

end times
messenger



OCTOBER/1978 VOL. 42 NO. 10



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for
Marriage
Failure**

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WHAT ABOUT THOSE PROBLEMS?



by C. SUMNER WEMP

Financial? Is there too much month at the end of your money? Marriage? Did you promise to marry for better or worse and feel now it was for worse? Business? Did someone say cheer up, it could get worse, and sure enough it did? Health? Have you felt you would have to get better or die and almost wish you had? Social? Do you feel you don't have a friend in the world and this old world couldn't care less? Tired of living and scared of dying? Emotional? Is it just one big rat race and you've had it? Psychological? Are you so far down and out you would have to reach up to touch bottom and really don't care if you do or not?

You feel so all alone. You ask what's it all about anyway. There is no rhyme, reason or reality to life. Everything seems to end up a blind alley or down a dead end street. Believe me, you have a lot of company.

Have you tried to drown your sorrows in drink and found drinking doesn't rid you of your problems, it only irrigates them? Many have tried to get away from it all by taking a trip on drugs to find to their horror that the travelling is too rough, or it's too hard to get back or worse yet, there is no returning at all. Have you ever tried the stars and found astrologers couldn't guess any better than you? You may have tried the psychiatrist with no better success. There seems to be no sage with the wisdom to untie the gordian knot of your life. Are you tired of it all?

There is an answer! There is a way out! Thousands upon thousands have found it and proved it. Someone has said, "It is not what happens to you that counts, it is what you do with what happens to you." You see, we all have problems.

Some have found the real basic cause of problems and have discovered the sure cure as well.

The cause is basically sin and here we are all in the same boat. We have all done our share. We have all sinned and broken contact with God Himself, the source of life and light. But the Lord Jesus Christ came to take care of this problem! He suffered and died for our sins to blot them out in God's sight. Then He rose again. When a person is willing to come clean with God, admit he has sinned, needs the Saviour, and is willing to receive the Lord Jesus Christ into his heart and life, he has the cure! He is brought back into contact with God who alone has the answers to life. He is truly born again, as Jesus put it. He receives a brand new life.

Will all your problems be solved the minute you invite Christ to become your Saviour too? No, but He has the answers and the power to meet your needs. He can heal the hurt. He cares for you. He wants to solve your problems.

Right now, wherever you are, quietly bow your head and let God know you will receive His Son the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Ask Him to come into your heart and take control of your life as your Saviour and Lord. He promises "But to as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). Will you receive Him? Then tell Him so, right now.

Dear God, I'm sorry for what I've done wrong. I believe you that Jesus took the blame. Lord Jesus, I want you as my Saviour too, come into my heart and change my life. Thank you. I know you will keep your promise. †



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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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Reasons for Marriage Failure

by J. ALLAN PETERSEN

We are living in an age of revolution - revolution in technology, race relations and morality. Hardly anything is considered sacred anymore, not even the time-honoured institution of marriage.

In 1960 one thousand divorces a day were granted; in 1970 it had grown to two thousand a day, or about one out of every three marriages.

Many think that the one-man one-woman "till death do us part" marriage is going out of style and will soon be obsolete. Substitutes are being hastily proposed. Some suggest polygamy and a tribal group replacing the family. Others like the idea of trial marriages or a three-year contract.

These developments are all symptomatic of a deeper problem, a lack of inner strength and character. Some mistakenly believe that divorce breaks up families. Not so. The opposite is true. Divorce is the result of the broken family.

What is wrong with marriage? The problem is not in the institution but in the partners. The basic cause of trouble is never in the situation or the circumstances. The real problem is in the people. And that problem will, almost without exception, be found to be *immaturity*.

Maturity

The dictionary states that maturity is "to be fully developed in body and

mind." I doubt that any of us can qualify on that count. We all have, to a greater or lesser degree, immature spots in our makeup.

But because maturity is recognized as the chief qualification for marital happiness, many marriage counselors and psychologists have written at length about it.

F. Alexander Magoun in his book *Love and Marriage* says that some of the marks of an emotionally mature person are: He relies on himself, taking responsibility for his own acts. He knows that what happens to him is not as important as what he does about it. He learns from experience. He makes good adjustment to others. He is humble - recognizing his own

fallibility. He has learned to live with what he cannot honorably avoid.

He is kind, but not weak. He genuinely likes other people and wants to work with them and for them. But when others are intolerant, coercive or dogmatic, he resists vigorously in a sportsmanlike manner. He is sincere, having found and accepted himself. He has wholehearted integrity and cannot be flattered. He can perceive, understand and sympathize with another's point of view. Finally, he has a genuine capacity to love because he knows he is lovable despite all his human frailties.

David Mace, dean of marriage counselors, said, "There are no unhappy marriages. There are only marriage partners who are immature."

Attitudes

Many never find the happiness they seek in marriage because there is no deep, meaningful love - no real communication. Their marriage has become a hollow shell. Much of this is caused by immaturity in attitude.

Notice I did not say immaturity in *behaviour*, but in *attitude*. Your attitudes are more significant than your acts. In fact, your attitude determines your acts and gives color and character to them.

The apostle Paul put it this way: "When I was a child, . . . I thought as a child" - immature thinking. "I understood as a child" - immature understanding. "I spake as a child" - immature speaking.

If your thinking about any matter, especially marriage, is immature and your understanding of it is immature, then the result naturally is that your words, your actions, your conduct will be immature also. The way you live is only a reflection of what you feel, what you believe - your basic attitudes.

Some of us mistakenly measure a person's maturity by his age. But we know children who are very mature in their attitudes and older people who are childish. Some measure a person's maturity by his activity. But feverish activity is not accomplishment.

Then there are some people who feel that a man's maturity can be measured by how many things he does not do - by what he abstains from. But maturity is not measured by abstinence. It is measured by attitudes.

Jesus Christ said in the great commandment: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

Attitude. He said you must have the right attitude toward God and the right attitude toward yourself, and then you can have the right attitude toward your neighbour - which would certainly include your marriage partner.

How do you get mature attitudes? There is only one fully mature person who ever lived. Only He could say, "Can anyone accuse Me of a single sin? Everything I do pleases God." Jesus Christ was the personification of maturity. Every attitude and motive, every ambition, every reaction was mature. So how can anyone find the maturity he needs apart from Jesus Christ - the mature Man?

You will never find the full dimension to the life for which God created you until you come into a vital, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the goal - maturity; but He is also the way to the goal. To try to become like Christ without Him is the most discouraging task in the world. Come to know Him personally, and His dynamic life in you enables you to become like Him and exercise His maturity. He becomes more than your example. He is your enabler.

Christ and Marriage

Though there are many facets to the definition of maturity, they can be summed up to three main points. The mature man is never upset by circumstances, he is well adjusted, and he is adequate and responsible.

Jesus Christ was never upset by circumstances. And He certainly faced

some very unpleasant ones. Jesus was not a wishy-washy, unemotional, impassive person. He became very angry at times. When He saw the cruel, heartless attitude of the Pharisees toward a man with a withered hand, it angered Him. When He looked over Jerusalem and realized the people were pronouncing their own doom, He wept. When the Temple was being desecrated, His actions were strong and decisive.

But as for getting upset over His own circumstances or because His own personal plans were thwarted - never. No matter how tired He was, how overburdened with the long hours of serving others, He was always gracious, always kind, never upset.

You can always tell the maturity of a person by how much it takes to throw him. I was being entertained in a home of some very lovely people one time. The night before I was to leave I asked the man when he thought we should start for the airport the following day. He said, "Well, it will take twenty-five minutes to get there." Immediately his wife countered with, "Twenty-five? Are you kidding? It always takes thirty!" "Oh, no! Twenty-five minutes! Count on twenty-five minutes." "You'll *never* make it!" And that went on, louder and stronger by the minute, *the rest of the evening!* They were literally *screaming* at each other - those two lovely people!

What does it take to upset *you*? And if someone else in your house is upset, how do you discover it? If your husband comes home from a particularly bad day at work, does he need to stand in the doorway and announce, "I'm upset; everybody watch it!" I don't think so. When we get upset we generate an atmosphere that reaches out about ten feet in every direction, and everybody knows something is wrong.

The day I learned this I was driving home in a hailstorm. I had just one goal in my mind - to get that car in the garage before it was ruined.

As I pulled into the drive I saw a car parked halfway into the garage. I threw on the brakes and thought, "What's the matter with those people? Half in and half out! Now I'll have to leave my car out here in the storm, and get soaked getting into the house! Why do people have to be so stupid?"

The more I thought about it, the

continued on next page

more upset I got. Finally I dashed into the house, and there was the culprit. I smiled and said, "Hi, Jane, how are you?" and walked on into my study.

My wife soon came back to the study and said, "Jane left! She insisted that you were upset that she was here! Isn't that strange?" Well, I had to admit it was not *too* strange. I was upset. Jane felt it, sensed it. In just walking through the room, I carried an atmosphere that my selfish heart had created. When this happens in marriage, the war is on.



**You cannot walk out
on your partner.
You've got to stay
and work it out
together.**

But you cannot walk out on your partner. You've got to stay there and work it out together. And there's more to it than just shrugging your shoulders and promising yourself not to do it again. That may salve your conscience temporarily, but it provides no motivation and strength to change. Right here you claim Christ's maturity, honestly admitting your own need. Take His patience and calm as your own.

