

end times
messenger



JANUARY/1978 VOL. 42 NO. 1



**THE ROLE OF WOMEN
IN THE CHURCH** 5

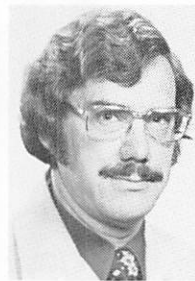
**GOD'S PROVISION
FOR YOUR NEEDS** 8

**GOD'S LIBERATED
WOMAN** 10

**JESUS WILL NEVER
LET YOU DOWN** 16

**JOY BELLS
IN MY HEART** 18

Vonda Kay Van Dyke.
A former Miss America.



by Irvin W. Ellis

Deliverance from Bondage

Sin is regarded by God as a state of bondage from which you and I need to be delivered. It could be compared to the condition of the Children of Israel in Egyptian bondage as they were driven to hard labour by their cruel taskmasters.

The Bible states that their lives were made "bitter with hard bondage . . ." (Exodus 1:11-14). That they ". . . sighed by reason of their bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage" (Exodus 2:23).

It was then that God "heard their cry . . ." and appeared as their Great Deliverer and Emancipator, saying, ". . . I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians . . ." (Exodus 3:8).

According to His own statement, the Lord Jesus Christ ". . . came down from heaven . . ." with the purpose and power to free us from the enslavement of sin. He identified Himself with us in our humanity so that through His suffering and death on our behalf He might deliver us from our satanic slavery (Hebrews

2:14, 15). The story of what He did to release us from captivity is truly God's "good news" — the gospel — in fact, it is almost too good to be true.

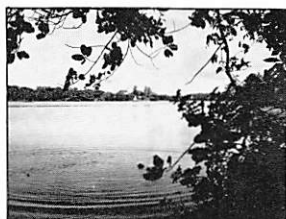
Just think about it . . . God, the Great Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth, voluntarily imprisoned Himself within human flesh and blood. He actually subjected Himself to the very law that He designed only for sinful mankind. He willingly shared our lot, even to the point of suffering our poverty and privations and enduring the hatred and suspicion of those He came to ". . . save . . . from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

He submitted Himself to being made a prisoner in the court of envy and injustice, and in utmost shame He gave up his life on the cross, all with the purpose of saving us from eternal separation from God.

He did all this to secure our release from sin's bondage . . . to set us prisoners free! Have you experienced the deliverance that Jesus Christ has made available? If not, why not? †

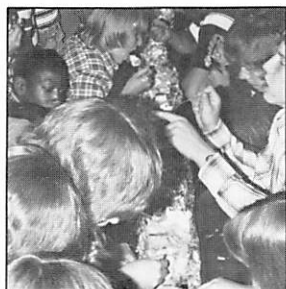


contents page



deliverance from
bondage **2**

the changeless christ **4**



the role of women in
the church **5**

god's provision for
your needs **8**

god's liberated woman **10**

christianity in japan **12**

jesus will never
let you down **16**

joy bells in my heart **18**

departments

focus on missions **11**

you were asking **15**

contemporary comment **20**

christian education **21**

labourers together **22**

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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In the midst of a Changing World
we have come to know . . .

The Changeless Christ

by DANIEL W. BREEN
(Moderator of the A.C.O.P.)



"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

"They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

"And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou are the same, and thy years shall not fail" (Hebrews 1:10-12).

That positive statement of the inerrant and eternal scripture provides us with a "sure anchor of the soul." It is a consolation and a refuge and the hope (Hebrews 6:18).

This proclamation rises to defy all threats of change and decay. The song writer wrote from this base of confidence "Thou remainest only Thee." This message changes the complexion of all the things that must appear futile. It paints the present and the future with the glow of hope.

Here where we live everything is either removed or wears out. Everything around us does not just suggest but shouts change. Every evicted leader with the surrounding trauma of displacement tells us that man at his best is not secure in himself. How this past year has taught us to "cease from man whose breath is in his nostrils." The greatest and strongest men fail and change.

Man in his wisdom, influence and charisma is not secure against change. Man must not be our source of abiding hope.

Every graveyard and mausoleum speaks of change. Every dump yard and scrap yard speaks of change. Every defacement of our countryside either by elements or by man's machinery and technology shows the threat of

change, with it the threat of living things that are victims of cruel displacement or death.

Every aging person, every abandoned home or shop with all their sentiment and memories are the victims of change.

The interruptions into solitary places of earth and sky by man's machines are vocal signs of inevitable change. Signs in the heavens above and in the earth beneath (Luke 21:25,26).

Now evolving unusual problems that fit our complex way of life make us say, "My! how things have changed," or "What is this world coming to?" Think for a moment of the sex revolution, the youth revolution, the values revolution, the economic revolution. Man is changing things God never intended to be changed. The result is that we face frightening times. The changes come home to haunt us.

Man's misuse and abuse of all that was put into his trust has placed a curse on the world. Man's attempt to reverse this world problem by his own ingenuity has only brought "frightening times" upon himself. We must come God's way. We must call upon Him for hope (Romans 10:12,13).

This world is growing old like a worn out garment. It is being depleted, its resources are running out, its food stores are depleting or won't accommodate the need of the hungry millions. The life sustaining oxygen supply is being threatened. Our space ship called earth has a mutiny on board and is headed for disaster. Everything, everywhere shouts this fact. Everyone has an intuitional awareness that there is drastic change coming.

How beautiful and reassuring the words of the Bible. "Thou remainest." Our hope is in the

unchanging Christ. He is "the one who Is and Was and Is to come, The Almighty" (Revelations 1:8). He is the author of eternal salvation. He is the giver of eternal life. "Because He lives we shall live also." "Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives all fear is gone" wrote the song writer. Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come (Hebrews 13:14). When all that can be shaken is removed, we have a King and a kingdom that cannot be shaken or moved.

It is in this glorious and glowing confidence that we have grace, we have the loving strength to serve our God acceptably with respect and dignity (Hebrews 12:26-28). Our faith is not empty but has glorious promise and sure fulfillment.

We are saved by hope (Romans 8:24). Our trust is not destined to change and defeat. "Thanks be unto God which giveth the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:57).

Our work is not wasted and routed for the scrap yard with the change of time and the choice of men. Our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

In the presence and reassurance of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, I urge you under all circumstances in all changing trends, "Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58).

Be confident of this very thing, "He that has begun a good work in you through His saving grace will complete it to the very day of the ultimate salvation in the presence of the Lord." He that works in and for you now never changes. He is eternally the same . . . the Changeless Christ. "Thou remainest! Hallelujah!!" †

The Role of Women in the Church



Miss Andrews (B.A., Nyack, 1966; M.C.E., Columbia Theological Seminary, 1973) is a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia. She is director of Christian education at First Alliance Church in Atlanta, Ga.

by **LESLIE A. ANDREWS**

God has gifted women whom He has called to serve within the structure of the organized church. This writer believes the church should validate that ministry for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Probably each of us has tucked away in the recesses of memory some fond ambition spanning the years since childhood. Mine was to be a missionary doctor.

When I was six years old in a small Baptist church I heard a missionary nurse speak. She sparked my childish imagination and kindled the desire to be a missionary doctor. At fourteen, during the annual missionary convention in an Alliance church, I sensed God's call to full-time Christian service. Since then my life has revolved around the initial call to serve Christ through His church.

My concept of ministry and my place in it has evolved over a period of nine years. After graduation from Nyack College and completion of requirements for admission to medical school, my life's course was drastically altered: I found every door to my chosen career closed. When these doors swung shut, I began searching for an acceptable sphere of home service.

I had been an accredited missionary candidate with The Christian and Missionary Alliance since Nyack days. I knew I was not interested in going to the mission field as a secretary, even though I

was well qualified in that area. Having taught school for two years, I realized I did not wish to spend my life in a classroom either. And I was also sure I did not wish to be a nurse. The Spirit had kindled no call or fire in my heart toward any of these specialized areas.

I believe that God uses the sociocultural, historical and familial conditions of our lives to shape us into the kind of people He wishes us to be. As I look back over my life I see how this was particularly true with me.

I am the oldest of six children. My father was an alcoholic and our home was in a constant state of turmoil. We were materially impoverished much of the time, and because I was the oldest, though still a child myself, I had to assume substantial responsibility for the care of my siblings. God used these realities to create in me deep hunger for spiritual things, great motivation to achieve and aggressiveness to pursue my chosen goals.

Following graduation from Nyack, I worked four summers as secretary in my home church, First Alliance in Atlanta, Georgia. During this time I learned much from the man who was then the Christian education director and I felt the first pulsation of interest in that field. When this man left it occurred to me that possibly here was a place where I could satisfy home service requirements. Looking back now, I marvel at my boldness. However, I believe God

the Holy Spirit prompted those thoughts.

I had little to offer—no experience, no specialized training in Christian education, and much immaturity! But the pastor and congregation graciously accepted my application to serve as their Christian education director for two years to meet my home service requirements. Neither the church nor I knew at that time what a long relationship we were entering into!

