

INTEREST

JANUARY 1996

It's 1996—

Do You KNOW

WHERE *The*

BRETHREN Are?

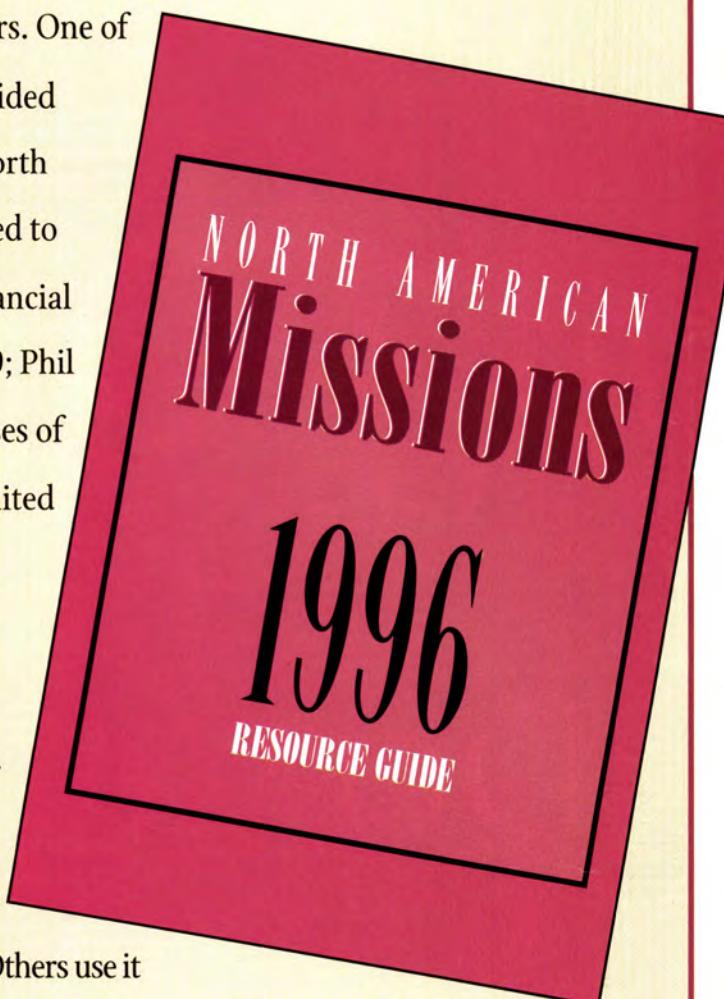
INTEREST Has Your Number!

Well, actually INTEREST has many numbers. One of the services INTEREST Ministries has provided through the years is a Resource Guide of North American Missions. This directory is printed to encourage prayer, personal contact and financial support for commended servants (Eph 6:19; Phil 4:14-19). It contains the names and addresses of commended workers in Canada and the United States as well as a listing of retired workers and widows of commended workers.

Also in the guide you'll find a list of camps, military chaplains and service organizations such as schools, retirement homes and mission agencies.

Many people use it as a daily prayer guide. Others use it when they travel or to contact a pastoral leader, to visit friends or loved ones in different parts of the continent.

You can order a 1996 Resource Guide of North American Missions for \$5 (U.S.) plus postage and handling by calling 1(800) 777-3778.



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INTEREST

PROMOTING NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

YOUR TURN

COMPUTERS

This [November 1995] is a great issue! I've been blessed again by your ministry. Thanks to Jim Van Duzer for putting into words some thoughts I've had for some time about computers.

Bugs Bugnon,
Maryland

difficult transition has been made. Having had a close working relationship with the brothers who preceded you although not always agreeing, I was deeply concerned, not about change, but about how it would be handled. I am at peace, and grateful to God. I continue to be supportive.

Harold Barrington,
Arizona

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I was very impressed with the cover art and title!

Ken Daughters,
Iowa

3-D COVER

I have found many things to be very edifying, though I must say I was unable to appreciate the 3D cover. I never can see those things (and secretly wonder if it's not like the emperor's new clothes!). I much preferred the covers with Scripture. Often the different translations caused me to pause and reflect on the teachings within.

Warren Miller,
Wisconsin

A SMOOTH TRANSITION

Our paths have not crossed but your name has become quite familiar to us in the past year and we have enjoyed your editorials month by month.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for the way in which a

I'M GLAD I STAYED

I was helped by the previous version of INTEREST and was disappointed at the shake down last year (although the editors took it in print in a balanced and positive manner).

I almost discontinued my subscription, but I'm glad I gave the new format a chance. I continue to be edified by the articles and appreciate your gifts and candor in writing with discernment yet courage. So God bless and guide you and the team and thanks for your ministry.

John Woodward,
Ontario

TIMELY ARTICLE

The cover article [October 1995] was interesting. I just finished teaching on this subject and Stanley Schultz's article was so timely (no pun intended).

Erik Johnson,
Washington

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The STATE of the BRETHREN UNION 1996

And other fascinating paradoxes



Ken Botton

Within a few days of your reading this article, President Clinton will present his annual "State of the Union" message to the people of the United States. Inspired by this yearly ritual, I decided to offer my own version of the "State of the Union," especially as it applies to the assemblies.

"Union?" "Brethren assemblies?" Some might insist that placing these terms in the same sentence creates our own version of the oxymoron. Indeed, unity in our midst might be as elusive as the proverbial "balanced budget." Hold this thought — I'll return to it later.

STATE OF THE UNION

When the President of the United States addresses the joint session of Congress, his speech will no doubt be seasoned with statistics that measure progress or highlight certain deficiencies. We don't have to think very hard to figure who will get credit and who will take the blame. Regardless, the President has at his command an arsenal of facts, figures, statistics, graphs and charts so he can illustrate his points.

By comparison, I can only present a few statistics. This is not necessarily a bad thing. The church of God does not consist of facts and figures. It is the Body of Christ. For some, even the thought of measuring His Body verges on the sacrilegious.

Unlike denominations, our movement has traditionally avoided facts and figures. For the most part, we have no membership roles. Perhaps, wishing to avoid David's sin of "numbering" the people, we take no for-

mal census. Even Walterick's address book doesn't account for many unnamed meetings who share our common values but choose to remain totally anonymous.

Conversely, we are a people who like to keep tabs on our health. We step on the bathroom scales in the morning and watch our cholesterol intake. When we go for a medical check-up the doctor attacks us with the dreaded tongue depressor in one hand, and an icy stethoscope in the other. We alternately gag, cough and breathe deeply, submitting ourselves to all manner of unseemly poking and prodding. Of course, it's for a good cause. The doctor gives us a reading on our health. If we are normal, we will be told to lose weight, get more exercise, cut down on all our favorite foods, drink more water, consume less salt and, above all, come back next year so we can be told the same thing. We can't argue because the facts inevitably side with the doctor.

THE STATE OF THE ASSEMBLIES

In the spirit of the healing profession that merely wishes to inform for the sake of good health, I offer a few of our own "measurements."

David Rodgers at Emmaus Bible College kindly provided the following brethren demographics. This information is partly based on figures voluntarily submitted from 618 chapels. The rest of the information is "best guess" based on a kind of brethren "dead reckoning." As of June 1995, Rodgers lists 848 assemblies in the United States and 463 in Canada. Of the combined total of 1311, 923 referred to themselves

as "chapels" with the remaining 388 preferring the designation "halls." Attendance breakdown for the 618 reporting chapels:

ATTENDANCE REPORTED — CHAPELS	
Under 50	200
50-99	214
100-199	132
over 200	71

LOOKING BACK AT 1949

Most statistics are meaningless unless they can be compared to a norm or a baseline of data. I recently came across Letters of Interest for October, 1949. The lead editorial yielded some valuable historical data. Then editor William G. McCartney writes:

"The latest edition of Walterick's invaluable assembly address book lists 561 addresses of assemblies in 447 communities in continental United States. In a comprehensive category meeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the U. S. Religious Census of 1936, which is the latest published, included 664 churches with a membership of 25,806."

In 1949, Brother McCartney cited those statistics in order to reinforce his contention that there is "...Yet very much land to be possessed." Were McCartney alive today and editing INTEREST, he might be tempted to reissue his 1949 challenge. I'm not a mathematical whiz, but comparing stats, even I can see that we have not kept up. Should we be concerned?

McCartney's growth assumptions dictate that our movement should now be double or even triple its 1949 size. Should we not be gaining on the population? William McCartney certainly prayed for this.

The signers of the 1980 "Serious Call to Renewal" stated it this way: "The growth rate of new assemblies is not keeping up with that of the general population or other evangelical groups. Some new assemblies are merely transplants from other locations. Assemblies are often small. New people tend to come from other evangelical churches rather than through conversion. While size and quality are not to be equated, lack of growth usually indicates a lack of vitality. Instead of effective evangelism there is complacency in many quarters. Some assemblies go on for years without sending out and supporting new missionaries."

WHY HAVEN'T WE GROWN?

These statistics and statements raise questions. If growth is arguably a reasonable assumption, then why haven't we grown? Talk about a question that opens a giant can of worms!

I will be the first to admit the existence of many individual "success" stories. There are new assemblies reaching out to a lost world and adding genuine converts to the fold. This is real growth, not just "recycling" of Christians from other churches. Additionally, some existing assemblies "defied the experts" and rejuvenated. A force to be reckoned with in their communities, they shine as beacons, preaching the eternal Word and being channels of Christ's love. Both new and revived assemblies visibly demonstrate to an unbelieving world the vibrancy of the Body of Christ when Jesus is truly the Head.

In spite of these bright rays, other assemblies have different stories to tell. For various reasons, they remain static or have suffered declines in attendance. Why?

ASKING A FEW QUESTIONS

Let me focus the issue by asking a series of smaller questions:

1. Can we legitimately blame the increasing secularization of our society in North America for our lack of growth? Perhaps. Christianity no longer holds its traditional place of esteem in the eyes of the nation. We have been relegated to the "radical religious right." The apostle Paul, though, might have gotten a chuckle out of this line of reasoning. He didn't wait for favorable conditions to see churches established and many souls added to the church.
2. Perhaps the reason for our decline is really part of God's plan. After all, if this is the time of apostasy foretold in the Bible, can we really expect growth? Perhaps. I maintain a dispensational outlook on Scripture and a belief in a pre-millennial, pre-tribulational rapture. However, I would be reticent to state with assurance that this was THE apostasy, not just AN apostasy. Besides, I fail to see that apostasy constitutes a valid reason for abandoning evangelistic enterprise. Unless, of course, the apostasy is really with us.
3. Then again, the message of the Cross is inherently unpopular. Should we, therefore, cite principles of New Testament gathering as a reason for lack of growth? Like the many rhetorical questions employed by the apostle Paul, we should answer with a resounding, "God forbid!" There is, in fact, nothing wrong with Christ's Body, and far be it from me to lay a charge against God's elect (Romans 8:33).

However, no matter how we slice it, something is definitely amiss. And, if there is nothing wrong with the principles of New Testament gathering, then have WE missed something along the way?

Have we considered issues of apathy,

"Union? Brethren assemblies?"

Some might insist that placing these terms in the same sentence creates our own version of the oxymoron.

Assemblies still maintain the respect and admiration of Christians around the world. We continue to exert a powerful influence on the world that supernaturally exceeds our statistics.

complacency, bad doctrine, bad practice, lack of imagination, impoverished creativity, poor leadership, pride, unjudged sin, etc.?

Please understand, I am NOT suggesting that every assembly with a growth problem also has a sin problem. On the one hand, I believe that some assemblies must contend with legitimate circumstances "beyond their control" that limit their growth potential. Their burden is heavy enough and I do not wish to make it any heavier. On the other hand, lack of growth should not be glibly explained away. To hear some, it is as if "assemblies" and "growth" were two words that the Almighty never intended to be used in the same sentence. God forbid!

ASSEMBLY PARADOXES

This brings me to the issue of paradoxes. I believe that our inability to hold certain apparently self-contradictory truths in tension has limited our growth and clouded our vision. If we do not acknowledge these paradoxes, we unwittingly pit scripture against scripture, truth against truth and, ultimately, believer against believer. Let me provide a few examples:

I mentioned earlier the "oxymoron" of brethren unity. Are we a denomination or Christians gathering in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ only? To some this is a simple question, but its simplicity is deceptive. It is a paradox. We address this paradox every time we discuss whether we describe ourselves as brethren or Brethren. We claim status as "just plain Christians" yet we have a highly defined sense of our own identity. Can we not maintain the two in balance? Surely this is not as easy as it sounds. But this is not the only paradox facing us.

The "love versus truth" discussion tends to be one of the nastiest paradoxes of all. Love without truth becomes "sloppy agape." Truth without love is the essence of phariseism. Not surprisingly, Scripture places truth and love on an equal footing. Since both concepts are embodied in the Lord Jesus Christ, He never intended us to have one without the other. Even when we are to speak the truth, the Bible admonishes us to speak it in love (Eph. 4:15). Beware of any one who asks you to separate what God Himself has united!

Even growth in the assemblies becomes a paradox. Who among us does not want to witness the salvation of sinners? Conversely, who among us does not enjoy that "family feeling" of a small assembly where everyone knows everyone else? Newcomers just don't understand the way we do things. More families means more kids in the nursery,

more children in Sunday School, more cars in the parking lot, more problems, more complexities, less intimacy and less feeling of "oneness." I wonder sometimes if this results in an unconsciously schizophrenic attitude toward visitors. Do we say that we want them, yet persist in treating them as outsiders—lest they disrupt our inner circle? I wonder what barriers we erect to keep outsiders at bay? Or do we hang out the "welcome" sign, and really mean it?

Someone described a paradox as a tent held in place by well-driven pegs on opposite sides of the canvas. Remove one side and the tent collapses. No wonder we in the assemblies can't seem to get anywhere. We keep trying to remove the pegs on the other side of the tent!

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

And so, in 1996, as we address the "state of the brethren union" we find unity more elusive than ever. And, what was true for William McCartney in 1949 is true for us today: "... There is yet much land to be possessed." Perhaps we should ask the paradoxical question, do we really WANT to possess the land?

Though I raised questions concerning our actions and attitudes, I would like to close with a few words of commendation and encouragement. Assemblies still maintain the respect and admiration of Christians around the world. We continue to exert a powerful influence on the world that supernaturally exceeds our statistics. Our "cloud of witnesses" includes names like Darby, Kelly, Grant, Muller, Groves, Tregelles, W.E. Vine, Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, F. F. Bruce, H. A. Ironside and a host of other godly men and women of whom "the world was not worthy." More importantly, despite our many paradoxes, we steadfastly claim our head to be Christ alone. In this we have not wavered.

Where then do we go from here? To the Lord Jesus Christ, of course. You were expecting me to say something else?

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12: 1,2)

Happy New Year, and stay INTERESTed,



REVELATION *in the* RAINBOW

DECORATION or DECLARATION?

by Harold Barrington



Harold Barrington is a commended worker, serving the Lord in Mesa, Arizona.

[God's] character is the sum of His attributes, just as the rainbow is the sum of all the colors of the spectrum.

The apostle's sweeping statement that God "has given us all things richly to enjoy" (1 Tim 5:17) must surely have included the captivating scenic pleasures of His creation...even a creation under curse. Our world is replete with them. One of the most remarkable and intriguing is common to all corners of the planet, although seen occasionally by most, and sometimes fleetingly. It is the rainbow.

What is the significance of this visual delight? Clearly it was given as a sign to all generations by a covenant-keeping God, who said to Noah regarding the flood, "Never again." But could it be that it yields something more, something beyond a decorative token of assurance? I think so.

It has been a soul-satisfying exercise to ponder the rainbow as a significant step in God's self-revelation which began with creation and continued progressively through history until the ultimate, the Incarnation; and then completed, for this age at least, in the writings of the apostles.

LEARNING FROM THE RAINBOW

What does the rainbow have to teach us about the character of God? Simply this, that His character is the sum of His attributes, just as the rainbow is the sum of all the colors of the spectrum. And not only the sum, the blend. As we gaze intrigued at the rainbow, we know instinctively that all the colors are there, but we cannot tell where one stops and the other begins. They blend beautifully! So it is with the attributes of God. Grace and love are not the same, but can you tell where the one stops and the next begins? Holiness and righteousness are not synonyms, but where does the first stop and the next begin? So it is with wisdom and power, and each of the divine character elements.

But not only do they blend exquisitely, they

are in perfect balance. We should not assign them priorities. A dear brother in his prayer recently was heard to say that "love" was God's greatest attribute. At another meeting the preacher opined that it was His holiness. Not so, but rather each attribute is exercised in perfect balance with the others. It's the very holiness of God that enhances His mercy. And imagine that awesome power in evidence without being blended with infinite wisdom! The rainbow is never seen with the blue band outstanding, nor the red stripe dominant. To repeat, the hues are always in perfect blend and balance. So it is with the character of God. No attribute is ever exercised at the expense of the others.

It may appeal to human or fleshly sentiment to make more of love, grace or mercy than of holiness, wrath or justice. But, with Noah, we must bow before the God Who sent the flood, as well as the God who provided the ark. We must worship the God Who has revealed Himself in all His fullness. As with the rainbow, it is the whole that excites our wonder and awe.

AFTER THE STORM

There is a lesson, too, in the fact that the rainbow is most often seen at its best right after the storm has passed. In the life of the believer the storm can leave us with a fuller knowledge and appreciation of the Sovereign God who sends it and brings us through it.

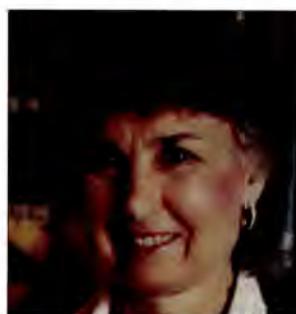
We do well, then, to ponder and admire every attribute of God (all of them infinite or absolute), but we ought not try to isolate them, much less to presumptuously rank them in some order.

If, indeed, the Lord did design this colorful phenomenon in the heavens to teach us more of Himself, may its every appearance be a fresh occasion for worship of the God Who has revealed Himself. ■



L to R: Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully

by Olive Fleming Liefeld



Olive Fleming Liefeld served as a missionary to Ecuador from 1954 to 1956. She and her husband, Walter Liefeld, professor emeritus at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, have three grown children.

REMEMBERING C and FORTY

Some events impact us so strongly that we can remember not only the date, but exactly where we were and what we were doing when it happened. Sometimes that event forever changes the lives of those involved.

One such event occurred on January 8, 1956, forty years ago. It impacted the lives of five women, their families, many people consequently now serving as missionaries and—the reason for it all—the lives of formerly primitive savages in the Ecuadorian jungles called Aucas ("wild men") by their terrified enemies.

FIVE MISSIONARY MARTYRS

Many readers of INTEREST will recall this event. Some were personally acquainted with one or another of five young missionary men killed by five Auca men on that date. One of them was my husband, Peter Fleming. Three of them, Pete, Jim Elliot and Ed McCully, served with the brethren missionary service agency, Christian Missions in Many Lands. Nate Saint, a missionary pilot, flew for Missionary Aviation Fellowship, and Roger Youderian, who had already reached another savage group of Indians, represented the Gospel Missionary Union.

News that the men were missing and had subsequently been found speared to death, was flashed around the world, through the facilities of yet another Christian organization, radio station HCJB in Quito, Ecuador. It was a wonderful example of Christians from different backgrounds and organizations working together.

GLOBAL EFFECTS

But God also used secular means to spread the news, and with it the Gospel. The immensely popular *Life* magazine carried a ten-page story titled, "Go ye and preach the Gospel: Five Do and Die."

In this country the account generated a

new vitality in evangelism because the average person had either followed the story in the newspapers or on TV. Christians took advantage of the opportunity to talk to people about the Lord. Overseas missions became the focal point for many young people. Many became aware for the first time of Christian Missions in Many Lands.

TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

To some it looked like the mission was a failure and many questions were asked. Why would five men go when they knew the people were so savage? Why not wait for the Indians to come out to them? The five widows were concerned about the effect on the "Aucas." They had burned their own houses and were now hiding somewhere in that vast jungle. How would they ever be reached? They had seemed friendly during the months of the flights over their village. When a "delegation" of three representatives from the tribe came to be with the missionaries for an entire day all seemed well. What really happened between the time of that "friendly visit" and two days later when the Aucas returned and killed the men?

ONE YEAR LATER

Within a year of the death of the five men, new Auca houses were spotted from the air and some months later two Auca women appeared at a small Quichua Indian settlement. Subsequently, these two women went to live with Elisabeth Elliot, Jim's widow, for nine months. They returned to their tribe taking Dayuma, a young Auca woman who had run away from her people some years before.

One of the two Auca women had actually taken part in the "friendly visit." She was an aunt of Dayuma. These same women returned to the mission station with a large group of Aucas to invite Elisabeth and Rachel Saint, Nate's sister to live with them. Up until the early '90's, Rachel Saint continued to live among the Aucas, and made several further visits until she died in November of 1994.

Elisabeth shared many stories from those

ONE DAY of MASSACRE TURNS INTO YEARS of MIRACLES

early days with the other four widows about her experience of living among these people, who were previously known only as savages. The challenge of deciphering their unwritten language and putting it into writing filled most of her day. The constant threat of another group, the "downriver" Aucas, coming to kill the group with whom Rachel and Elisabeth lived was real.

THE AUCA MIRACLE

Over the years God brought light into the darkness and one by one a large percentage of the Aucas were converted. Even the five men who killed the missionaries became believers in Christ. They have all demonstrated their love for Christ by their changed lives as they have gone to the people they used to kill to tell them about God's love.

Although some of the strongest believers are older people who are not even able to read, they still continue to teach their people the message they heard and believed so long ago.

THE WAORANIS TODAY

These stone age people were literally rushed into the 20th Century. Oil companies came into the territory that the Aucas had once roamed freely. They created enormous problems for them.

The new generation of Waorani (the real name of the tribe) is educated and more modern. They do not understand the kind of life their grandparents had before the Gospel came to them. They have reaped the blessings, although some have little interest in the gospel. Their interest tends toward what the oil companies can do for them.