Adjustment

Another mark of the marvelous maturity of Jesus Christ was His ability to adjust in all situations.

But the Lord was not a Caspar Milquetoast, succumbing to every situation because He did not have character enough to challenge it. He recognized the difference between what could and could not be changed, in circumstances and in people, and He adjusted to the situation as it was.

He was well aware that the twelve men He chose to work with Him were weak and vacillating; they would all turn and run when He was arrested. But He patiently worked with them day after day, without criticism or blame. He knew that some things *had* to be changed and He gave His life to change them. What could not be changed He accepted as it was, uncomplainingly. He adjusted.

The trouble is many people spend all their time trying to adjust, not *themselves* but *their partners*, making them over, squeezing them into their own mold. You do not change people by marrying them - and beware the wrath of the one who discovers that you're trying to!

Instead of *changing* people you find more and more that you have to *adjust* to them. That is another reason why you need Jesus Christ. You need a maturity you do not have in yourself, an ability and an enablement that only He can give you.

Adequacy

Another mark of Christ's maturity was His absolute adequacy for every situation. Many times, as He was speaking to the listening crowd, He was interrupted rudely and maliciously. His enemies taunted Him with unanswerable questions to embarrass and humiliate Him before the people.

Pressure was nothing new to Jesus. He did not need to pretend not to hear. There was no evasion or changing of the subject. Calmly He cut through all the camouflage and answered perfectly. Christ knew He was God's representative. He was God revealed in human form. Therefore He was responsible to God to represent Him fairly and responsible to man to represent Him accurately. He had to be adequate - everything depended on it.

The very nature of marriage demands much of each partner: loving, sharing, communicating, forgiving, learning, disciplining. These are not tasks for a child. Any partnership affecting as many people and with

such high stakes cannot be in the hands of children. Marriage is not a picnic or a vacation. It is a full-time job that requires making big decisions, solving new problems, setting a right example.

We are not born with this kind of maturity, nor can it be acquired by self-effort and dogged determination. Certainly, a person can improve his marriage and his self-reliance by reading and by practice, but Christ brings a quality and depth to life that you can find in no other way.



**By the grace of God
we can find the
maturity in Christ
to be big enough
for anything.**

The apostle Paul had this in mind: "I can do everything God asks me to do with the help of Christ, who gives me the power. I am ready for anything and equal to everything through Him who infuses inner strength into me. I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency."

What a great discovery! Christ can be in me and infuse in me the inner strength I need to be able and adequate for every situation. He can make me bigger, inside and out.

By the grace of God we can find the maturity in Christ to be big enough for anything. That is what it takes to achieve a marriage that works.†

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The Laying On of Hands

by **TREVOR C. HARRIS**
(North Seattle Community Chapel)

The doctrine of laying on of hands is found both in the Old and New Testaments. It is a real and blessed ministry ordained of God in the church for the benefit of the body of Christ. It is not a mere church form, nor a dead empty ritual. It is the medium through which God imparts to man that which man desires, or needs, or that which God in His infinite wisdom knows is best for that individual. Typically speaking, hands speak of ministry, and are the channels through which the Holy Spirit flows.

The Ministry of the Laying on of Hands

1. The laying on of hands for blessing.

(A) Genesis 48:14-20 Jacob laid his hands on his grandchildren and blessed them in the name of the Lord.
(B) Mark 10:13-16 Jesus blessed the little children by placing his hands upon them.

The Blessing cannot be altered.

There is a real need for this type of ministry in the church today.

2. The laying on of hands for the baptism in the Holy Ghost.

According to the book of Acts - there are three principal ways by which the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was received. These three are still in effect.

(A) Thorough obedience of faith - Acts 1:4, 5, 5:32.
(B) Through the ministry of the Word Acts 10:44-46, 11:15.
(C) Through the laying on of hands.
(a) Acts 8:5-17 In Samaria believers received the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands by Peter & John.
(b) Acts 9:17 Paul received the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands of Ananias.
(c) Acts 19:1-6 The disciples at Ephesus received the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands of the apostle Paul.

(d) Galatians 3:5 Paul infers that the Holy Spirit is ministered to the Children of God through faith. "He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith." Take careful note of this fact, a person cannot of his own power minister the Spirit to whom he chooses, but when candidates are ready to receive, a person who has faith for this particular ministry may minister the Spirit.

3. The laying on of hands for healing.

Divine healing may be received in a number of ways.

(A) The one who is ill can pray for himself and receive deliverance as did Hezekiah. 2 Kings 20:1-11.
(B) Members of the body of Christ may pray one for another and be healed. James 5:16.
(C) People may be healed through handkerchiefs or cloths that have touched the body of a man of faith. Acts 19:11-12.
(D) Some people may be healed through the anointing with oil of the elders. James 5:14-15.
(E) Sick people can be healed at a distance through the spoken word. Psalm 107:20:
(F) Others may be healed through the laying on of hands.
(a) Mark 6:5 Jesus laid hands on the sick at Nazareth and healed them.
(b) Mark 8:22-25 The blind man received his sight through the laying on of hands of Jesus.
(c) Luke 4:40 They were healed - every one by the laying on of hands.
(d) Luke 13:13 The woman which had a spirit of infirmity was healed through the laying on of hands of Jesus.
(e) Mark 16:18 Believers are to lay hands on the sick for their recovery.
(f) Acts 5:12 By the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders done.
(g) Acts 28:8 Paul laid his hands on Publius's father and healed him.
(h) The laying on of hands in itself does not heal the sick. It is Christ who heals the sick. Obedience to the ordinance of laying on of hands quickens one's faith and gives God the

opportunity to impart the healing virtue.

4. The laying on of hands for spiritual gifts.

There are two ways in which spiritual gifts may be received.

(A) By the sovereign act of God - 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 1 Kings 3:5, 9-12.
(B) By the laying on of hands and prophecy.
(a) Deuteronomy 34:9 Moses laid hands on Joshua and he received the Spirit of wisdom. This act was authorized by God in Numbers 27:18-23.
(b) Acts 19:6 Paul laid hands on disciples at Ephesus and they received the gift of prophecy.
(c) Romans 1:11 Paul longed to impart some spiritual gift to the saints at Rome to strengthen and establish them.
(d) 1 Timothy 4:14 Timothy was exhorted not to neglect the gift that he had received by the laying on of hands of the presbytery
(e) 2 Timothy 1:6 Once again Timothy is exhorted to stir up the gift which was given him by the laying on of hands of Paul.
(f) The laying on of hands for the impartation of spiritual gifts is valid only if God lays His hands on the candidates also.

5. The laying on of hands for ordination to service and ministry.

Those who are truly called of God should be ordained to the ministry by the laying on of hands.

(A) Deuteronomy 34:9 Joshua was charged and ordained before all Israel by the laying on of Moses' hands.
(B) Numbers 8:10-26 The tribe of Levi was ordained to the ministry of the priesthood by the laying on of hands.
(C) Acts 6:6 The deacons were set apart for their new ministry by the laying on of hands.
(D) Acts 13:3 Barnabas and Saul were set aside for special missionary work by the laying on of hands.

The laying on of hands is a Divine ordinance. Therefore, it is not to be practised lightly or carelessly. In 1 Timothy 5:22 Paul gives Timothy a three-fold charge:

(A) Lay hands suddenly on no man.
(B) Neither be partaker of other men's sins.
(C) Keep thyself pure. †

We are overcomers through submitting to the divine life of Christ within us.

Formula For Victorious Christian Living

by D.N. JAMIESON

Young Christians are prone to feel that if they are supposedly "dead with Christ" and "risen in Christ," they should not henceforth be troubled by temptation and sin.

However, we read that Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are. There is a line of thought that Jesus was not capable of sinning. If this is true, the whole concept of His compassionate association with His brethren falls away. While one can assume that it was divinely impossible that Jesus would sin, yet it had to be physically possible that He could.

If we believe that Jesus made provision for us to live an overcoming life, we must be able to find a basis for it in God's word. If we have a clear conviction of this basis, then we have foundation for a victorious Christian life. This is possible through the death of the old nature (man) and the resurrection in newness of life. Certainly we have to die to be resurrected. The cross is where judgment is meted out for sin and sin loses its power. Therefore, only as Jesus dies as our substitute and we are judged and put to death in Him, can we be freed from sin - (Colossians 2:10-14 A.N.T.)

The king is dead, long live the king! This is not a contradiction, but a fact of life. A kingdom requires a king. Although a kingdom may make its will known and may even influence the decision of the king, yet the king

remains the rightful ruler. The same principle exists in the life of each Christian. When Adam was created, he was created with a human nature. Not an evil nature, not a fallen nature, a human nature. When Adam sinned, he sold his dominion and liberty to Satan and Satan became lord of his life. Satan superimposed his nature upon Adam. Man was no longer free but became subject to the dictates of this evil nature - (Ephesians 2:15, 16; Colossians 3:9, 10; Romans 6:3-6). The king is dead, long live the king. A new man is on the throne - (Ephesians 4:23, 24). He takes the throne in resurrection power. Great joy fills the believer's heart as he rejoices in the love and grace of his new found sovereign Lord.

