, to watch where each member fits in best. You see, I believe in "body ministry" - where "every **body**" is in his place, and ministering.

Keep in mind, always . . . "God recognizes your ministry, for He gave it to you." He will make a door for it to be used.

One policy of my life has been . . . "to take every opportunity, no matter how **small** or **large** . . . do it faithfully, and when God sees you can handle a **small**, unseen task, He will give you bigger things to do."

Take courage, my fellow-believer — you are part of "The Body," there is room for you — in fact, **we need you!**

"At our church, it seems anything goes . . . people come late . . . they visit in the foyer, after church starts; the orchestra and choir never seem ready, the soloist is in the back seat when they call her to sing . . . I'm exasperated and hardened!"

I have just been reading the scripture in Phil. 1:10 - "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ."

We ought to strive for excellence in all things, especially our service to the Lord.

God deserves the best . . . He gave His best.

If it's a song . . . sing our best.

If it's a class . . . teach our best . . . give ourselves to teaching.

If it's my sermon . . . give the best.

To be late for the service is unthinkable. We are on time for school, for work, for our meals. How much more to meet God! We would never think of being late for an appointment with the King.

Visiting in the foyer when the meeting has started is definitely out of order, irreverent, and to say the least, distracting to worshippers and the pastor.

Preparation, of course, of those taking part is essential and part of excellence. The presentation is just the top of the iceberg. It is what you can see, but the greater dimension of the iceberg is under the water, and not seen. So, preparation is behind the scenes, but reflects itself immediately in the public eye. As for the soloist, it should be a rule that all participants sit on the platform, or at least in the front pew, easily accessible to the platform. We draw far too much attention by our long walk down the aisle, and by the way, we waste precious moments of the meeting.

It is quite biblical to wait on the Lord, but that is much more different (and, by the way, spiritual) than having to wait on each other, whether it's choir, orchestra, soloist, or the pastor that is not fully prepared.

"Whatever we do in word or deed, do it all to the glory of the Lord." Amen.

Send your questions directly to:

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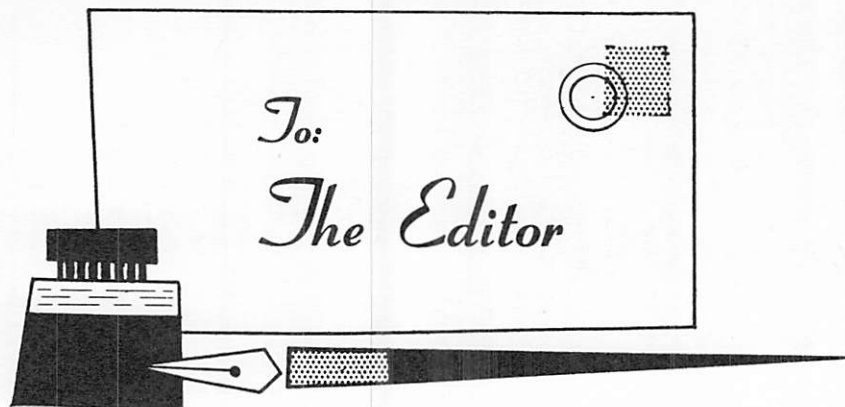


To keep our Fellowship informed of the activities and accomplishments of member churches, pastors and evangelists are requested to submit regular reports of their special missionary or evangelistic efforts.

Other newsworthy events, such as the building of new churches, or the appointment of new pastors, should be reported promptly. Photos, if possible, should accompany reports.

News items should be sent directly to the editor:

Irvin W. Ellis
1338 Tyrol Road
West Vancouver, B. C. V7S 2L6.



VITAL SUBJECTS

"We surely appreciated F. J. Kosick's, contemporary comment on "Catholic Pentecostals."

It is good to see our seasoned, experienced brethren speak up on these vital subjects. We do our greatest service to our newly-baptized fellow believers by pointing them to the Biblical - Concepts and keeping our hearts stretched out to them in love.

We are One Body, and surely if so many of these folks are genuinely receiving from God (and we believe they are) they will want to fellowship with truly born-again believers, who stand for the truth of the Word of God.