Lloyd Rogers, a respected CMML missionary in the jungles of Ecuador, has for some years trained young people from various Indian groups, including the Waorani, to be teachers in the schools and especially to train others in the Scriptures. They come out of the jungle and live together at his school in the small town of Shell and then return to the tribes as teachers. I know of one young man who has gone to the Word of Life Bible

Institute in Brazil.

A few months ago Steve Saint, the son of Nate, moved with his family from Ocala, Florida, to the jungles to live with the Waorani. Growing up with those people he has many friends among them and knows some of the language.

UNFOLDING DESTINIES

Five years ago my husband Walter and I, with our daughter Holly, visited the tribe. My book *Unfolding Destinies* tells some of the remarkable things we learned. This visit provided answers to many questions. We returned home with new assurance that God had been working in the lives of the Waorani during the period when many thought the mission was a failure. We were convinced that the death of the men (and a remarkable divine occurrence previously unreported) had an immediate, profound effect on their lives and may have been the cause of their initiative to come out to find the white people.

The effect of this mission continues around the world. I have been asked to speak about it overseas as well as here. One talk I gave was at Holly's sorority house at Illinois State University, a result of the impact the trip had on her.

Three years ago the Waorani New Testament was finally printed and put into the hands of the people. The older people cannot read it but they know much of it by memory, having heard the word from Dayuma and Rachel repeating it to one another. The following generations can read but may not have the same fervor as the older ones.

This is a time of transition for the tribe, with many voices calling them to different paths. We trust God will continue the good work that He began among them.

PRAYERS FOR THE FUTURE

Forty years after the mission I encourage readers of INTEREST to renew their prayers for God's work among the Waorani and among other groups who are still unreached. Only God knows what the next forty years can bring! ■



Olive, Kimo and his wife Dawa. Dawa was the first believer within the tribe. Kimo was one of the killers. Both are faithful servants of the Lord.

*The five men
who killed the
missionaries
became believers
in Christ.*

Readers may be interested in Olive's book: *Unfolding Destinies: The Untold Story of Peter Fleming and the Auca Mission* published by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, or in Ken Fleming's new book: *Peter Fleming: A Man of Faith*, published by Christian Missions in Many Lands, Spring Lake, New Jersey.

WESTERN CANADA

GROWTH AND FRUIT

During October I ministered in assemblies in New York and New Jersey. It was encouraging to see spiritual growth in contacts made during previous ministry among thousands of young people in this area. Some are taking responsibility in their local assemblies, others are commended workers at home and in the fields beyond.

Mun Hope

*Mun and Adeline Hope,
British Columbia*

ANSWERED PRAYER

At Indian Life Ministries we are experiencing an exciting transformation of ministry philosophy and resources. For two years we have been praying and searching for a full time editor. Now the Lord has given us two full time editors. Both come with a rich background of ministry and writing. With the November 1995 issue we have become a newspaper [rather than a magazine]. We feel that this format is better suited for evangelistic purposes, and it will save nearly \$5,000 an issue. We believe that the circulation will increase and more Native people will have an opportunity to accept Christ.

*Tim and Sue Nielsen,
Manitoba*

LEARNING BY DOING

We would appreciate prayer in two areas where we concentrate our efforts. At Mount Carmel Bible College the enthusiasm of our 28 students is encouraging. Each week I take some to help our Haitian friends with English. Through helping them we encourage them spiritually as well. Pray that God will give the students a useful experience and that we will find the best way to help our friends learn.

*Wilfred and Sheila Buchanan,
Alberta*

EASTERN CANADA

COACHING AND SINGING

We completed our tenth summer at Aush-Bik-Koong Bible Camp. We all had a good summer. My children are doing well. Kristy is in grade eight, Jonathan in grade seven, Alysha in grade two and Amy in Junior Kindergarten.

I'm getting involved with the school by helping out in Amy's class and coaching Kristy's volleyball team. Right now I'm looking into doing some singing and visiting at two area hospitals in Elliot Lake and Espanola. I would ask for prayer concerning this and the possibility of recording some of the music the Lord has given me. There are still days when my heart aches, but God is good.

**Marlene Allyn with Kristy,
Jonathan, Alysha and Amy**

tals in Elliot Lake and Espanola. I would ask for prayer concerning this and the possibility of recording some of the music the Lord has given me. There are still days when my heart aches, but God is good.

*Marlene Allyn,
Ontario*

FOUR MEN WITH A SONG

For a long time we were just four guys trying to bring the presence of Christ to some unimpressive little bars. Now we are almost always joined by a small contingent of Sanctuary family who sometimes bring a new friend and sing along with some of the songs. They pray while we play. Together we worship and fellowship and hold up the name of Jesus. The whole of Sanctuary—the drop-in meals, clothing distribution, street outreach, AIDS work, Bible studies, pastoral counseling and the little church—has grown up around the band, as if it were a seed.

*Greg and Karen Paul,
Ontario*

A MESSAGE FOR YOUNG AND OLD

We praise God for His continued blessings and for many opportunities. Joyce enjoys her Sunday School

class of 7-year-olds. She helps with Awana, the public school Bible Club and leads a Bible Study with ladies at Wallenstein Bible Chapel. Today she gives the



Joyce and Allan Weber

life story of William Carey at a combined Home School Group.

I continue door-to-door colporteur work and giving out Gospel tracts. I am leading a bi-weekly Bible study in a Senior complex and conduct a monthly service at a nursing home, along with the help of a music team.

*Allan and Joyce Weber,
Ontario*

WESTERN USA

MAD CAMPS

This was our fourth year directing MAD (Make a Difference) camps with approximately 64 Native American Indian campers. We focused on training and sending. Training in sharing Christ in drama, music, testimonies and servanthood. Most of the tribes represented were Navajo, Hopi and Apache. Four youth teams were developed to minister to other Native American Tribes in Canada, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Minnesota.

In July we ministered for ten days with the Lakota Sioux Indian people. More than 50 young Indian believers gathered from many different tribes to present the Gospel to their Native peers.

In August we attended the first North American Indigenous (Indian Olympics) Games in Blaine, Minnesota. This event brought 7,000 athletes from the U.S. and Canada with over 200 tribes represented. Our team, "On Eagles Wings," became humble servants for His glory. The organizers forgot to provide adequate people to

clean up the grounds, stadium, etc. Our team was called on and what an opportunity. During times of clean-up much one-to-one witnessing took place. Many athletes received Bibles, tracts, prayer and if counseling was needed we encouraged them to visit our booth.

One night the Ministry Team was allowed to present a "youth quake" or rally. We had a Native American actress and singer share the love of Christ, a Christian rap group and NBA All-Star Mark Price shared what Christ meant to him. Two thousand to twenty-five hundred people attended. A public invitation was not allowed but through conversation and personal response cards we know that approximately 150 adults and young people professed Christ for the first time. We praise our Lord for this great opportunity.

*Jon and Tawana Lansa,
Arizona*

CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATIONS

In this age of TV talk shows, Christian values are considered bad words and the name of Jesus Christ is a curse word. The JHO RHONI SHOW, an outreach of Christ Community Church in Chicago, is a refreshing and blessed change in the industry. We promote and endeavor to present the very best in Christian media communications. But we need God's people to be prayerfully supportive. For more information call (312) 792-6501.

*Joseph Rhoiney,
Chicago*

NORTHEASTERN USA

THIRD DEGREE BLOCKAGE
Thank you to all who prayed for Kamal. On August 14 as we were getting ready to catch a 7:30 flight to



Mike and Barb Dingman and Family

Buffalo, New York, to record more radio programs, Kamal suffered a heart attack with third degree heart block. Two stents were inserted in the artery to keep it from collapsing. Open heart surgery was ruled out because of his weak condition. We waited and prayed. The stent held the artery open, the blood clots were dissolving and the heart began beating on its own. After a week Kamal was back home. I thank God for our Christian International community.

*Kamlaker and Sheila Dandeker,
Maryland*

HELP WANTED

Camp Iroquoia in Hallstead, Pennsylvania, is seeking a couple to serve the Lord in full-time camp ministry. The husband should have skills and leadership in general camp maintenance; the wife should be willing to serve in housekeeping and camp store management. Send resume to Camp Iroquoia, c/o Jim Weisbecker, RR 1, Box 176, Hallstead, PA 18822-9748 or Fax (717) 967-2411.

SAVED AND BAPTIZED

The Lord has blessed us wonderfully in our ministry here in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, over the past 17 months. The assembly has doubled in attendance and on October 1 we had 112 for the 11 a.m. service. It was the first time attendance has exceeded 100 for a number of years.

In addition to God adding several vital families to our fellowship, two young men have been saved in recent months and several people baptized this year.

There is a wonderful spirit of unity and purpose and almost every Sunday we see new people out to the meetings. After a period of discouragement it is wonderful to see the assembly once again moving forward with God's blessing.

*Mike and Barb Dingman,
Pennsylvania*

SAVED AND RESTORED

Last week we had the joy of seeing a young man come to faith in Christ after we had been meeting with him regularly over the past three months. Another individual who professed faith as a child but drifted away received assurance of salvation and the restoring hand

of God. He now has a great spiritual hunger and it's a joy working with him.

We continue to be very busy with pastoral visitation, counseling, discipling, teaching and preaching.

*David and Elsie Ward,
Connecticut*

SOUTHERN USA

COMMUNITY SERVICES

A free health fair entitled "Families Targeting a Healthy Future" was sponsored by Iglesia Cristiana Evangelica, "Verdad en Amor" and Prairie View A & M University. The fair was held September 9 at the church's building in Stafford, Texas. There was health screening for youth and adults that included blood pressure testing, vision, hearing, dental examinations, sickle cell testing, cholesterol, immunizations, cancer, social services, nutrition and health counseling.

Over 200 people benefited from these services and met members of the church that in many cases explained the plan of salvation and invited many to Sunday and weekly services.

Iglesia Cristiana Evangelica believes in reaching the community through services, but also and foremost with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SNOW BIRDS

Winter home: furnished, three bedrooms, one and a half bath, beside Park of the Palms Retirement and Conference Center in Keystone Heights, Florida. Reasonable rates. Write to P.O. Box 727, Dayton, TN 37321; (615) 775-4962.

ADDRESSES

STACY HAWLEY
3136 Indian Rd., Davenport, IA 52802;
(319) 3122

JIM AND SHIRLEY IVERSON
3114 W 66th St., Davenport, IA 52806;
(319) 391-1803

PAUL AND COLLEEN MCCLELLAND
12 Howard St., Simcoe, ON N3Y 2H5;
(519) 426-9404

NEWS & NOTICES

MATTHEW AND WENDY PHELAN
7526 Charlotte Rd., Nashville, TN
37209; (615) 352-6761

CHRIS AND ALISA RISER
917 Susan St., Cape Girardeau, MO
63701; (314) 339-9744

CHURCH LISTINGS

WESTSIDE BIBLE CHAPEL
(formerly South Emporia Bible Chapel),
1205 West Central, P.O. Box 9323,
Wichita, KS 67277-0323. Correspondent: Arnold Burkle (316) 721-3649

COMMENDATIONS

STACY HAWLEY

The believers at High Point Bible Chapel, Davenport, Iowa, have commended Stacy Hawley to the work of the Lord at the assembly and abroad. Stacy has been in fellowship in the assembly since her youth and recently completed a two-year term in the Philippines.

DAVID HODGE

The elders at Turner Road Chapel recently renewed the commendation for David Hodge to the work of the Lord at His Mansion in Hillsboro,

New Hampshire. In August 1991 we first commended David to this association.

However, in 1992 he commenced studies at Regent College and gradu-

ated with a Masters degree of Christian Studies in Counseling.

JIM AND SHIRLEY IVERSON
Believers at High Point Bible Chapel in Davenport, Iowa, have commended Jim and Shirley Iverson to the work of the Lord in the assembly and abroad. They have served in the work at the assembly for the last 23 years.



David Hodge

MATT AND WENDY PHELAN
Christians at The Gospel Chapel, Nashville, Tennessee, have commended Matt and Wendy Phelan to the work of the Lord in Middle Tennessee. They have faithfully served Him for many years in the assembly and in several capacities. Matt is an elder, leads the teen group, is Sunday School Superintendent and preaches regularly at the assembly. He and Wendy also serve as registrars for Horton Haven Christian Camp.

In addition to the duties they now perform at the chapel, Matt will also serve as full-time Camp Administrator and Wendy as Camp Registrar. The Lord has prepared them for this work over a long period of time and we join with them in recognizing this move as being ordained of the Lord.

CHRIS AND ALISA RISER

Christians at Cape Bible Chapel, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, have commended Chris Riser for full-time Christian service as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Chris is well equipped, both through spiritual giftedness and training for the ministry to which the Lord has called him. He will serve at Cape Bible Chapel in evangelizing junior and senior high young people into the body of Christ, building them in the faith based on biblical principles and equipping them for service in the local church.

We pray that the Lord will use Chris and his wife Alisa in their ministry at Cape Bible Chapel and among the believers in the body of Christ throughout the world.

FOREIGN

GLEN AND SHELLY KEARNS
Woodside Bible Fellowship, Elmira, Ontario, has commended Glen and Shelly Kearns to Christian ministry in Kijabe, Kenya, with Africa Inland Mission. Both are well qualified for the service to which they have been called.

Following graduation with a degree in business administration, Glen worked in hospital administration for four years. He will be working in administration at the Kijabe Medical Centre.

Shelly has an honours arts degree in linguistics. Following graduation she taught for three years. She will be teaching Old Testament at the Moffat School of the Bible.

MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES

SCOTT AND MELODIE BISSELL

The elders of Hilltop Chapel have commended Scott Bissell to serve the Lord as youth worker at Hilltop for the coming year. Scott and Melodie served as full time commended workers with International Teams for eight years in England, Austria and in the Toronto area. Scott returned to secular work in 1994 and Melodie continued to work with Mothers of Pre-Schoolers. Both Scott and Melodie have continued to serve actively in the local assembly.

LAWRENCE AND LUCILLE FORTIN

The Christians at the Ste-Marie-de-Beaue (Quebec) Christian Assembly have commended Lawrence and Lucille Fortin to the work of the Lord and the fellowship of Christians everywhere. Converted 20 years ago, they quickly became active in the work of evangelism and edification for which they are gifted. The Lord has allowed them to see much visible fruit, of which our assembly is a witness. After a successful career in the business world, they are giving themselves to the Lord's work in our assembly and elsewhere as the Lord leads. (The Fortins were originally commended in 1984 by the assembly in Cookshire, Quebec.)

ROBERT AND WILLENE SPICER

The elders of Albany (Georgia) Gospel Chapel have commended Robert and Willene Spicer to the work of the Lord in the United States, Canada and elsewhere. The Spicers reside in Amherst, New York. Robert was commended to the work in 1964 and has continued preaching the Word and ministering to the Lord's people for 31 years. Willene was in active fellowship in Albany from 1953 to 1965 and has continued in active ministry with her husband for the past 30 years.

W. LARRY BATT
Grove Park Chapel, Durham, North Carolina, has withdrawn the commendation for William L. (Larry) Batts at his request.

STANLEY AND RHONDA SCHULTZ

Stan and Rhonda have been serving the Lord at Countryside Bible Chapel, Lexington, Massachusetts, since December 1989. They have now moved to Stoughton, Massachusetts to serve the Lord in a local church there and we have accepted his resignation with regret. This necessitates that we withdraw his letter of commendation which related to his service with our assembly.

WITH THE LORD

GLENN H. LEE

Glenn H. Lee, 75, of Overland Park, Kansas, went to be with the Lord on September 18 of cancer. Glenn was in fellowship at Overland Park Bible Chapel for 35 years where he served as an elder. He was an active witness for the Lord both there and at his local bicycle repair shop.

ATTENTION

COMMENDED WORKERS SEEKING HEALTH CARE

Stewards Foundation has provided the following contact information of companies you may want to investigate:

FOR U.S., OVERSEAS AND OVER 65—
National Association of Evangelicals
(800) 488-4302

FOR OVERSEAS ONLY— International
Medical Group (800) 628-4664

FOR OVER 65 WITH MEDICARE IN U.S.
ONLY—AARP (Prudential) (800)
523-5800

There is a variety of choices other than those above. Please check to see if the option you are looking at is subject to state regulations. You can contact the Department of Insurance for your state or Stewards Foundation at (800) 597-6550.

WORLD WINDOW

NORTH AMERICA

■ Most French-speaking evangelicals in Quebec oppose the province's sovereignty despite the fact that 58% of Francophone Quebecers voted for it in the Oct. 30 referendum. In a survey conducted prior to the vote, 68% of French evangelicals said they would vote "no," Glenn Smith of Christian Direction, told NIRR. Since most Protestant and Catholic Christians opposed separation from Canada, the survey shows that "next to language, the most indicative criteria of a 'no' vote was church attendance."

"The operative word for the church is reconciliation," Smith said. "When we're reconciled with God, we'll be reconciled to one another."

■ The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's board of directors has elected Billy Graham's son Franklin to serve as first vice chairman. That is a new position with direct succession to become chairman and CEO of the BGEA should the evangelist become incapacitated. Franklin will continue his ministry with Samaritan's Purse and World Medical Mission and will also conduct crusades for the BGEA.

EUROPE

■ Religious minorities in Bulgaria and Greece face discrimination and harassment from their governments, a report by the International Helsinki Foundation said.

Non-Orthodox groups in Bulgaria often are fined and sometimes not allowed to meet, the report said. Also, authorities are slow to respond to attacks against religious minorities, and the media are waging "a highly emotional campaign" against "unorthodox sects," News Network Int. said.

In Greece, Catholics, Protestants and Jehovah's Witnesses face various discriminatory practices. Non-Orthodox Greeks are prosecuted for proselytism, kept out of government jobs, and receive little protection from physical attacks. The report also cited religious rights abuses in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Armenia.

ISRAEL

■ The shock Israelis felt at the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has given way to self-examination and soul searching, Christians in the Holy Land told NIRR. "There is a real chance for God to turn things to the good," Evan Thomas of Bet Asas Congregation in Natanya said.

Most Christians in Israel did not participate in the heated debates surrounding the peace process, sources said. "The church here is composed of Jews, Arabs and expatriates, and these issues are very polarizing, so most of the stuff has to stay out of the pulpit," Dolan said.

Rabin was killed by an Orthodox Jew who was following an extreme interpretation of the Halakala, a body of religious and social law based on the Talmud and interpreted by Orthodox rabbis. Although all Orthodox follow the Halakala, few believe it justifies killing in the name of God. ■

(Excerpted from National & International Religion Report.)

A friend challenged me to think about whether or not a desert experience is God's will for a believer. Living in a very dry time in my life, the thoughts were profuse and varied. I thought about the verses that speak of well watered gardens and green trees, Jesus coming to bring abundant life—verses that were certainly true, but

OPERATION: DESERT

by Marian Tidsbury



they did not comfort my heart.

I was in a desert. Our family had moved very suddenly from an alive and exciting body of Christ to a place that had no real witness at all. I felt confused, forsaken and lost. The greenness and frequent watering I had enjoyed from fellowship and good teaching were no longer available. Dryness began to creep in and before long my soul and spirit felt dry and shriveled as an old forgotten boot.

The cold of loneliness gnawed my heart like the cold of a desert night. Desperation began to follow me as we searched for a place to fellowship and grow. Hope turned to doubt as time after time, what was thought to be

different from what I had been expecting. I was unable to see what he was offering. I was looking for things that couldn't exist in this environment.

Gradually I began to see this desert as a unique place. Because of the aridness, normally commonplace things become exquisite surprises. In a green, growing place, a drink of water is expected and unmarked. In the desert, water is the very essence of life. A mouthful is like the choicest wine; and as precious. An entire pool of pure water represents unbelievable wealth. In a lush garden, a small flower may not be even noted, but that same bloom in the desert becomes a miracle of life and victory.

I find as I continue here in the desert, a living message from the Word, or a phone call from an old friend, become the drink of water or the flower. Previously common things have become priceless.

Another thing I have found is that God is not intimidated by the desert as I am. The cold or the emptiness cannot touch His heart. He is satisfied with the work that Jesus did on the cross. The work He is doing in me at this moment is more important to Him than my comfort. He is in control. It is not exhausting for Him because He is God and this is part of all things holding together.

As I actively move toward the heart of God, I believe I will find that the cold and emptiness will cease to matter. Because as I move into God, things that previously hurt me, will not be able to touch my heart for it will be enclosed by God. As I

Woman to Woman

water turned out to be dust. Frustration began to become anger, because the golden land was a desert and I felt tricked.

When I finally found the courage to look at the desert I saw some amazing things. I found that He was there. He wasn't obvious at first because I didn't really want to find Him. His presence was quiet and calm. He knew He was there; He was waiting for me to make that discovery. He could have made Himself known with flamboyance, but that is not His style.

Rather, He was still as a pool of water in the evening, wrapped in quietness, waiting to bring delightful refreshment. It was so

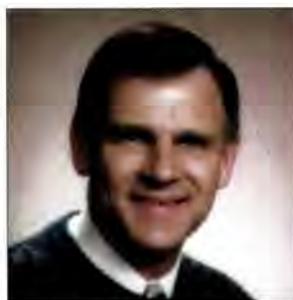
become satisfied with the work that Jesus did for me and cease to labor for my salvation, oases of peace and joy will spring up to surprise me in formerly dry places. When I can truly trust that His plans for me are only for the good, I can leave behind the exhaustion of the struggle to hold my life together, and let Him do it.

Is the desert for the Christian? I believe so. Every man of God worth his salt has had a desert experience. Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul and John the disciple. If I wish to follow in their footsteps, I must be willing to follow through the desert. ■

Marian Tidsbury is a full time homemaker and the mother of three girls. Her husband, Bill, is the son of missionaries William and Kay Tidsbury.

DELEGATING—BEFORE YOU'RE QUITE READY

It's the only way they'll grow



Gerry was old enough to be my father, but he invited me to join him the next Sunday when he was preaching. "Come prepared to share what God has put on your heart," he told me. "Don't worry about the time or how you'll finish. I'll wrap it up for you."