However, he soon finds that while he has been delivered from the condemnation of sin, and the power of sin, he has not been delivered from the presence of sin. His human nature, it had seemed so good in his unsaved days, is more accustomed to worldly pleasures than Christian discipline. He is not living in an unsoiled body as Adam was, but in one that has been submitted to the will of Satan since birth.

God hasn't changed it! God hasn't redeemed it! He discovers that God has left him with a man-sized job; to discipline the body and bring it into submission to the New Nature, the

indwelling Spirit of God. Victory does not come by struggling in and with the flesh, but by walking in the Spirit - (Galatians 5:16, 25). His job now is to allow the indwelling Spirit to bring him to perfect submission to God and perfect harmony with the body. This means surrendering individualism to blend into the body as a completely integrated part - (Galatians 4:16).

Jesus was the first-born of many brethren, and we His brothers, have been made partakers of His divine nature - (2 Peter 1:4); having been born of the Eternal Spirit. Therefore we are partakers of the Life of Christ, we are born of deity (1 John 5:1-5, 18; Ch. 4:7). We have a new nature which is deity dwelling within us. In God's plan of salvation, He has offered two great privileges to humanity. First, to choose God as our Saviour and Lord of our own free will in spite of all the wiles of Satan. Secondly, to serve Him with all our hearts and minds and bodies in ever-increasing faith and love. We are overcomers through submitting to the divine life of Christ within us - (Galatians 2:20).

God could have redeemed these vile bodies at conversion, that we be delivered from the very influence of sin but the wisdom of God had a better plan. Since Satan brought man into bondage through a woman, God used a woman to defeat Satan and bring salvation and victory to all who will accept - Genesis 3:14, 15; Luke 1:30, 31).

As Satan overcame man through Adam, and sin came upon all, so through the man Christ Jesus, all men can be liberated by the free gift of life in Jesus. Through Jesus we not only overcome Satan and have victory over him, but we have authority to rebuke his every advance and refuse him audience or recognition in our lives. God by His grace, has given every born again believer power to live above self and sin and Satan, **if he chooses to do so** - (Philippians 4:13-15). The choice is ours - (Romans 6:14-18).

As we need to be able to discern between the deity and the humanity of Jesus to get a clear picture of the God-man, 1 Tim. 2:5, so we need to be able to discern between the incorruptible, divinely born new nature, to understand the Christian composite.

The acceptance of Romans 6:6 does not mean the acceptance of

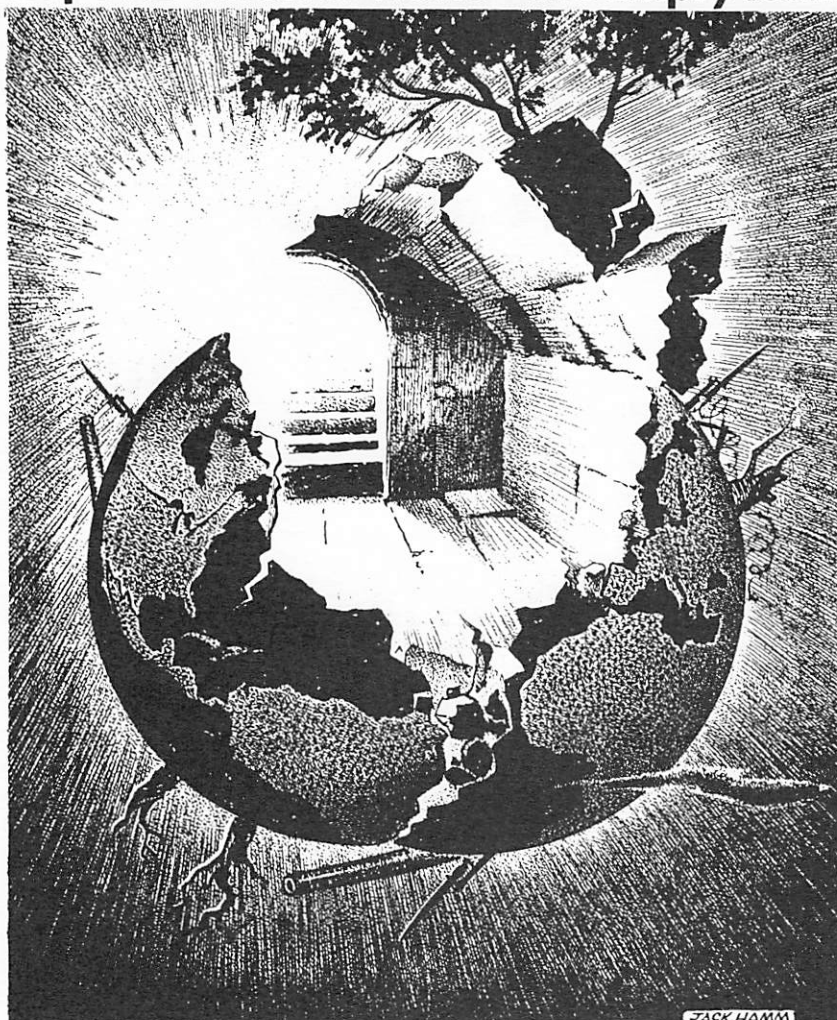
sinless perfection or the eradication of the root of sin, both of which are unscriptural - (1 John 1:8).

It does give a basis to believe in the fullness of the grace of God as sufficient for eternal life which basis cannot logically exist if we do not accept Romans 6:6.

It also gives us confidence to withstand the testings of Satan, realizing that the way has been prepared for us - (Galatians 5:16). Verse 25 says, "If we live in the Spirit" - Romans 8:9, "let us also walk in the Spirit."

Our spiritual position is that we have life (are living) in the Spirit therefore our spiritual condition should and can be, that we are walking in the Spirit. The only magic formula for victorious Christian living is submission to the mind and will of the Spirit - (Colossians 3:1-4; Galatians 4:22-31). We cannot live under two covenants. If we haven't died to the law, we're still subject to it before a righteous God. He cannot justify forgiveness to anyone living under law. But the moment we die to the law in and through the death of Christ, who paid the just demands of the law on our behalf, we are free to enter into God's presence fully justified, cleansed, forgiven and acceptable in the beloved. The law has no further hold on a person who has paid for his sins with his life. Paul teaches in Romans chapters 6 and 7 that as long as we are alive to the law we cannot partake of the blessings of grace - (Galatians 3:10).

Hope For A Better World—The Empty Tomb



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CULTURE

Barrier or Bridge?

by WILL LONGENECKER

What were the ladies saying about me? begged first-term missionary Flo of her new friend Azizeh. Trudging the dusty road home from a neighbouring village, Flo and Azizeh conversed in the national language, which Flo knew. The other ladies in the group naturally reverted to chatter in their tribal tongue, especially when they didn't want the missionary to know what they were saying.

"Oh, it wasn't anything," murmured Azizeh.

Azizeh, a Muslim tribal lady, stately in bearing and rugged of facial features, was very becomingly covered from head to toe in her native dress. Only her face, hands, and feet remained visible.

Flo persisted to question until finally Azizeh blurted out, "Well, Ma'am, if you can't afford stockings, we'll help you buy some."

Flo was stunned! She mentally checked out her legs, even though she knew she was wearing nylons. But then, a sensitive, appraising glance at the other women revealed to her the awkward dissimilarity between their dress and hers. Slowly the cold truth stung her -- she was so different.

In the tribe with which Flo works, most of the social life (the context in which the gospel is ultimately communicated) takes place with people seated around on the floor. The native dress easily facilitates that posture; western dress does not. The tribal ladies have a problem with this new "teacher" in their midst. As Muslims, they feel they are more right and moral than their (to them) immodest missionary friend. So her culture becomes a barrier to their hearts.

Culture is a very precious part of our lives. Only with great emotional struggle do we give up any part of our cultural background. However, those of us whom God has called to communicate Christ across cultural lines must be willing to lay aside our Americanism.

Surely the Apostle Paul referred to culture when he declared in 1 Cor. 9, "Unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews . . . To the weak, became I as weak, that I might gain the weak." These were not rhetorical utterances; Paul really did try to do everything within his power to relate to people so he could win them to Christ.

Nagging questions surface at this point: When we confront another culture, are we insistent that our culture is better and right? Do we tend to disparage another culture? Could it be that another culture is better than our American "Christian" culture? (Horrors!) For instance, in the above experience, is there a more modest dress for sitting on the floor than a skirt and nylons?

If we answered "yes" to that last question, one has to wonder how missionaries could work in a locale for so many years and not be aware that a skirt and "bare" legs are very offensive to those whom they were trying to reach. Why did not the tribal people convey their true feelings to the older missionaries before? Did they feel no one was listening? Did we make them feel that our culture was so superior and God-given that it would be sacrilege to challenge it?

Recently in the United States, a pious Muslim told me that he does not see how we worship God at all with the way women attire themselves in the evangelical church. Of course, after a period of time he may get used to our women's fashions here, but what about when we live in his country? Which pattern of dress is closer to the basic outlook of Scripture?