May I also add, we appreciate I. Block's "Reaction" in the March edition. He certainly complimented our article and expanded on it."†

A.E.S.

TIMELY MESSAGE

"I have just finished reading the article, "The Dilemma of Discipleship." I think it is one of the best articles I have read in the End Times Messenger for a long time, and certainly a very timely message for us all in the Christian world today.

"We may well ask ourselves what we are doing to forward the gospel to the needy, to the down-and-out or the children on our streets that never see the inside of a Sunday School.

"We need to stir up the Spirit that is in us, to shake ourselves out of our complacency. To know our 'Discipleship in Christ' and not only to know it but to put it into full operation.

"We are all one in Christ, not this or that denomination. All gospel churches are God's family and if we use our talents and energies to further the teachings of the Word and to live the life, we will see much more of the working of the Holy Spirit."†

C.B.

Let Your Conscience Be Your TV Guide

"Frustration and lack of communication were beginning to strangle our marriage. The intruder was becoming more important than the mate . . . We reached the point where we had to have the tube on almost every minute we were home. When we missed certain programs we were irritable . . . We knew it was wrong, but didn't have the discipline to make the break . . . We were hooked."

Thus acknowledged Dave Acree in his Dallas Seminary research paper on the Christian's use of TV. Born out of research done after his own TV set broke, his paper reveals some startling facts.

THE PROBLEMS

TV can *determine behaviour*. We've all read newspaper accounts

of violent acts shown on TV having been duplicated by teenagers (and even children) who've watched them. Acree points out that TV violence can assume more than one role. Besides physical violence, there is also emotional violence (where the act is not seen, but you know what happens) and verbal violence (where a violent act is verbally described in detail).

TV advertising can also determine our behaviour. According to one study, 80% of the mothers felt that TV pitches caused their children to ask for products.

TV can *distort reality*. We begin to accept what we see on the tube as normal behaviour. And this leads to the next problem.

TV can *dull sensitivity*. It doesn't take long before we are no longer outraged and shocked at atrocities committed before our eyes. And studies show that this attitude of indifference carries over into real life situations.

Finally, TV can *diminish values*. "As we soak up the value system of the tube, there is a very real danger that our Christian value system may suffer harm," Acree warns. For example, we may unconsciously begin to value money more than people.

THE PROFITS

Nevertheless, TV is not all bad.

TV can be your window to the world. It's great as an armchair travelogue. It can give you insight into community and world problems. You learn other people's view-points. There are worthwhile religious and educational programs. And there are some wholesome, relaxing sports events, comedies and dramas.

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES

So, what are you going to do with your TV? How are you going to control *it* before it controls *you*?

Although the Bible doesn't talk about TV specifically, it does give us some basic principles that could guide us.

First, consider *its addicting or enslaving power*. Paul declared in I Corinthians 6:12 that even good things can become bad when they enslave us. Acree confesses, "We

continued on page 20

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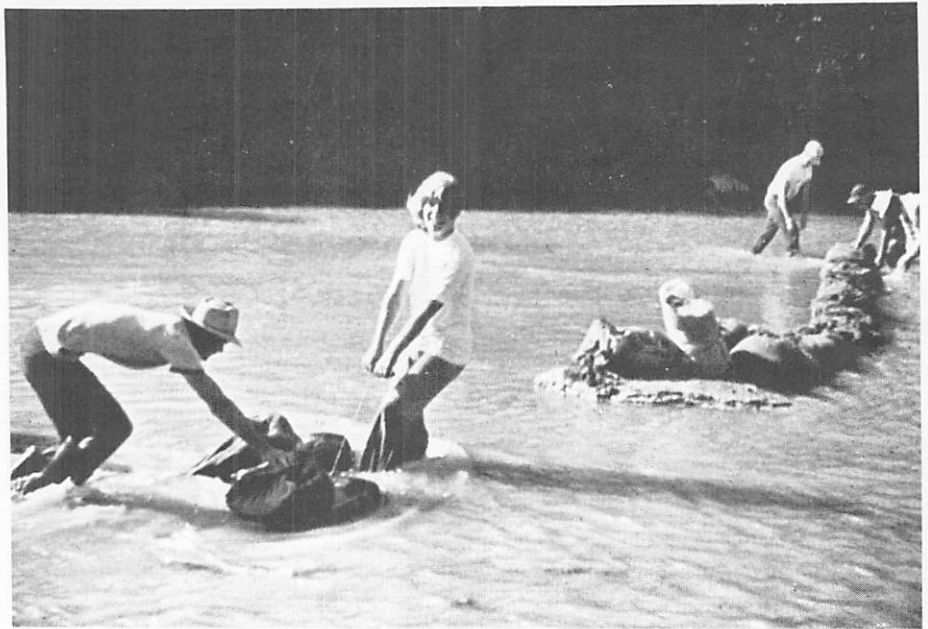
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Texas does it again.
This time it is evolution
that bites the dust.