During this time I became engaged to a Presbyterian seminary student. Our goal was to go to the mission field together. My fiancé embodied all those ideals I had envisioned in the man I would like to marry—fervent spirituality, intelligence, kindness, good looks. But in God's providence He directed our lives apart.

Out of the heartbreak of a dashed dream and broken engagement I made a covenant with God. I dedicated myself as fully as I knew how to developing all my God-given potential—education, experience, personality, abilities. I promised God I would sharpen every faculty He had given me in order to be the most effective instrument possible in the service of the Lord Jesus, the Head of the church. I love the church for which Christ died. I am convinced that the highest calling a person can receive is to serve Christ through His church.

My first concept of my role was to support the ministry of the pastor. I was there to promote his goals and to free him more fully for the work of preaching, teaching and shepherding. During the six years that have passed since that beginning God has gradually unfolded to me my own strengths and weaknesses. He has confirmed my understanding that there is a special work for me to do.

Over this same period of time I assumed more and more responsibility. But my aspiration was not to acquire authority or position in the church; rather it was to serve the Lord Jesus through the church.

My experience in the church, along with my seminary education, has forced me to think very seriously about my role as a servant of the church and my relationship to the ministry. One emphasis has been to have a sound theological undergirding for every aspect of my work. I began to ask questions about the place of women in the church and the appropriate scope of their service.

I believe that God has gifted women and that He has called some to serve within the structure of the organized church, not only as lay people but also as full-time workers. I further believe that the church should validate the call and ministry of these women for the sake of the Kingdom of God and the individual.

There are exegetical difficulties which cannot be considered within the scope of this article. Therefore I have chosen necessarily to limit my remarks to those positive things which may be said about women.

Of prime importance is an understanding of the Biblical role or women in the church. It is necessary at this point to accept the hermeneutical principle that each part of Scripture is to be understood in the light of the whole. Our temptation is to interpret what we read in Scripture in the light of the socioculturally conditioned notions we bring to it—that is, to use proof texts for preconceived ideas.

A good example of the problem encountered by this type of exegesis is found in two apparently contradictory statements of Paul in First Corinthians: "Every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven" (11:5), and "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law" (14:34).

I do not propose to resolve the difficulties in these apparently conflicting passages in the same Pauline epistle. In the one there is

the clear implication that women were permitted to pray and prophesy in the church; in the other there is the equally clear command that they are to be silent. What I do wish to say is that the serious student of the Word must look at all the relevant data before building a case for or against the involvement of women in the church.

Much can be said about the whole thrust of Scripture on this subject, however. God does things in an orderly fashion. As a basic principle of that orderly system, He has established male leadership within the church as the norm and practice. But a careful look at both the Old and the New Testament will quickly disclose that there are exceptions.

Take, for example, Deborah, a prophetess-judge and competent general of the Israelite nation, who with Barak led her people to victory over Sisera. There is also Esther, who challenged the potentially capricious decisions of a king, interceded on behalf of her people and then witnessed their deliverance.

Or again, consider Huldah, a prophetess who was called upon to interpret the lost book of the Law, discovered during the reforms of Josiah four hundred years after its disappearance. And in the New Testament there is the prophetess Anna. A widow, she had continued for eighty-four years in the Temple, serving God "with fastings and prayers night and day" (Luke 2:37). After Jesus' childhood visit to the Temple, it was Anna who spoke of the Lord "to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem."

The point I wish to make is this: Women should not automatically be promoted to positions of responsibility and leadership in the church. The desire is not necessarily the call. But God is sovereign and Lord over the principles which He establishes. Whether God chooses to use a man or a woman is irrelevant. Although the exception should not become the rule, if God does call and anoint a woman, that call and anointing should be acknowledged, developed and blessed by the church.

It is natural in this situation, as in any other, to react in fear as to "what could happen in the future." But let those in authority in the church look at each individual, weigh his/her relationship to Christ, the Head of the church, examine the fruits of his/her labors—and then deal courageously and in love with those who do not demonstrate the divine anointing in their lives. That is, engage in a sifting process, validating those who are genuinely called and excluding those who are not.

There are several things which can be said with assurance about the way God views women. First, in the earlier of the two accounts of the creation of man and woman, God says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let *them* have dominion. . . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he *them*" (Genesis 1:26-27). Both man and woman were created in the image of God—personal, rational, moral creatures.

We often argue differently: God created man first and in His own image. Then He made woman out of man. Therefore, woman was created in the image of man. But the Scripture is clear that both are like God; both bear His image.

Second, Christ died for all—men and women. All must come to God in the same way: through confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God; through confession that we all are sinners and in need of redemption; through acceptance of the finished work of Christ on Calvary. Both men and women stand as individuals before God.

Third, there is no sexual distinction in God's eyes: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Apparently Paul was aware of a social order in which there were inequities—religious, social, sexual. But one of the glorious proclamations of the gospel was

that Christ Jesus did away with these oppressive distinctions.

But to say that we are the same before God does not mean that we are equal. To be equal means to be the same as. Man and woman are basically "the same as" inasmuch as they reflect the image of God in which they were created. But beyond that they are distinctly different. So to proclaim the good news of oneness in Christ Jesus does not mean that we must also say that men and women in ministry must be the same in all respects.

Fourth, the Scriptures teach that all believers have received one or more spiritual gifts, and there is no sexual restriction as to what gifts may be given to women. The presence of a gift is a call to exercise it. Everything God gives is good and is to be offered back to Him. Not only that, but everything we have or are is to be developed as fully as possible. Recall the parable of the three servants who were given talents. One had five, one two, and one, one. The first two invested theirs and doubled the investment. The third servant buried his talent and was severely rebuked for doing so.

In regard to gifts, we sometimes exhibit a curious quirk of behavior. We allow women to teach in all areas of the church. But exercising responsibility in administrative areas seems to be another story. In essence we say it is all right for women to exercise the spiritual gift of teaching, but it is not proper for them to exercise the gift of administration. We are actually ranking administration above teaching in our scheme of priorities. But in God's eyes the gift of teaching is certainly higher than the gift of administration (see First Corinthians 12:28).

A fifth thing needs to be said regarding the male/female relationship. The Word is clear that wives are to be subject to their husbands. The Word also says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). That kind of love should

elicit the highest devotion from wives.

A prior principle governing all relationships of believers, including husbands and wives, is that we are to submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. So there is a mutual submitting one to another in the church.

Generally, however, when we discuss the female/male relationship, we apply husband/wife relationships to all women and men. Does God expect all women to submit to a man simply because he is male?

Some are troubled with Paul's injunction to women not to "usurp authority over the man" (1 Timothy 2:12). The word *usurp* means "to seize and hold by force or without right." God has committed authority *to the church* for the exercise of ministry. Any authority, therefore, which *the church* delegates to women is not usurped. Authority necessary to the work of ministry has been handed over to her, not seized, so she may then serve within the context of constituted authority without fear of rebuke.

Peter, in his powerful sermon delivered on the day of Pentecost, extolled this promise from God: "It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:17-18).

If we believe that we are living in the last days, it seems only reasonable that we should look for this promise to be fulfilled more than ever. And that includes recognizing daughters who prophesy and handmaidens upon whom the Spirit of God has been poured out.

Those women who are led to serve the church should be helped to discover their spiritual gifts and to find a place to exercise those gifts within the Body of Christ. †

(Reprinted from the Alliance Weekly)

God's Provision for Your Needs

by RUTH ANNE MARSHALL



The moment we are born again we fall heir to a storehouse, bulging at the seams with good things. This abundant supply has been carefully planned and provided by a loving Heavenly Father for the complete sustenance and happiness of all who will put their trust in Jesus Christ.

God always gives in a big way. His giving is "good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over." When Christ fed the five thousand there were twelve basketsful of food left over. When the prodigal son returned home the best coat was put on him and the fatted calf was killed to feed him. When the disciples launched out into the deep at Jesus' command they caught so many fish that their net broke and their boats began to sink. This is God's way of giving. "... He giveth to all men liberally. . ."

However, God doesn't give so that we may sit at ease and grow fat and lazy on His provision. There's a great big, needy world outside our door and this need is the Christian's responsibility. "Give and it shall be given unto you . . ." (Luke 6:38).

What can I find in my storehouse that could satisfy the needy soul outside my door?

The Water of Life

I have **water**. Water out of its place is a terrible thing. Floods in so many parts of the world have taken their toll in death and misery. The desert traveller, out of water, experiences an agony of thirst. Every mirage is an oasis until he

reaches it to discover a greater thirst and no water. The rich man, spoken of in Luke 16:19, begged for one drop of water to cool his parched tongue. But I have a well of water in my storehouse, springing up unto everlasting life. Whoso drinketh shall never thirst again (John 4:14).

Jesus said, "... If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink" (John 7:37). Isaiah, the prophet, cries out an unmistakable invitation, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come to the waters . . ." and, to paraphrase, "it won't cost you a cent" (Isaiah 55:1).

There are many wells spoken of in the scriptures, some beloved for their clear, sparkling, never-failing waters and others because of poignant memories. But all served one basic purpose, that the thirsty might drink and live. David yearned for a drink from Bethlehem's well and three brave men risked their lives to bring it to him.