Many years ago my language teacher related a story with deep feelings of resentment. Once a friend of his visited a missionary's home over mealtime, and he was given a newspaper to read while the missionary finished his meal with his family. This could be acceptable in our American culture, but to not invite a guest to share food and table was a terrible breach of etiquette in a Muslim culture. Since the Apostle Paul declared that leaders in the church should be "given to hospitality," was not the Muslim custom more scriptural in this case?

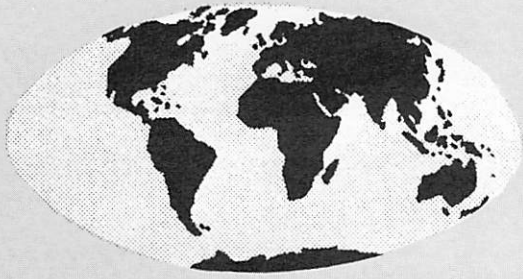
When I arrived on the mission field, an older missionary told me that when he grew a mustache the neighbourhood children stopped making "cat calls" at him as a foreigner. What a small cultural adjustment to make so that people would be more receptive of the messenger and his Christ, we say. But was it small? A mustache in some American churches in those days was a sign of worldliness.

As Christians witnessing to other cultural groups, we do well to ponder such questions as: Did God or man invent Western "Christian" customs? From whence did we get our present type of Western dress? Have we evangelicals changed our standards of modesty in the last 10 years? The last 25 years? The last 50 years? Who led the way? Did American secular culture lead the way for evangelicals to follow? Was it wrong for us to follow? How far?

We can question other areas of our lives, too. Is our present American and Christian pattern of splitting the family into so many segments born of God, or did we learn it somewhere else? Did God give us our present American dating patterns, or did they evolve over the years? Can God sanctify dating? Surely He can, but is it better or more scriptural than a sanctified, conservative Middle Eastern pattern?

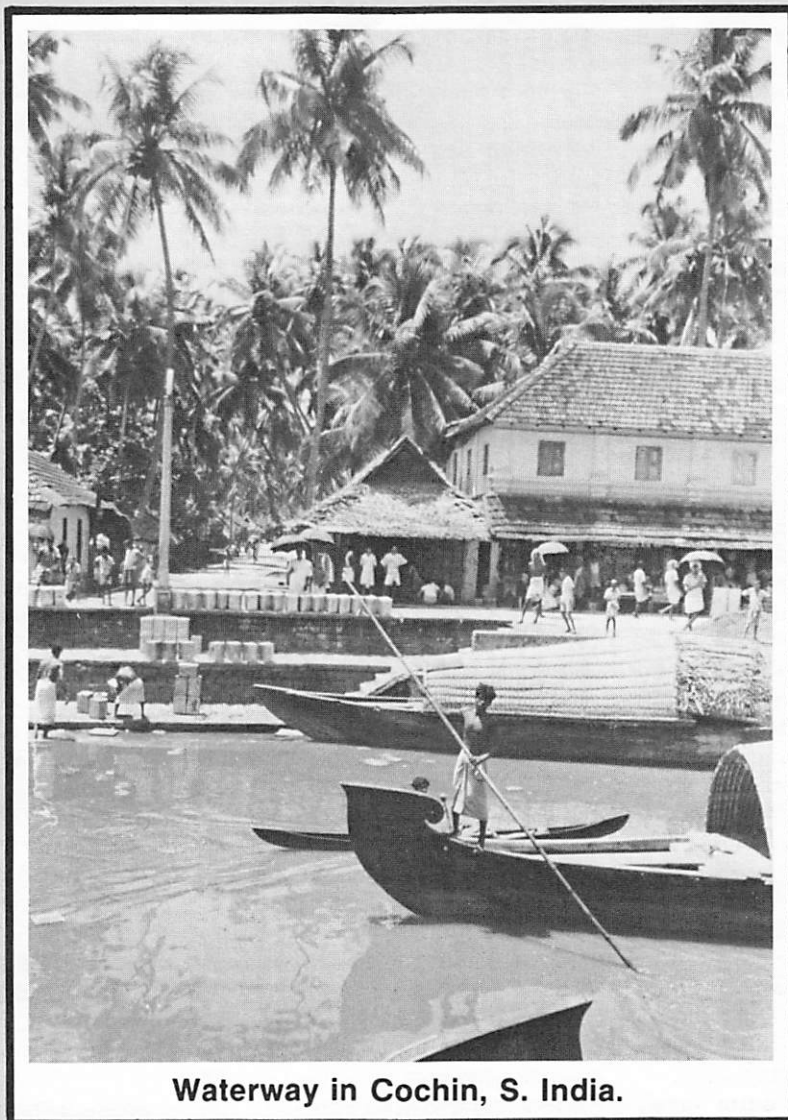
As evangelical Christians, too often we equate our culture customs with our Christianity. We reason that since we as Christians do it, it must be right. We wouldn't practice anything that is wrong, therefore if a custom is "right" then anyone from another culture who becomes a Christian must practice it also, we argue.

continued on page 21



FOCUS ON

MISSIONS



Waterway in Cochin, S. India.

Where is the God of Elijah? In Troubled Rhodesia?

by WENDY KELLOND

Since returning to Rhodesia in March (after our brief 75-day Canadian visit) there has been a gradual deterioration of conditions... and the daily news headlines speak of atrocities, tragedies, and horrific accounts of bestiality and brutality in the country areas: "Southern Baptist Missionary Bayoneted to Death"... "Roman Catholic Priests Machine Gunned"... "Firing Squad Tactics Take the Lives of Sally Ann Girls"... "Pentecostal Missionaries Battered to Death With Clubs and Axes"... "Vehicle Convoy Ambushed and Four Killed"... "Villagers Massacred"... "Farmer Killed in Land Mine Explosion"... "Intimidation in Salisbury African Township Brings Violence, Beatings, Death"... where is the God of Elijah in troubled Rhodesia?

Closer to home, amongst the brethren ministering in our Mashonaland African churches, the following incidents are only representative of the war situation: Missing after terrorist attack on his village, Pastor B.M., together with his wife and children... Safe, despite loss of home (after a pillage-and-burn attack), Pastor J.A. and family this is the fourth time that this family has been burnt out by the terrorists... Still preaching, although warned by the enemy to burn all the Bibles! close down all the services, Pastor A.Z.... Persecuted, Pastor S.K., a bullet temporarily deters him from continuance in preaching the Word of God... Hungry, Pastor L.C., whose crops could not be properly cultivated due to active presence of the forces of darkness... Sick, after two cholera attacks, Pastor M.T.... Intimidated, Pastor C.K., (and many others), who are threatened (subtly and overtly) if they don't open their churches to men desirous of "preaching" things other than the Gospel... Cold, deacons and their families, as they sleep out in the bushes because their villages are prime target areas in the war... Weary, Christians everywhere in our areas, as they build new huts (of mud, clay and sticks with thatched roofs) only to have them burnt, time

and again, by the terrorists... Frightened, children in the war zones, as their schools are attacked and many students are abducted and forcibly transported into neighbouring countries to be "trained" as terrorists... where is the God of Elijah?

He is still here... still in control... still on His throne!!! He was exalted in Gatooma (a small town about 100 miles from Salisbury) where 24 new believers where recently baptized in Jesus' Name. He was exalted in Harare (a Church in Salisbury) when a number were filled with the Holy Ghost during the Easter Revival. He was exalted in Gaswa Dip (in a tribal village area) when the youth formed a choir to sing only His praises and talk only of Him. He was exalted in the Northern operational area when the pastor and his assistant opened new preaching stations to declare His wonderful Name. Elijah's God is here! He is being lifted up before men! And He is drawing all men unto Himself!

But where are the Elijah's? Men and women of God who will stand in days such as these... and in faith call down the power of God to be displayed to a world in great need... where are the Elijah's of prayer and action that will carry the Gospel banner? They too are here... in Rhodesia... in Mashonaland... pray for them!†

Advance in South Africa

Lloyd has just returned from the Barberton area, 200 miles from here where he had a tremendous weekend of meetings. Here on the Rand we have been delighted in what God is doing in opening up a work. This next Sunday we go for a service to the Daveyton township again. The following Sunday we have asked to go to a coloured area to hold a meeting. We feel that this is an opening of the

Lord amongst the coloureds. Both these openings have come directly through the two petrol attendants that we have witnessed to for about a year and a half. We gave these two men literature and got them each a New Testament in their language. The Lord began doing a work. We are really thrilled, as this area is so full of bitterness and hatred. This is a real sign of the soon coming of the Lord Jesus. Our hearts cry is "Lord help us to redeem the time."

How we can see the hand of God in his directing us here to South Africa! Phil. 1:12, "... the things which happened... have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel." Many times the very thing that we feel is stopping us from doing what we feel God wants us to, is the thing that God uses to direct our lives in his direction and to the place he wants us. In our case it appeared that my illness last year was hindering us from going back to Rhodesia to help in the work there, but God had other plans. The Lord used this and many other things to keep us here and changed our course and caused us to settle down here, and how we can see it is only for the furtherance of the Gospel as in the natural, the family would rather have been back in Rhodesia. The will of the Lord be done, that the great commission might be fulfilled.