Gerry did it right. He saw potential in a younger person and provided an opportunity for growth. He reduced the risk of failure. He gave freedom within a context of accountability. He was using a time-proven model of effective training and development.

As a kid on the mission field, I learned by observation, discussion and experiment. Gerry and other mentors gave me further opportunities, encouragement, critique and more freedom than I deserved.

You can trace this pattern in the way Jesus trained the Twelve. He invited his followers to observe him, explaining what He did and then releasing them to do it themselves. When they came back He debriefed them and continued the learning cycle. He chided them when they were slow learners but He kept giving them opportunities to lead.

Long before they were ready (in human terms) He delegated the task of world evangelization entirely into their hands. He gave them sufficient resources through his example and words and through the Holy Spirit to get on with the task.

The Apostle Paul employed the same strategy, counseling Timothy, "What you have heard from me...entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well" (2 Tim 2:2 NRSV).

Halifax missionary Barrett Horne is pioneering student ministry in the Ukraine. A visitor observed Barrett listening while a young Ukrainian spoke on the Lordship of Christ. He commented, "Everyone talks about training national believers; you are actually doing it." Barrett has faithfully modeled, coached and delegated, and the kingdom is advancing as a result.

Delegating helps the Body of Christ to grow by allowing people to exercise their gifts and to discover new ways of doing things. Ironically, this makes us really afraid. We are experts at the task; the young recruit is unskilled. He is

really not ready yet; she lacks the necessary wisdom; their approach will be too abrasive; they don't have enough information; their proposal will be unbalanced. The divine principle of delegation teaches us to trust that God uses the weak things of this world to astonish the wise.

It helps to remind ourselves that not everyone in the world likes things the way we personally do them. As hard as it may be to imagine, it is possible that other ways might be equally effective—or even better!

Perhaps the biggest hindrance is our fear of losing control or of losing the personal satisfaction of doing it ourselves. But if we want to graduate from single-handed operation to multiplied ministry impact, we need to practice delegating. Not only does delegation get more work done, it empowers the Body and gives it a future. This is God's larger purpose.

Let me encourage you to reflect on how you learned what you know and do. That's the evidence that unlikely candidates can learn almost anything if they are properly coached.

Here are some guidelines for effective delegation:

1. Define the task that you can delegate.
2. Invite less experienced people to take on specific tasks.
3. Communicate clearly the task and goal.
4. Identify the constraints (e.g., it must be done by..., you have this much money, it has to solve these problems).
5. Give equal amounts of freedom and responsibility. Invite them to come back to you with a plan.
6. Discuss their ideas; encourage their initiative; affirm them and pray with them for the success of the project.
7. Do not take the project back or commandeer the process.
8. Do not hover. Let them know you trust them.
9. Pray for their growth and success.
10. Celebrate the accomplishment and highlight what was done well. Do not be hasty in criticizing mistakes.
11. Invite the delegate to critique his/her achievement.
12. Support their insights. Offer additional observations in a way that will motivate them to try again. ■

For further reading: Exodus 18; Numbers 11:14-17; Acts 6:1-7

The Canadian Arena is produced by Vision Ministries Canada (formerly Interest Ministries Canada). It operates in Ontario as Vision Ontario. David Knight is an elder at Westview Bible Church in suburban Montreal where he and his wife Mary Lynn are in full time pastoral ministry. They have three college-age children.

INTEREST

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WE REST ON THEE—our Shield and our Defender!

Thine is the battle, Thine shall be the praise.

When passing through the gates of pearly splendour,
Victors—we rest with Thee, through endless days.

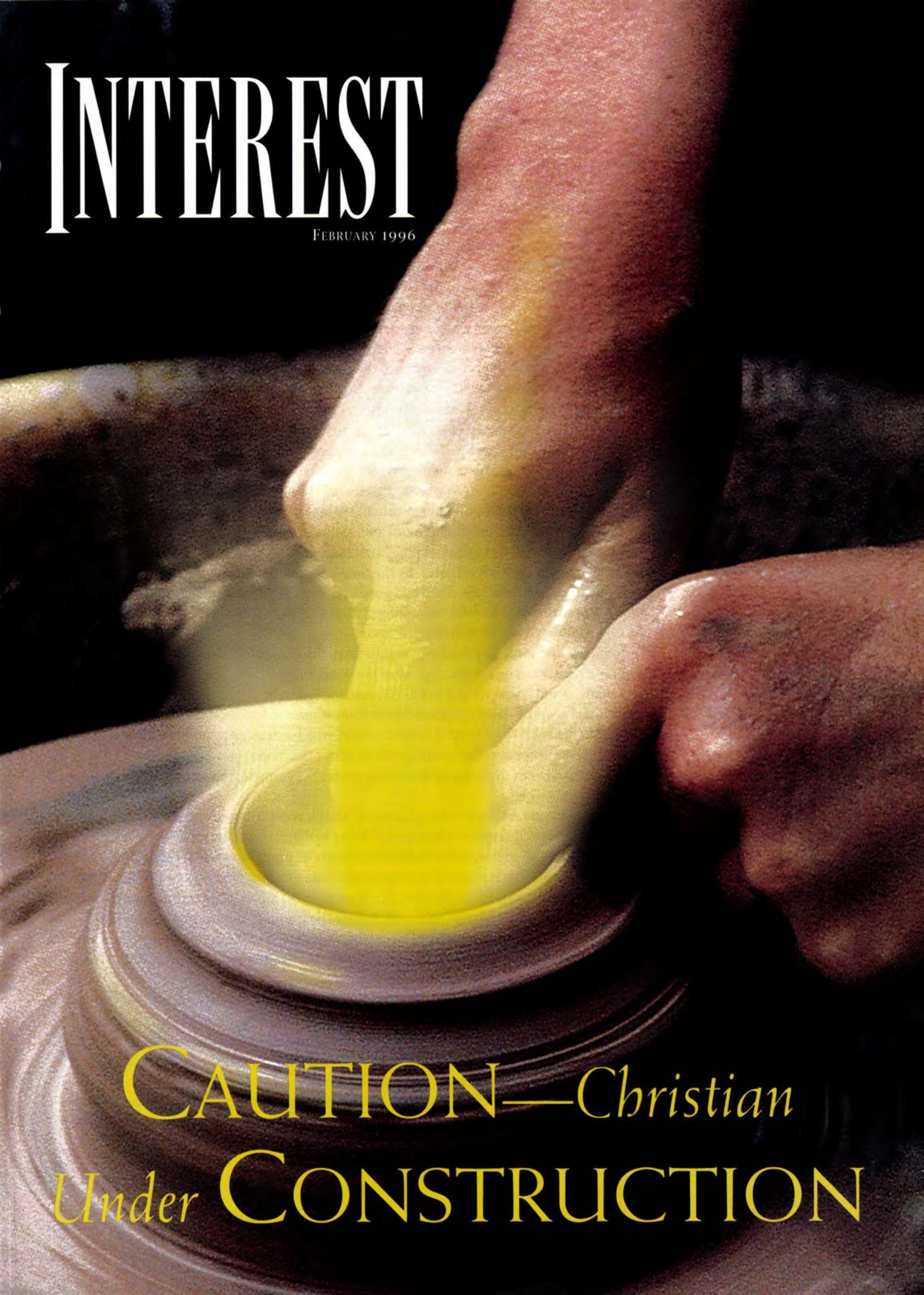
—EDITH G. CHERRY

We REST on THEE

Forty years ago JIM ELLIOT, PETE FLEMING, ED McCULLEY, ROGER YOUNDERIAN and NATE SAINT sang this hymn to the tune of "Finlandia." It was Tuesday evening, January 3rd, 1956, and these young missionaries were worshipping the Lord prior to an anticipated meeting with Auca Indians along the Curaray River in Ecuador. "Operation Auca" commenced early the next morning. Four days later, while the five young men camped at the river and prepared for their encounter, the Aucas inexplicably attacked. So it was that on Sunday afternoon, January 8, 1956, Jim, Pete, Ed, Roger and Nate entered the presence of God "through gates of pearly splendor."

INTEREST

FEBRUARY 1996

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a glowing, translucent orb. The orb has a warm, golden-yellow glow that fades into a darker, reddish-brown color at the edges. The hand is positioned as if cradling the orb, with fingers partially visible. The background is dark and out of focus.

CAUTION—*Christian*
Under CONSTRUCTION

A DECEMBER to REMEMBER



Ken Botton

We thank our Lord Jesus Christ for the discipline that transforms. Oh, how we look forward to the end result: "Not I, but Christ."

The camera!" gasped Patty. Our plane had just become airborne. "What about the camera?" I asked.

"If you don't have it, then I think I left it in the parking lot bus," responded my wife as a person who had just made an unpleasant discovery.

I didn't know what to say, but I could see her facial expression melt from a look of frozen panic to that of dejected resignation. The camera wasn't all that valuable, but who among us enjoys losing our worldly possessions? Patty felt both anger and embarrassment. I felt badly for her, knowing that I could well have done the same. We called the bus company and checked "lost and found" to no avail. The camera was nowhere to be found. Oh well, there goes another tuition payment to the "school of hard knocks."

What I didn't know, however, is that school had only begun and I had a few more classes to attend.

School went back into session a few days after our return. It was a lazy Sunday afternoon. I scanned the paper for items of major importance and assured myself that nothing required my immediate attention. I then settled back into the easy chair in order to check the backs of my eyelids for light leaks—an old Navy euphemism for a nap.

"Honey, come quick!!!" gasped Patty. My wife gasps a lot when something surprises her. "There's water coming into the kitchen through the dishwasher."

Jolted from slumber, I dashed into the kitchen with an urgency matching my wife's voice. Sure enough, water gushed onto the linoleum from under the dishwasher.

This was no ordinary leak. Water eventually submerged our kitchen to a depth of three inches, spilling over into the dining room and soaking everything in its path. Unbeknown to us, a marginally insulated fire sprinkler pipe burst behind our kitchen wall. We had no access to either the pipe nor the shut-off valve. By the time we figured out the source of the water and called the fire department, the flood had gone unabated for almost three hours. Patty and I bailed water madly as if we were on a sinking ship! God probably knew I didn't need that nap after all. I wondered what could happen next.

My wondering soon dissolved into reality when my classes in "patience" and "character building" reconvened only a few days after the flood. Picture this:

As many of you know, we at INTEREST, desiring not to be wasteful of precious resources, discontinued sending the magazine to those from whom we had received absolutely no communication in OVER three years. I drafted a letter which I deemed appropriate and reasonable to the target audience in order to inform them of our decision.

"You mean we sent the letter to the wrong people?" I gasped? Apparently, when surprised, I gasp just like my wife.

For complicated reasons involving incorrect search criteria on our subscriber database, we indeed sent the now infamous "elimination" letter to many of our most faithful readers.

The good news, of course, is that we have reviewed our procedures and identified the problem.

The bad news is that we caused enormous amounts of consternation and confusion for which we are profoundly sorry. Besides, like most people I know, I hate eating humble pie. Since all this happened around Christmas, believe me it soured the egg nog quite a bit.

I don't want you to think that all of December was devoid of the comforting presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. To the contrary, though His three lab assignments were a bit difficult, the Teacher patiently and lovingly guided me through.

Some of you have experienced catastrophes of much greater severity. I trust that you have also experienced the comfort of Christ. Having tasted something of the loving "discipline" of the Lord (see Hebrews 12), we can enjoy a renewed appreciation for the realities of the "crucified life" mentioned by Stephen Olford, and the complementing truths of "brokenness" described by Stan Farmer later in this month's issue.

I confess with the Apostle Paul, that Christ's power is perfected in my weakness. We cannot use His grace as a cover for careless behavior or any kind of foolishness. Yet, we thank our Lord Jesus Christ for the discipline that transforms. Oh, how we look forward to the end result: "Not I, but Christ."

Humbly thanking you for staying INTERESTed,

INTEREST

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YOUR TURN

THANK YOU

I want to let you know how much I appreciated the November '95 issue. Your lead article was well written and relevant to today's scene. My wife and I have long been plagued by people's seeming necessity to "pigeon-hole" everything and especially everybody. Regarding the business of "scriptural" vs. "non-scriptural," to me the simpler and more foundational question is, "Does (or will) this bring glory to our Lord and Heavenly Father?" If we can answer in the affirmative, we have little reason to be constantly digging in the Scriptures for supporting evidence.

And praise God for Loizeaux and what they have done to implement the availability of various texts to those of us who prefer the computer. This should be a God-send to many people, especially when funds are limited, and one cannot keep purchasing different software in order to get a copy of a particular text.

Praise the Lord for the pro-active stance Emmaus is taking in this world saturation of computer knowledge.

Terry Lampel,
Iowa

THANK YOU AGAIN

Just a note of thanks for the magazine which you send regularly. We appreciate getting the news

of activities through the States, so that we don't get closed up with our own activities in this land of Venezuela. It is enlightening to read what others are doing, and also the trend of thought amongst assemblies in the homeland.

Neal R. Thomson,
Venezuela

EDIFICATION AND INFORMATION

The articles in the magazine are excellent, especially the one by Brooky Stockton in the December issue, "Wise Men and Fools." I like the color—that gives the magazine an appeal. However, the magazine has become so skimpy.

Since the three brethren left, you have really lost something and those who complained have done themselves and the brethren movement a disservice. Is it possible to become so separatist that our narrowness drives people away, rather than draws them?

Ed Walker,
New Jersey

PREFER EDIFICATION AND ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

We are glad to receive Interest and appreciate it not being used as a battle ground of different ideas, but a true source of teaching for edification and assembly information.

Dennis D. Ford,
Missouri

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I HAVE BEEN
CRUCIFIED
with CHRIST;

IT IS NO LONGER

I WHO LIVE, *but*

CHRIST LIVES *in* ME;

and the LIFE

WHICH I NOW LIVE

in the FLESH,

I LIVE BY FAITH

in the

SON OF GOD

WHO LOVED ME

and GAVE

HIMSELF *for* ME.

Galatians 2:20 is one of the most crucial verses in all Scripture. It happens to be my life's text: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh [that is to say, in this body—through these eyes, these lips, these hands and feet], I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me." Though it is a text often quoted by Christians, its meaning is rarely understood. In essence, it is a powerful statement concerning the total sufficiency and efficacy of the work of Christ. While it deals with the great motives for service, the dominant thought is the complete break with the old ways of living in order that Christ might live again in the believer by faith. In a word, it runs counter to the popular notion of "Not Christ, but I." Instead, it teaches us the secret of the exchanged life.

Because I have been so burdened to share this message in a day of "easy beliefism," I have written a book entitled *Not I, But Christ*. Briefly, this teaching calls for:

THE EXTINGUISHED LIFE IN CHRIST

"I have been [past tense] crucified with Christ" (v. 20). When Paul talks about being crucified with Christ he has two thoughts in mind: first, the condemnation of the old self-life. Paul writes in Romans 8:3-4, "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

One of the reasons the Lord Jesus came to earth was to show us that we cannot live the Christian life; it's an impossible task. Only one person ever lived that life and that was Jesus (see Matt 3:27; 17:5). He alone embodied the Law, expounded the Law, and then enacted the Law by going to Calvary where He shed His precious blood to pay every demand that the Law required of a fallen race. Three days later He arose to make His resurrection life available to us and through us, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Anyone who takes that message seriously will be the first to recognize his spiritual bankruptcy. Sin is coming short of the glorious likeness of God. The Bible says, "This is the condemnation, that...light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (Jn 3:19; see also Jn 15:22).

With the condemnation of the old self-life God insists, in the second place, on the cancellation of the old self-life—"Knowing this, that our old man

was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin" (Rom 6:6). That is a positional fact as well as a conditional force. One of the greatest discoveries I ever made was that when Jesus died on Calvary's cross, some 2000 years ago, I died with Him. The literal translation says that I "shared His crucifixion." That is an historical fact; it can't be changed. On that basis alone I can be justified, but every day I must know a personal crucifixion. Every day I must deny self, take up my cross and follow Him (Lk 9:23). Only as I daily, through the Spirit, mortify or put to death the deeds of the body will I live in victory (Rom 8:13). You see, the cross is not only a message of salvation, but a method of salvation. Just as Jesus couldn't crucify Himself, but handed Himself over to God in voluntary weakness to be nailed to the cross (2 Cor 13:4), so you and I must trust the Holy Spirit to apply the mortifying power of the cross to that sin nature of ours in order that the life of Jesus might be manifested through our mortal bodies.

When I was pastor of Duke Street Baptist Church in England we had the privilege of sending out many missionaries. There was one young lady we valedicted with some misgivings; we weren't sure what would happen. As it turned out, she wasn't on the field very long before she wanted to come home. Incompatibility with another single missionary had resulted in tension and strife. The field director advised her to go away for a few days to pray and wait upon God and then come back and give her decision. Taking his advice, she also took along notes of messages I had given, including one on the adequacy of God for every situation. God showed her that she should accept her roommate's idiosyncrasies as "the nails that held her to the cross," that all those quarrels and hurt feelings were simply the manifestations of the flesh that needed to be crucified. She saw this truth and went back to her job utterly transformed. Eventually, when she went on furlough, she asked the field director to allow her to live with that same difficult person on her return to the field. That was victory! That is what the extinguished life is all about. It calls for the condemnation and cancellation of the old self-life.

THE RELINQUISHED LIFE IN CHRIST

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (v. 20). This calls for the handing over of the redeemed self to the indwelling Christ. Even though we have been cleansed, we still have a propensity to evil on the one hand, and the potential for holiness on the other, because we have Christ dwelling within us,



by Stephen Olford

Stephen Olford is founder of the Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching and is known for his expository preaching and pastoral leadership.

One of the reasons the Lord Jesus came to earth was to show us that we cannot live the Christian life; it's an impossible task.

Dr. Olford's biography, "Only One Life" by John Phillips, is available from Loizeaux Brothers Publishers (800) 526-2796 or Encounter Ministries (901) 757-7977.

*The truth of
Galatians 2:20
demands that we
live an extinguished
life, a relinquished
life, and a distin-
guished life in total
dependence on
the Father.*

strengthening us "in the inner man" by His Spirit (Eph. 3:16). Bishop Handley Moule points out that when we relinquish ourselves to Christ, the proof of it is that Jesus is "at home" in our hearts by faith (Eph 3:17).

As Heather and I travel the world we often stay in other people's homes. While we are guests in these houses we are not always at home. But when a host and hostess say, "We're off for an hour or two of shopping, but we'll be back again. Meanwhile make yourselves at home. There is the library, Stephen. There is the piano, Heather. Help yourselves to the fridge." That is being "at home."

Is Jesus at home in your life? Is He at home in your sex life, your recreational life, your business life, your church life?

But not only is He the indwelling Christ, He wants to be the impelling Christ. Paul could write, "For...me to live is Christ" (Phil 1:21). Here was a man who wrote theology, planted churches and blazed missionary trails; yet the greatest ambition of his life was simply to live out Jesus. What are you living for? Can you say, "For me, living is Christ?" Is He the passion and purpose of your life? Only when you can say "yes" can you claim to know the relinquished life.

THE DISTINGUISHED LIFE IN CHRIST

"The life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (v. 20). That phrase, "faith in the Son of God," is loaded with rich meaning. Because of our union with Christ crucified and risen, we are "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pet 1:4); we actually share the distinguished life with the Son of God.

Two aspects of this distinctive life are spelled out for us. Our Lord in His perfect humanity chose to live a dependant life. He lived by faith (see John 5:19, 30; 6:57; 8:28; 14:10). We also must live by faith (Rom 1:17; Heb 11:6). This life of dependence should be our distinctive. Anything less is to live in sin, "for whatever is not [of] faith is sin" (Rom 14:23). The other distinctive is that the Son of God lived a devoted life. He "gave Himself for [us]" (Gal 2:20). That takes in the entire sweep of His life, service and even death, in response to the will of His Father. In similar fashion we are called to the high and holy distinction of yielding ourselves to God as living sacrifices so that we might "prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom 12:1-2). Dependence on God and devotion to God are the marks of divine distinction. Such distinctiveness can be detected anywhere and under any circumstances by a watching world. Out of such a life streams of living water flow in blessing to others.

Certainly this is the testimony of God's people throughout the centuries. Martin Luther experi-

enced this blessing. He was a show-piece of discipline and penance, self-denial and self-torture. "If ever," he said, "a man could be saved by monkery, that man was I." He had gone to Rome; it was considered to be an act of great merit to climb the Scala Sancta, the great sacred stairway, on hands and knees. He toiled upwards seeking that merit that he might win; and suddenly there came to him the voice of heaven: "The just shall live by faith." The life at peace with God was not to be attained by this futile, never-ending, ever-defeated effort. It could only be had by casting himself on the love and mercy of God as Jesus Christ has revealed them to men. It is when a man gives up the struggle which the pride of self thinks it can win, but must ever lose, and when he abandons himself to the forgiving love of God that peace must come.

The blessing that flowed from Luther's life changed the face of Europe and, ultimately, the fate of millions. John Wesley was one of those affected. Here was a cultured mind, matched only by his spiritual sensitivity, servant attitude and social concern. But he was a discouraged man as he returned to England from Savannah, Georgia. He had encountered great problems in his attempt to deal with the colonists in the New World. Indeed, these outward and inward battles brought him to doubt his own acceptability before the God he loved and served. In this frame of mind he went one evening—most reluctantly—to a meeting where Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans was read. During the reading Wesley's "heart was strangely warmed." He recorded in his journal: "I felt I did trust in Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given to me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from 'the law of sin and death.'"