Water refreshes and satisfies as it shakes the thirst. But it also cleanses. Jesus girded Himself with a towel and washed the disciples' feet, emphasizing to them the importance of their daily walk. How the world needs this water!

John 7:38 so beautifully portrays the abundant supply in my storehouse. "He that believeth in me . . . out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." But I must give of this water to the world outside my door. Man has a thirst problem and I have the answer. God forbid that I should be a broken cistern or a well without water.

The Bread of Life

There is **bread** in my storehouse. Bible school students live across the street from me. More than once a keen nose has detected the aroma of fresh-baked bread and I find someone at my door with one excuse or another. What they really wanted was a slice of that bread.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger . . ." (John 6:35). He claimed Himself to be the "Bread of God who cometh down from heaven and giveth life to the world."

This is the kind of bread in my storehouse. Bread satisfies when many other foods cannot be tolerated.

Manna in the wilderness did not prevent death. The Israelites who ate it died in their time. Christ, the True Bread, offered life to the world when He said, "... if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever" (John 6:51).

The importunate man in Luke 11:5 overstepped the bounds of neighborliness when he pounded on his neighbor's door at midnight to borrow three loaves of bread. His need for bread was great enough to keep him persistently pounding at the door until his need was met.

David, fleeing from Saul, and in desperate hunger, took the five loaves of shewbread from Ahimelech, the priest, to sustain him in his flight.

The disciples in John 21:4 spent a night fishing and caught nothing until Jesus supplied their need of a multitude of fish. But he went one step further. When the weary men came to shore they found **bread** and fish upon the fire, to feed their hungry bodies.

A hungry world waits outside my door. Jesus said, "... Give ye them to eat" (Luke 9:13).

Seasoned with Salt

And, of course, there is **salt**. Common salt is an essential part of the diet of man. The word "salt" is derived from the Latin word "salarium." In Roman times, money was allowed the soldiers with which to buy salt—thus, our word "salary."

Salt dissolved in water has a healing effect. This solution was used many times to bathe and cleanse the wounds of soldiers during war. Salt preserves and prevents corruption. Before the days of refrigeration meat was often kept in a salty brine so it would not spoil. Salt is widely used in preparation of many a delectable dish that is put on your table. A chef of any account adds his "pinch of salt" to almost every dish he prepares. Salt many times brings out hidden flavors in an otherwise unpalatable food. Which one of us can feature our bread without salt or our dish of cooked cereal or our mashed potatoes and gravy? To say the salt would be missed would be an understatement.

Now, salt is just another mineral, useless in itself, until it is released from its imprisonment, refined and used. Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth . . ." (Matt. 5:13). Do you wonder at the open corruption of the world around you? Are you concerned with the unrestrained evil on every hand? The world needs your salt to cleanse it, preserve it and give it an appetite for the Christ-like life. We cannot pour salt on open wounds but we can dilute the salt with the water of compassion and bathe the festering sores outside our door. Many a hidden flavor will be found in those we seek to help.

Jesus said, ". . . Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8).

The Oil of Gladness

Then, there is oil in abundance in my storehouse.

Oil-spills on the world's waterways have caused ugly pollution, besides anxiety and concern, for the ecology and environment. Oil has become a bargaining agent among the nations. Threats of war rumble around the peace table, about which are seated the oil magnates of these nations.

Oil has found its way onto the druggist's shelf in a thousand different uses. The housewife would be at a loss without the oil so often required for her culinary concoctions, to say nothing of the

'dab of perfume' that brightens her day.

One of the saddest scriptures found in the New Testament is in Matt. 25:3 where five of the ten virgins who went out to meet the bridegroom had no oil in their lamps. They pleaded with the other five to give them of their oil, for, they said, "our lamps have gone out." But there was no oil to spare. If there is no oil there will be no light.

The oil in my storehouse is so clearly pictured in the scriptures as a type of the Holy Spirit of God. This oil always assuages grief, pain and suffering and brings comfort and joy. The Holy Spirit is likened unto a dove. As one has said, "a dove is clean in nature, gentle in manner, constant in love, swift of wing and beautiful. It is indeed the oil of gladness.

The Eastern shepherd carefully studies the head of each sheep as it enters the fold at night. Many a head is scratched by thorn or brier, bruised by hidden rock, often burned by the fierce rays of the sun. These hurt ones were bathed with oil at the hand of a loving shepherd. The Psalmist, from a grateful heart cried out, "Thou anointest my head with oil," and immediately after exclaimed, "my cup runneth over." The tender administrations of his heavenly shepherd caused David's cup to run over with inexpressible joy. How the world yearns for this oil!

You will remember the widow's cruse of oil mentioned in 1 Kings 17:16. As long as her need lasted, so was the oil replenished. The cruse failed not.

Meat for Strength

Meat occupies a large space in the storehouse. We are exhorted by Jesus to labour not for the meat that perisheth but for that which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give you. This is strong meat.

In John 21:5 Jesus asks the disciples a simple question. 'Children have ye any meat?' He knew the answer before He asked the question. He always does. Then He proceeded to tell them

how to satisfy their greatest need of that moment—the need for meat. They had fished all night and caught nothing and were hungry and discouraged.

A small boy one day parted with two little fish and the bread in his lunch. From this sacrifice Jesus satisfied the hunger of a multitude.

So many times man suffers from a hunger that goes beyond the milk stage. Then he must have meat. Meat is strong nourishment that builds up, energizes and invigorates.

Nabal, possessor of three thousand sheep and a thousand goats, refused to give meat to David and his hungry men. Had it not been for his lovely wife, Nabal might well have lost all his possessions and his own life for his niggardly spirit.

Saul of Tarsus, after his dynamic meeting with God on the road to Damascus, found food and fellowship at the house of Ananias. There the scales of unbelief fell from his eyes and there he was filled with the Holy Ghost. Then he received meat to strengthen his weakened body. I can't help but think it was well seasoned with the strong meat of the Word of God for, straightway, he went forth and preached Christ.

It could well turn the world upside down if every Christian could echo the words of Jesus; "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me . . ."

Oh, there are so many more good things in my storehouse. In the words of the title of one of John Peterson's gospel songs, "How rich I am!"

These things were never given me to hoard. Foods that are hoarded often perish. Water evaporates or goes stagnant; bread dries out or molds; salt loses its savor; oil goes rancid and meat spoils.

Give to the needy ones outside your door. Jesus has promised that with the same measure that ye measure it shall be measured to you again. The barrel of meal will not be used up, nor will the cruse of oil fail. †

Dorothy was born in a South Saskatchewan town named Stoughton. Her father was newspaper editor there for fifty-one years. Her education was completed at Stoughton High School. She was married to George Figler in the depressed thirties. It was during this period of her life that she received the new birth in Christ. Her family of one son and three daughters were raised also in that town.

When she became a widow in 1971, she began to seek how she should fulfill the remaining years of her life. For the past three years she attended Jubilee Bible School in Vancouver, from which she graduated.

Women seem to be constantly in search for liberation and equality. Liberty groups are not a new fad or phase of society. A well-known group called the suffrage movement, a generation or so ago, made a successful thrust for women to vote. This has no doubt gained some worldly advantages for women but has not changed the world system.

Some women are deceived and dissolutioned in their search for equality and liberty. The fruit of their effort is often detrimental to the true purpose of being liberated. The result so often is just another struggle for materialistic gain and commercial or professional status.

God's word tells us II Peter 2:19, "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption for of whom a man (or woman) is overcome the same is brought in bondage." Therefore the search continues from one kind of bondage to another.

When liberation comes from God it is authentic. The true release from bondage and inequality that comes from God, results in a pure spirit of love, of joy and of peace. This can only happen in a cleansed heart. The scripture declares, "If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." This freedom begins in your heart and does not depend upon circumstances. It depends upon your saviour Jesus Christ.

Where the New Testament holds sway in homes, the courtesy shown to the woman is that of her being the weaker vessel. The principle of consideration is ladies first before the men. The Lord himself instituted his new covenant, given to this wicked world, in just this way.

An angel of God brought a message to a woman, a virgin called Mary. Mary believed the message of God's word. She became a chosen vessel of God. She said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord." Mary bore God's holy child, JESUS.