We ask you to pray that the Lord will direct us as we endeavor to set up training programs here in South Africa as well to train people of every colour and tribe. Only God can open this door, but we know that as we pray the Lord will do it. I remember being home in May this year and asking the Calgary ladies to pray that God would open this door amongst the African people, from amongst those that we had been witnessing to. Well Praise the Lord, it wasn't long after, that the Lord opened the door. Well you have a part in this work. Now we ask you all to pray for the training program. We also need a good Zulu interpreter - translator. You can pray, God can answer. We're excited about what God is doing and we trust you are too.

We are planning as a family to go up to Rhodesia in July School holidays to help in the Bible School there again. Pray much for us, that his anointing will rest upon us. We are looking forward to this time, as we

feel God is directing. Also remember to pray for the students as they leave Bible School that God will open up doors of his choice for them.

Aug. 2nd Lloyd leaves for Zambia to meet Brother Kosick. Pray much for this ministry in this field. They then travel on to Malawi where God is working by His spirit. We look to God for a fruitful harvest in each field. They then come back here to South Africa and Rhodesia. We are looking to the Lord for great things before the end of the year.

Thank you for your prayers for our family. May the Lord bless you as you have a part in the tremendous work of God in Africa. When we hear of such terrible things happening as to those missionaries in Rhodesia we know the enemy is at work and our time to work for God is now. So far 34 missionaries have been killed by terrorists in Rhodesia.

We are all well, and Ronda is slowly but surely getting better. It has been a long, slow battle, but God has helped us in our battle and we do thank you for your prayers. Please continue to pray with us for a complete recovery in every way. Both the children are doing well at school.†

God bless you all.

Brother and Sister Scheutz

Triumph in Trouble

In Jesus Name, our special "hello" to each of you! God be with you there . . . as He is with us here in troubled Rhodesia. We appreciate your continued prayer ministry . . . for us, in our travels . . . for the work of God throughout our area of Mashonaland especially . . . for the African pastors and evangelists (and their families) and for every outreach! There are some mighty spiritual lessons being imparted by Christ into our hearts and into the hearts of our people!

"When the waves of affliction rise higher and higher above you, sing all the more about Heaven-and Heaven's glory and light will penetrate the gloom!"

We have just returned from our African church in Gatooma (a small town about 100 miles from our Salisbury base)! During those special holiday meetings the "windows of Heaven" were opened, as service after service saw hearts and lives touched by the presence of the Living Lord! Of course some could have come discouraged or disheartened by the events of the war . . . some could have come fearful and frustrated by the persecution and intimidation of the terrorists . . . but all came with joy and expectation!!! And Heaven's glory penetrated the gloom of circumstance. Praise God!

"When misery and suffering are threatening to devour you, say Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Call upon His name ever anew, and peace will come into your heart."

Men cry out for "peace, peace" but there is no peace. Christians here cry out "Jesus, Jesus," and He faithfully becomes their peace! We are so glad to be here, in these days, sharing the burden with our African pastors and the Christians of our Fellowship. But we do covet your prayers . . . we are mindful of our need to know fully and completely the continuing revelation of the will of God concerning our ministry here! Please pray with us. The work of God goes forward, because after all we are more than conquerors through Him.

Coming events for the next couple of months include: our short term Mashonaland Bible School (in English and Shona) for a period of one month . . . a visit from Brother Kosick and special services and leadership seminars in conjunction with that . . . a Rhodesian conference for all workers holding credentials with the A.C.O.P. of Rhodesia (this will be a multiracial fellowship and business meeting, and our own Mashonaland District are the hosts) . . . so join us in claiming the outpouring of the Spirit . . . great spiritual victories are about to take place . . . because God is still on His throne!

Again, thanks for the parcels of clothing (we will be able to assist our national workers who have suffered severe hardships because of the terrorist incursions)! May the King of Kings and Lord of Lords be your

portion, as He is ours! We are careful, but we are not full of care . . . He is, as always, our peace . . . and yours!†

S. ANDERSON & WENDY KELLOND

DID YOU KNOW? . . .

by RON HOOPER

(1) Before the White man came, the Mexican Indians were quite highly civilized. This civilization was gradually speeding northward and would soon have changed the way of life of Canadian Indians if White people had come later.

(2) American Indians had only two domesticated animals, the dog and the turkey.

(3) When White men came to America, the Indians were on the verge of coming out of the "stone age" into the "iron age". Gold and copper were used for ornaments in several places, but no tools were yet made from metal.

(4) The first Bible printed in America was in the Mohican language in 1663. It was translated by John Eliot, a Puritan Minister.

(5) The Cree Syllabic alphabet was invented by James Evans, a Methodist missionary, at Norway House, Manitoba, in 1840. The whole Bible was later printed in Cree in 1861.

(6) We are often accused of bringing something new on to the reserves. This is not so, for many of the first missionaries among the Indians were Methodists, Presbyterians, Moravians, and Puritans who were really on fire for God had preached real salvation by faith alone. A turning to Modernism in many groups has caused God to raise up the Full Gospel ministers to their places. However, many reserves are still waiting for the Gospel to be preached to them for the first time in this generation.

(7) At least 10 different Indian nations are represented in Canada. Most of these nations include several different tribes. Three nations and five tribes are represented in Saskatchewan.

The Dakotas and Assiniboines (including Stonies) of the Sioux Nation. The Crees and the Saulteaux of the Algonquian Nation.

The Chipewyans of the Athapaskan Nation.

UNTIL WHEN ?

Shushan was one of the ancient capitals of Persia. From the Bible records in Nehemiah, Esther, and Daniel we get a glimpse of some of the extravagant luxuries of life in this palace city. Shushan in Nehemiah's time was the affluent society capital. As the king's cupbearer, Nehemiah was there in the palace, living it up with the rest of his people - until . . .

Jersulam was also a capital city. But what a contrast to Shushan! Her choice sons, her princes and leaders, priests and people had been dragged off into captivity. The glory of Solomon's temple and palaces had been ravaged and left as rubble heaps. Desolation reigned. One word described the city - Ichabod, no glory - until . . .

Until "it came to pass . . . as I (Nehemiah) was in Shushan the palace, that Hanani came; and I asked them . . . concerning Jerusalem."

The inexorable momentum of history, with God controlling its sweeping tides, had ordained for Nehemiah the place and circumstances in which he grew to manhood. The only life he had known had been in the affluence of Persia's winter capital. Until Hanani came, Nehemiah was a man of one city and one life pattern - Shushan. From this point on, however, he was a man of two cities - Jerusalem and Shushan. And, let it be noted, Jerusalem came first. Prestigious employment in the King's palace, with its unlimited fringe benefits, was to become the servant to help Nehemiah expand the opportunity of rebuilding the number one city of his heart - Jerusalem.

The body may live in Shushan, but the heart ought to have its Jerusalem.

A parallel to this contrast is seen in today's world. America or Canada, like Shushan, represents the affluent

**"The body may live
in its Shushan,
but the heart ought
to have its
Jerusalem."**

**R. ARTHUR MATHEWS
- East Asia Millions**

society. Mainland China, like Jerusalem, has one clear characteristic - Ichabod. The same momentum of a God-controlled history in 1949 caused the dispersion of millions of Chinese. Today the affluent society has been enriched by these of the diaspora. Life for them is coloured by the American/Shushan philosophy and culture. Here they live; here they have their upbringing; and here they get married and set up homes - until . . .

Until when? - this is the big question everyone wants an answer to. I see the answer in two parts. First, all God's signals must be Go. God's signs are read in circumstances and in hearts. The circumstances suddenly became an open book to Nehemiah. His place near the king in Shushan was intentional, not incidental. God had arranged for him to be in the one place from which, if something were to be done, action would need to start. But God had been working in Nehemiah's heart as well as in his circumstances. The cupbearer's prostration before God is early evidence that God's time for something was at the door.

Second, God's man must be spiritually ready and willing to create his own opportunity by offering to be the answer to his own prayers. Nehemiah requested the king to send him to Jerusalem so that he might build the city. The affluent society of Shushan became the servant of Nehemiah's spiritual opportunity, supplying credentials and authority to draw upon resources necessary for completion of his project.

In America and Canada today God can be seen at work in both these aspects. The dispersed Chinese are realizing that they are placed here on purpose. Also we know of many, many groups which have a real burden of prayer because they sense God's time is on them. I anticipate that when God's time does arrive, the affluent society will be the servant to the spiritual opportunity of the Chinese diaspora who are claiming Mainland China as the Jerusalem of their heart.†

you were asking

by ART & GRETA SHEPPARD



Dear Art and Greta:

We've been married two and a half years and are now expecting our first child. We would like to buy a good book on child-guidance, to help us prepare for parenthood.

Many of our friends use Dr. Spock's book. Would you recommend it? Or are there any others which you could recommend to us?

Dear Parents-to-be:

Because you mentioned you were looking for a "good" child-guidance book, we can say with a positive "no", we do not recommend the book written by Dr. Spock.

"If you are looking for advice, stay away from fools" (Prov. 14:7 - Living Bible). In other words, don't take the advice of a man who promotes theories - dangerous theories, which are contrary to the Bible. With every baby comes a "how to care for" manual, written by the Maker. Read it!!