The author (center) and other ICR team members sandbag the Paluxy River in search of dinosaur and human footprints

WHERE THE DINOSAURS ROAMED

by DEBORAH L. BAINER

It may happen to you anytime — you are yawning casually through the class when suddenly something the teacher says catches your attention.

As you listen — probably for the first time all year — the hairs on the back of your neck bristle, your knuckles turn white from gripping the edge of your desk and you can't swallow the lump that clogs your throat.

This is nothing new. It has been happening to Christians in science classes for over a hundred years — ever since the time of Charles Darwin.

A man educated in theology, Darwin was the first to publish the ideas of evolution that have since been accepted by the majority of scientists.

According to Darwin's theory, living things developed by chance. Very simple cells developed first. Then over millions of years more and more complex living organisms evolved. The most complex product so far,

they say, has been man.

Evolutionists claim the fossil records support their case. Very primitive life forms are fossilized in the oldest rocks. More advanced fossils appear in young layers of rock. To the evolutionist the layers of rock in the earth read like a book, tracing the evolution of life.

But in spite of what your science book implies, the theory of evolution has *not* been proven. In fact, increasing hundreds of scientists and laymen realize that there is much evidence *against* it. One of the most exciting is in a riverbed in central Texas.

The Paluxy River, near the tiny town of Glen Rose, Texas, is dry much of the year. At other times great walls of water rush down the valley, breaking apart shelves of rock and dragging along boulders as big as cars.

It was after a particularly bad flood in the early 1900s that the river first began to reveal its secrets. In the

layers of rock exposed by the flood local residents discovered fossilized dinosaur tracks. To their surprise, the dinosaur tracks were not alone. They were in the same layer of rock as other fossilized tracks — tracks made by man!

The importance of the discovery was not realized by the agricultural community. Years later scientists heard reports of the tracks and now they frequently visit the area to study the mysterious evidence.

I decided to join one of these expeditions myself last summer. The field team was associated with the institute for Creation Research — a group of scientists who study data and show how it supports the Genesis record.

Donning worn sneakers and old clothes, I crawled around for hours, feeling the riverbed through inches of silt, shoveling dirt and sandbagging the high water.

And there it was! A trail left ages ago by a three-toed dinosaur moved upstream. And cutting across the dinosaur trail and actually overlapping it in one print were several prints left by man.

Man and dinosaurs walking together? Your science teacher would

never believe it! That would mean that the fossil record which is supposed to support evolution is, rather, evidence against it!

According to the evolution theory dinosaurs died out about sixty-five million years ago. Man supposedly did not develop until four million years ago. Quite a time difference! Not even the Texans would claim that *their* dinosaurs were around long enough to walk with man!

But to the Christian it is no real surprise. The Bible talks about men and dinosaurs living at the same time. The first chapter of Genesis gives us an account of the creation week. Man was created on the sixth day. Modern translations of verse 21 say that "great sea monsters" were created on the fifth day.

Apparently the people of Job's time were familiar with dinosaurs. Behemoth is described in Job 40:15-24, a beast that waded in the water among the lotus and willow plants and had bones like iron and bronze. Leviathan, an armor-covered, invincible dinosaur, is described in Job 41.