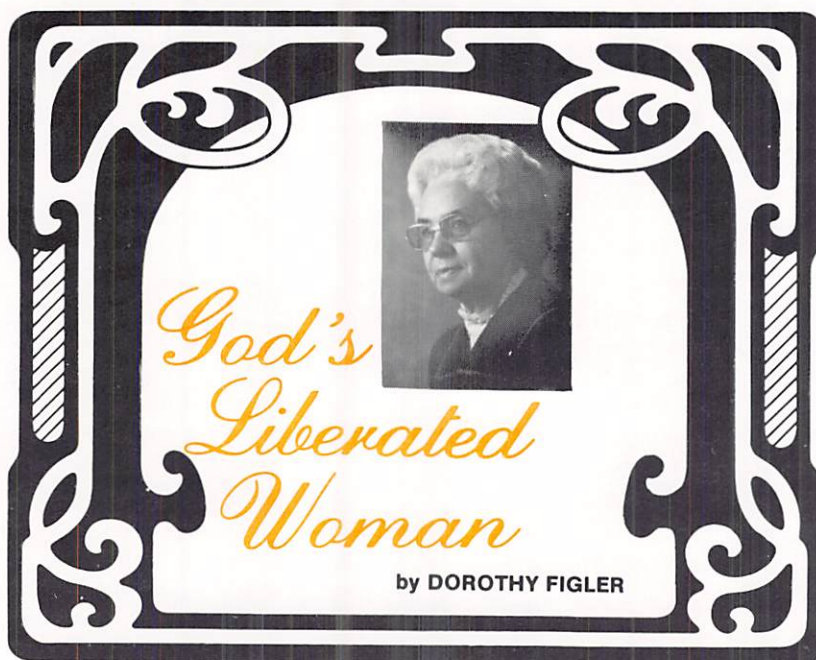
The fulfillment of the Bible prophecy Gen. 3:15, "The seed of the woman." would bruise the head of "the seed of the serpent" was the SEED that in righteousness restored equality of male and female in the sight of God. (Gal. 3:16). Also broke the bondage of the power of Satan, ensnared upon Eve and Adam in the garden of Eden. Sin shall not have dominion over you (Rom. 6:14).

God's plan for the ages was embodied in Adam but unfolded in Eve. How gracious of God to take the first step of reconciliation toward woman who was initially responsible for the separation of Adam from God. The first man Adam was created by God (Gen. 1:27). The last man Adam (the Lord Jesus) was by the woman (I Cor. 15:45, 46, 47). Thank God this opened the door to eternity for all mankind. "He hath exalted them of low estate."

Women called of God are ministers under God. Prophecy is a confirmed ministry for women of God. Mary, in response to the angel's message, prophesied. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." This holy child, Jesus, was the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:36; Matt. 1:21).

After Mary had conceived she visited Elizabeth, mother of John, the forerunner of Christ (Matt. 3:3). As Mary spoke to Elizabeth greeting her, the babe John, yet in her womb, was filled with the Holy Ghost and joy (Lk. 1:44). This was the first time that anyone is recorded as being filled with the Holy Ghost by the spoken word of one who literally was indwelt by the Christ. Elizabeth was also filled with the Holy Ghost and prophesied a confirmation to Mary of the things promised to her by the angel.

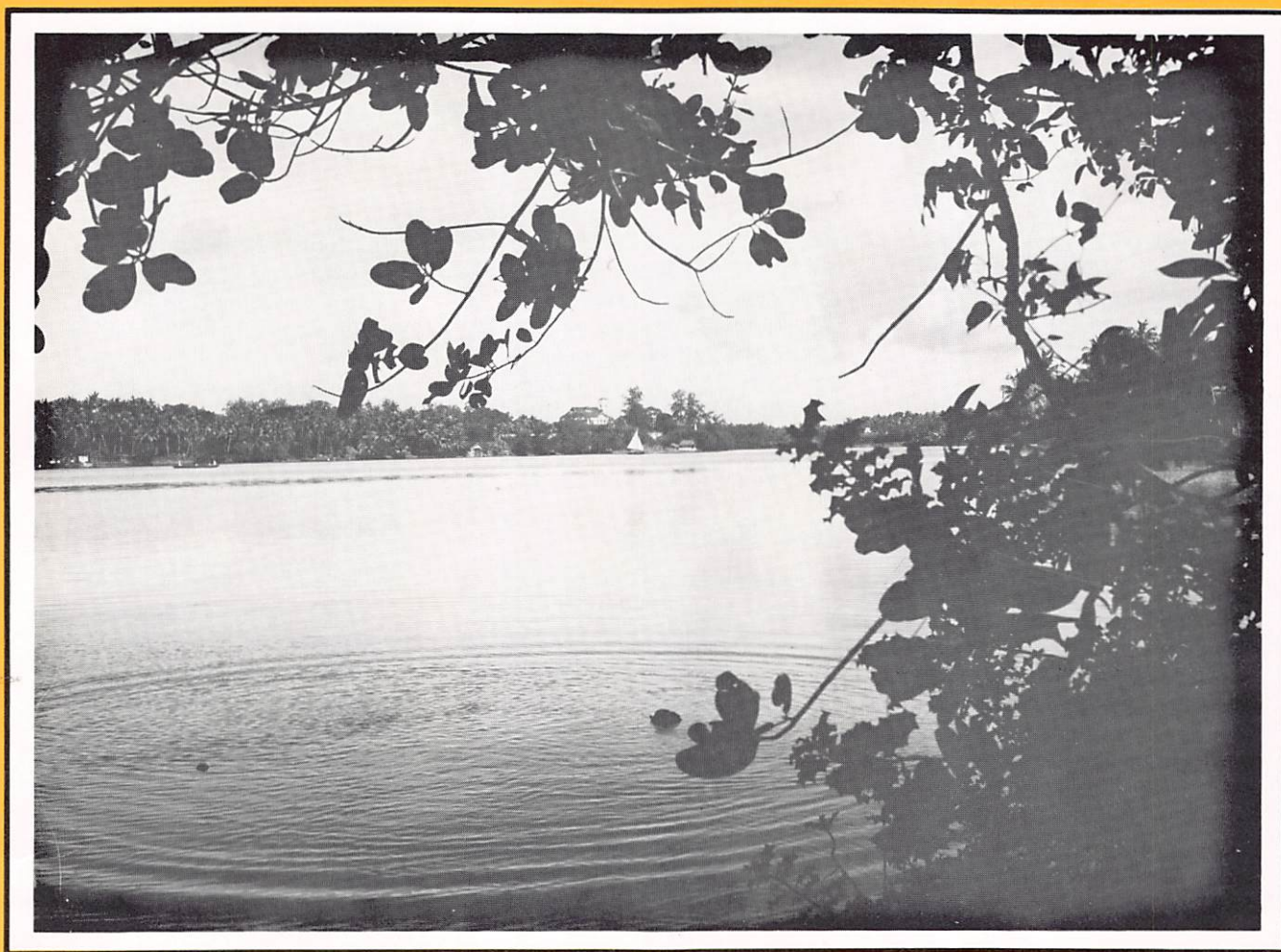
Joel prophesied of this day of grace when God would pour out his Spirit upon all flesh. He declared his handmaids would prophesy. This is verified on the day of pentecost. Confirmed in Gal. 3:26, 28. Ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. There is



continued on page 15



focus on
MISSIONS



Sunset on the lake in Kerala, South India

Christianity In Japan



by MISSIONARY BILL BETTSCHEN

The following article has been gleaned from a daily English newspaper in Japan regarding Christianity in this country.

Statistics:

Success is usually measured by numbers, sizes, or amounts. It all depends into which category our thinking fits into best. If Christian missionaries here were to depend upon numbers for their encouragement (numbers of believers in church on Sunday for instance) they would have given up long ago and gone into some other kind of business. Statistics prove Christianity in Japan to be a failure with less than one percent of the total population professing Christians. However, statistics are not always true. I as well as many other missionaries in this country feel the percentage is much higher. In Japan the government does not ask for religious affiliation in its census. Therefore, all figures here are reported by churches from their own lists of *practicing* Christians. Most other countries count baptised Christians regardless of whether they believe and/or follow

their religious beliefs. There is no doubt about it that many Japanese people walking the streets have been definitely and strongly influenced by the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and have perhaps without their really knowing it have experienced relationship with our Saviour.

Rice Christians

Japan never was under the influence of a colonial power. So, unlike other Asian countries, there are no "rice Christians" here. The Japanese did not become Christians in order to eat or to be accepted. Very much on the contrary, the Japanese who becomes Christian goes against his entire heritage. He is alone, and consequently must be sure and strong. His decision has been an intellectual and spiritual one.

Whereas most Christian converts came from the lowest classes in other parts of Asia, here they represent a cultural elite. In other words, Christianity in Japan started at the top, not the bottom. The voices of Japanese Christians are heard in various ways. Modern

literatures best-seller list has usually one Christian writer on it. Japan, whose industry has spread world wide, invading almost every facet of life have their people following up their products and a good many of these are being definitely influenced by Christian attitudes abroad. Japanese businessmen meeting Christian businessmen.

Why Do They Need It?

This is perhaps the most significant question regarding Christianity and the Japanese. They have shame instead of guilt of original sin, and it works just as well, if not better, in keeping an orderly society. They have a very vague belief in an after life. It seems to be a spirit world with some earthly contact but not paradise. Likewise, there is no fear of damnation. "Christianity can add to the life of a Japanese" one writer says firmly. "It gives an insight into the essence and deep meaning to our existence." This writer goes on to say, "There is an unmistakable streak of gloom and melancholy in the Japanese nature—an absence of joy—an emphasis on the

evanescence of life."

The Japanese need to know the gift of Christianity with the love of a personal God. One who listens to their prayers and answers. A far cry from praying to stone idols and depending on superstitions and old wives' fables.

Is Christianity Changing Japan?