You do not find "permissiveness" in God's guidance book. You do find it in Dr. Spock's. He majors on it!

Permissiveness leads to rebellion, and we're seeing the result of this

teaching of Dr. Spock's in today's society. Many parents who followed Spock's philosophy, are now reaping the results.

"A rebellious son is a grief to his father and a bitter blow to his mother" (Prov. 17:25 - Living Bible).

"Happy is the man with a level-headed son, sad the mother of a rebel" (Prov. 10:1 - Living Bible).

"Teach a child to choose the right path, and when he is older he will remain upon it" (Prov. 22:6 - Living Bible).

"Don't fail to correct your children; discipline won't hurt them! They won't die if you use a stick on them - punishment will keep them out of Hell" (Prov. 23:13, 14 - Living Bible).

Wisdom is available for young parents. God has a promise for you, father-to-be - "Every young man who listens to me and obeys my instructions, will be given wisdom and good sense" (Prov. 2:1-15 - Living Bible).

Wisdom and common sense, mixed with love and a happy spirit, and combined with firm discipline, will produce a child of strength and character, secure in his parent's love and trust of him. You can't go wrong, if

you live and base **your** life on Bible principles.

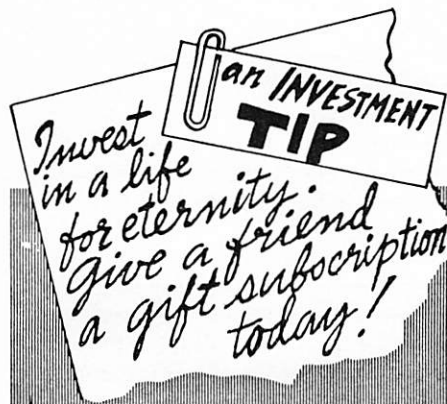
We do not wish to waste this space in dealing with the many negative theories of Spock's book. But we will say this - it does not belong on the bookshelf of a Christian home.

A bit of advice to you would be to urge you to read the Book of Proverbs - systematically. There's a chapter for every day of the month. Study together about the great men of God - their parentage, and upbringing. Why were they great men? These things are written for our learning.

There is a paperback in print, written by a leading pediatrician, Dr. William Turtle, M.D. It's called, "Dr. Turtle's Babies"! It covers everything you will encounter in your baby's first year - feeding, training, gentle discipline, childhood diseases, etc. "The Christian Family," by Larry Christenson is commendable, as well.

All questions should be sent directly to:

ART & GRETA SHEPPARD
85 E. 10th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.
V5T 1Y9



**Churches
IN THE
News**

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.

The Handwriting of God

by NOEL McNEILL

B.A., M.L.S.



One of the most intriguing passages of Scripture concerns our Lord's meeting with a woman "... taken in adultery, in the very act" (John 8:4). As we read the account we sense waves of tension and emotion flowing through the crowd and indeed through Jesus Himself. The woman was guilty of a crime worthy of stoning (vs. 5). Jesus was a man of compassion, preaching forgive-

ness and love. How would He avoid the trap set before Him now by the lawyers and Pharisees?

"Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not" (vs. 6). Have you ever wondered why He wrote? Perhaps He paused to think, to pray, or to wait for a word of wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8). What did He write? That is the question we ask more often.

His act of writing reminds us of two other cases of divine handwriting. In Exodus 31:18 we read that Moses received two tables of stone on which the law had been written "with the finger of God." Many people are confused about the purpose of this law seeing it as a ladder to heaven or as the goal of perfection to be attained in this life.

Paul, the apostle, is very clear on the purpose of the law, a clarity we could do with in this day when so many stumble over an unchristian legalism that pervades so many church and individual lives.

"Now we know that whatever things the law saith, it says to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:19-20).

Notice: the law applies to these who came under it and it is designed to reveal sin in the heart convincing those who try to live under the law that they are guilty before God. Man may acknowledge your valiant efforts to live a holy life, but God knows that whatever you accomplish by struggling in the strength of the flesh is unacceptable. "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). Don't put yourself under the law! Those tables of hard, unyielding stone will grind you down and never build you up. No one has ever been justified before God by keeping the law because no sinful human has ever been able to (nor

can ever) keep the law. Neither have you.

To those who persist in trying the second occurrence of divine handwriting offers a further warning. "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin" the fingers inscribed in the plaster as the reveling party goes refused the holy vessels of God (Daniel 5). Not words of law this time but of judgment. "You have been weighed in the balances and are found wanting. If we persist in measuring ourselves against God's standards of holiness, that is the only judgment that can be made of us. Whenever we try to turn over a new leaf we end up where we started - defeated and trapped. Whether we look to the stones of the law or the plaster of human construction we come to judgment!"

Look neither to the law nor to human accomplishment for salvation. Look to Jesus, the promised Saviour. The woman taken in adultery had broken the law, obviously. She had been brought to Jesus for judgment. This is where we all come finally (Romans 14:10; Revelation 20:11).

What did Jesus write? (John 8:6). We are not told but he didn't write on this occasion in stone or plaster but on the ground. Perhaps he made a comment about our makeup since we are all children of the soil but whatever he wrote, when he straightened up he had the answer for these legal minded lawyers and Pharisees. "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (vs. 7). The law which they used to trap others now condemned them (Romans 2:1). They departed, beginning with the eldest.

Have you ever considered the shock that the youngest of the group felt as his idealized perception of his elders crumbled? Then he too slinked off the scene. One day all of our detractors, as well as those who count in our estimation will step aside and we will stand face to face (1 Cor. 13:12) with the perfect One.†

Nothing written here is to be misconstrued as implying that Jesus was easy on sin. What did He require of this woman? After her accusers had moved back into the crowd, Jesus asks her if any man accused her. Can you imagine the impression His piercing eyes were making on her? As she reflected on this whole incident, as she looked Him in the eye, she knew what her answer had to be. "No man accuses me, Lord" She had to acknowledge that this One standing before her was more than a mere man. He was the Lord! When she accepted this and confessed it, she was forgiven and sent on her way to sin no more (vs. 11).

Holy living does not come as a result of the law. Righteousness is not to be found in words of condemnation and judgment. Holiness of life is a work of God's grace (Titus 2:11-14). Only when we submit to the lordship of Jesus can we find forgiveness and begin to live life in the Spirit - the only life that pleases God (Romans 8:5-13).†

Zambian Churches Need Help

by FRANK J. KOSICK



It was my privilege to visit our sister Apostolic churches in Zambia during August. Our respected missionary, L.E. Scheutz, serving as Field Superintendent of Central African Apostolic Churches accompanied me, as we together ministered in the centres of Lusaka, Kitwe and outlying villages. We were received open-heartedly by the Zambian believers, who have been led progressively under the capable leadership of Brother Moses Chikwati, superintendent of ACOP churches of Zambia, and Standwel Lungu, secretary-treasurer.

It is so compensating to see the fruits of the strenuous work of our missionaries who in the past twenty years introduced the gospel of grace and power of Pentecost to these people, who before lived in heathen idolatry and were dominated by witchcraft. They have now "turned to God from idols," and are serving a living God, and waiting for the "coming of the Son of God from heaven, to deliver them from wrath to come."

Literally, hundreds have been saved, and thousands influenced by the power of the gospel, and transformed by the power of God into model "examples" of New Testament Christianity.

This has been my third visit to Zambia, and it's a thrill to see the work of God expanded under Zambian indigenous leadership. We gathered in their poorly-constructed buildings and shared with them sound

Bible teaching on practical Christian living, and the need of focussing their attention on a keener vision to evangelize the seven million of their nation. The Holy Spirit crowned each gospel rally by adding converts to the church and establishing believers in the vital progressive truths. We were able to introduce the ministry of New Testament worship to these eager believers, who entered into new dimensions in "Worship in Spirit and Truth," making Jesus Lord of their lives. It is most encouraging to note the great number of youth in the Zambian churches.

Economically the nation of Zambia is on a verge of bankruptcy, with total dependence on foreign aid. President Kaunda recently warned, "That Zambia as a nation could disintegrate unless the church plays a major role in the resurrection of the traditional family and village disciple, particularly among the young generation" (Zambia Daily Mail, Aug. 14, 1978).

The Zambian churches are poverty stricken. As the nation depends on foreign aid, so must the church receive foreign aid in order to help them erect buildings in main centres. Lusaka, the capital of Zambia needs a church building. Mufulira, Ndola and other centres need financial assistance. The Zambian believers have been supporting their pastors by tithing, but they need aid of thousands of dollars from their brethren across the oceans in their present struggle.

Many of the buildings need immediate repair.

The future of the churches in Zambia depends on our prayerful help that we can give them now. The future from the natural looks grim, but the Master saith, "Give ye them to eat." Out of our hoarded resources let us "Give them the financial aid," that will be honestly supervised by a trusted board of men, who will use every gift to make the church stronger in this nation.

The Zambian believers send their Christian greetings to all their Canadian brethren and sisters, and deeply appreciate the faithful ministries of those that Canada sent with "love."

We left Zambia with faith in God, and in God's people, that through our care for the, "needy church," will strengthen them to win their almost disintegrated nation to God.