Armed with this message of union with Christ in His death and resurrection, John Wesley embarked on 40 years of ministry that beggars description. So mightily did the Spirit of God use him that revivals blazed in England and America throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, and the course of history was changed. The truth of Galatians 2:20 demands that we live an extinguished life, a relinquished life, and a distinguished life in total dependence on the Father. As we do so we shall know the blessing of "full salvation." This is more than a philosophy or theology. It is Jesus living in our hearts by faith moment by moment. As God's people, we must be willing to pray and mean:

Crucified with Christ, my Savior,
I am dead to sin and shame;
Now His life rules my behavior—
To the glory of His name! Amen. ■

The SECRET of the BURNING BUSH



The secret of the burning bush
Was not found from within;
T'was not the soil it grew upon,
T'was neither leaves nor limb.
The Lord Himself was all the fire;
It burst forth at His Name;
His Presence made it holy ground;
His Person, caused the flame.

His Word is like that ancient bush—
For many, desert dry—
Just leather, paper, ink and words,
Not much for passers by.
But some have taken off their shoes,
Approached on sacred ground;
The Bible flashed in holy fire,
When they, the LORD have found!

So learn the secret, child of dust,
Don't struggle for a fire;
Don't try to muster up a flame;
But make HIM your desire.
The LORD HIMSELF must be your light,
Your power to obey;
If you would be a burning bush,
HE must be on display!

—EDWARD MILLER

HEAVENLY LIFE *in JARS of CLAY*



Stan Farmer

sure to make us feel like substandard Christians.

To have failed, especially in certain areas, even many years ago, can cause us to discount ourselves as imperfect goods. In our attempts to put only our best foot forward, while carefully avoiding any admission of weakness and failings, we portray a life that seems either unreal, contrived or unattainable to relatives and friends who observe us.

Frequently we present this facade in public while harboring the pain and shame inside. This leads to nervous breakdowns and sometimes opting out. In some instances, powerful subliminal messages whisper, "Please don't be transparent in front of me because I'm not sure I can handle discovering that you are not perfect." The lesson taught by this is that perfection is the norm and anything less is failure, so I may as well dissolve into mediocrity.

GOD'S BETTER IDEA

Fortunately, God has a better idea! "For God...made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us" (2 Cor 4:6-7).

In the example of Paul's life we see a body of fragile clay and the living out of the heavenly life through that fragile mud pot in time of trouble. Some feel that if we really have the resurrection life, we should never look sad or be down! Let's take a look at Paul to see if he might shed light on this. "We do not want you to be misinformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on

As active Christians we tend to be rather hard on ourselves and sometimes overly critical. This is compounded by an artificially "high standard" projected by others and inferred in some of the Christian writing we're exposed to. Anything less than the perfect mother, model dad, star athlete, or 4.0 GPA student is

ourselves but on God, who raises the dead" (2 Cor 1:8-9).

Paul says he was under great pressure beyond his power to endure, so bad that he despaired even of life! (Sort of reminds us of Elijah out under the desert bush, crying out for God to take his life.) This is a lot of pressure on a mere mud pot!

With the suffering and pressure however, come heavenly comfort, making it possible for Paul to triumph in his troubles. "For just as the suffering of Christ flows over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows" (2 Cor 1:5).

Is it possible we think more of working for Christ, doing something for God, rather than being channels for the overflow of heavenly oil to the soul-sick people who live and work right around us?

A jar of clay pouring out comfort and rejoicing in suffering because it enabled him to comfort others. How can we hope to understand and help others in sorrow if we have never suffered ourselves? Far too often we read books and listen to tapes only to pass them on to someone we know we think really needs them, while we never experience their power in our own lives.

A lot of emphasis is placed today on being filled with joy, but we should not forget that there are broken hearts all around us and if we hope to be channels of His comfort to them, we must learn something of suffering in our own experience.

Paul gives the reason why God permitted all this pressure: "In our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God" (2 Cor 1:9).

Sometimes the Lord has to bring us to the point where we have no power to do anything and out of that weakness and impotence we cast ourselves on God. Apart from this, many of God's promises remain theoretical.

Some of us are upset when we can no longer hide our deepest feelings inside an unbroken shell. We don't mind falling apart in the privacy of our bedrooms—but we come out smiling and say, "It's all right. I'm fine."

BREAKING THE JAR

The jar of clay must be broken that the life can flow out, so causing others to break at the feet of our Lord. Ever notice that when your heart is heavy and someone who loves you extends sympathy along with a freely shed tear, you break down and weep also?

Years ago Joan and I took Shawn and Sherree to the Smithsonian Museum. While there I became fascinated with a huge prehistoric bird's egg. It looked like it might have been laid

yesterday, but it was thousands of years old and would never produce anything! No breaking, no cracks—no life. This is one of God's principles; there has got to be a breaking in order for the miracle within to have life.

The Scriptures abound with evidence to this fact. Moses strikes the rock releasing water of life to millions; the widow at Zaraphath breaks the seal on the last jug of oil, thus providing not only for her immediate needs but her ongoing livelihood. Had the alabaster box not been shattered, the house would not have been filled with sweet perfume.

In 2 Corinthians 3:5 we see the estimation we must have of this jar of clay—not that we are competent to claim anything for ourselves but our competence comes from God. It's easy to say, "I have been crucified with Christ," another to carry it out all the time. In the jar of clay there is no sufficiency, but in the heavenly treasure—all sufficiency.

In 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 we see how the all-sufficiency of God protects the clay pot. "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." Paul was perplexed but his knowledge of the indwelling Christ caused him to add, "but not despaired."

O.K., you say, I'm acutely aware of the crushing and pressure stuff, when does the heavenly life come in? Verses 4 and 5: "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds...and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God."

STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

A weak, timid jar of clay: poor speaker, inadequate mother or wife, jobless husband, bumbling father, failing student—according to man's judgment—yet used to pull down strongholds. Comparisons are easily made and when we don't measure up, we decline to take the risks. If our teaching isn't equal to John MacArthur, we'll not teach at all; if we can't pray like A. W. Tozer, we'll never pray out loud; If we can't preach like Billy Graham, we will not give a message at all!

Yet, "God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him" (1 Cor 1:27-29).

Shouldn't we be willing to be contemptible jars of clay? If we get put down, misunderstood, ridiculed or derogatorily characterized, should it affect us? Or, perhaps the better question, will it affect us? Of course!

Any one of us can be hurt. We can be touchy. We can feel discouraged, especially when we perceive that we have not been treated with dignity and respect. This is human and normal, even for Christians.

Remember, however, if there is anything beautiful in us, we tend to get the credit, not God. When it's clear that we are weak and helpless instruments, God receives the glory!

Finally, in 2 Corinthians 12:7 we see a unique way that God provided for Paul, in view of the fact that Paul was so consciously aware of his inheritance: "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great reve-

lations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me."

As long as we are mere jars of clay, we live in bodies of humiliation; the more God uses us, the more danger there is of self-exaltation. It is sometimes good for God to put His hand upon us and keep us broken, so that we do not take credit and take the glory for ourselves.

The Lord can use anyone as channels of His blessing. The question is: Would it be safe? The Lord may already be giving you as much abundance as you can bear. God would pour out upon you every blessing you've asked for, right now, if He knew it was best for you! There is no restraint in the heart of God but there are limits in jars of clay.

Truth be known, there is little outward difference between followers of Christ and those who are not.

Divorce threatens to devastate nearly as many Christian marriages as non-Christian marriages. We are as apt to be misunderstood and mistreated as pagans. We are faced with seemingly unjust premature and painful deaths, children who go astray and a myriad of common tragedies.

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE

The difference that should drive our hearts toward evangelism is that the pagan's jar is empty. They have no hope to fall back on when all else fails. In some form or other, each person is searching, groping and hoping.

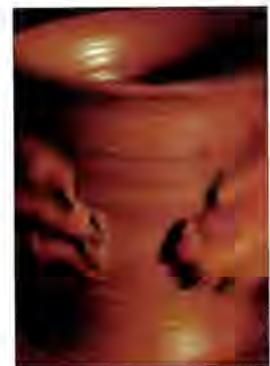
You have neighbors whose credit cards are maxed out and who teeter on the brink of financial chaos purchasing between one and ten dollars a day in lottery tickets. They are searching for treasure.

The richest treasure of all is hidden in the clay pot that is you. Your neighbor can discover it by watching you—if you'll allow them to peek through the cracks!

There is not a single prayer of yours for spiritual blessing which he will not answer but you had better leave to Him the time and the way. Don't continue trying to be something or someone you are not. Let God mold you the way He wishes and learn to be delighted with the finished product. Clay pots come in many shapes and sizes.

"Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?" (Rom 9:21).

CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY! ■



*Let God mold
you the way He
wishes and learn
to be delighted
with the finished
product. Clay
pots come in
many shapes
and sizes.*

EASTERN CANADA

A MULTI-CULTURAL AUDIENCE

Quebec's fifteen minutes of worldwide attention played out in dramatic fashion as separatists came within a hair's breadth of ripping apart a great nation. Having invested fifteen years in planting and pastoring French language churches before coming to Westview Bible Church, a primarily English-speaking, multi-cultural congregation, we understand both sides. Our prayer is that the political instability here will encourage Quebecers to seek the Unchanging One.

Sylvia graduated from McGill with an M.Ed in psychology shortly after undergoing surgery for cancer. She made it through chemotherapy and radiation and is recovering well. She is busily involved in our children's lives, doing some counseling and writing a book.

I spend my time counseling, preaching and teaching at Westview Bible Church.

*Tom and Sylvia Paul,
Quebec*

FORESTS, BROOKS AND CREEKS

After working with others for twelve years founding and establishing Forestbrook Bible Chapel in Pickering, Ontario, we returned to our home assembly, Bendale Bible Chapel in Scarborough, in the fall of 1995. We are currently assisting in the establishment of a new assembly in the Whitby area (Lynde Creek Bible Chapel).

This spring I begin teaching "The Historical Bible" in a local secular college. I've taught a sales management course for three years and suggested the Bible Course which was accepted, to our surprise.

Follow-up on Billy Graham converts and teaching in Ontario assemblies, occupies some of our time.

*Angus and Ruth Henderson,
Ontario*



Angus Henderson



The Jackson family

AIRING THE GOSPEL

Thanks to God and His people, we have now acquired an editing video system, a much needed piece of equipment for our television ministry. It was put to use immediately for dupli-

cation of 3/4" video cassettes and for editing purposes.

Our television series *Toute la Bible en Parle* is aired several times weekly throughout some 40 towns on the South Shore of Montreal. We are still praying for the reopening of airing in Montreal itself. Videotron hasn't given us any signs as yet.

This week we recorded twenty short telephone messages. This phone ministry has been on continually in Greater Montreal since 1978.

*Fernand and Yolande Saint-Louis,
Quebec*



Fernand and Yolande Saint-Louis

RECOGNIZING ELDERS

We had an exhilarating fall at Cambridge Community Church. The messages got off to a great start with David Humphrey's experiments and then a series on communication. Newcomers were invited to our connections classes. There were three Christians in the group when we started and four at the end!

My former sergeant on the police force has been attending with his family. He is asking some hard questions. The four boys have been enjoying the youth group.

It's a challenge to keep up with what God is doing in this community. Our average attendance is 150; in the fall we were trying to break the 100 barrier. We ask for prayer regarding the choosing of elders this month and how to facilitate and accommodate the growth.

*Rob and Helen Heintz,
Ontario*



Rob and Helen Heintz

EIGHT NEW BELIEVERS

We are excited about what God is doing at Lakeside Bible Church in Guelph. Eight individuals have professed faith in Christ recently. Bible Study groups have grown. Of particular encouragement has been the interest in the men's studies and a follow-up study with new Christians from the Billy Graham Crusade last summer.

We are currently seeing about 350 adults on Sunday morning with an additional 200 children in the Learning Center. We are finalizing preparations for expansion this spring so that growth may continue and more people won to Christ.

*David and Marybeth Booker,
Ontario*

SEVEN BAPTIZED

In the fall I taught a four-week discovery class designed to help assimilate new people into the chapel fellowship. Recently we had a joyous baptism service in which seven people were baptized. Since last spring the Lord has added twenty new families to the assembly.

*Kirk and Paula Lithander,
Ontario*

WESTERN USA**READY FOR THE OLYMPICS**

We are working on many projects, and sending materials all over the world, especially Latin America. Pablo is doing a good job in production and also helping Pedro in many areas of administration.

The evangelistic Olympic booklet is being distributed. We are praying that many souls will be reached through this effort and many Emmaus courses requested. Already several requests have been received as a result of the booklets.

*Pedro and Lucy Dillon,
California*

CENTRAL USA**LET THE LIGHT SHINE**

A new sign on an office door not far from our home reads "Tai Dam Translation Project." This is now the base of operations for the Translation Committee. They are making steady progress on Genesis and Matthew. The



office is unpretentious, but we envision the light that will some day shine among Tai Dam people through these Scriptures.

Please pray for ability to use a new typesetting system to prepare attractive books for Tai Dam readers.

*Jay and Dorothy Fippinger,
Iowa*

A THREE-PRONGED ATTACK

Every Tuesday afternoon about a dozen teenagers from the public and private Christian high schools come to our home for prayer and a Bible study in Philippians. It is a lively and talkative group, but they seem sincerely interested in growing in their walk with the Lord. This is one of a "three-pronged attack" we are taking at Neighborhood Bible Fellowship. The other two include a teen Sunday School Class and various outings and activities. So far this ministry shows great potential and there has been fruit in new people and visitors coming.

*Glendall and Janet Toney,
Illinois*

TEACHING POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Victory Christian School, a ministry of the Bible Chapel in Saint Louis, Missouri, is enjoying great blessing from the Lord in our 21st year. Enrollment is 197 in grades k-12.

We anticipate several openings for the 96/97 school year on the elementary level and the secondary level (Bible, English, foreign language, history and possibly other subjects). A college degree and experience working with young people are preferred; certification or a teaching degree not necessarily required.

For further information contact Stan Vaninger, Victory Christian School, 10255 Musick Road, Saint

Louis, MO 63123-5064; (314) 849-3425 (day) or 752-3778 (evening).

NORTHEASTERN USA**DIGGING DEEP**

The Father/Son retreat was held at Camp Iroquoina in November with Randy Amos as speaker. One of the themes of the messages was that children should "redig" the same spiritual wells that their fathers had dug, as Isaac did after Abraham. Fathers and sons broke into individual groups to have "dad" and "son" talks that were very profitable. Five inches of snow greeted the campers on Sunday morning.

COMMENDATIONS**RAY AND EMMA CUMMINGS**

Christians at Lake Park Chapel, Belle Chasse, Louisiana, have commended Ray and Emma (Peetsie) Cummings to the Lord's work in the deep south. Ray is a gifted leader, teacher and counselor and has a love for God's people.

The Cummings have encouraged and helped many assemblies of the deep south as well as the saints in our local assembly. Ray has been an elder here for seven years and their lives are examples of Christian conduct.

MARK AND LINDA RODGERS

The church at Lakeshore Bible Chapel, Waterloo, Ontario, has commended Mark and Linda Rodgers for the purpose of providing leadership and pastoral care for the development of a new church in Waterloo. We anticipate that a good number from our congregation will join the Rodgers in the formation of this new outreach on the west side of Waterloo.

NEWS & NOTICES

FOREIGN

MICHAEL AND DIANNA AIKEN

The believers at Laurel Bible Chapel, San Diego, California, have commended Michael and Dianna Aiken to the work of the Lord in Jamaica. Michael was born in Jamaica and came to the U.S. to attend Emmaus Bible College. He obtained further degrees in Church Music and Educational Administration. Dianna is a gifted musician and is proficient in signing for the hearing impaired.

Both have been a great help to this assembly, carrying out their ministry and helping wherever possible with enthusiasm and skill, not only among our English-speaking congregation but also among the Spanish and Asian groups at Laurel.

NEALE AND BARBARA GOETSCH

The elders of Boca Raton (Florida) Bible Chapel have commended Neale and Barbara Goetsch to the work of the Lord among Internationals in England, particularly Hindu immigrants. We have been much blessed by Neale's platform ministry, the Sunday evening Bible classes and children's Bible Clubs. The Goetsches also carried out a ministry to Asians in South Florida while they were here.

MISC. CHANGES

FRANK AND HELEN PIANKI

The elders of Palm Bible Chapel are delighted to add their commendation to that of Contoocook Valley Bible Chapel, Hillsboro, New Hampshire, for Frank and Helen Pianki. The Piankis have been in happy fellowship at Palm Bible Chapel for the past two years. During that time they not only served as Administrators for Loving Hands Home, but have been an asset to the body here. Their gifts in counseling, pastoral care, preaching and teaching are greatly appreciated and used of the Lord.

JOHN AND BARBARA TILLERY

The Christians at Centralia Bible Chapel have commended John Tillery to the work of the Lord in

the military chaplaincy as the Lord may lead. The Tillerys have been serving in Jordan, commended by Centralia and Denali Bible Chapel in Fairbanks, Alaska, and Simcoe (Ontario) Gospel Chapel.

We believe John's prior military service, coupled with his commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and his proven willingness to serve God both in the U.S. and abroad, would be assets in the military chaplaincy program and we whole heartedly commend him to this work.

ADDRESSES

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CHURCH LISTINGS

MYRTLE BEACH BIBLE CHAPEL

2903 Church St., (left at 29th St.,
No. West of By-pass 17)
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Sunday: 9:30 a.m., Lord's Supper;
11:00 a.m. Family Bible Hour; Evening
Service, 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday: 7:30
Prayer and Bible Study.

GRACE GOSPEL CHAPEL

1201 Spirea Rd., Richmond, VA.
c/o Jerome Goodman,
11009 Lucks Lane,
Midlothian, VA 23113;
(804) 379-6596.

The assembly held their first meeting in these new facilities on December 3.

PARKWAY CHAPEL

c/o E. C. Cochran,
1334 Drumcliffe Rd.,
Winston Salem, NC 27103;
(910) 768-1156

PINE RIDGE BIBLE CHAPEL

c/o George McCann,
48 Bonnycastle Dr.,
Bowmanville, ON L1C 4T1

QUEENSDALE BIBLE CHAPEL

Meets in a school at 712 Mohawk Road E.
(Mailing address Box 79505,
Gagemoont P.O.), Hamilton,
ON L8T 5A2

NEW LISTING

PEMBROKE FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

c/o Ron Locklear, Route 2, Box 92B,
Pembroke, NC 28372;
(910) 521-2870 Sunday: 9:45 a.m.,
Teaching; 11:15 Breaking of Bread.
After much prayer a number in the
Pembroke area began meeting
together in November 1994 for teaching,
fellowship, breaking of bread and
prayer. Anyone visiting the area is
welcome to join us.

PILGRIM BIBLE ASSEMBLY

800 Turtle Circle, Lexington, KY. c/o J.
Sweers, 828 Palomino Lane, Lexington,
KY 40503; (606)224-8770
Sunday: 10:00 a.m., Family Worship;
11:00 a.m., Sunday School; 6:00 p.m.,
Praise Fellowship.

MISSIONARY BREAKFAST

Assemblies in Southern Ontario will hold their annual Missionary Breakfast at the Parkway Inn, 327 Ontario St., St. Catharines, on Sat., April 27 at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are \$12.00 and can be purchased from Bill Allison, 3199 Sovereign Rd., Burlington, ON L7M 2W1; (905) 336-8101 or fax 336-2881. A number of missionaries and home workers will give reports.

COUPLES RETREAT

Greenwood Hills will host a Couples Retreat, April 19-21 with speaker Alan Parks. A relaxed weekend away with Christian fellowship and ministry from God's Word. \$120.00 per couple. Send your registration with \$35.00 deposit to Greenwood Hills, 7062 Lincoln Way E., Fayetteville, PA 17222.

SPRING CONFERENCE

The annual Spring Bible Conference at Countryside Bible Chapel, Winnebago, Illinois, will be held beginning April 19 at 7 p.m., through Sunday afternoon. Speaker: J. Boyd Nicholson on "The Work of Christ." A concert on Saturday evening by the Emmaus Bible College Choir. Contact Jerre W. Wright (815) 335-7353 or fax (815) 335-7174.

WITH THE LORD

GORDON W. THOMSON of Hamilton, Ontario on October 3, 1995. He enjoyed his role as Sunday School teacher and Superintendent at West Fifth Assembly and the opportunities to preach the gospel. His warm, compassionate love for the Lord was evident in his role as elder and assembly correspondent. Gordon and his wife were hospitable to the Lord's people.

NORTH AMERICA**RICHARD HALVERSON WITH THE LORD**

The nation mourned former U.S. Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson, 70, who died Nov. 28. Halverson, who had been in declining health, was chaplain for 14 years, retiring last March. Halverson helped make the annual National Prayer Breakfast for politicians a national institution.

BILLY GRAHAM CANCELED CRUSADES

Billy Graham canceled crusades in Australia and New Zealand this February and March. Doctors were concerned that Graham's long trip and months of separation from his regular physicians would exacerbate his Parkinson's disease. Graham also was reluctant to leave his wife, Ruth, who is in pain from a deteriorating lower back and other medical disorders.

SINGLE-FAITH TELEVISION DENIED

In Canada the government denied applications by seven Christian organizations to operate single-faith television stations. A spokesperson for the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission said the programs would not have given a "balanced presentation of various points of view." Eight applications have been rejected and one approved since the government allowed single-faith broadcasting.

LATIN AMERICA**LUIS PALAU BOLIVIAN CRUSADE**

Evangelist Luis Palau preached to 184,000 people in Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and La Cruz, November 16-25, the Luis Palau Evangelistic Association said. More than 17,000 people made commitments to Christ. In La Cruz, student political protests hampered access to the crusade site, but 8,000 people a night turned out, the LPEA said. It was Palau's third Bolivian crusade.

EUROPE**LUTHER'S TRANSLATION DISCOVERED**

The Bible that Martin Luther used to translate the Scriptures from Latin to German has been discovered at the Wuertemberg State Library in Stuttgart. The Bible evidently had been purchased unknowingly by the Duke of Wuertemberg in 1784 as part of a larger collection. Luther's translation is regarded as the cornerstone of modern German literature, news reports said.

BRITISH MONARCH ATTENDED A CATHOLIC MASS

Queen Elizabeth II attended a Catholic Mass last month, making her the first British monarch in modern times to do so. Protestant critics shouted at the Queen as she greeted Cardinal Basil Hume and entered the Westminster Cathedral in a celebration of its 100th anniversary. ■

Excerpted from National & International Religion Report.