Many hold the view that Christianity is a success in Japan. They agree that it is profoundly changing the value judgment. Whereas Confucianism stress that the lower class work for the higher, Christian ethics teaches the higher classes are responsible to the lower class. The post war constitution is based on Christian ethic. Although there is a revival towards Buddhism, along with this is a new emphasis on concern for others and charity. After a long dormant period people are hold retreats, singing hymns and generally expressing a spiritual attitude. As it is said, "Christianity is a way of life. There is that way in Japan." †

GOD'S PROVISIONS FOR YOUR NEEDS

continued from page 9

Activities In Africa

Bible School is now over for another year . . . what a tremendous time of blessing it was (for us . . . teachers . . . as well). We thank God for His anointing on our lips and on the ears of the "students" (some of them were pastors in their 50's and 60's). We had a regular attendance of thirty and over (most of them were "live-in" students from the tribal areas and that means that for over a month these folk lived in the Mufakose Church, slept on the floor, cooked outside on open fires, preached at special evangelistic services in the evenings, and then sat through half-day or full-day classes). God bless them! As well as about twenty pastors and their wives (a number of our workers were not able to attend due to the terrorist problems in certain areas) we had some of the older young people from the local assemblies (sponsored by either a national pastor or by that national pastor's local church) . . . also we had some new faces amongst our ministry . . . a new apprentice pastor now in the work assisting in one of the Salisbury churches; and a new district assistant evangelist/ pastor as well.

Shirley and I had quite aschedule to keep . . . and it was really marvelous how God's strength became our portion. We had, by

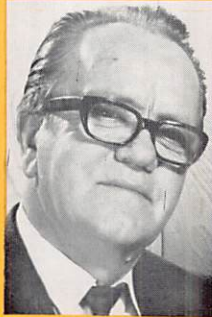
necessity, taken an urgent trip to Gwelo just prior to our Bible School . . . and this tied us up for almost two weeks . . . thus we were behind in our typing of stencils and printing of lecture notes for the subjects we were teaching this year. (It is to their advantage to be given in depth notes both in Shona and English . . . as this really helps them when they get back to their own fields of ministry). We were really concerned when we returned to Salisbury as we just didn't know how we would manage to get everything done. (With well over 300 stencils to do and neither of us being qualified typists . . . we both use the "seek and find method" . . . it seemed impossible but praise God with Him nothing is impossible). Some days there were lectures from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. with only one short break . . . other days we would have a break for lunch and then continue teaching for another hour. One of us would teach in entirety for one day (while the other one was home typing stencils or printing what had been typed and proofread), and then the next day we would do "turn-about" . . . again one teaching and the other printing or typing. In addition we had to maintain our coloured church services twice a week. Following Bible school we had our district executive council meeting, and then our own Mashonaland District Conference . . . and then peace! (ha ha). Actually it wasn't until two days after everything was all over that it really hit us . . . and for two days (except for our services) we just luxuriously lounged around . . . and it was sure good."

Wendy Kellond

COMING IN FEBRUARY

"Christians in Russia Today" — the truth about life in the spiritually starved Soviet Union from members of our fellowship who have recently returned from behind the "Iron Curtain". You will read about their trials and triumphs and the part you can have in meeting some of their needs.

With The Lord



Charles Kingsfield a fervent and highly motivated minister, a warm and personal friend was called home to exchange his cross for a starry crown on October 25, 1977.

Charles was born in the small farming community of Balgonie and as a young man moved to Regina for education and employment. He came to know his Savior and Lord in the revival influence that pervaded over mid-Canada in the

days of the depression in the 1930's.

He heard the voice of God in salvation and in the call to witness and minister. Being by nature an impressionable and responsive person he lost no time to act upon his inner urge to witness at work and at street corner gatherings. He answered the call to full time gospel ministry in 1935 when he was ordained by our early Apostolic Fathers.

In 1939 he took to himself a wife from a Winnipeg family who had deep roots in the renewal that began at the turn of the century. Pearl Sopp shared and gave depth to this vibrant ministry.

Three children were born to them during the time of their pioneer and pastoral evangelism which took them to Nelson and Surrey, B.C., to De Moines, Iowa, U.S.A. and finally Victoria, B.C. where he found a deep affinity to the city and to the Christian community there. His last major thrust and fulfillment was to found and shepherd Victoria West Community Church, now known as Trinity Christian Centre.

His energetic drive took him into business ventures and to mission

tours. He was always living, planning and working.

The illness that came to his ambition and life style was a trial to him but he accepted it with faith and resignation.

He leaves to feel the loss of his earthly presence his companion in life and ministry his wife Pearl, two daughters Mary Ellen, who has ministered to so many of our Bible camps, churches and Bible students. Karen Mauro in Windsor, Ontario, one son Bryon, a student at the University of Victoria.

Personally I was warmed and encouraged often by my Brother Charles. He was kind and big hearted. As a young minister he opened his heart and his pulpit to me. He came to share in my pioneer efforts. In his later years and even though he was ill he had a way of infusing strength and optimism into one's life. What he meant to me and did for me he also spread around to others.

We miss his earthly presence. We rejoice in the hope into which he has entered. Absent from the body is present with the Lord and it is *much better.* †

— D. W. Breen

A.C.O.P. North Saskatchewan District Conference

The North Saskatchewan A.C.O.P. District Conference was hosted by the Melfort Apostolic Church, October 24 and 25. Pastor and Mrs. Merv Kurtz made all the delegates welcome and the ladies of the assembly provided wonderful meals. The hospitality in the homes was exceptional and all appreciated the time of fellowship together.

Delegates from nearly all the churches in the district were in

attendance. The speaker for the occasion was Reverend Nels Neilsen of Calgary, Alberta. Brother Neilsen spoke from his heart on topics which were of vital interest to the pastors and congregations in our district. Two of his topics were, "The Message of the Church" and "The Pastor, Congregation and the Community". Both of these messages were inspiring and informative. The practical truths brought by Brother Neilsen will be of great value to the pastors and various lay delegates who return to their homes. Business sessions were held in the morning and afternoon on Tuesday with many encouraging reports of God at work in our churches and communities in the North Saskatchewan District.

Brother Ben Kirpatrick pastor of the Saksatoon Apostolic Church, brought a devotional declaring the almightiness of God. This was a

great inspiration to all of us as we began the day. Brother Neilsen concluded our conference in the evening with a message entitled "Let Things Be Done". He challenged us all to go back to our homes and churches and to do what God has called us to do. He emphasized the fact that we must not merely talk in conference of what must be done, but also get out and do the work of the Lord to which we are called.

We want to thank God for His great blessing upon the conference. Apart from the messages and business conducted at the conference, some of the most valuable and precious moments were the relaxed times when the delegates had opportunity to fellowship one with another and to share in a relaxed atmosphere in the assembly between sessions.

—Gil Killam, *Presbyter*

you were asking

by ART & GRETA SHEPPARD



"I suffer from an inferiority complex. Is this God's way of keeping me humble? I know it sure keeps me defeated, and I would like deliverance from it."

No, this is not God's way of keeping you humble. An inferiority complex is simply bad thoughts about yourself.

It is not other folks thinking these thoughts about you — it's you. But don't think for a moment that Satan isn't behind those second-rate opinions you have of yourself. He's "the accuser of the brethren."

Start thinking right thoughts about yourself. "As a man thinketh, so is he."

Tragically, parents are often the cause of inferior feelings in their children. If you call a child "stupid," "dummy," "irresponsible," etc. often enough, he'll soon start to believe it. These thoughts and feelings about himself are carried into adulthood, and sooner or later

into a marriage relationship; thus, perhaps unintentionally, but inevitably, on to the children, for you cannot accept and love other people as they are, when you cannot accept and love yourself as you are.

There is deliverance, praise God! Jesus has defeated this defeat in your life. Take these positive steps, and watch yourself come into an arena of victory.

1. "Forget those things which are behind. . . ." Stop blaming your parents and the past for your feelings.

2. Obey the Word. Romans 6:16, 17. Jesus said in Mark 12:30, 31: "And you shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart — your spiritual area;

with all your soul — your emotional area;

with all your mind — your intellectual area;

with all your strength — your physical area.

(Love Him in every area of your life). "Love your neighbour as yourself."

3. Jesus said this!! He said you are to love yourself, so you can love your neighbour — or the person closest to you, starting with your spouse, children, family, friends, pastor, God's family. He's not talking about ego, or conceit, but respect for yourself.

Husbands are instructed to love their wives, even as their own bodies.

It's absolutely scriptural to love, or put a value on what God made (He made you — just like you are!) Love yourself, respect yourself, take heed to yourself!

4. Thank Him for making you. Thank Him for helping you to become the person He wants and you want to become.

5. Remember! Inferior opinions are the result of negative attitudes. Confess what God says about you in Christ Jesus. Be spiritually minded. (Romans 8:6).

Get your mind off yourself and onto others. Sounds contradictory, but it isn't. It's one of God's laws and principles. Respect yourself and you'll be able to respect your neighbour. †

GOD'S LIBERATED WOMAN

continued from page 10

neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for ye are *all* one in Christ Jesus. Both men and women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, waited upon the Lord Jesus for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4). They were *all* filled with the Holy Ghost, spake in tongues and magnified God. This means women are anointed to speak the inspired word of God. The scripture does not teach that vocal gifts are for male vessels only. The vessel of the Lord must be a clean vessel (Lev. 10:10; Acts 10:15).