From Zambia we entered Malawi, to minister in the Bible School seminars, in Mponela and Namitete. At the very beginning the Lord poured out His Spirit upon the gatherings, and led the pastors and believers into a beautiful "worship in the Spirit." It was a joy to associate here with our missionaries Brother and Sister J. Lapka, and Sisters Mitchell and Maynard. From here we proceed to East Transvaal, to Rhodesia and Brazil. May we thank you for your prayers and partnership in world missions and evangelism around the many nations of the world.†

*True prayer for others
is one of those paths
poorly trod
yet richly illuminated
with Biblical directions*

HELPS TO INTERCESSION

by H.J. NESS

Intercession with the prayer of faith is one of the greatest ministries of a Christian. It ranks with teaching or preaching. And it is a work we all can engage in.

God's plan is that His people be channels of blessing. I believe we can best fulfill that purpose by praying for others.

Paul, writing to the backslidden Galatians, emphasizes the importance of prayer. He did not suggest he should come and preach to them or teach them further. Rather, he said he was traveling in birth until Christ be formed in them (4:19).

"Travail in birth" — soul bearing! This kind of prayer is hard and costly work. It means praying the prayer of faith in the Spirit. It means to "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ" (Colossians 1:24). God always answers that kind of praying, for it originates in heaven and is energized by the Spirit (cp. Romans 8:26-27).

The spiritual life is nourished by prayer. Jude speaks of "building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost" (verse 20).

It is God's will that we learn to know Him well. Then we will trust Him and come to Him boldly. The Holy Spirit and a good conscience give boldness in prayer.

Submission to the will of God is a key to answered prayer.

Here are some suggestions for effectual prayer.

In the pattern He gave His disciples, Jesus taught us to begin prayer with

worship. We should not make our prayer times seasons of begging, but rather times of thanksgiving, praise, adoration and fellowship (see Psalm 50:14-15).

Pray for that which will glorify God (John 14:13).

Give God time. The disciples said, "We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). We must wait upon the Lord until we know He hears and our strength is renewed.

Wait in worship, praying even when it is not agreeable. That is when we most need to pray. Satan hinders and seeks to discourage us. He hindered Daniel's prayer for twenty-one days before the angel arrived with the answer (Daniel 10:12-13). But Daniel learned during that time that he was greatly beloved in heaven.

Forgive freely. Do not allow iniquity to remain in the heart (Luke 6:37; Ephesians 4:26).

Seek the spirit of prayer as taught in Luke 11:9-13. It will impart compassion, concern and a burden for others, with faith and strength, and prayers will be wrung from our hearts.

Real intercession means toil, sweat, tears and much time alone with God, away from the world and often in solitude.

Is it too hard? Remember, God bids us to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). "Obtain mercy"! That is what we need. We are not worthy. But when we seek mercy we receive it, and with it abundant grace.

Lest we exalt ourselves when God answers our prayers, we must surrender to God's will, humbly desiring His glory alone. Would this lack of submission be the reason many prayers go unanswered? And sometimes we take the credit when, in fact, some afflicted, unnoticed saint may have prayed with greater faith and more power for the same thing.

Jesus said, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father . . . shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:6). When God burdens you for a work, a field, a church or an individual, pray for that specific need. But do not tell others. Pray in secret. God will reward you openly. That way God will be glorified, and not you.

God says to us, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

Be alert and responsive to the Holy Spirit. Be willing and obedient at all costs. Others will be saved because you are faithful.

Intercede for godly leaders, missionaries, evangelists, pastors. Pray that God will lead them also into effectual, fervent prayer — the prayer of faith.

Such prayer by those of greater gifts, faith, godliness and power than we possess may, indeed, result in great and mighty things to the glory of God through their ministry.†

- The Alliance Witness

Have you been duped
by a moral fog
called "rationalization"?

They were talking about a girl from the church: "She won't dance, but just let her get parked with her boyfriend - wow! Will she ever pet!"

Jim's a Christian teen who'd never *think* of breaking the law - but give him his wheels and an open road and watch how quickly he forgets there are such things as speed limits!

Don won't attend a dance (even at school) or a movie, but he does devote a great deal of his time to watching questionable TV programs or listening to rock-'n'-roll music.

Fred would never dream of shoplifting - but he has occasionally lifted an answer from an unguarded neighbor's exam. (He needs the grades so he can stay on the basketball squad!)

Question: What do the young people in the brief and widely differing incidents described above have in common?

Answer: A problem which is sufficiently widespread to be considered a moral issue today!

The problem, in a word, is:

RA'-TIO-NAL-IZA'-TION:
the mental process of devising acceptable reasons for desires, emotions, acts, beliefs or opinions which cannot be creditably justified to oneself.

Usually the one who rationalizes (invents "good sounding" reasons for doing something) really wants to indulge in the thing for which he invents the reasons. So in a sense rationalization is a symptom rather than the disease itself.

The disease is worldliness - or the desire to enjoy the lust of the flesh,

the lust of the eyes or the pride of life.

So the teen with worldly desires rationalizes and then, with conscience quieted, indulges those desires.

The sad fact is that rationalization deceives only the one who does it. God is not mocked if a thing is wrong, no amount of reasoning will make it right. Other young people are not fooled. The gang that snickers about a church gal who "won't dance, but ..." can see through the rationalization!

How may one deal with rationalization? First, be honest. Ask yourself: Do I rationalize my actions? If the answer is yes, find out why. Is it because of worldliness or simply because of failure to realize what you are doing?

If honest analysis indicates that love of the world is your problem - confess and forsake it. Remember, "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

But you are a Christian who really wants to find and follow God's will, and still you have sincere questions about some things. How can you avoid rationalizing?

These suggestions may help. If you have a question - seek to analyze your motives. Why do you want to do the thing? In order to feel "right" about it, do you have to marshal a number of dubious reasons for it? If so, better go slow. Remember, "If in doubt, don't!" is a pretty safe rule.

Beware of rationalization! It can lead you to compromise a testimony and fail your Lord. It can be a symptom of worldliness. Recognize rationalization and renounce it, for the glory of the Lord who loved and bought you.†

The Alliance Witness.

*"She
Won't
Dance,
But ..."*

by WILLIAM R. GOETZ

Who Cares about

The Little Ones?

by HELEN DECKER

The first visit to Sunday School can be an unhappy hour for some children. Isolated from parents, surrounded by unfamiliar faces, these children are lost in a spacious or sometimes cramped, unknown setting. In some cases the experience can be traumatic and even lead to abnormal behaviour.

What nursery class teacher does not dread the disturbance caused by enrollees? Although parents should not try to "protect" their children in their first experience in a nursery classroom, many make an overly hasty departure in order to avoid embarrassment over the scene their youngsters are about to create.

On one such occasion, when the nursery department leader felt the teachers and children had had enough of a child's continued emotional outburst, she carried the little screaming offender out of the room to find her parents. After the teacher and the unhappy pupil had gone, a co-worker remarked, "I know what I'd do if that kid was mine. His sister did the same thing when she started Sunday School."

The speaker did not elaborate on what she would have done, but she was tense, and everyone present felt her irritation. She probably would have applied a little corporal discipline.

Having heard the screeching, the Sunday School superintendent came to investigate the hubbub. He was not surprised when he learned just whose "kid" was causing the disturbance. A visitor asked whether the child knew any of the teachers or the children beforehand? Had she ever been in the classroom previous to this Sunday?

The superintendent thought these were rather unnecessary questions. He was convinced that most children came to Sunday School, met new teachers and strange children, and were not distressed at all.

This example raises the question of whether we need to be concerned about the few who are reluctant to remain in Sunday School on their first day. Is there a possibility that more than a few might be scared to death over being away from Mommy and Daddy for the first time? Is there a possibility that most children are uneasy in a strange place or situation?

Nobody's the Same

Some young children are able to suppress their feelings in the classroom. For some reason they don't need to advertise their misgivings about a new experience even

though they might have some. Other youngsters can't hide their apprehensions, and you can tell almost immediately that something's bothering them. Then there are those children who seem to enjoy the first experience. The reason some youngsters welcome the new experience and others want no part of it is partially due to the varied background and the individual differences that make up the sum total of each child's personality.

The story is told of Nancy, who was eagerly looking forward to her third birthday, for then she would be "big enough" to go to Sunday School. She could hardly wait for the morning when she could go to class all by herself.

Finally the day came for her to enter the nursery room. When the teacher greeted her at the classroom door, tears began rolling down Nancy's cheeks. She sobbed convulsively. Neither her parents nor the teachers could console her. The adults were bewildered. Nancy was not a spoiled child. Together with her parents she had been at the church and in this particular classroom many, many times. The setting wasn't strange. Nancy knew the department leader. Why was she so afraid now?

The teachers finally discovered that the child was afraid of one of the assistant teachers who had red hair. Further investigation brought to light some previous references that Nancy's mother had made to a redheaded teacher she had once as a child. She had frequently mentioned her dislike for this teacher.

On numerous occasions, within the child's hearing, she had stated that she "hated" the redheaded witch. She had even enumerated the 'mean' things this awful person had done. Inadvertently this mother had so conditioned her daughter that the child associated all redheads with her mother's former teacher.