WAITING on GOD

by Margene Terry



Lord that modern science has made it possible for me to live like this.

My intestines do not function properly so I cannot receive adequate nutrition by normal eating. My primary problem now is dealing with the frequent, life threatening infections. Presently I am on a waiting list for an intestinal transplant. This has been a two-year wait and no one knows how much longer it will be.

Isaiah 40:31 has become my theme verse: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings of eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint." The Lord gives me the daily strength to wait on Him and to carry out the activities that He would have me do. I know, too, that the day will come when I will mount up with wings and

know the joy of a perfect heavenly body.

I have found three ways of dealing with the frustrations and stress of waiting on the Lord. One is to look at what God has done for me in the past, as God told the Israelites to do in Deuteronomy 29. Two is to find the joy and the blessings in the present situation, as James 1 tells us. And, three, have faith and anticipation for what the future holds just because I am a child of God (2 Cor 4:17-18).

God has greatly blessed me in the past. I was led into a growing relationship with Him when I was in college. Through my involvement with InterVarsity, I grew in my love for the Lord. I met my husband, Tom, there and we were

Do you ever find it hard to wait? It seems we are always waiting for something—the next pay check, a repairman or a doctor's appointment. We know that sooner or later, usually later, the waiting will end. However, it doesn't seem to be that easy to wait for the Lord: we're not sure when the waiting will end.

For the past seven years I have been waiting for the Lord to either heal me or take me home to be with Himself. He has not chosen to do either. The last four years I have been receiving all of my nutrition through an intravenous line that goes directly into my heart. It is a miracle of the

blessed with four children. Our first son lived only three days, but even in that heartache we experienced God's love and comfort in a way that we have been able to channel to others many times in the nineteen years since. Our children are walking with the Lord.

I have had the joy of being a missionary as we served seven years in Greece. Even in our wait to go overseas, God's timing was perfect. We had wanted to be on our way months earlier, but we are so thankful for the churches and people we were able to minister to during that time. It was very difficult to have to come home from Greece, but we now see it was God's perfect timing, especially for our children. They needed to be back in America then.

I continually find blessings and joys in my situation. Each time I am released from the hospital I ask the Lord what He has for me yet to learn? It is a daily process of learning to rely on Him to give me His strength to do His will in me.

I am a real "doer" so it is a constant struggle just to "be" what God wants me to be. He has given me the strength to care for my family and be there for them. Sometimes that's all I can do, but that is enough.

Most of the time I am able to continue my job as a counselor on a part time basis. Other times I am able to enjoy substitute nursing in a public school. I have found great joy in working with our missionaries and often realize that it was part of the Lord's perfect timing that I was there for them. All of the time I am able to experience the love and joy of my Lord. Even in the very depths of my pain and despair, I know that He

Woman to Woman

is there and that He completely understands what I am going through.

I do have such joy in knowing who holds the future. Even though I do not know what the future holds for me. I know that I have nothing to fear for God wants to work all things out to my good and His glory.

I often laugh about the questions I ask the Lord—why He allowed this physical ailment to be a part of my life—because I realize when I get to heaven it won't even matter.

I look forward to walking into the mansion He is preparing for me and eating at that wonderful banqueting table. My body will be perfect and there will be no more pain! ■

Margene and her husband, Tom, live in Winfield, Illinois, and attend Bridgeway Community Church.

HOW TO DEVELOP AN OVERALL PLAN FOR EVANGELISM



William J. McRae

In a recent survey of Canadian Christian leaders, 87% felt their church was doing a poor job of evangelism. Eight percent felt it was doing nothing significant. While the evidence is that we don't plan to fail, we fail to plan.

Planning begins with drafting a strategy. According to the same survey, fewer than one-half of our churches even have a strategy. Where there is a plan, it probably needs to be reviewed and revised for our rapidly changing times. When there is a plan it often is "owned" only by the few who drafted it. Could you tell me the evangelism plan of your assembly or church?

An overall strategy will serve any assembly well. It provides a plan of action for everyone; it offers a rallying point for a congregation. It helps to motivate the people and it provides a basis for evaluating our commitment and effectiveness. These benefits make drafting a plan a very worthwhile venture.

DEVELOPING A PLAN INVOLVES THREE STEPS.

Step One: Lay the Foundation. This is the "What to Do" step. Without a clear current and biblical foundation, the superstructure will crumble. Three elements are absolutely essential for such a good foundation. First, identify the primary task. According to a Chinese proverb, "The main thing is that the main thing is the main thing!" What is the main thing? It is the only imperative given to us by our Lord in His resurrection appearances. It is the only word recorded in all four Gospels, as well as Acts. It is to "make disciples" by evangelism and nurturing. This is the purpose for which the church is left on earth. It is the main thing. When we identify this as our primary task it serves as a catalyst in our congregation.

Second, understand our immediate world. Carefully exegote our context: the ethnic mix, the age spread, the educational level, the religious heritage, the social classes, etc.

Third, establish a mission statement. Such a statement answers who are we trying to reach? And, what are we wanting to do when we reach them? This statement succinctly expresses our commitment to evangelism.

Step Two: Address the Hindrances. This is the "Want to" step. Our survey of Canadian Christian leaders indicates the three primary hindrances to effective evangelism. First, lack of prayer. To address this we could promote an Operation Andrew or prayer triplets, or some other plan for praying for our neighbours and friends.

Second, lack of motivation. This surely is the greatest challenge to leadership today. Prayer will help. Training courses, resource materials and celebrations of conversion will also help.

Third, lack of vision. If the mission statement answers "Who" and "What?" a vision statement answers "How will we plan to reach them?" This brings us to our last step.

Step Three: Define Your Strategy. This is the "How to" step. Our strategy must be written down, be very specific, customized for our community, diversified to include everyone and be so practical that it clearly explains how we are going to proceed. These are the characteristics of an effective strategy.

Such a strategy should include five components:

1. A prayer strategy—to mobilize our people.
2. A training strategy—to equip our people.
3. A sharing strategy—to assist our people with various methods, tools, materials and styles for sharing Jesus.
4. A discipling strategy—to follow up new converts.
5. A celebration strategy—to celebrate God at work in our midst through, for example, profiles of new Christians in the weekly bulletins, or testimonies by new converts at their baptism, or a graduation ceremony for those who complete the Sunday School course for new Christians.

None of us plans to fail. Don't fail to plan. ■

An overall strategy will serve any assembly well. It provides a plan of action for everyone; it offers a rallying point for a congregation.

The Canadian Arena is produced by Vision Ministries Canada (formerly Interest Ministries Canada). It operates in Ontario as Vision Ontario. Bill McRae is the Chancellor of Ontario Bible College and Ontario Theological Seminary. He has been involved in camp work, pastoral ministry, itinerant speaking and writing.

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NOT I, BUT CHRIST, be honoured, loved, exalted,
NOT I, BUT CHRIST be seen, be known and heard;
NOT I, BUT CHRIST in every look and action,
NOT I, BUT CHRIST in every thought and word.

Not I, but CHRIST

O to be saved from myself, dear Lord,
O to be lost in Thee,
O that it may be no more I,
BUT CHRIST that lives in me.

—A.A.F., Keswick Praise, 1975

INTEREST

MARCH 1996



Proclaiming LIBERTY:
Reaching
NEW YORK'S
Forgotten

EVANGELISM FOR CYNICS



Ken Botton

*Evangelism?
It's tough not to
be a little cynical.
The task is so big
and our abilities
so limited.*

God has a job for you and me. It's called the "Great Commission." While a lot has been written lately about the teaching and discipling aspects of this great calling, we know that process begins with evangelism.

Ah, yes—evangelism. As far as I can tell, the evangelistic enterprise involves taking a heavenly minded message to an earthly minded populace. That's like trying to broadcast a radio message to a person whose receiver is tuned to a different channel.

Evangelism? It's tough not to be a little cynical. The task is so big and our abilities so limited. In many cases it seems as if we offer answers to questions people haven't asked. Worse yet, in order for them to understand the "Good News" of salvation in Christ, we must inform them of the "bad news" of sin, judgment and eternal punishment. And that's like trying to convince the blind of their blindness.

So, let's get this straight (again, cynically speaking). On the one hand, we get a person's full attention. We announce to them that they are loved by God. We insist that this is good news.

They, on the other hand, persist in saying "What does that have to do with me?"

We, on the other hand, counter by telling them that the Bible says that they are reprehensible in the sight of God and therefore deserve eternal punishment.

They, on the other hand, assuming they haven't walked away or punched us in the nose, tell us "You've got some nerve!"

We, on the other hand (it takes a lot of hands for cynics to evangelize properly), tell them about the wonderful provision of Jesus Christ on their behalf. And on it goes.

Oh, I forgot one thing. The preceding dialogue assumes that the individual you attempted to evangelize did not already have a major league grudge against you. Imagine sharing the Gospel with a people programmed from childhood to resist at all costs what you have to say. This is the situation faced daily by those who bear the testimony of Jesus to the Jews (see "The Whale and Mr. Moscowitz" on page 4).

There's no getting around it. Fulfilling the evangelistic portion of the "Great Commission" requires the unchained aggressiveness of a Marine fresh out of boot camp, the tenacity of a pit bull and the audacity of a pork salesman in Jerusalem. Balance that list with the patience of a medieval monk, the gentleness of a new mother, and the urgent, but careful diplomacy of a hostage negotiator.

And, let's not forget that evangelism must always reflect the person and methods of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can't say too much or too little. Everything must be just right. Even then, we may still face rejection and persecution.

"When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can *evangelize and avoid becoming cynical?*" (Apologies to Matthew 19:25!)

Who, indeed? Jesus did not leave his disciples guessing for long.

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26, without apologies.)

John 15:5 and Philippians 4:13 confirm the notion that a humanly impossible task like evangelism can only be accomplished through divinely empowered Christians. He is the head and we are His body. Simply stated, the "Great Commission" cannot be accomplished without the "Great Provision."

"OK, Ken. Thanks for the theory lesson. How does this concept of evangelism translate into day to day practice?"

Are you kidding me? People write whole books on this stuff and I'm supposed to distill the subject of evangelism into 200 words or less? Seriously, even if I could, I probably wouldn't. Many books on evangelism concentrate too much on the "how to's" rather than on the "from whom's."

Rather than tell you how to do evangelism, let me point you to those who are doing it—like Arnold and Emily Ross. I salute the Rosses and all who sincerely share the Gospel with transparency, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

You know who they are. These individuals share daily, effortlessly and without a tinge of cynicism. The responsibility for evangelism is huge. Their God, however, is equal to the task at hand. Their lives are an open book and we see Jesus on every page. Perhaps one of them shared Christ with you.

Like J. Hudson Taylor of China, these evangelists "found the secret"—God's provision is equal to God's commission. Thank God it is an "open" secret. Stay INTERESTed,

INTEREST

PROMOTING NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

YOUR TURN

ENJOYING INTEREST

We continue to enjoy INTEREST. Even though it isn't as large as before, the articles and reports are helpful and informative.

Joseph Giordano,
Florida

PET PEEVES

Given the opportunity to draw attention to the substance of the two beautiful poems chosen for this issue, as you finally did in your concluding paragraphs, you chose instead to march us first through all your Christmas pet peeves, while claiming not to be an "editorial Grinch." Your words spoke louder than your disclaimer and, for this reader, detracted from the truth you were trying to highlight.

It is hard to believe that your readers need to be chastised about being seduced by the "baby Jesus" syndrome. I am sure that they were deeply moved by the poetry; sharing it with them should have been enough.

I am not sure that I agree with your premise that the nativity scenes and plays (and other traditions that remind us of Christ's birth not mentioned in your article)... result in a focus that is "woefully incomplete." As believers, with the complete truth of God's redemption through Jesus Christ, we can still benefit from examining different parts of the whole.

Robin H. MacLeod,
Massachusetts

DECEMBER IN FOCUS

I enjoyed the December issue. The In Focus article, "The Cradle, The Cross and The Crown," was good and helpful.

Carol Porter's articles always make me think. They are focused sharply, cutting through formulas and getting to the meat of women serving God in their daily lives. I don't always have to agree with every syllable she writes to be challenged. She is writing about the nitty-gritty issues of life and she is honest about what she finds. She encourages me to seek after God, to pay the price.

Thanks for the picture of the black family on the cover. The article "Evangelization of Black America" was helpful. A black family joined our local fellowship four or five years ago. They made me aware of my white focus.

Judy Trent,
Tennessee

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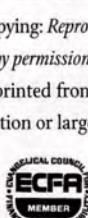
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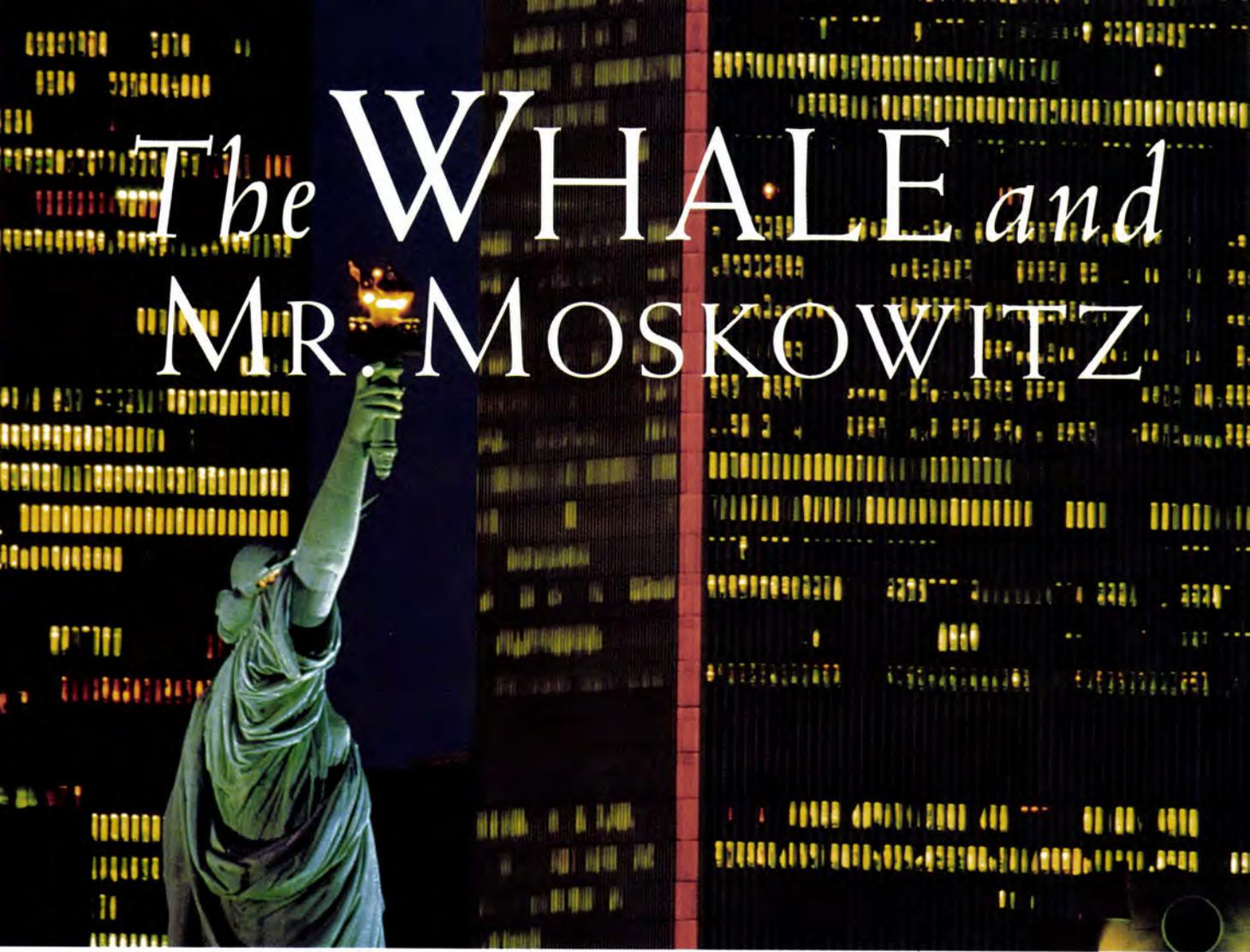
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The WHALE and MR. MOSKOWITZ



by Emily Ross



*Mrs. Ross, you
have the brain of
a sardine and the
mouth of a whale.*

*Arnold and Emily Ross are full-time
workers among the Jewish people in
New York and Long Island.*

It is written in the Torah, in Leviticus 19:18, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." And right there the Scripture adds, for emphasis, "I am the Lord."

Mr. Moskowitz was our next-door neighbor. He liked Arnold and me, and that's what made him so upset. It was all right, according to him, for the Gentiles to believe in Jesus, but his own neighbors!

I found out how upset Mr. Moskowitz was when I went to show my love in the best way I knew how; by telling him about my Messiah.

I rang his front doorbell; he opened the door and greeted me with, "Here she comes, with her Jesus." After a brief pause he added, "May God forgive me for what I wish for you." And after another pause, "Mrs. Ross, you have the brain of a sardine and the mouth of a whale."

Just as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit told me what to answer. "Mr. Moskowitz, I don't argue the fact that a sardine does not have the brain of a genius. But, you know, sardines are very good for your brain."

That stopped him and made him think. While he was thinking I added, "And as for the whale—the big fish—have you ever read in our Jewish Bible, the story of Jonah?"

"Sure," he said with a big laugh, "I know the story. The whale was swallowing everything in sight. Someone threw a crate of oranges at him, and he swallowed the crate whole. Then someone threw a chair. Someone threw a table. Finally, they threw so much stuff, the whale choked. When they cut him open there was a Jewish guy in there, sitting behind the table selling oranges. That was Jonah, the orange king!"

"Mr. Moskowitz," I said, "I know you don't want to listen to what I say, but read the Tenach—read your own Jewish Bible—and see what the story about Jonah really says."

A few days later I saw Mr. Moskowitz and asked him if he was reading his Bible. "I'm reading very little," he replied, still laughing, "but I am eating a lot of sardines."

"Good for you, Mr. Moskowitz," I said. "God made both, you know; the sardines and

the Bible. So eat the sardines God provided for you, and may they help you understand the Bible that the Holy Spirit wrote for you."

I met Mr. Moskowitz a couple of weeks later. This time when he spoke to me he wasn't loud and laughing. He was patient and kind. But he still asked, "Mrs. Ross, how can you believe in Jesus?"

"Mr. Moskowitz," I said, following the Jewish custom of answering a question with a question, "do you believe in Abraham?"

"Of course!" he answered. "Who can be a Jew and not believe in Abraham!"

"So then, Mr. Moskowitz, I have more reason to believe in Jesus than you have to believe in Abraham, because Abraham was a Gentile to begin with...and Jesus is a Jew."

"He's a what?"

"It's in the Tenach, Mr. Moskowitz. Abraham was a man who lived in Chaldea; his father worshipped idols. But because of Abraham's faith, God saved him and made him the father of many nations. The Jews are just one of those nations, Mr. Moskowitz. God saves every Jew who puts his or her faith in the promise that He gave to Abraham. Also the Hebrew prophets foretold that God would provide a Savior to redeem all the nations—Jews and Gentiles—and that Savior would be born a Jew, live as a Jew and die a Jew. It's all there, Mr. Moskowitz, in our Tenach, our Jewish Bible. And do you know how any Jew living today can receive the salvation that God provided through this Jew who died on a cross 2,000 years ago?"

Very quietly, Mr. Moskowitz asked, "How?"

"It's just like the sardine. You eat the sardines and have faith they'll nourish your brain...and now, science has proved that's exactly what sardines do. In the same way, you reach out in faith and tell God, 'I receive the Jewish Savior You sent, the Passover Lamb who died to pay for my sins, and I confess that He is Lord—Lord of all creation, and Lord of my life.' And then, Mr. Moskowitz, then what you do is allow God's Spirit to nourish your spirit, the same way God's sardine nourishes your brain."

Did Mr. Moskowitz finally meet his Jewish Messiah?

All I know is, if God could use a great fish to straighten out Jonah and make him obey, make him preach repentance and salvation to the whole city of Nineveh, then God was able to use a sardine to get Jesus into Mr. Moskowitz. I left him reading the New Testament with great interest. ■

Today, youth is revered and respected; older people are the forgotten generation. Many elderly people feel their own children don't want them and the rest of society ignores them. They ask themselves, "Where are my children? Where are my grandchildren?" They worry: "I'm alone—and I'm afraid." Ignored by almost everyone, they sink into apathy and despair.

More than 10,000 of these people live in old hotels in Long Beach, New York. The hotels have been converted into rooming houses—great heaps of tiny, dark rooms, where people live out their last years in poverty and loneliness, waiting to die. Most have been put there by their own children. Some are visited a few times a year; some, once a year; some, never. It may be hard to believe because everybody knows about the Jewish talent for making money, but all of these poor, lonely people are Jews.

The FORGOTTEN GENERATION

For years our hearts have gone out to this "forgotten generation." My husband, Arnold, and I spent every spare moment on the Long Beach boardwalk and in the dim and depressing furnished rooms, trying to bring comfort to these elderly Jews. We brought food...we brought conversation...and we brought hope. We told the true story of these people's Jewish Messiah, Jesus.

Over the years, many elderly Jews were led to the Lord Jesus. Some Christian groups came to our aid with cash contributions and with volunteers, including registered nurses who marched straight into the old rooming houses to offer both medical and spiritual aid.

Then these forgotten people were noticed! Angry rabbis and their followers rose up to oppose us. They watched and waited for us along the boardwalk, shouting at us, telling us to go back where we belonged. They called us in the middle of the night and threatened us with physical harm. They brought people from their anti-missionary schools, where Jews are taught to resist the Gospel and to combat missionary activity.

But we kept on visiting and comforting the forgotten generation of Long Beach, knowing we had the answer to any form of opposition in the world, Jewish or otherwise: our Jewish Jesus!