When Jesus came forth from the tomb, He chose a handmaid Mary Magdalene out of whom He had cast seven devils, to *go* and *tell* the

good news (Matt. 28:7). He didn't tell her to pray about it first, she was a cleansed vessel (Mark: 16:9). A woman must hold the Head (Christ) in the same manner as men ought to. The men who had been with Jesus in ministry for three years did not believe Mary's message that He was resurrected, even though Christ had foretold them this would happen.

These three examples, Mary, mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene the messenger and Elizabeth mother of John are testimonies of personal redemption from the lost estate before God of the original fallen condition of Eve. Jesus Christ the only mediator and only sacrifice for sin (Heb. 9:15; I Peter 2:24).

Women under headship as appointed of God is another

subject. The union of marriage has a whole context of its own. This relationship is parallel to Christ and the church. Most women are called to be wives and mothers. Here they find fulfillment and home ministry.

Nevertheless marriage does not necessarily have to interfere with a woman called of God to minister in another capacity. She is the handmaid of the Lord, though this is often a test to her husband in his attitude toward Christ as his Head. Some women have been called and appointed as evangelists, missionaries, and pastors. Christ is the giver of His gifts to the vessel He chooses. The meaning of man in I Cor. 12:11 in the Greek includes as mankind the involvement of woman.

continued on page 23

JESUS WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN

by Corrie ten Boom

Corrie ten Boom—now in her 80's and just hitting full stride as perhaps the most unique evangelist traveling the world today. A survivor of Ravensbruck Concentration Camp, and a legend in her own lifetime, Corrie has been through it all, yet such is her child-like openness that she enjoys a rapport with young people today shared by few others in the generations in between. In person, she is as unassuming as it is possible to be. Short and solid, her hair gathered in an iron-grey bun, the severity of her countenance is belied by the twinkle that never leaves her deep blue eyes. As she speaks in her soft Dutch accent, one becomes aware that beneath her humor and abiding joy is an unshakable strength that comes from a lifetime of walking hand-in-hand with Jesus.

On the Jesus People . . .

The Holy Spirit is moving with great speed among them. They do not think about doctrines; they speak about Jesus, about the work of God, about the future, and they have not the limitation of traditions. One of the high points came when I spoke to these young people on the beach at Costa Mesa, California. They have not had a long experience; many have just a short time ago accepted Jesus and had the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

"How long have you known Jesus?" I would ask. And this one would say, "two weeks." And that one, "three years." And another, "one day." And I would say to them, "Well, I have good news!" I have known Him seventy-five years, and I can tell you something, man: He will never let you down!"

Sometime ago I was with a group of students in the Midwest, and they didn't know the Lord. They were interested in all kinds of other things, and a Christian professor had organized weekly meetings to answer questions. So it was that at the last evening meeting of that semester, the professor said, "Now you can hear something about Christianity in practice."

I told them about Jesus Christ, and what He had done for me, and the



great miracles, also. And when He tells you to love your enemies, He gives you the love that He demands from you. They were listening intently and I was led by the Holy Spirit not to go into any doctrines or teachings other than the reality of Jesus Christ. I told them of the joy of having Jesus with me, whatever

happened, and how I knew from experience that the light of Jesus is stronger than the greatest darkness. I have been in such a darkness that only those people who were in a German concentration camp during the war could understand. The guards were trained in cruelties: every day eight hundred people died or were killed, including my sister. But there I experienced that when Jesus is with you, the worst can happen, and the best remains.

I told them about the time that I stood in roll call, and I could not bear to look at and listen to what was happening in front of me, where guards were demonstrating their cruelties on one of the Christian inmates. Then a skylark came, and he started to sing in the sky. We all looked up at the skylark, and as I watched him and listened to his song, a verse from Psalm 103 came into my head: "As high as heaven is over the earth, so high is God's love and mercy over all that fear Him." God sent that skylark every day for three weeks exactly during roll call, to turn our eyes away from the cruelty of man unto the ocean of God's love.

Afterwards, the students came up, and we had coffee. And one said to me, "I would love to ask Jesus to come into my heart, but I can't; I'm a Jew." I said, "You can't ask Jesus

into your heart because you are a Jew? Then you did not understand that with the Jew, Jesus, in your heart, you are a double Jew." He said, "Oh, then it is possible?" I said, "You will simply be a completed Jew." And the boy, with great joy, received the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

But what made me happiest of all was when we left, the students said to the professor, "Say, you can't stop these evening meetings; now that we have Jesus, we must know more of Him." And the professor said, "I quite agree!"

On the world situation . . .

I see over the whole world that there are two huge armies marching—the army of the antichrist and the army of Jesus Christ. We know from the Bible that Jesus Christ will have the victory, but now the antichrist is preparing for the time that will come before Jesus returns. The Bible says that there will be a time of tribulation, and the antichrist will take over the whole world. He will be a very "good, religious" man, and he will make one religion for the whole world. After it has been arranged, he will proclaim himself as its god. The Bible prophesies that the time will come when we cannot buy or sell, unless we bear the sign of the antichrist; that means that world money is coming, and people know this today. If I did not believe in the Bible before, I should believe in it now. Because what was foretold in the Bible, you can now read in the newspapers.

The joy is that we know. That God has no problems with this world, only plans. That song has helped me so much: "God is working His purpose out, and the time is drawing near. Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that will surely be, when this world will be covered with the knowledge of God, like the waters cover the sea." In Dutch, the text is: "the waters cover the bottom of the sea." The great message here to me is that Jesus has said, "I will come and make everything new." So there is hope for this world.

On the future of the world . . .

I have found that in speaking to young people, I tell them what a joy it is to have the assurance of salvation. When I die, I go to

heaven: I'm saved; I've got the answer to the problem of sin and death. It is *tremendous* when you have that! But there is much more, and at a time when the enemy is so terribly busy in the world, only God Himself could give the promise of the Bible; the promise of a coming kingdom, the kingdom of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, and I believe that we are all to prepare for that and make people ready.

I find that when Communists speak of the future of the world, they show a pattern of peace through Communism. But when I ask them, "What about when you die?" They say, "Then everything is ended. There is no life after this life." The Bible tells us that the antichrist can imitate much, even the gifts of the Spirit. But there is one thing he can't imitate, and that is the peace of God which passes all understanding.

But there are good things to tell about the future of the world. For instance, the leaves of the Tree of Life will be used for the healing of the nations. This means that there will be healing. I am so thankful that we have the Bible and can know the future of God's plan. And in the Phillip's translation, it is so simple that even a Dutchman can understand. Not always so with me; sometimes I get too complicated and have to remind myself, "K.I.S.S."—Keep it simple, stupid!

I like to pray with an open Bible. I like to say: "Father, you have said it in your word; now you must do it." For instance, I came into Russia with my suitcase full of Russian Bibles, and at the border I saw how carefully the customs officers check every suitcase, and I was scared. I thought, "What will he do when he finds my Bibles? Send me back to Holland? Put me in prison?" And I said, "Lord, in Jeremiah 1, it is written that 'God watches over his word to perform it.' Lord, the Bibles in my suitcase are your Word. Now, God, please watch over your Word, my Bibles, to smuggle them." That is not what Jeremiah meant, but I have found that if you pray with your hand on the promises of the open Bible, you have not first to wait until you have a very sound doctrinal position, God sees your heart. The

moment that I prayed, I saw around my suitcase light beings. I saw angels, the first and only time in my life. Only for a moment I saw them, and then they were gone. But so was my fear. When the man came to my suitcase, he asked, "Is this your suitcase?" I said, "Yes, sir." "It is very heavy," he said. "Yes, sir," I said. "Wait, I have time; I can bring it to your car," he said. And he brought it right to the auto. I almost shouted, hallelujah!

On persecution of Christians

At this moment we will soon go to have our good dinners and then go to our good beds. At this same moment 60 percent of the Body of Christ is suffering persecution. And you in America do not realize it. We have got to understand that we must suffer with them and pray for them. Behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains there are so many who are martyrs right now for Jesus Christ. Watchman Nee said, "When my feet were whipped, my hands suffered pain." We are one Body of Christ. Some of us are suffering now, and I believe the rest of us must be ready to suffer.

The most important thing is, in all the countries that I have visited where Christians are being persecuted, they never asked me, "Pray for us that the persecution will end," but rather "Ask your people to pray for us and pray yourself that God will give us power and strength." It is as if they are honored to suffer for Jesus.