According to creationists the Glen Rose prints were probably made during the late stages of the Flood. The earth had been submerged, most simple animals had drowned and huge rafts of vegetation were tossed about in the restless waters. Only some of the hardiest animals and men still survived. Some of these must have been stranded on a mountain-like formation some twenty-five miles southwest of the Glen Rose area. When the floodwaters temporarily subsided, men may have walked across this area in search of a safer location, leaving a trail behind.

When first made, the trails could not have been exposed more than two or three days, or they would have been destroyed. Chemicals in the sediment and mud hardened the tracks into rock, much as cement solidifies today. The rock layer was then covered with several inches of clay as the floodwaters rose in a final surge to cover the remainder of the earth and destroy any remaining land animals.

Evolutionists, of course, react very negatively to the Paluxy River prints. They say that the prints were made by erosion or they ignore them altogether.

Over a hundred tracks have been studied by creationists so far, and the

prints cannot be explained away that easily. Human footprints must show certain characteristics before they are accepted as authentic.

Ever walk across a very wet yard and feel the mud ooze up between your toes? If you take a close look at the track you made in the mud, you can see the same features that show in the best Glen Rose prints.

The Paluxy River footprints have the same shape and show an arch, ball, heel, and sometimes separate toes. The mud that pushed up between the toes and around the foot can still be seen. Most important, the tracks are in the right-left-right-left sequence characteristic of man, and the stride between footprints is consistent.

Nature could not carve out one footprint with all these qualities, let alone hundreds of them!

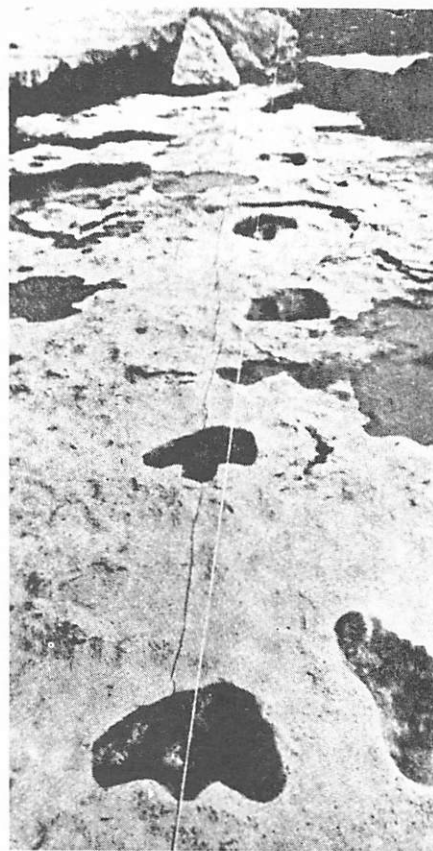
Digging up the Paluxy River tracks causes trouble for evolutionists. To agree that the tracks are human would mean that the time scale of the evolutionists is completely inaccurate. The random pattern of evolution and extinction that the fossil record supposedly traces is proved to be millions of years off. And if it cannot be trusted in interpreting recent earth history, how can it accurately explain the beginning of life?

The Paluxy River tracks mean a lot to us as Christians. After years of attack by science, many have lost faith in the truth of the Bible. But Christians do not need to doubt the Word of God — even when it disagrees with

science. Scientists who take a closer look at the evidence find that it supports the Bible's explanations better than it supports evolution.

When all the facts are known, the Bible has always been scientifically accurate, and it always will be. The very rocks in the Paluxy River cry out that God is Creator and that His Word is infallible.†

If your science teacher does not believe this article, give him more information. Show him the ICR Impact article No. 35, "The Paluxy River Tracks," by field scientist John D. Morris. It is free from the Institute for Creation Research, 2716 Madison Avenue, San Diego, Calif. 92116. Or schedule "Footprints in Stone," the film about the Paluxy tracks. It is available from Films for Christ, Elmwood, Ill. 61529.



Human and dinosaur tracks appear side by side in the riverbed



The early man who left this print slipped in the mud. The print shows a distinct big toe and four other toes buried deeper in the mud.