Sadie G. was 80 years old when she met her Jewish Messiah in a dark furnished room in Long Beach. In her youth she danced on the Broadway stage. Now she's gone home to glory. She died clutching her Yiddish New Testament, and asking if her dress was nice enough for the moment she'd meet her Lord and Savior face to face.

When we first met her, Sadie was waiting to die a lonely death—and go on to a hell no one had ever warned her about. Instead, she left Long Beach looking better than she'd ever looked on Broadway, radiant with hope and clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Himself.

Sadie is just one of many "forgotten" Jews who'll go home to their Lord after all, because someone remembered to pray for them, cared enough to go to them, and had the love to tell them about their Jewish Messiah, Jesus. Praise God! ■

Sadie G. died clutching her Yiddish New Testament, and asking if her dress was nice enough for the moment she'd meet her Lord and Savior face to face.

AMBASSADORS of

WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, AS THAT
WE IMPOLORE YOU ON CHRIST'S BEHALF, EVEN



by Joel Coppieters

We are to be known as ambassadors of reconciliation—as those who are driven by a passion to mend broken relationships.

My father's first memories of the Canadian maple leaf are firmly anchored in his mind. As the difficult years of occupation were coming to an end, he remembers walking along the streets of a small Belgian town when his mother pointed out a small red maple leaf on the side of one of the liberating force's green trucks. They may have been a part of the British contingent in Belgium, but the little red maple leaf clearly identified them as Canadians.

From Ypres and Vimy Ridge, to Lester Pearson's Nobel Prize in 1957 and our tours of duty with the U.N. in Cyprus, Canadians have built a reputation as ambassadors of peace. So our pride in the maple leaf as a symbol of peace is a little different than the patriotism for the stars and stripes our neighbors to the south feel.

Because they cherish that reputation, Canadians were understandably dismayed to see it jeopardized in Somalia by a handful of men as they tortured to death a young Somali teenager who had broken into their compound. Reports suggest that as he died bleeding in the sand, the young man repeatedly murmured the word "Canada!" Our men had taken a life they had been sent to protect.

How quickly a reputation is lost.

A CALLING TO RECONCILIATION

In 2 Corinthians 5, when Paul explains to the Corinthians their calling to reach out with the Gospel, he tells them that they are ambassadors for the cause of Christ. As he summarizes that cause, Paul uses a single word—reconciliation. This is the singular purpose for which God sent Christ into the world, to reconcile the world to Himself.

And that reconciliation was costly. God

sent His precious Son into a world that cared little for either of them. He overlooked our sins against both of them and went ahead with His plan of reconciliation, making Christ to be sin on our behalf that we might share His righteousness and be reconciled with His Father. What a price to pay! God obviously wanted reconciliation at all costs. He could not stand to see the relationship broken.

Now that Christ is glorified at His Father's right hand, we are called to continue his earthly ministry. We are called to follow his legacy of reconciliation. God wants to plead with the world through us, just as He did through Christ, but that the world would be reconciled to Him. This should be our reputation as believers.

First and foremost, Paul was making an emphatic statement about our commitment to evangelism, or rather what our commitment to evangelism should be. How many of us can really claim that we are living ambassadors of reconciliation? In too many of our lives, and in too many of our assemblies, God's appeal has been silenced or at least drowned out by other things. We should be "imploring," Paul says, purposefully using a strong word. We should be "imploring" the world on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God.

A PASSION FOR RECONCILIATION

While I do not want to detract from Paul's exhortation about our commitment to evangelism, I think it is clear that his words should touch a slightly broader scope.

My wife will confirm that I am not the neatest person, but beyond my basic efforts to help maintain at least acceptable levels of tidiness around the house, there are several things that I have a particular passion about. I keep my ties and shirts sorted, grouped by color patterns and arranged in the order of

RECONCILIATION

UGH GOD WERE PLEADING THROUGH US:
ECONCILED TO GOD. —2 COR 5:20

the color spectrum. Call it an idiosyncracy if you will, but I think of it as a practical consideration. My wife still can't quite believe that a man so committed to the order of his closet can be so blind to the dust collecting on the coffee table. I guess the coffee table just doesn't seem as important to me. We have renovated several homes and lived with plaster dust and power outages and frozen pipes, but through it all I have kept this passion for organizing my shirts and ties. For some reason, no matter what the condition of anything else, everything seems fine if my ties and shirts are organized.

While you probably don't care about the organization of my closet, I am sure that you can relate. There are, for each of us, some things that we just can't stand to see out of place. Maybe it's your bookshelf, or your pantry. Maybe you're bordering on fanatical about balancing your check book every six hours.

A MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

As Paul calls us to be ambassadors of reconciliation, he suggests that broken relationships should turn our cranks like that. We should be disturbed by broken relationships. They should keep us awake at night. They should keep us driven, because we have been called to the ministry of reconciliation.

While opinions vary on Jimmy Carter's successes and failures in foreign policy and the domestic economy, as believers committed to reconciliation, our hearts concurred when we saw him at Camp David standing between Sadat and Begin; a Christian standing as a peacemaker between an Arab and a Jew.

As an elder in our assembly, I have wept in prayer and struggled with the others to save failing marriages because, as ambassadors of reconciliation, we know how deeply the broken relationships of divorce

hurt God and damage people.

Several years ago while I served as a consultant for a firm in Western Canada, I was delegated to dismantle their office in Montreal. Among the more unpleasant tasks, I served as go between on several severance package negotiations ripe with lawsuit threats on both sides. I was thankful to God for the wisdom He provided that allowed me to serve as an ambassador of reconciliation, wrapping things up peacefully so that both parties could walk away intact, even open to the possibility of cooperating again in the future.

AN IMPERATIVE FOR RECONCILIATION

Yes, our calling as ambassadors of reconciliation primarily makes an emphatic statement about our commitment to evangelism, but it also says much about what our approach to everyday relationships should be. As an ambassador of reconciliation, can I really watch unmoved as a marriage fails? Can I tolerate a broken relationship between sisters? Can I sit idly by while I know that I have offended a brother and not take steps toward reconciliation? How tragic that strife and divisions among us so often destroy the reputation we should have as ambassadors of reconciliation.

Oh that broken relationships would move me as they moved the heart of God for His quest for righting wrongs and reconciling distanced parties. He paid a price that we can barely imagine. Not counting our sins and offenses against them, God sent His Son. As we live out our calling as ambassadors of reconciliation, may God help us to overlook wrongs committed against us and give us the grace to pay the price of peace. ■

*How tragic
that strife and
divisions among
us so often
destroy the
reputation we
should have as
ambassadors of
reconciliation.*

Joel Coppieters and his wife Debbie are in fellowship at Rosemount Bible Church, Montreal, Quebec.

SPECIAL REPORT: *EMMAUS REMEMBERS*

They DID NOT D

by Ken Fleming

Most things that happened forty years ago have sunk into the sea of forgetfulness. Even for those of us who were alive, the people, places and events are more and more difficult to recall. Not so the killing of five young men on the banks of the Curaray River in eastern Ecuador, January 8, 1956.

For me, as Pete's brother, it had more impact in my spiritual life than anything else. But, in the wider context of the Christian world, it is still one of the significant events of the twentieth century. In a number of cities of North America memorial services were held honoring Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, Nate Saint and Roger Youdarian who died from Auca spears on that day.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa, held a memorial service involving the student body and the community. The first day of classes after the Christmas break was

January 8th, exactly 40 years since the incident. It was an ideal day and an excellent way to start the semester on a high note of missionary commitment.

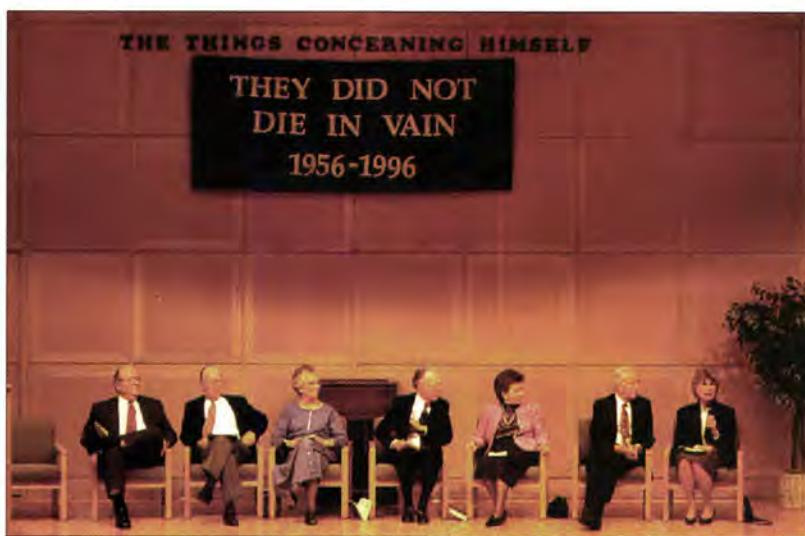
Olive Fleming Liefeld, widow of Peter Fleming, came with her husband Dr. Walter Liefeld. Jane Elliot Hawthorne, sister of Jim Elliot, came too with her husband Dr. Gerald Hawthorne. The local Christian radio station, WJTY, alerted the Christian community with announcements. *The Dubuque Telegraph Herald* Sunday paper placed a full width spread at the top of page three which touched still others.

At the college chapel service we showed the video, *Through Gates of Splendor*. Across the front of the auditorium a large banner read, "They Did Not Die in Vain." During the day three more audio visual programs were offered. The Radio Bible Class video, *Day of Discovery*, the 700 Club video, *Seeds of the Martyrs* and the Missionary Aviation Fellowship filmstrip called *Mid Century Martyrs* were all shown to good audiences.

At the evening memorial service I was privileged to welcome the 350 guests, after which we joined in singing three of the hymns loved by the five men: *Join All the Glorious Names*, *The Son of God Goes Forth to War*, and *Who is on the Lord's Side*. The auditorium rang with the sound. We gave a short historical review of the events leading up to the massacre, then something of the worldwide impact it has had with true stories from the desert of Timbuctu to the jungles of Bolivia. We heard testimonies from several who were personally touched by the incident.

TESTIMONIES

Jane Hawthorne remembered her brother Jim, five years older than herself, as her



IN VAIN

hero as well as her big brother. She had visited Jim and Betty in Ecuador, and keenly felt the loss.

In his high school days Dr. Dan Smith helped Jim and Ed by playing the trumpet for an evangelistic effort they conducted in 1951 in Sparta, Illinois. Hearing that they were killed as martyrs for Christ, he committed his life to God in a new way.

Dave Glock was a teenager, along with a girl who was deeply moved on hearing the news about the five martyrs. She made a scrapbook of the Auca killings. The impact on both their lives was significant. Years later, the girl, Melvina, became Dave's wife and fellow servant.

Charlie Fizer distinctly remembered the incident when he was a rebellious 15-year-old. Years later when he arrived at Emmaus to study the Bible the first book he read was *Through Gates of Splendor*. That book turned his heart toward missions. He and his wife, Darleen, served God first in Korea and then in the correspondence department of Emmaus.

Olive recalled some of the painful experiences she endured as a bride of 18 months when Pete died. And there were questions which plagued her. In the 1980s, during a visit to the very spot in Ecuador where Pete had been killed, some of those questions were answered in a remarkable way as she talked to Auca women who had watched the killing from the shelter of the forest. Olive explains some of those answers in her book *Unfolding Destinies*.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

A panel of three couples: Olive and Walter Liefeld, Jane and Jerry Hawthorne, and Helena and Ken Fleming fielded questions from Dave Glock. One of the questions had

to do with the level of commitment in the 1990s compared with that of the 1950s. The panel agreed that there are

still many young believers who are highly committed, but due to the influence of our materialistic, self oriented culture, submission to the lordship of Christ is more rare today.

The Emmaus Ensemble, led by Lisa Beatty, sang most meaningfully *We Rest on Thee* to the tune of *Finlandia*, the song that, more than any other, has been associated with the five martyrs. The men and their wives had sung it in college. Pete and Jim had sung it as their ship neared port in Ecuador in 1952 and all five sang it together at Arajuno the morning "Operation Auca" began. It was a moving moment for all of us.

Dr. Walter Liefeld spoke on the subject, "The Seven Steps to Glory of the Martyr Stephen." He skillfully led us to see that the pathway to glory begins with quiet commitment and servanthood to God long before any incident which may be remembered by the world. All of us should seek to "follow in his train." Jim Catron, closed the service by asking God to give us all grace to follow the faith of those who had laid down their lives.

A reception followed when guests and students could interact with the visitors, purchase books about Ecuador and have them signed by the authors. It is our prayer that because of the memorial, it will be more true in each of our hearts that "they did not die in vain." ■



Readers may be interested in Olive Fleming Liefeld's book: *Unfolding Destinies: The Untold Story of Peter Fleming and the Auca Mission* published by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, or in Ken Fleming's new book: *Peter Fleming: A Man of Faith*, published by Christian Missions in Many Lands, Spring Lake, New Jersey.

WESTERN CANADA

VENTURE TEAMS INT.

In April a Christian High School in Calgary is sending two teams overseas through Venture Teams International, 12 to Belize and 10 to Mexico. A Calgary church is also planning to send members of their youth group to Mexico. This team will have 10 to 18 members.

Pray with us that God will help our ministry to grow as we continue to recruit and train both high school and college and career teams.

Mark and Carol Lane,
Alberta

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Our ministry to international students is continuing. At a recent Billy Graham meeting, beamed in from Saskatoon, one Chinese couple from our group went forward when the altar call was given. The man afterwards expressed that he needed more time before committing himself completely, but wants to read the Bible daily. Both come to our Bible study.

We have two Bible studies at the University of Regina and one conversational English class at a church close to the university. But we need more friendship partners.

Garry and Connie Engler,
Saskatchewan

EASTERN CANADA

MALL BOOK STORE

The Bible Fellowship Assembly in South Porcupine, Ontario, continues to develop both in numbers and in the growth and maturity of those who attend. Harmony House, the Christian Book Store in the local mall, also continues to grow and give opportunity to meet and minister to many people.

Chester and Marion Donaldson,
Ontario

NEW YEAR'S WEDDING

On New Year's Eve we met with believers of the local assembly, ending 1995 and beginning 1996 in prayer. Then we drove half an hour to another

city where I performed a wedding at 2 o'clock in the morning on January first. Most attendants were non-believers so the privilege to present Christ the Savior was wonderful.

Fernand and Yolande Saint-Louis,
Quebec

SIMPLICITY AND SINCERITY

A new book by Walter Scott entitled *in simplicity and godly sincerity* is a plea for harmony among assemblies with varying practices. It is a fresh look at the current applications of New Testament principles, supported by over 1,000 Scripture references. 165 pages, soft cover. \$10.00 Can., \$7.80 U.S., postpaid. Order from Box 152, Ayer's Cliff, QC Canada J0B 1C0; (819) 838-4260.

MANAGER NEEDED

Emmanuel Bible Camp in beautiful Prince Edward Island is in need of a semi-retired couple to help manage the camp for the summer season. This assembly camp has served the Lord, ministering to children for over 40 years. The couple must have a love for children and a gift for hospitality and some administrative skills. Ability to work cooperatively with others would be an obvious asset. For further information, write Emmanuel Bible Camp, 8 Gower St., Charlottetown, PEI C1A 5V2 or call (902) 569-3307.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The ministry and visitation at Grace Chapel, Sherbrooke, keeps us busy. As a new community outreach effort, we conducted a day care program for Christmas shoppers for two Saturdays. Three unsaved families brought their children and they each received a salvation booklet with a bulletin telling of our assembly activities. One family came to the Family Bible Hour the following day.

The French Emmaus correspondence course outreach adds new stu-



Virginia and Richard Strout

dents each month. Virginia corrects the courses and Richard handles the correspondence and answers some student questions.

The latest addition to our ministry is a leadership training program developed by workers from French assemblies. This is a decentralized, non-residential program with 40 students currently enrolled from nine assemblies. The program offers help to those assemblies who wish to train their own leaders.

Richard and Virginia Strout,
Quebec

WESTERN U.S.

TO THOSE IN PRISON

What was to be a two-week evangelistic blitz in Russia has turned into over two and a half years in which the Lord has seen fit to reach tens of thousands with the message of the Gospel.

The Lord has given us favor with the Russian prison officials. He has blessed us with office and warehouse space in the two largest prisons in Russia, housing over 17,000 prisoners, and a chaplaincy staff of 15 dedicated Russian workers. We are the only evangelical group working in these prisons. Carole and I and the Freemans train, oversee and assist.

We have a radio program that spans eleven time zones and has a potential listening audience of over 240 million people, covering the whole former Soviet Union. We receive hundreds of letters requesting help, Bibles and study courses.

With the precarious political situation and the strong resurgence of communism, our time in Russia could be limited. From the inception of our ministry there I have had three Ts on my mind—train, translate and turn the ministry over to the dedicated Russians. Prayer is desperately needed for the doors to remain open to the Gospel.

Phil and Carole Wagner,
California

ALMOST 100

I reached my 97th birthday a short time ago and thank God I have fair health for my age.

Mrs. John Walden,
Colorado

HAWAII CONDO

Christian-owned Condo is available in Kihei, Maui (Hawaii), Kamaole beach. Completely furnished, sleeps four. Large pool, excellent restaurants, golf, tennis, shopping, water sports activities nearby. Call (California) (800) 484-7829. Sec. Code Maui (6284).

CENTRAL U.S.

MISSIONS TRIP

Preparation for Bolivia Team '96 is in full stride. We are praying for 15 quality team members. It is a no-nonsense mission that transforms all who go.

*Homer and Margaret Payne,
Minnesota*

FAITHFUL SERVICE

We are keeping busy in the work to which God has called us, preaching at various chapels, leadership of The Ezekiel Project's training and discipling as well as giving leadership in our home assembly as one of the elders.

Barb is a school teacher and Awana leader besides managing our home.

*Chris and Barb Schroeder,
Michigan*



The Schroeder family

FOLLOWING HIS LEADING

We rejoice in our appointment as Bible Teacher at Long Lake Community Church in Minneapolis. We hope to move there July first, enabling the children to complete the school year at Buffalo Grove High School.

I have been teaching the Adult Bible Class at Arlington Countryside Church, now I have seven weeks at Bethany Chapel in Wheaton and in March at Lombard Gospel Chapel.

*David and Launa Corbin,
Illinois*

TEACHING IN ROMANIA

My six-week trip to Romania will be very busy with two weeks of intensive teaching at T.B.I., conferences with elders and church leaders in Ploiesti and Bucharest, a youth conference, preaching every Sunday in morning and afternoon services, two weeks of training elders in pastoral team work and three days of radio ministry.

Six years ago, when freedom came to my oppressed nation, there was joy and hope for a new beginning. But the miraculous change did not come. Today, Romania is hurting, struggling to purge its politics of communism and corruption.

Millions are unemployed and because of inflation 97% of Romanians are four times poorer than six years ago. Most people have difficulty putting food on the table. Because of this, family crisis, abortion and alcoholism are increasing at the same rate.

*Elisei and Adriana Rusu,
Illinois*

NEW YEAR'S EVE BAPTISM

December 31st we baptized two new believers, one is a Lebanese young man. His wife accepted Christ four years ago and he followed her later. The other is a Syrian lady who used to be a Jehovah's Witness.

*Ata and Salwa Mikhael,
Michigan*

NORTHEASTERN U.S.

STUDENT TEAMS

A good chunk of last year was involved in a mission trip to the Philippines. Nine PCB students and I assisted at five different schools. Most of the time was spent at Faith Academy, the school for missionary children.

We had a large group of student teachers out this fall and I made many observation visits. I am advisor to the Junior Class as well as the Student Missionary Fellowship. I also continue to speak at various churches and retreats.

*Gregg Garman,
Pennsylvania*



Gregg Garman

SOUTHERN U.S.

COUNTRYSIDE MINISTRY

We continue to help and encourage some of the assemblies in the greater Tampa area. As I am able, I do volunteer work for the Moody Radio station in St. Petersburg.

We will spend March and April in Lexington, Massachusetts, helping Countryside Bible Chapel.

*Joseph and Connie Giordano,
Florida*

BAHAMAS

JESUS IS THE ANSWER

The past year had its bright days and its dark days. We have seen the hand of our Lord in the valleys as well as on the mountain tops.

We continue with our radio ministry, twice weekly on our local station. Bible teaching and Gospel ministry continue with a full schedule. At present we are completely immersed in plans and preparations for the "Jesus is the Answer" Crusade to be held in Spanish Wells, April 14-28. I have been invited to direct the crusade.

*Lewton and Ivorene Neilly,
Spanish Wells*

ADDRESSES

CLARK MCCLELLAND, 160 Marion Place, Frostproof, FL 33843-9401

CHURCH LISTINGS

OAK BAY GOSPEL ASSEMBLY, c/o John H. Jobbins, #1-3951 Bethel Place, Victoria, BC V8Z 6J2; (604) 744-5068, (fax) 744-5087

UNIVERSITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, c/o Alan Christensen, 1221 Franklin, Cedar Falls, IA 50613; (319) 277-5088

CONFERENCES

MEN'S RETREAT

Jim McKendrick will speak on Biblical Manhood at the men's retreat at Camp Iroquoia, March 22-24, 1996. Call Tom Freeman (609) 585-1835 or Jim Weisbecker (717) 967-2577 for further details.

SISTERS MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Sisters Missionary Classes of Philadelphia area will be held April 13 at Faith Community Church, 1200 Easton Rd., Roslyn, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information contact Mrs. Betty Herman, 430 Flamingo St., Philadelphia, PA 19128; (215) 482-1234.

POTLUCK DINNER

The saints at Hamilton Bible Fellowship, Trenton, New Jersey, will hold a pot luck dinner at 6 p.m., April 27 with Randy Amos as guest speaker. All are invited. Call Tom Freeman (609) 585-1835 or Harry Neil (609) 890-0450 for further details.

ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE

Limon (Colorado) Bible Chapel will hold its annual Bible Conference, April 27-28 with William MacDonald, Carroll Van Ryn and Ben Parmer as speakers. Accommodations provided. Contact Limon Bible Chapel, P.O. Box 1208, Limon, CO 80828 (719) 775-9788 or 346-8547.

NORTHWEST WORKERS CONFERENCE

The annual Northwest Workers Conference will be held at Lakeside Bible Camp, May 14-17 with speaker, Doug Kazen on the theme "Prophetic Truths." Open to anyone in the Lord's work, including elders, deacons, Sunday School teachers. Cost is \$54.00 U.S. Contact: Dean Mills, 2500 S. 370 Street, #89, Federal Way, WA 98003. In Canada call Craig Finston (604) 578-7707.

ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

The fifth annual Spring Conference will be held at Claremont Bible Chapel, 432 W. Harrison St., Claremont, CA, May 17-19. Speakers expected are: Jack Heseltine and J. B. Nicholson, Jr. Accommodations available. Contact Henry Kamenka, 1400 W. 13th St., Sp. 91, Upland, CA 91786-0437; (909) 985-0437.

WITH THE LORD

VIRGINIA HEATH

Virginia Heath, of Pittsboro, North Carolina, went to be with the Lord on December 14.

CAROL MESSERLY,

Carol Messerly, 67 of Stratford, Iowa, on January 6 of ALS (Lou Gehrig Disease). Carol came to the Lord Jesus in 1948 after which she intently applied herself to the study of God's Word. She was a skilled communicator of spiritual truths and was active in Youth for Christ, Child Evangelism and, for many years, counseled at Story Book Lodge Christian Camp in Minnesota. One of her interests was writing a column for the *Fort Dodge Messenger* called "Highlighting Home-making," as well as contributions to other publications.

She and her husband Wayne were used to establish the thriving Countryside Bible Chapel in central Iowa. There Carol became known and loved as "mother" and "grandmother" to scores of young mothers and their children.

She left a spiritual heritage and testimony to her own family of three sons, two daughters, grandchildren and many others.

Carol Messerly



COMMENDATIONS

JOHN AND GRETHA LANGENDOEN

Believers at Gorrie (Ontario) Bible Fellowship have commended John and Gretha Langendoen to the work of the Lord. John and Gretha have been associated with the assembly since its beginning in 1985, John serving as elder and in visitation and speaking. Gretha has served as Sunday School teacher and as an encourager.

The Langendoens are available to serve in camps, missions and churches or wherever the Lord calls them.

HAROLD AND SHARON LYONS

Christians at Westlock, (Alberta) Gospel Chapel have commended Harold and Sharon Lyons to the service of the Lord at the assembly. They have been active in the local ministry and in children's work, music, teaching and hospitality at Bethel Bible Camp and other places. They are both graduates of Mount Carmel Bible School in Edmonton. They have two sons, Russell and Jason.

FOREIGN

DONALD AND GERALDINE STEELE

Last fall Lakefield (Ontario) Gospel Chapel commended Donald and Geraldine Steele to the work of the Lord in St. Kitts for a temporary period. Don has been a source of stability and encouragement, particularly in discipling young men and Gerrie in leadership in women's Bible studies. The brethren in St. Kitts expressed appreciation for their ministry and noted the great need for assistance in several parts of the island.

We are now pleased to extend the commendation of Don and Geraldine Steele for a further period of three years. The Steeles intend to spend their time working among the assemblies, particularly in founding a new assembly in the village of Fig Tree.

TIM AND KATHY WHATLEY

Believers at Gorrie (Ontario) Bible Fellowship have commended Tim and Kathy Whatley to the work of the Lord with New Tribes Mission. The Whatleys have attended our assembly while studying at New Tribes boot camp in Durham. We appreciate their love for the Lord and their desire to serve Him.

MISC. CHANGES

DAVE AND LEONA DOUGLAS

Believers at Tieton Drive Bible Chapel in Yakima, Washington, have reaffirmed their commendation of Dave & Leona Douglas to the work of the Lord. The Douglasses have been serving at Immanuel Mission in Arizona for six years.

BLANE MEIER

The assembly at Eastgate Bible Chapel in Portland, Oregon, has withdrawn the commendation of Blane Meier since he is no longer engaged in ministry at Eagle Fern Camp. We remain in fellowship with Blane.

MARK AND FAY PLAZA

The Plazas have advised the Christians at Blasdell Gospel Chapel that they will not be returning to Honduras in the near future. The assembly has changed their commendation to the Lord's work in the United States and Canada. Mark is currently teaching at a Christian school and engaged in itinerant speaking as the Lord leads. They are leading Bible studies and working to reach people in our neighborhood.

ROBERT SPICER

It is with regret that the body at Blasdell Gospel Chapel, New York, has accepted the resignation of Robert Spicer as a worker commended from their assembly.

INTERNATIONAL BRETHREN CONFERENCE ON MISSION II TO BE HELD IN ROME, ITALY

June 17 to 21, 1996

Join world Brethren leaders in Rome as they discuss this year's theme: "New Horizons in Missions." The conference reservation fee of \$300 includes hotel and meals.

For further information and application forms, contact Donovan Case at (314) 327-5387.

WORLD WINDOW

NORTH AMERICA

- Some 1,000 high school students from 32 states gave up part of their Christmas vacation to draw closer to God during "Something's Happening USA" in Atlanta, Dec. 27-30. Students prayed, became familiar with various Christian organizations and prepared themselves for evangelism, said Chuck Klein, executive director of Campus Crusade's Student Venture.
- In Hamilton, Ontario, some 600 missions-minded young people attended Student Mission Advance Dec. 26-30. The conference theme: "Awakening Our Generation—Whatever it Takes" emphasized commitment to missions, revival and prayer.
- The United States may be "in an Abraham moment," Republican presidential candidate Alan Keyes is telling audiences. The moral state of the country is so precarious that the only thing restraining God's judgment is the pleas of the righteous, similar to Abraham's prayer for Sodom, Keyes said. The arrogance of people who hold God's laws in contempt while asserting their own desires has caused the situation, he told NIRR (1/22/96).
- Luis Palau launches interactive alternative to Trash TV. "Night Talk" aims to counter trash TV by offering positive help to hurting people and pointing the way to Jesus Christ. The evangelistic call-in program is televised live by a network TV affiliate during a crusade. It airs every Sunday at 11 p.m. (Eastern) on Faith and Values Network and every Monday at 10 p.m. (Eastern) on Inspirational Network. (LPEA News Release 1/11/96)

AFRICA

- Burundi: About 20 Christian church and relief workers were killed in escalating violence between Tutsi government forces and Hutu rebels, news reports said. The relief agency World Vision said that workers with two of its partner organizations died last month [December].

ASIA

- Chechnya: The year-long war for independence from Russia has produced an Islamic revival in the republic, news reports said. Many Chechens are turning to Allah for comfort and guidance after seeing their countrymen and families killed in fighting and artillery attacks. Islam was prominent in the region before control by the Soviet Union, which persecuted all religions.

LATIN AMERICA

- Ecuador: Kidnapped Nazarene missionary Don Cox was rescued on Christmas Day and has returned to the United States. Cox was freed by Quito police, who killed three of his abductors in a jungle north of the city. The captors had demanded a \$500,000 ransom. ■

(Excerpted from National & International Religion Report 1/8/96, unless otherwise noted.)



TOO TIRED TO PRAY

by Debbie Locklear



I've never been so tired in all my life. The days seemed to last forever and I felt like every night was the night of the living dead.

Our four month old son Nathan had been sleeping through the night for quite some time when he must have decided that I was getting too much sleep. I would go to bed around 9:30-10:30, but a not-so-still or small voice would wake me up a few hours later. By the time I got to his room to check on him, he was sleeping peacefully, and looking quite angelic. I slowly shuffled

back to bed and by the time I got settled in he would let out another cry, as if he had radar and knew the exact moment to scream. About this time, Nathan's cries would wake up his older brother Simon, who needed a comforting nudge back into bed.

This scenario repeated itself for a couple of weeks leaving me exhausted. But more than just being physically drained I realized I was emotionally and spiritually tired as well. The demands of mothering a very active two-year-old (isn't that redundant?) and a newborn, in addition to working part time, being a wife and acting in occasional dramas at church was taking its toll on all areas of my life.

I knew for my physical well being I had to make

didn't sit down and read an entire book in the original language, or do a study on the life of Hezekiah. I went where I usually go when I feel spiritually low, to the book of Psalms. Many times I find verses that I've underlined in the past that speak to me again. The Psalms are full of encouraging words for a weary soul.

Psalm 19:7-8 remind me why reading the Bible is so important at a time like this, "The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Verse 10 sums up why Bible reading is so satisfying, "They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb."

As busy women in the 90s, whether career women or stay-at-home moms, or both, there may not be an hour or two just to sit and soak in the Word. But we need to be creative in finding quiet moments that can be devoted to God. Try the following this week. Instead of becoming impatient while stopping at a light, waiting in a check-out line or while on hold on the phone, use that time for praying, memorizing a verse or thanking God for your circumstances. This can be a good exercise for your heart and for your spirit.

True spiritual rest can

Woman to Woman

some changes, and exercise was going to be a necessary part of it. Just a few minutes a day at first was all I could do, but gradually the time grew, giving me more energy and lifting my spirits as well.

I also had to address the fact that I wasn't getting anywhere close to eight hours of sleep every night. So I followed the practice I learned way back in kindergarten, take a nap! Getting both boys down at the same time was something just short of miraculous, but it did happen and I got some extra rest.

Now for the spiritual side. Just like in my exercising, I needed to take it slowly. I

only come from God as we meditate on His Word and commune with Him in prayer. I can picture Jesus holding out His arms reaching out to me as He says "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28).

If you have found a creative way to get through a spiritual low spot in your life, let us know. We would like to share your ideas with our readers and help each other find refreshment and rest in God. Please send your ideas to the magazine to my attention or E-mail me at DLOCKLEAR@aol.com. We will try to print them in an upcoming issue. ■

Debbie is the Managing Editor of INTEREST Magazine. She and her husband Joel attend Bridgeway Community Church, where they are involved with the drama ministry.

DISCIPLING THOSE WHO COME THROUGH OUR DOORS

by Tim Fletcher

What is meant by the term "make disciples?" First, it is evangelism—leading people to faith in Christ, where they commit themselves to be His followers. Second, it is "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"—leading them to Christ-likeness.

This places a responsibility on the church to disciple all those who come through its doors. How does the church do that?

Some churches have chosen to implement discipleship programs. Many have debated the value of structured programs versus less formal methods. Though each assembly needs to think carefully through the various options, they must also realize that unless certain foundational principles are in place, no method will work. Effective discipleship flows out of:

UNDERSTANDING THE GOAL

Does the church know what it is aiming at when it talks about discipling people? Christ instructs us to teach people to "obey everything I have commanded"—where every aspect of their life is under Christ's lordship. That includes character, consistently displaying biblical attitudes in every aspect of life; service, reaching out to the unsaved, being committed to a church body, developing and using their spiritual gift; discipline, building the necessary disciplines into their lives that enable them to grow in their understanding of the Word of God and in their relationship with Him.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Howard Hendricks has said, "Programs for mentoring succeed or fail depending on the extent to which they honour the fundamental law that mentoring involves a relationship, not a program." We cannot expect people to be discipled through attendance at Sunday morning church services alone. We cannot know how best to lead a person toward Christ-likeness unless we know where they are in their spiritual pilgrimage. Thus, effective discipling flows out of cultivating a growing relationship with the disciple, a relationship marked by openness, vulnerability, respect, trust and accountability; a relationship where you know each other's history, interests, aspirations and struggles.

LEADERSHIP MODELS

If church leaders aren't involved in discipling others, it is doubtful others in the church will see it as being important. But church leaders not only need to be involved in discipling others, they need to create an atmosphere conducive to discipling—an atmosphere marked by openness, vulnerability and honesty. People must see that the leaders don't wear masks and that they don't pretend they

never struggle themselves.

Church leaders need to remind the church of the priority of discipleship and that everybody must be involved. Then they need to encourage mature Christians to disciple those younger in the faith.

BALANCE OF TEACHING AND HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

If people are to "obey everything" Christ commanded, they must know what God commanded. This must be balanced with the practical commands of Scripture as well as the great foundational doctrines. This does not mean they are walking theological dictionaries, but they need to understand how those doctrines work themselves out at home, at work and in society.

Christ did not just train His disciples in an academic setting. He gave them hands-on experiences that enabled them to develop their God-given gifts. We must help people learn how God has equipped them to serve Him by exposing them to outreach ministries as well as in-house church ministries.

DISCIPLESHIP DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN

The word "discipleship" includes the idea of "discipline." Our culture wants everything to be entertaining. There is an aversion to the idea of discipline. We must fight against that. Further, the church can no longer assume the biblical literacy of the newcomer. Quite the contrary. Often people know very little about how Christ wants them to think or live. Further, many Christians are stagnant spiritually. They indulge themselves with the junk food that the world offers and have little appetite for spiritual food.

To disciple those who come through our doors takes effort. But God will reward such effort with a healthy church body. **I**

If the church today is to be as God intends, then it must take seriously the Great Commission and "make disciples of all nations."

—Mat 28:19

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BOUNDARIES

Written on the sign across the stairway leading to the bridge of the Washington State Ferry: "Do not go beyond this point without permission from the Master."

The regulation is there, I'm sure, for reasons of safety. After all, I wouldn't want the Master of the vessel distracted while piloting through the straits of the San Juan Islands. Nor would I want the Master to get caught up in a conversation with a passenger when he should be docking the ferry.

Rules and regulations also act as boundaries. On the ferry there are places where passengers can go and places where they cannot. The boundaries are for the passenger's safety and for the safe operation of the vessel. It's much the same for us Christians. There are boundaries for our safety.

Commands in God's Word are boundaries. Some are there to keep us from sinning—you shall not commit adultery, you shall not lie, you shall not steal. Others are there to help us live rightly—love your neighbor, honor your parents, submit to one another.

But what do we do when there are no clear commands to obey or obvious sins to avoid? A lot of people call these "gray areas." I believe Philippians 4:8 addresses them: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things."

Philippians 4:8, then, is a boundary. Whatever the gray area, see if it falls within the boundaries of the verse. Is it right or pure or admirable or noble? If so, perhaps I can proceed. If it falls outside the boundaries, I'd better not go beyond that point without the Master's permission. —STEVE SEEMAN

INTEREST

APRIL 1996

WHEN *empty* EQUALS FULL:
SURPRISED by
TRIUMPH
and HOPE

RESURRECTION: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL



Ken Botton

Death. Until now, I've only experienced death at a safe emotional distance. Until now. As of this writing (late February) all of my "significant others" (wife, parents, brothers, in-laws and close friends) are alive and enjoy arguably good health. Except one. One of my close friends.

When I met Karl, he was serving as Executive Officer of USS Mauna Kea (AE-22), homeported at Naval Station, Mare Island, California near San Francisco. It seems that Karl, then a Lieutenant Commander, took an immediate liking to the brand new assistant Squadron Chaplain. That was me! Though I had served previously as a line officer, I still felt the awkwardness of someone fresh out of seminary, fresh out of Chaplain school and straight into my first assignment as an assembly commended Chaplain.

Karl's vessel was one of seven ammunition ships in the Squadron. The senior Chaplain and I would take turns visiting each command. Whenever I came aboard the Mauna Kea, Karl inevitably invited me up to his office for a cup of coffee and an update on ship's personnel. I looked up to Karl. That was a natural—he stood well over six feet! With my frequent official ship visits, we soon became good friends.

One day Karl asked me to marry him. Let me rephrase that—he asked me to preside at his wedding. I was floored! I didn't fully know Karl's spiritual background, and had never met Jan, his intended. I felt flattered that he should ask, but concerned because I could not perform the ceremony unless they were both Christians.

"In order to do your wedding you and Jan will have to undergo four months of weekly pre-marital counseling with me." I thought that the extensive counseling requirement might cause him to look elsewhere.

"Great! No problem! When can we start?" Karl responded enthusiastically.

"Before I can marry you, we'll really have to come to an agreement on the meaning of marriage." I was euphemistically hinting that I would not do the ceremony unless they both became Christians. Karl probably missed the point.

"Great! No problem! When can we start?" Karl remained absolutely unflappable.

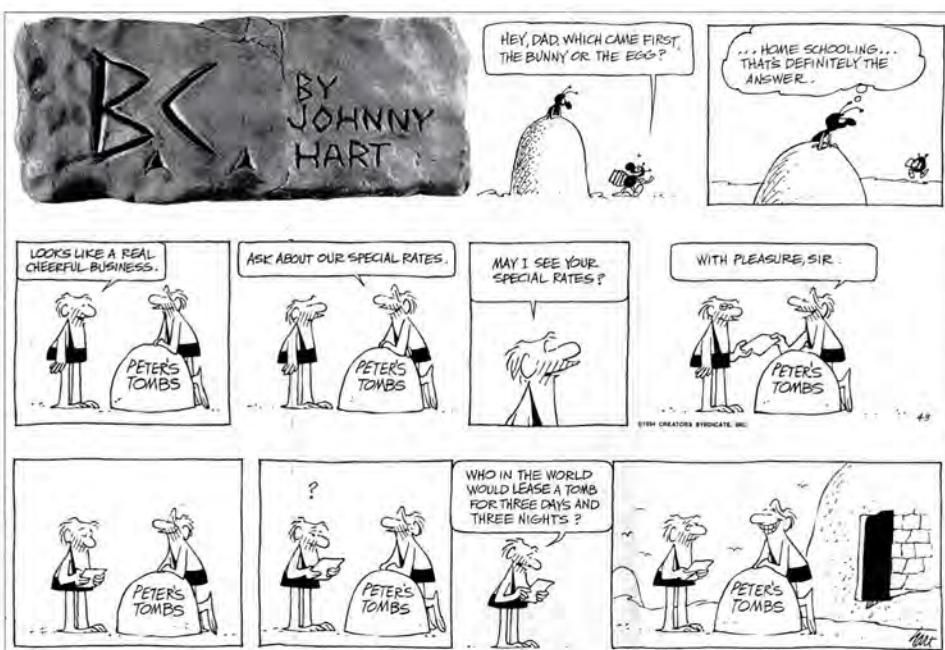
By the grace of God, both Karl and Jan made life-changing professions of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ during the course of the pre-marital counseling. Later, amidst the beauty of the Treasure Island Navy Chapel and with pomp of uniforms and swords, I performed my first wedding ceremony. Karl and Jan, united to Christ, united to each other, "til death do you part."

I just received a letter from Jan. She and Karl were becoming involved in the Internationals Ministry at their church. At a ministry organization meeting, Karl suffered a massive heart attack. Paramedic attempts at resuscitation proved futile. One month shy of his 51st birthday and just 3 months away from another anniversary, Karl entered the presence of God.

Resurrection. Because Jesus lives, so will Karl. I miss my friend. I miss the fact that he laughed at all my jokes. Even the bad ones. I miss his infectious love of life and unshakable sense of loyalty and duty. I thank God that he was faithful to Jan, "even unto death." Selfishly, maybe I miss Karl because, as far as I can tell, he came to know Christ in my presence. Thank God this is not an end, but a beginning.

Jan is doing well. It's obvious that Jesus is taking good care of her. We even shared a bit of a laugh the other night as we enjoyed recollections of Karl. I don't think he would want to be remembered any other way. In keeping with what I know of my friend, I am taking the liberty to print a cartoon at the end of this column. As you look at it, I think the one with the big grin on his face is really Karl. What do you think?

Stay INTERESTed



INTEREST

PROMOTING NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

YOUR TURN

A HOLY SPIRIT JOB

I'm pleased. You're doing a Holy Spirit job. May God's Spirit lead and guide everyone involved to keep the magazine operating and pleasing to everyone who reads Colossians 3. Do it heartily unto the Lord.

Mrs. M. Miller

BALANCING THE ATTRIBUTES

I really enjoyed the article "Revelation in the Rainbow" in the January issue. Balancing the attributes of God is so hard and yet so necessary. But just as a point of accuracy, I believe that physics says that (white) sunlight is the sum of all the colors of the rainbow. The rainbow is the spectrum. Keep up the good work. I am praying for you regularly.

*Charles E. Redfield,
Illinois*

IN THE WHALE'S BELLY

When I first began receiving INTEREST a couple of years ago I really enjoyed it as I do now. I was rather discouraged when for a year I didn't receive it. So you could imagine how excited I was when I began receiving it again.

I know a little bit about struggles. I was part of [an assembly] for a number of years and went through a few personal problems, thus the incarceration. I enjoy so much being a part of the Brethren and INTEREST helps me feel a part of it, along with many from the fellowship who keep in touch with me. I'm excited about what God is

doing in my life as I travel in the "belly of the whale."

*Name withheld by editor,
Florida*

THE STATE OF THE BRETHREN UNION

I had been pondering what to say should I write a letter on why I am no longer in the assemblies, after over more than 40 years, 35 of those as an elder. Now I don't have to list the reasons; you included them in your excellent editorial in the January issue. There were many precious truths I learned in the early years of fellowship with the brethren that I still hold dear.

I am presently meeting with a group of young believers in a "cell" church. The group has much to learn and I am hopeful of introducing truths that I have learned and practiced. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm of these young believers in their first love.

*Buddy Leathers,
North Carolina*

I would like to comment on your article "The State of the Brethren Union 1996." I like the candid approach you present.

I firmly believe in the principles of New Testament gathering, especially around the Lord's table for worship. While there are many reasons why the assemblies are not growing, I believe the most important reason is a lack of anointing over the meetings. Zechariah states: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts."

*Paul Gullans,
California*

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BEYOND GOLGOTHA:

The REBIRTH *of HOPE*

by Ken Gire

*The road to
Emmaus is the
road we take after
we've been to
Golgotha. It's the
road we take when
the other roads
we've taken turn
out to be dead
ends.*

Excerpted from Intense Moments with the Savior. Ken Gire is a freelance writer living in Monument, Colorado.

It is called Good Friday. But for these two followers of Jesus nothing about it was good. Everything good that day had died. And it seems to them it will be Friday for the rest of their lives.