A bishop who was seventeen years in China said, "We have done a good job. We brought the gospel, built churches, looked after the poor. But we neglected two things: First, we did not teach every lay person to be an evangelist, and so we did not fully prepare our people. Secondly, we did not train them to search the Bible to find promises to be strong in times of tribulation. The Lord gives His children the power and strength, but we have not seen how much there is in the Bible to strengthen us, and we must learn these things by heart. Because someday there may be no Bible allowed. You, who still have time, must teach your people to "cash their checks" on God's promises while they can. continued on page 19

Joy Bells In My Heart

by HAZEL GRACE THOMPSON



Hazel Grace Thompson was a member of the first graduating class of the Full Gospel Bible Institute in 1947. Served as a missionary in Upper Volta for eight years. Following her marriage to Don Thompson in 1965, they ministered to the Cree Indians for ten years at Little Island Lake Reserve where the gospel transformed many lives. Hazel now lives in Seattle, Washington where her husband is attending the Seattle Bible Training Institute.

"I am happy, so happy! Since Jesus put the joy-bells in my heart! sing the little children in Sunday School. Small faces glow. Bright eyes twinkle.

A mother looks on and glowers, "How can they be so happy and carefree, when I'm miserable? Of course," she reasons, "I'm the one who feeds my brood, I do all the hard work for them—making meals, cleaning house, washing their clothes, etc., etc. But I'm a Christian and I'm supposed to be happy. Why have I no joy?"

Then, one day, she meets another mother in similar circumstances. She also makes meals, scrubs floors, does washing and has the morning scramble of getting her children off to school. But there is a difference. This mother is happy. Her face beams—much like the children singing that chorus in Sunday School. She constantly praises the Lord and talks about His goodness to her and her family. Why is she so happy?

First, she must learn that circumstances are not the prerequisite to happiness. I've met people in wheel-chairs who radiate with God's glory and I've met others, who had every physical and material comfort that this world can offer, but they were so disgruntled with life, that they felt it wasn't worth living.

Our Temperaments Can Be Controlled

The old excuse that, "I'm just like that and mother was too," isn't good enough. We are new creatures in Christ now and our temperaments can be controlled.

The devil is a robber. He wants to steal away every pleasure of life from us. If he can get us to waste day after day, year after year, in a state of depression, he knows he has us out of commission. We will never be a threat to his kingdom.

However, God has made bountiful provision for us to enjoy the wonderful gift of life that He has given us. In this state of victory and joy, our lives can be fruitful and effective for Him.

Proverbs 25:28 reads, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." In Bible times, walls were built around cities to protect them from invaders. Should those walls be broken down, the enemy could march right in with very little effort. So it is with our Christian experience. A person who is unable to control his spirit, is an easy target for the devil.

Unconfessed Sin

Allowing unconfessed sin to remain in our lives, makes it impossible for us to be joyful. "If our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." 1 John 3:21. But what if our heart does condemn us? We can't even pray with confidence and expect God to answer our prayers.

King Saul had everything going for him. He was tall, good-looking, rich and besides, he was king! But one day, he allowed that insidious sin called jealousy to creep into his heart. Soon he became a miserable maniac. He spent the rest of his days trying to catch and kill David, who was an innocent man.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Proverbs 28:13) Unconfessed sin can cause a complete physical breakdown. It also leaves a person wide open to further attack from the enemy. Not only do we need cleansing from the apparent sins such as murder, adultery, stealing and drunkenness, but others just as serious in God's eyes such as: jealousy, bitterness, covetousness, pride and anger.

Yield Yourself to God

One who is resisting God's perfect will for their lives cannot be completely happy. God longs to give good things to His children, but so often we fear to truly place our lives in His hands. We get the idea we know what would give us the most in life. Psalm 81:13-16 tells us all the good things the Lord would love to give to His people if they would only walk in His ways and listen to Him. He would subdue their enemies, their times should endure forever. He'd feed them with the finest of the wheat and they would be completely satisfied.

If God's children would only give themselves as a "living sacrifice" on God's altar (Romans 12:1-2) and obey Him, they could know "what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Yes, His will is just perfect! Our own planning could never make it better.

Be Content With What You Have

Many people waste their whole lives looking forward to what they hope is just around the corner, but they never enjoy today! Every day with Jesus can be an exciting adventure. Our lives can be completely fulfilling.

We must learn to be content with what God gives us. Paul learned to be content in whatever state he found himself; full, hungry, rich or poor. (Philippians 4:11-12)

Some years ago, the Lord spoke to me clearly on Hebrews 13:5-6. I knew He wanted me to return to Africa for another term of missionary service, but I had made Him certain stipulations that I felt must be met

first. Number one was a husband! . . . "be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. So I may boldly say, the Lord is my helper. I will not fear what man shall do unto me." By insisting on a human companion, I was telling the God of all creation, that He was not enough! How I wept and confessed my sin to Him. In His mercy He cleansed me and I soon found myself overwhelmed by His wonderful love. I sang, "He's all I need, Jesus is all I need." I did return to Africa, single, for another five year term and proved over and over that He is all I need.

Share The Gospel and Your Victories

Isaiah 12:3 reads, "with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Have you ever led a soul to the Lord? What a tremendous thrill it has been in my years of missionary experience to tell people, many who never heard before, of Jesus and His plan of salvation. When they bow and accept His wonderful gift, truly "my cup runneth over." It is also a great pleasure to share with others the precious things that the Lord has taken me through and taught me over the years.

JESUS WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN

continued from page 17

I found some beautiful texts: "whatever we may have to go through is nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us." God Himself will wipe away the tears from our eyes. When these things start to happen, Jesus says, "look up, hold your head high," for you will soon be free. Be open to the Holy Spirit and rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers in Christ's suffering (I Peter 4:13), that is when His glory shall be revealed. And you may also be exceedingly glad if you are reproached for the name of Christ, for the spirit of glory is resting upon you.

On forgiveness . . .

One thing we must not forget: if we do not forgive, we do not have forgiveness. We *must* forgive, and it is possible. I have experienced that when Jesus tells you to love your enemy, He gives you the very love he demands from you. I could not love the man who, by betrayal, murdered four of my family, who died in prison. I could only hate him. But then Jesus gave me *His* love for this man, and used me to bring him to Jesus.

When You Can't Rise Above Depression On Your Own, Admit You Need Prayer

Be humble enough to admit your need, if you are unable to rise above depression. Go to a stronger member of the body of Christ and have them pray for you, commanding this oppressing spirit to go in the Name of Jesus. Satan likes to "bug" God's people, but we don't have to put up with it. Praise God, he is a defeated foe!

Go To The Source Of Joy

There is only one real source of joy and that is Jesus. The Lord longs for us to come aside each day and spent time reading His Word, praising and worshipping Him and having Him speak to us. If we are unhappy, it isn't a certain book we need, a vacation or a change of environment but JESUS! "In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalms 16:11) When life gets humdrum, or I find everything looks gloomy and depressing, I know what is wrong. I must get back into His sweet presence and once more the joy-bells will be ringing in my heart. †

In I Corinthians 13, it is written that no matter how much you have, without love, you have absolutely nothing. So, love stands when all else has fallen (vs. 8). His love is not a love that we can try to produce. We have just to throw ourselves in full surrender to the Lord. When I

throw an empty bottle into the ocean it is immediately filled and surrounded by the ocean water. When I throw myself into the arms of Jesus, I am filled and surrounded by the ocean of His love. *This* is what it means to surrender your life to Him! †

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V. W. Jonat



CONTEMPORARY COMMENT . . .

by SANDRA SEE



Outcasts? In our church? Never!

Oh, no?

What about the lonely, "little, old lady" with her old-fashioned flowerpot hat and shabby, worn coat. This white haired saint faithfully attends each service and quietly leaves unnoticed with barely a casual greeting from someone who careened into her in search of more exciting company. Her long ride home on the bus will be cold and tiring, but, nevertheless, she'll be out to the next service. Yes, she wonders why she is so often ignored. Her conclusion is that it's probably because she isn't young, fashionably dressed or a brilliant conversationalist. She's come to expect this indifference by now, and though it would be a great pleasure to have a friendly chat with another Christian, she doesn't expect it to happen. It doesn't.

One bright Sunday morning, four visitors slide into the back seat. This young family are new in the

things with. They'd understand how she feels about the Lord and help her live for Him. Sally, you're right—too bad the teenagers sitting near you were to enthused with their afternoon plans together to speak to you. But do come again.

Then there's the family from another country who have settled into their new church home—your church. They're finding it lonely in this new country. So many strange customs and different ways of doing things to learn. It's good to have a church like this one to attend. It's probably only the language barrier which is presenting the problem in making Christian friends. After all, back home in Jamaica, they had many Christian friends. Why should it be different here?

"Well," you say, "None of those people made an effort to be friendly—what do they expect? After all, the Bible says if you want friends, you must be friendly."

THE OUTCASTS

city and are looking for a good Bible church they can attend and become involved in. The sermon is very warm and sincere. The people aren't. They decide they'll keep looking—they want a good church home, but they also need Christian fellowship and a feeling of belonging.

Sally, the new convert, decides to venture out to the morning service. This young teenager accepted the Lord in a Sunday evening evangelical service two weeks ago. Today, she concludes it's time to heed the altar worker's advice and attend the Sunday morning service. It will be great to meet other Christians, too. Since accepting Christ and confessing Him, her old friends don't hang around much anymore. Anyway it'd be neat to have some Christian friends to do

Very true, but should visitors have to interrupt your cheery clique to introduce themselves? Should a new convert have to break into the excited plans of those who apparently don't have the time or desire to speak to her? Should an old, shabby lady have to shout to those ignoring her, "Please, someone speak to me!" And the Jamaican family—should they, in their heavily accented English, plead for some friendship?