Photo by Dr. Cecil Dougherty

What Should I Do With

I will long remember an incident that occurred in the spring of 1971. If in the Providence of God there are significant moments of time that alter the direction of a person's life, this certainly was one of them. I was in the dining hall of the Full Gospel Bible Institute sitting across the table from Rev. Lorne Pritchard. As a student just finishing my second year I had been seriously seeking direction from above as to what the Divine plan was for my life.

God has a sense of humour. I'm persuaded of it. This pastor had come to the school in search of someone to

help with the music in his church. Now if there is one thing that I don't possess, it is musical ability. Nevertheless after finding this truth out he still felt led to ask me to come to Regina to work with him in an apprentice-pastor position. The two years I spent with the Regina assembly under the tutorship of Brother Pritchard was a very valuable training period of my life.

I was taken on visitation calls to homes. He showed me how to do hospital visits, lead song services and write out sermon outlines. I was given opportunity to assist in funerals, water baptisms and communion services. However, the real merit of this training was being able to watch a veteran pastor in "action". As I watched and listened I began to personally feel and share his heart beat and burden for the work of the Lord. His life and ministry have had a profound effect on my life even to this day.

The Paul/Timothy relationship is an effective and Biblical method of training lives for spiritual leadership. If your church is considering bringing in a "Timothy" to help with the work, I'd like to share some of my personal insights that might be of some help to you.

A prerequisite to choosing an apprentice is to evaluate your present situation. As a pastor you should be very sure of the job the apprentice-pastor is to do so one will be chosen who has the required talents and qualities for the job. For instance, suppose you are a pastor who desperately needs a youth minister and the person you are considering doesn't have a gift for working with young people. Obviously he would not be a wise choice for your church. Likewise,

TO THE EDITOR continued

were slaves to the tube before it went on the blink. Yet, we really didn't know our master." TV could be a good servant, but it is a devastating master.

Second, we must be *sensitive to the weaknesses of those around us*. This principle is outlined for us in I Corinthians 8:1-13. Even though you may use your TV set carefully and without personal spiritual harm, you must consider whether other members of your family (especially your children) are using it in a way that is harmful to them. If someone else in your household is being harmed by TV, you should give up your TV for their sake.

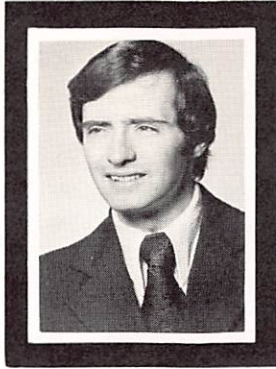
The third principle gives the positive test. Does your use of TV *show the goodness and greatness of God*? Whatever we eat or drink must be in harmony with God's glory and perfection (I Corinthians 10:31). In like manner, whatever we watch must be in line with the moral beauty of God.

THE DECISION IS YOURS

In the light of all the facts, you and your family will have to make your own decision. Here are two alternatives to consider:

- (1) You could *get rid of your TV set*. This may be the right answer for you. However, if the other members of your family do not share this conviction, you could create greater problems by doing this. Obviously, a Christian solution must come from the heart.
- (2) You could *put the set in a closet* or some other out-of-the-way place, when not in use. At the beginning of each week you meet together as a family and decide, with the help of a TV guide, what programs you will watch the following week. You also agree ahead of time that, if any bad language or other undesirable things come on, you will turn the set off right in the middle of the program.

Timothy?



by OWEN D. SCOTT

if you need someone to help with the visitation load, be certain to choose someone who is warm and personable and one who can minister on a one to one basis.

Keep in mind that initially your apprentice will not produce much in the way of dividends for your church. You are making an investment in HIS life. It is important for the congregation to be aware of this before he arrives. It is an investment that will cost you much personal time and energy. Your congregation will have to endure "novice" sermons and inexperienced song leading. It is important to remember that you are pouring something into his life that will produce lasting results in the years to come. You will probably do far more for him than he will do for your church!

There should be an understanding between the pastor and the apprentice at the beginning of their tenure together as to the length of the time involved in this move. If it is just a temporary arrangement, say for the summer, then this should be understood. If it is for an indefinite period of time or until the Lord indicates otherwise, then this also should be discussed so that plans can be laid for the future.