Who Cares About the Little Ones?

Granted the above is an extreme case, but it does give some insight into a child's often baffling fears. In this instance the child was not pampered. She was not immature. She was quite ready to begin Sunday School. Usually she seemed to be a well-adjusted little child. Yet her introduction to Sunday School was an unhappy one.

As the Twig is Bent

Realizing that behavioural patterns attitudes, and even prejudices are fixed early in life, Christian parents consciously need to foster spiritual and Christian values in their children while they're quite young. Christians who hope that their sons and daughters will love God's Word, His Son and His church and who want their children to grow in the grace of their Lord God must bring them to the church school at an early age. Age 7 or 8 may already be too late.

Christian fathers and mothers want their child's first morning at Sunday School to be a happy experience. They know that an unhappy start in Sunday School may

build a dislike for school and church. Thoughtful parents realize that it may be harmful to leave some children in a strange place with unfamiliar people. Most children are fearful of the unknown - some to an extravagant degree. If the nursery classroom is an 'unknown,' let's acquaint the child carefully and lovingly with this — "never-never land."

Home Visits Help

Where there is an active nurseryroll program some of the nursery department workers could make contact with young children before they enter nursery class. They could send cards and letters and make visits. Just before a child's third birthday (or his fourth if he has never attended a church school), one or more nursery teachers could call at the home with the nursery-roll worker to meet the child in the secure setting of his home.

The importance of readiness for any new venture needs to be stressed, especially when the very young are involved.

Who cares about the little newcomer? Many people do. After all God cared about the little ones. Teachers can hardly afford to care less.

Culture: Barrier or Bridge?

continued from page 10

A perceptive look at the Church in many developing countries tells us that we have given them our culture as well as our Christ -- both in the same package. As a result we have often unnecessarily alienated the "converts" from the rest of their cultural society.

We must realize that:

1. We did not inherit American Christianity from God. Yes, Christ and the Scriptures have influenced it, but we would be hard pressed to

defend a lot of our customs from Scripture.

2. Even our American evangelical culture is in a state of change, therefore we must not equate it with Christianity or put it at par with Scripture.
3. Often culture in itself is not intrinsically good or bad. So no culture should be condemned just because it is different from another.
4. Christ wants to sanctify and come through any given culture, changing only its immoral and ungodly aspects, beautifying the rest with His blessed Presence.



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As we reach out with Christ to those different from us, we can let our culture be a barrier, or we can let their culture be a bridge over which Christ can travel -- right into their hearts.†

- Worldwide Thrust



by R.A. LARDEN

WILLING SERVANTS

A news release from the Evangelical Press Association reads as follows: "The No. 1 quality that American and Canadian church people are looking for in their young ministers and priests is **willingness to serve** without regard for acclaim.

"Next they want **personal integrity** — the ability to honour commitments by carrying out promises despite all pressures to compromise.

"A **Christian example** that people in the community can respect is the third most important factor. Particular **pastoral skills** rank fourth and the minister's role as a **leader in community** building stands fifth."

These interesting findings were the result of a three-year study by the Association of Theological schools.

Who would disapprove of that sincere desire on the part of Christians who make up the congregation, as they express their honest interest in a spiritual pastor and leader.

Jesus frequently taught His disciples that the disposition and position of a good servant was that to be studied and applied, rather than dismissed as not applicable to them as student ministers and potential Apostles. "The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord," (Matt. 10:25). The illustration was related to the ministry as John 13:13-17 most surely brings out.

Paul was not afraid of being just used as a "joe boy" when he said "for though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more" (I Cor. 9:19).

Jeremiah counselled Baruch "seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not" (Jer. 45:5).

With further reference to that first point of men being ambitious for acclaim, I read a comment by Bishop Stephen Neill. "I am inclined to think that ambition in any ordinary sense of the term is nearly always sinful in ordinary man. I am certain that in the Christian it is always sinful, and that it is most inexcusable of all in the ordained minister."

Sanders writes in his book, I repeatedly read "Spiritual Leadership"—

"Our word 'ambition' derives from a Latin word meaning 'canvassing for promotion.' A variety of ingredients may be present in ambition — to be seen and approved by men, to be popular, to stand well among one's contemporaries, to exercise control over others. Ambitious men enjoy the power which money or authority brings. Such carnal ambitions were soundly rebuked by the Lord. The true spiritual leader will never canvass for promotion."

C.B. Williams translates Jesus' words to His chosen disciples, and apostles, if you like, "you know that those who are supposed to rule the heathen, lord it over them, and their great men rule as despots over them; but this is not to be the case among you. Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to hold first positions among you must be everybody's slave" (Mark 10:42-44).

"True greatness, true leadership" Sanders states, "is achieved not by reducing men to one's service but in giving oneself in selfless service to them."

Personal integrity and personal discipline to sound principles, sound doctrine and the orderly application of one's self to the work committed to their charge has equal Biblical backing.

By the grace of God may each of us who have been entrusted with a flock of His love so live as to glorify Jesus and thus enhance trust.

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Evangelist E.P. Funk may be contacted for special crusades by writing directly to: E.P. Funk, c/o 85 East 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V5T 1Y9.

Cowichan Camp Report

A total of 277 people registered for the week of youth and family camp. The weather was good as were the blessings of God.

Children's camp followed with 67 in attendance. After months of preparation we were not disappointed in the response to the ministry of the Word of God.

God keeps the books on personal commitments . . . "He knows those that are his."

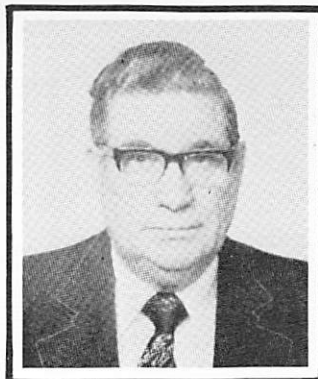
David Cook and Alan Mortensen ministered evening and morning respectively during youth and family camp.

Brian Batke plus a team of counsellors had their work cut out for them with youth and children. The Quists from High Level, Alberta were a tremendous asset before and during camp with their distinctive ministry to the children.

We praise God for His faithfulness, and for the many dedicated workers that are always a blessing in every department of the camp program.

Cowichan River Bible Camp is situated on the Cowichan River, approximately 9 miles west of Duncan, B.C.†

by **ALAN McLEAN**



FROM THE MODERATOR'S VIEWPOINT

IN FOCUS

WORLDLINESS: BARRIER TO FELLOWSHIP

by **D.W. BREEN**

John wrote specifically about fellowship, about its values, its priorities and its joys. His fellowship with Jesus was on a very real but simple basis, seeing, observing, touching and handling. This very real fellowship with the physical Christ was shared with others who proved their testimony to make it really stick. Their relationship and fellowship held ascendant priority over **all** else in their living. He quickly invites all of us into that very real relationship and fellowship. It is indeed our privilege and our norm for that kind of living. "Our fellowship is with the Father and with the Son the Lord Jesus Christ." John invites us to share in what was theirs that captivated them so.

We are a new humanity with solid interest and appreciations that are our own. Interests and relationships that can make our joy **full** (1 John 1:4). Now, that is a whole lot of promise. That kind of promise cannot be realized or rivaled in the world where the appetites of the lower nature, the appetites of eye gate, the driving desire to see, the pride of life which pre-occupation is with doing, and being and having. The world and he who influences it is providing more and more of these interests to attract our attention to drain our strength and to get our money.

The appeal to travel, to see attractions designed to appeal to our appetites, to hold us in suspense from place to place, from event to event and attraction to attraction. We have gone there and back to find these less than what they promise. They have a passing quality.

On the other hand, I am hearing words verified by observed practise that say, "I am not attracted to church life," "I am not drawn to Christian fellowships," "I am uninterested in Bible camps and conferences."

I notice the same steady clients follow the fellowship circuit. I hear them speak of the years of simple fellowship. Some new ones are added. The fulfillment at most fellowship gatherings is very real to all who attend. The Bible camps I have attended this summer were rich in love and joy, but they represent only a very small percentage of our church families.

I know that holiday observance and travel abounds among us. I must be direct with my questions. Where are our interests? Where are we attracted? What is our real life style? Where do we turn for fulfillment? Have our fellowship gatherings fallen upon bad times? Have we failed to bring Jesus and His gospel into beautiful focus? Have we lost interest in one another? Have we come on to one another in a way that makes us unacceptable to one another? Are we exacting things from one another rather than giving of ourselves one to another as they did in the record of the Acts of the first church? **Or, is it worldliness** that attracts us to things, places, events and people? I am only asking about our priorities and whether we really realize what we look for. Do we go there and back and come away **NO** better than we were? Is it all an empty exercise of the fellowship there is with our dear Lord and with His family? John directly asserts, "that your joy may be full."

Of the way of the world which our society provides and absorbs he writes, "the world passes away and the appetites of it, but he who does the will of the Lord abides forever." The real meaning is that the Christian life style is like the life the Christian possesses, it is eternal.

We should treasure our fellowship one with another because our fellowship is with the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Exert your **best** efforts in the exercise of Christian fellowship.†

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