No.

"Well," you query, "What do I have in common with that elderly lady? I'm much younger than she is and I'm sure our interests aren't the same at all."

Let's remember that we all have one very precious experience in common—our salvation. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ, and,

whether we believe it or not, there's a bond of love between all Christians. Maybe we have to discover it, but it's there.

You have much to offer Sally, the new convert—your love, your encouragement, your understanding and concern and your knowledge of spiritual things. You don't have to be a spiritual giant to be a friend to a new convert—you just have to care.

The new family? How about an invitation to coffee to gain rapport with them. Days and evenings are very long without friends and it takes time to establish relationships in a new city. The newcomer often faces a long period of loneliness. Your offer of coffee would be a most welcome interlude. You may find you have gained some new friends yourself, too.

The foreign family have a different background than yours, but again you have your Christian experiences in common and also your church activities to discuss.

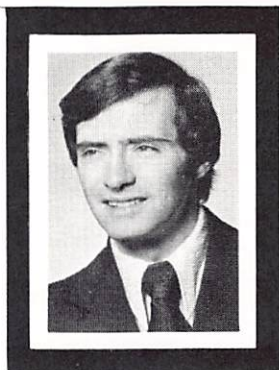
"Listen, I'd speak to them, but I'm so afraid I won't be able to understand what they're saying."

So what? An honest mistake admitted with a smile can often be the basis of a friendship. They may face problems understanding you, too. Is indifference preferable to a few language misunderstandings?

We need all our brothers and sisters in the Lord—we need the unique spiritual gifts each has to offer. Each of us needs the encouragement, the faith and the love another brother or sister can give us. In God's sight, no person is insignificant, lowly or unimportant. We're all members of God's glorious church and only with unity, will we remain victorious.

Jesus said, "Verily, I say unto you inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." †

A Teacher Come From God



by OWEN D. SCOTT

In the darkness of a Jerusalem evening the Lord Jesus heard Himself called "a teacher come from God." It was an accurate statement from the lips of a man named Nicodemus.

Does it seem presumptuous—even sacrilegious—to borrow this term and apply it to yourself? "A teacher sent from God?" I don't think so. We read in Scripture of Jesus sending out His disciples with the commandment "so send I you." Paul picks up this same thought and addresses the Christian Church as "ambassadors of Christ." When you walk into your classroom on Sunday morning you are in reality, someone "come from God."

You cannot think of teaching the Word of God only in terms of methods and materials or fresh techniques or exciting story-telling. There is a much greater dimension than that involved. When you teach you are expressing something of the very life of God. Teaching the Bible involves sharing what you have discovered of the Lord in your own study of His Word, and sharing what you are experiencing of God as the Holy Spirit works in your life.

There are many motives for teaching. One person may teach out of a sense of responsibility. Others may feel they are doing their pastor or Sunday School superintendant a personal favor. But the teacher "come from God" has as his motive a deep inner sense that his Heavenly Father has called him to this great task of training lives. With this call comes a

serious responsibility. Your personality, your life-style and your attitude both in and out of the classroom come under careful scrutiny from those you teach. Christ-like attitudes and actions will speak much louder than your lesson presentation. It is doubtful if your lessons or creative teaching methods will be remembered but

they will never forget what you were like as a person. It is an exciting thought to think that this Sunday there may well be a seeking "Nicodemus" in your class, who will want to know the source of your faith.

Warren Filkin brought the importance of this truth home when he gave this particular experience of a teacher:

"An angel of the Lord spoke unto me, saying, 'Arise and go unto the church, the same that is in thy city.' And I arose and went and beheld a class of students who had come to learn. And they gave them unto me to teach, and I took them unto me, and we considered together the Scriptures and how we might grow to be more like the Master. When we had finished, I asked them, 'Do ye understand?' And they answered me, 'Yea, we understand. As thou hast said, so shall we say. As thou dost do, so shall we do. As thou dost walk, so shall we walk. Thou art our example and we'll follow in thy footsteps.' And I trembled, for I had not always made my path a straight and narrow one. Then I awoke and lo it was a dream, but I understand its meaning; and straightway I fell on my knees and asked God for wisdom and strength to guide my students right."

May that be your attitude as you face the challenge of your class this coming Sunday. You are not just 'filling a position', nor are you 'only' a Sunday School teacher. You are engaged in the greatest work on this earth. There is no greater challenge nor a higher calling. You are a teacher "sent from God." †



labourers together



by R. A. LARDEN

“WHO’S WHO?”

Evie Tornquist at the age of 21 has four albums on the religious top twenty. Mark Hatfield, U.S. Senator; Pat Boone, singer, actor; Dino, concert pianist of exquisite talent and appeal. Pat Robertson president of the Christian Broadcasting Network, host of the “700 Club” with a staff of 600 and a \$22 million budget.

In a semi-desert setting an honor graduate student of the military of Egypt said in a trembling voice before God “Who am I?” Moses still mentally suffering from past failures expressed his personal opinion of inadequacy.

Years later a “P.K.” said “Oh Lord God! I cannot speak: for I am a child.” Jeremiah the son of Hiliiah of the priests felt inadequate for the divine assignment.

Amos, who was among the herdsmen of Tekoa, was called to proclaim the Word of God to Israel. No seminar training, no family connections, no prior public speaking involvements.

God turned their thoughts around, off of self unto Him who called them. It is not a question of “Who am I”, but Who God is—“I AM that I AM.”

God’s word to Jeremiah was “say not I am a child; for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces for I am with thee” (Jeremiah 1:7,8).

A “door was opened unto me” Paul said, and it was a challenge. It surely must have been mammoth, and naturally impossible. He exclaimed “who is sufficient for these things?”

The answer is not in ourselves. Not in our ability or our background of training. Jesus emphatically stated “Without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:15), and Paul was aware of it. He also was versed in Jesus Word “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (15:7). Paul readily responded to the “open door” of challenge with “our sufficiency is of God” (II Cor. 3:5).

He went onto declare God’s promise to us that “we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us” (II Cor. 4:7). Then declared unequivocally “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil, 4:13).

There are some shining lights in the Christian arena that have met big challenges, not in their own strength, nor in any resource related to their name, heritage or educational training—but in the abundant supply of grace and power in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are “open doors” today that stagger our imagination as we view them from the limitations of our own inadequacy—BUT God. Who is He? not “Who am I”. Jesus said “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:55), or to quote Exodus 3:14, “I AM that I AM”—“Our sufficiency is of God.” †

A Mountain Top On The Prairie

Eston Youth Retreat 1977

Young people began scaling the heights on Friday, September 2 at the foot of "Mount Experience". The Eston Full Gospel Young Peoples were hosts to the youth of several Saskatchewan and Alberta centres. The Full Gospel Bible Institute campus became the centre of the Labour Day weekend's activities.

Sound, practical Bible teaching was provided in the various teaching sessions conducted by Reverend Owen Scott. With his youthful appeal, Spirit anointed and directed ministry, hearts were touched. Encouragement and challenge went out to the youth to discover the blessing of involvement at various relational levels. Reverend Scott said a strategy for living is essential in the lives of youth today. This strategy should centre around a threefold commitment: a commitment to Christ, a commitment to God's people and a commitment to a dying world.

The music was provided by a top, contemporary gospel group "Liberty Union". Many audiences have enjoyed their simple, explicit gospel message through the ministry of music and this weekend crowd was no exception. Over 120 young people enjoyed the ministry of "Liberty Union" as they played and sang the message of Jesus.

The South Saskatchewan River hills provided a beautiful setting for the Sunday afternoon outdoor musical concert. Following the concert, barbecued hamburgers filled a lot of hungry stomachs. The evening ended after a fireside with the devouring of a 25 foot banana split by the winners of Saturday's recreation competition. A concluding concert just before the closing lunch together left everyone humming and singing the message that had been impressed on them over the weekend—a lasting impression that will be relived through many years to follow! †



Winners devour 25 foot banana split.

GOD'S LIBERATED WOMAN

continued from page 15

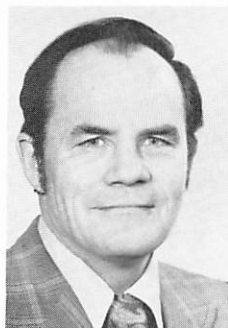
Praise the Lord! The new significance is the hope and power of the indwelling Christ (Col. 1:27).

The ministry that Jesus did while He walked this earth before death is the ministry now carried on by His believers. Jesus said Luke 3:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, *because* he hath appointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives . . . to set at *liberty* them that are bruised."

Thank God this is still the acceptable year of the Lord, though God's day of vengeance is near at hand. This world is fast losing the genuine quality of freedom that works for the benefit of *all* as God intended that it should. Only as we give Christ central place in our lives and hold forth the Word of Life can we hope to enjoy His liberation. †

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