If you are satisfied with the loyalty and calibre of work of your apprentice go to great lengths to keep him happy. Let him know that you are pleased. Many pastors feel that an apprentice is simply a hired hand. They give him all the jobs that they don't want and as a result he spends most of his time running errands. He soon feels that he is not accomplishing anything and starts looking around for another place of ministry where

he can feel more fulfilled. Sometimes when an apprentice gets discouraged - and he will be discouraged probably more than the pastor because he has not the power to change many of the situations in the church - as pastor you should counsel with him as to why he is discouraged. There is often a lack of communication between apprentice and pastor. Therefore, the pastor should be sensitive to the feelings of his apprentice and to his need for recognition. Salary is not often the determining factor in keeping an apprentice. Most young preachers want to feel that they are doing a

good job and accomplishing something for God's glory.

I was very grateful for the constant exposure that Brother Pritchard gave me in areas of spiritual ministry. He was willing to share the pulpit and gave me countless opportunities to get a taste of every aspect of the work of the Lord. He was never threatened when I would get a few compliments. If I happened to do a job particularly well, he was the first one to congratulate me.

One of the most difficult tasks the pastor has is to outline work for his apprentice. Probably the most effective method is to give him a list of weekly duties and let him work at them on his own. A couple of short meetings together during the week will keep him on the right track and you can keep an eye on his progress.

Finally, one of the most valuable things you can do for your "Timothy" is to spend time together. Of course it's important to discuss church "business", but be sure you take time to minister spiritually to one another; to share what the Holy Spirit is doing in each of your lives; and to study God's Word together. Get personally involved in his life. This kind of growing together costs in time and commitment. It's important that you share not only your goals and vision but also your faults and weaknesses. As you reveal your "inner life" and the ways in which Christ is at work in your heart you become a model for your apprentice to follow. This is discipleship in its truest form. Only eternity will reveal the impact that a Paul/Timothy relationship will have on the life of some apprentice-pastor in your assembly!†





by R. A. LARDEN

THE UNCONDITIONAL PRESENCE OF CHRIST

What an encouragement of the fainting heart when trying to find your way through the shadows of uncertainty, "I am with thee and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest --- for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" (Gen. 28:15-16).

Jacob awoke and said, "surely the Lord is in this place." It was unexpected, but a welcome surprise. Yes, He is there when we least expect Him. He is there when we need Him most. "In all places whither thou goest." Into the field of battle - "the Lord thy God is with thee" (Deut. 20:1). In the hour of disappointment and discouragement, "my presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest" (Ex. 33:14). This truth was so beautifully demonstrated when the risen Christ came alongside Cleopas and his companion as they walked the road to Emmaus, (Luke 24). He ministered so kindly to them, and they were so unaware of who he was. But we cannot criticize them. How many miles we have walked under the dark cloud of discouragement and disappointment, and heard His word coming to our ears, but were utterly unconscious of His ever sustaining presence.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" (Isa. 43:2). "The waters" - cold, chilling you to the bone. "The rivers" - muddy and swift, every step you take with hesitation, as you work your way through the difficulty, never sure what the next step forward will encounter - maybe a hole, maybe a sharp cutting snag, or the increasing force of the current causes fears that you may lose your balance. But "I will be with you." The one who promised it also said He "placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it, and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it" (Jer. 5:22).

"The fire" - Oh, those fiery trials! As Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego faced the fire they said, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace - but if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods..." (Dan. 3:17-18). "But if not" expresses the complete commitment of their lives to the Lordship of Christ. They were not "delivered from" the fiery furnace, but in the furnace was the presence of the Son of God. "I will be with you," and they came out with not even a hair of their head singed nor the smell of smoke upon their clothes.

God permits the fiery trials to "take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer" (Prov. 25:4).

"The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7).†

Confidence in Christ



by A.E. SHEPPARD

In such days, when it seems so impossible to put confidence in men, things, or even promises, it is still marvelous that we can turn to ONE, in whom we can have perfect confidence, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he summarizes to the young man, the basis for such confidence.

Confidence depends on faith

"For I know whom I have believed" (2 Tim. 1:12). The scriptures teach, that without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, taught Jesus in John 3:36.

Confidence depends on faith in a person

It is not merely good enough to just believe in an ideal, or a teaching, we must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

It is faith in Christ Jesus, his saving, redemptive work at Calvary, that brings us peace and confidence.

Confidence depends on a deep persuasion

Paul was fully persuaded about Jesus Christ. Nothing could deter

him, or change his mind. His, was a heart faith and trust in the Living Lord.

Confidence depends on full commitment

Paul knew that Christ was able to keep that which he had committed to him against that day.

This is more than just believing about Christ, it is to put such trust in him, that we are willing to commit the safekeeping our eternal soul to him. One never gets far on a modern day jet by standing in an airport and commenting of what wonders of travel we have in this age. It is only by complete commitment of your all to the aircraft.

This confidence is such in Christ that we are willing to commit our eternal destiny to his care, knowing he will keep us even in the day of judgment.

If you are longing for deep confidence for the present and the future, may I invite you to accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour, before you lay this magazine down. Bow your head with me now, and say, "Lord Jesus, I need thee as my Saviour. I need YOU to be my confidence. Thank you for saving me. Amen."

Please write a letter to us, if you have made this decision. We would like to pray for you, and send you further literature. God Bless you.

Banff Holds Bible Prophecy Seminar

PASTOR R. GARTH KNAPP

The Full Gospel Church in Banff, Alta. was privileged to host a Bible Prophecy Seminar with Rev. R. T. Wilson of Calgary as instructor. The dates were Sunday, May 14th - Tuesday, May 16th. The nightly sessions were attended by between 40 - 50 of the "church family" and it was the general expression of those involved in the seminar that they had come to a new appreciation for God's Word - especially in relation to the subject of future events and to the fact that our Bible is so up-to-date in its predictions of things to come. For some, the teaching of Bro. Wilson on prophecy was in an area of the Scriptures that they have never been exposed to in concentrated study such as was enjoyed here in our assembly for 3 successive nights.

Yes, Jesus is coming soon. God grant that His people will be aware of the importance of these days in which they are privileged to live and serve.†

WAS IT YOU WHO PRAYED?

*Did you think of us this morning
As you breathed a word of prayer?
Did you ask for strength to help us
All our heavy burdens bear?
Did you speak of faith and courage
For the trials we must meet?
Did you ask that God might keep us
As you bowed at Jesus' feet?
Someone prayed and strength was given
For the long and weary road,
Someone prayed and faith grew stronger
As we bent beneath our load.
Someone prayed — the way grew brighter
And we walked all unafraid,
In our heart a song of gladness —
Tell us: Was it YOU who prayed?*

end times
messenger

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Our Missionary Covenant

(To Be Read in Unison)

*"For the Scripture saith . . . How shall they believe in
Him of Whom they have not heard?"*

BELIEVING; That God would have *"all men* to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth;"

That, Christ's death fully atones for "our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world;"

That, the Holy Spirit empowers us for witnessing until Him "unto the uttermost parts of the earth," and, realizing,

That, the Great Commission, having never been rescinded or modified, must be obeyed:

WE THEREFORE, do, individually and corporately,

ACKNOWLEDGE our moral obligation to live and labor for the evangelization of all mankind;

ACCEPT the responsibility to do our full share in *taking, or sending,* the Gospel "to the regions beyond," and

AFFIRM our loyalty to Christ by aiding and abetting the "preaching of His Name among *all Nations!*" Hence,

THE LORD HELPING US, we shall in the future:

PRAY more frequently, fervently and more specifically, for Missionaries, both Foreign and National;

CONTRIBUTE more generously to missions "as God shall prosper," reviewing periodically our material possessions in relation to the world-wide extension of the Kingdom of Christ, and,

DEDICATE ourselves more fully to the Unfinished Task entrusted to us, knowing we dare not "appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ," without having done our utmost to make "the Gospel, which is the Power of God unto Salvation," available "TO EVERY CREATURE." Amen!

By Clay Cooper

1 Timothy 2:4; 1 John 2:2; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 10:16; Luke 24:27;
1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 1:16; Mark 16:15