For the rest of Jerusalem, though, it's Sunday. The Passover Sabbath is over, and life has returned to normal.

But for these two men the sounds of life returning to normal seemed a sacrilege. For them nothing could ever be normal again.

No Passover could come without memories of Him who was led as a lamb to the slaughter. No sacrifice could be made without remembering the way. He was sheared and cut up and stretched out on that God-forsaken cross.

Since these two were friends of the man on that cross, a lot of strangers wanted to ask them questions, find out exactly what happened, and exactly what the disciples were going to do now.

But the two were so disoriented from grief they didn't know anything vaguely, let alone exactly. And what they did know, they didn't want to talk about. Especially with strangers.

And since the city was a spilling silo of strangers, they wanted out. They decide the country would be a good place to go, where there is space to think, to talk, to sort things out.

And they have plenty to sort. They have left everything behind to follow Jesus. They have staked their future on His words—their hopes, their dreams, everything. Now He is gone. And somehow they will have to get along without Him.

But where will they go? For now, anywhere. As long as it is away. Away from the rubble of lives that have fallen apart. Lives that seem impossible to rebuild. Fute to even try.

So they go to try to sort things out, to try to understand what went wrong and why, and to try to decide where to go next.

They could take any of several roads. The road north of Jerusalem leads to Ephraim, but that is too far. The road east leads to Jericho, but that is too dangerous. The road south leads to Bethlehem, but that is too glaring a reminder of all they were wanting to forget. And so they take the road west.

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

The road to Emmaus is the road we take after we've been to Golgotha. It's the road we take when the other roads we've taken turn out to be dead ends. It's the road out of town, the road to getting away from it all.

They leave Jerusalem because there is nothing there for them anymore. Nothing but memories of a might-have-been Messiah. And what the world did to Him.

But though what the world did to Him is over, the pain is not. There's the headache and the heartache and the hard lump in the throat. There's the doubt and the dead end questions and the dark night of the soul.

These were their thorns. These were their nails. These were their crosses. And they carry all these with them on the road out of town.

They leave behind the rumors of His resur-



rection. They carry with them only the reality of His death. And their sadness.

The road they travel slopes slowly away from the city and then squirms around a convergence of hills. The simple composition of stone against sky is a welcomed change from the Corinthian complexity of Roman architecture that surrounded them in Jerusalem.

The expansive starkness of the terrain mirrors the landscape of their soul. The starkness makes room for solitude. And the solitude makes room for their thoughts, giving them a chance to uncurl from the fetal position they have been in the past few days.

As they walk, their thoughts stretch and breath into conversation. But the conversations are overcast with emotion. Tears come and go. So do their thoughts.

They think of the beautiful dream the Savior had—the coming of God's kingdom. When His will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. When nations would beat their swords into plowshares. When the wolf would lie down with the lamb. And there would be peace on earth. All the earth. And there would be goodwill among people. All people.

It was a beautiful dream. And a dream they shared.

But Friday shattered it.

"Who would have thought it would come to this?" Cleopas says. "Just a week ago. The crowds. The way they praised him. The joy in their voices. The tears streaming down their cheeks. The timing seemed so right, with Passover, and people from all over. I had so hoped..."

But the pieces of the dream are still sharp; his words fearful of going near them. So they hesitate at his lips, trembling.

"I had hoped too," says the other.

THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER

As they're consoling each other, a stranger comes, inviting himself not only into their company but into their conversation.

"What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

The question stops them. Their downcast eyes search the road for strength to answer.

"Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" Jesus asks.

And they tell Him the whole sad story. "and we hoped He was the One...the One who would redeem Israel."

Since the time they first met Jesus, they

hoped He was the king He claimed to be. And they waited for Him to usher in the kingdom.

But then He died.

And they hoped again, based on His word, that in three days He would return.

And they waited again. Friday. Saturday. Sunday morning. Sunday noon. Sunday afternoon.

Then they lost hope. Another one of Friday's casualties.

And without hope they couldn't wait any longer. So they left.

But there were other words besides the ones spoken by Jesus. Words that would have helped them understand His words. Words they should have known and should have remembered and should have believed.

"How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?"

Jesus does not chide them for not believing the testimony of the women or the testimony of the empty tomb. He chides them for not believing the testimony of Scripture.

TRUTH ON FIRE

Then book by book, beginning with Genesis, Jesus rekindles the fire in their lives that suffering has all but extinguished. Step by step, the wood begins to dry. Verse by verse, the sparks find places to live. And by the time they reach Emmaus, their hearts are burning.

The three of them stop at the outskirts of town. The sun has continued on ahead of them, leaving an etching on the horizon where there were once hills. Jesus starts to continue on too, but they beg Him to stay. Which He does.

They find a place to stay, and they sit together and start to eat, when suddenly...

The stranger is the Savior! As soon as they recognize Him, though, He vanishes.

Though life had caved in on these two men, enough light came through the fallen debris and airborne dust to give them hope. They couldn't see everything. But they could see Him. And that was enough.

Enough to give them the strength to dig their way out.

Enough to keep them from giving in to their sadness or giving up on their hopes.

Enough so they could go on living, go on believing, and go back to Jerusalem to pass around the hope to those there who so desperately needed it. **I**

Though life had caved in on these two men, enough light came through the fallen debris and airborne dust to give them hope.

BEYOND GOLGOTHA:

From TEARS to TRIUMPH

by Charles W. Price

There can never be any significant progress in the Christian life until a fundamental discovery has been made and appropriated, "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

Charles W. Price is the Principal of Capernwray Bible School in England, well known among British assemblies. He is a popular conference speaker.

On one of my frequent absences from home the grass on our lawn was in need of cutting. We had recently purchased a new lawn mower, which my wife, Hilary, had seen me use several times. Knowing I would not be back for several days and the fine weather was not likely to last until then, she decided to mow the grass. The mower was fairly solid, with rotary blades, roller and motor weighing down the machine. She started the engine, which automatically began to turn the blades in its stationary position, and then began to push. It was really hard work! To get any movement took almost all her strength, but determined as she was, she applied all her might and with her body against the mower at a forty-five degree angle she gave it everything she had until, after two lengths of the lawn, she was exhausted!

This was very confusing. She had seen me walking up and down the lawn behind the mower, apparently effortlessly. Although she knew I was stronger than she was, she also knew the difference wasn't as great as this! In frustration and anger she grabbed hold of the handle to give the machine a good shake and in so doing caught the clutch lever and engaged it. Suddenly the mower took off across the lawn under its own power, cutting the grass in its path with Hilary flying out behind it almost horizontal to the ground! What a marvelous difference!

How frustrating to find yourself manually operating something designed to run on its own power! And how wonderfully liberating to discover after a long, hard, tiring struggle

that there are resources at your disposal you knew nothing about. This has been the personal experience of many people all through history. They have tried with the utmost sincerity and dedication to do for God what only God Himself could do for them. There was no fault in their zeal or failure in their enthusiasm. They just did not know or appropriate the indwelling presence of God Himself, as the only One who can provide what it takes to accomplish His will. When out of despair and exhaustion they find Christ to be alive, and alive in them, the discovery has been revolutionary.

There can never be any significant progress in the Christian life until a fundamental discovery has been made and appropriated, "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

As I write this it is less than a week since a student at a well-known Bible college in North America came to me at the end of an address I had given and said, "I decided only this morning that I was going to quit this college, give up my plans for going into Christian ministry and maybe even quit the Christian life. My experience has been totally frustrating, and Christianity has been about as exciting as pushing a bus up a hill. This morning you have shown me something I have missed all these years. I now have the answer."

The principles I had shared with the students that morning are very simple and certainly not new. The Christian life is not a technique or a "style," it is exclusively the consequence of a relationship that allows God to be God within a person's life. It is the

indwelling Spirit of Christ Himself who makes the Christian life "tick."

PETER: WHEN TEARS LEAD TO TRIUMPH

The Bible never glamorizes its leading characters and it may be encouraging for us to discover we rarely become stuck in a way that is original. The apostle Peter pushed his lawn mower across the grass for a long time. Of the twelve apostles, chosen and called by the Lord Jesus Christ to be with Him during the three years of His ministry, we would almost certainly have noticed Peter first, and not only have noticed him, but admired him too. Whenever something was happening, he was around—active, opinionated and utterly committed to doing the best thing. Even when Jesus told His disciples for the first time that He must go to Jerusalem and die, "Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. 'Never Lord,' he said. 'This shall never happen to you'" (Matt 16:22). Jesus rebuked him for this. Nevertheless, despite his not having a clue as to what he was really saying, his motive was to protect the interests of Jesus as he best understood them, and it was admirable.

Peter was His most loyal and enthusiastic supporter. If he could do something for Jesus that would further the cause, there would be no need to look elsewhere. Peter would do it. The night of Jesus' arrest Peter confirmed his unswerving loyalty to Him by declaring, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will," and when told that he would disown Jesus three times before the morning broke and the cock crowed, Peter was emphatic, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you" (Matt. 26:33-35). If the Roman authorities had to place four crosses on Calvary, with Peter on the fourth, Jesus need not doubt that Peter would be right there with Him, to die alongside Him. Wouldn't you have been impressed with that? There is no reason to believe that Peter believed himself to be anything but sincere and genuine in his commitment and loyalty. He loved Jesus Christ with all his heart. He was His most loyal friend, His best advocate and His most enthusiastic supporter.

Within a few hours Jesus had been arrested and led away for trial. Peter had resisted the arrest and in the process cut off the ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant. Most of the other disciples fled, though Peter, keeping a distance, followed Him to the house of the high priest. In those early-morn-

ing hours, Peter was questioned three times by three different people as to his association with Jesus, and three times he considered it safer to deny any knowledge of Him. On the final occasion, "he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, 'I don't know the man.'"

Having gotten himself off the hook for the third time in those early brief hours of the day, Peter's sense of relief was abruptly shattered when across the courtyard of the high priest's home was heard the crowing of a rooster. Like a knife going into his heart, "Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken...and he went outside and wept bitterly" (Matt 26:74-75).

Have you ever wept bitterly over your own repeated failure? Your sincerity has never been wanting, but you were somehow unable to carry it through to the end. You have known what is right, but rarely seem able to produce it in your own behavior or experience. You feel you could despair of ever being different, even wondering if you ought to quit.

Jesus later summed up Peter's dilemma, "The spirit is willing but the body is weak" (Matt 26:41). What in his spirit was admirable could not find its translation into action, and in the realization of that fact, Peter faced up to his own moral and spiritual bankruptcy.

GONE FISHIN'

A few days later, Jesus was risen from the dead, but Peter, despite the euphoria of the resurrection and still aware of his own weakness and failure, announced to the other disciples, "I am going fishing" (Jn 21:3). I am not sure if I read this correctly, but three years before he had been called from his fishing and had left everything behind him to follow Jesus. Now he is going back! He perhaps thought there was little point in doing otherwise. He had only proved he was not dependable. His actions could not match his words. What good was a willing spirit if his body was weak? It might be better all around if he slipped back to his old life. He would always love Jesus. He would never forget Him. He would treasure for the rest of his life the memories of the time he had spent in His company as a disciple. He would always be interested in what happened to the others. But he was burned out. He had been exposed under pressure for what he was really like. He was humiliated. At least he could fish. There was always work that he could do. Several of the others joined him, and they fished all night

Peter's sense of relief was abruptly shattered when across the courtyard of the high priest's home was heard the crowing of a rooster. Like a knife going into his heart, "Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken...and he went outside and wept bitterly"

(Matt 26:74-75).

For Peter, the morning of tears as the cock crowed on the fateful day that Jesus died preceded and made possible a new morning of joy seven weeks later.

but it was a waste of time. They caught nothing!

Early the next morning a stranger stood on the shore. They did not know who it was. He asked them if they had any fish, and telling Him they had none, He instructed them, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some" (John 21:6ff.). They did so and were unable to haul in their nets, so great was the catch of fish. John was in the boat with Peter. Something in his mind was ringing a loud bell. This seemed a repetition of an event three years ago. The very day that Peter, Andrew, James and John had been called by Jesus to leave everything and follow Him, they had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. Then Jesus came along the shore and told them to cast the net on the other side of the boat. They had done so and hauled in such a catch that both boats began to sink. Peter had jumped from the boat and fallen at the feet of Jesus and said, "Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!" (Lk 5:1-11). This had been the time of their call by Jesus. He invited them to leave everything and follow Him. They had never again gone back to fishing; from then on they had been "fishers of men."

John, no doubt recalling all of this and giving voice to his suspicions, said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" (Jn 21:7). When Peter heard this, his heart was stirred. He leaped from the boat and made his way to the shore. It was Jesus! He had made them breakfast over a fire of burning coals.

DO YOU LOVE ME?

The others in the boat quickly joined them, and when they finished eating, Jesus asked Peter a question. In the light of his recent past it must have seemed a very pointed, if not embarrassing, even humiliating question. "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" I think the question must have cut deep into his soul.

This was only the third meeting of Jesus with His disciples since the Resurrection. Only a few days before, at Jesus' most vulnerable moment, Peter had cursed and sworn his denial of ever knowing Him, rather than claim to be His friend. How could he now claim to love Him? Yet Peter knew his own heart, and despite all that had happened he had only one honest answer, "Yes Lord," he said, "You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." The question, its answer and the commission of Jesus were repeated three times.

Peter discovered something very wonderful that morning. Jesus never gives up on failures! He never even penalizes them. He knows their

hearts, and He knew Peter to be a failure before Peter ever did. The Lord had not been shocked by Peter's denials, only Peter had been shocked. He is not shocked by your failures for you will never be a bigger failure than He already knows you to be! But Jesus was not commissioning Peter back into his failure. He was not just inviting him to have another go at it!

In the opening chapter of Acts, Luke records "On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.'" (Acts 1:4). I find it interesting that it was while eating with them He gave this command. I wonder if it was the breakfast of bread and fish He Himself had prepared for them by Galilee? I wonder if He has commissioned Peter, knowing Peter has finally realized he could not carry it through alone, and so He reassures him he must attempt nothing until the gift of the Holy Spirit has been given? I think that may be so.

THE TRIUMPH OF PENTECOST

For Peter, the morning of tears as the cock crowed on the fateful day that Jesus died preceded and made possible a new morning of joy seven weeks later. It was at nine o'clock in the morning on the Day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit was poured out on all who were waiting to receive Him. Peter stood to address the crowd who had come together looking for an explanation of the great events that accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In the intervening seven weeks, Peter, stripped of his self-confidence and self-sufficiency, had been commissioned by Jesus to "feed my sheep." He stood that morning in new strength, he spoke with new authority, and the city of Jerusalem was turned upside down. When later a lame beggar was healed at the temple gate and a crowd gathered around, Peter declared to them the simple facts of the case, "Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?...It is Jesus...that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see" (Acts 3:12-16).

The explanation for what he did was no longer "Peter" but "Jesus." He learned it, not in a classroom or even from the lips of Jesus who had declared in his hearing, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5), but it had begun to make sense as the truth dawned through the bitter tears of his failure the morning the rooster crowed, and he knew he was at the end of himself. ■



GRANDPA *has* MOVED HOUSE

“I can’t believe this is happening! This has to be a horrible nightmare!” My 12-year-old mind was racing as fast as the highway pavement just inches away from where I was positioned. My job was to hold the car door open, but not too far open. “This can’t be true. This just cannot be true!” My mother’s job was to drive the car as fast as she could in spite of the tears brimming up in her eyes. I watched as my father, kneeling on the front floor of our blue ‘63 Oldsmobile, used mouth-to-mouth resuscitation frantically trying to revive my grandfather’s form. Grandpa was a tall man and the car seat wasn’t long enough for his frame. His feet were positioned on mom’s lap with the top of his head slightly protruding out of the open front passenger door. I watched it all as I leaned over the front seat holding tightly to the door, fighting to keep it from opening any further and exposing dad to danger. “Things like this don’t happen on vacation!”

It was the end of August, 1967. We were on our way home from a wonderful week in the mountains of Colorado. Living in flat lands of Kansas, our family liked to vacation in the Rockies and this time our grandparents came along. These family vacations were fun times for my sister Terry and me, and having the three generations together made it even more special. We had toured through the Rocky Mountain National Park, crossed the Royal Gorge and visited relatives. It was the end of a perfect trip. We were headed for home, Mulvane, a small town near Wichita.

As we drove through western Kansas, Grandpa, sitting in the front seat with his arm around grandma, asked dad if he needed a break from driving. “No, thanks, Lee. I’m fine.” Dad replied. Minutes later Grandpa gave out an enormous exhale as his head fell back on the front seat. I’ll never forget the sound of that last breath. We all knew something was definitely wrong.

Before we started on the holiday, my mother had an ill premonition about the trip. Though Grandpa appeared in good health, dad rented an oxygen bottle just in case the altitude affected him. That was about the extent of accessible medical technology in the mid-60’s. We thought we were prepared for any emergency. But we were wrong.

Now it seemed as if all the good memories of that trip were replaced with the details of the following events: the race to the little country hospital in Lakin, Kansas; the doctor and nurses trying to revive him in the parking lot, and finally giving up hope as the setting sun cast a reddish hue upon the scene. As the doctor pronounced Grandpa dead I felt a dark twilight creeping into

my soul, draining my whole being, it seemed.

As I looked at the lifeless form lying on the gurney I felt a sense of revulsion. There was something almost obscene about what was lying there pretending to be my grandfather. I knew my grandfather! That body wasn’t him! It was at that moment that the truth of our immortality dawned on me. I remembered a couple of verses from Sunday School, “For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens....We are confident, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord” (2 Cor 5:1, 8). I wasn’t looking at Grandpa! I was looking at the shell that housed him for sixty some years. From that moment on I have never doubted that there was indeed life after this life. To me, death was a moving out of one house and into a better one for the believer. Grandpa had simply moved house.

There were still days of sadness ahead and times of adjustment for us all. Yet even in the midst of the loneliness that we felt, there was a comfort in knowing that Grandpa had not ceased to be. The person of Grandpa with all of his wonderful characteristics and traits was separate and distinct from his physical body. Grandpa did not pass into oblivion, he had just transferred his residence. He was now with the resurrected Christ!

That event from my youth has changed the way I look at life. I know that one day I’ll move my residence to where Grandpa is living. I know that I’ll see him again, either when the Lord Jesus returns with His saints, or, when I leave my worldly house. That’s a day to which I’m looking forward with expectancy! ■

by Rick Mills

Grandpa did not pass into oblivion, he had just transferred his residence. He was now with the resurrected Christ!

Rick Mills is a commended worker, currently serving the Lord at Kansas Bible Camp.

WESTERN CANADA

ALIVE AND GROWING

We are involved in preaching, teaching, visitation and administration in a small country chapel with a long history. Barry Creek Gospel Hall was the first "open" assembly here in Alberta, being founded in 1910 by brethren from Ontario. When it closed in about 1959 the brethren moved to Youngstown, 20 miles away and started the Gospel Chapel of Youngstown. Bill Gurnett was one of the elders and first full time worker here. The chapel has been very mission oriented and many people are on various fields.

Rose and I met at a World Missions Congress in 1969 and went with Literature Crusades to Ecuador where we worked with John Munday. We lived in rural Manitoba and British Columbia for a number of years, working with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and Canadian Sunday School Mission.

We appreciate prayer. This area has had the Gospel preached for many years and most of the adult population has attended our local Plover Lake Bible Camp. Many have heard the Gospel and knowingly rejected it. But there is life and growth here and the Lord is working.

*Ron and Rose Cavenagh,
Alberta*

FREE NEW TESTAMENTS

One answer to prayer these last few months was the opportunity to place over 1,000 New Testaments in the Burnaby Elementary School system. I was able to place Bibles into the hands of 26% of the grade five students; last year



The Edgecombe family

only 15%. I was also able to get into five private schools for the first time. This included a Seventh Day Adventist school, three Roman Catholic schools and one Christian school. We had 87% acceptance in these schools.

We anticipate returning to Villa Maria, Argentina on July 30 for another term of service.

*Ron and Gloria Edgecombe,
British Columbia*

EASTERN CANADA

SPORTSPLEX AVAILABLE

The property of His Mansion Ministries Ontario is next to the Horton Township Sportsplex—a community center with a nice ball diamond and area for tennis, basketball and skating. In January a local paper announced that Horton Council was preparing to offer it to His Mansion for purchase. The Sportsplex would be ideal for initiating our program and, although it would require some renovation, it could serve us well through various phases of development. It would provide dormitory at a cost far below new construction and would also give us recreation facilities. Please join us in prayer about this opportunity.

*Rob and Sheri Wynja,
Ontario*

BACK TO BRITTANY

My parents arrived in Quebec from France in 1956, but the rest of our family still lives in Brittany. We have been praying for years for their salvation.

Following the implication of Word of Life in Quebec, with the translation of club material into French, a door has opened in France. A camp should open there in the near future with a capacity of 100 to 120 people. A team from New York will go there in June to work on renovations. The camp is in Dinan, where my aunt lives. These answers are special blessings for our family.

It is encouraging to see young people search for God and serve Him. The needs are great and time is hard to find. I have my full time job, with increasing work as area missionary. Continue to pray for this important ministry among teens.

*Serge and Michele Lemee,
Quebec*

EVANGELICAL TOMATO STICKS

"Is there a solution to the Native community's problems?" a new acquaintance asked. I had pondered the same question for a long time and at last could give a confident "Yes."

I have come to the conclusion that we can divide the problems into two categories, the wider problems of society and the specific problems that Native people face. The wider problems, such as unemployment, land claims, low education levels, will not be solved until the specific, personal issues of broken homes, alcohol addiction, drug addiction, prostitution and suicide are dealt with. We need to understand that two of the main roots of the personal problems are hopelessness and despair. The best way to break the cycle of despair is by long term healthy relationships with Christians. The caregiver must be willing to be taken advantage of and endure difficulties and hardships of the relationship. I liken it to a stick that holds up the tomato plant. It is always there for the plant, bears the weight of the plant, receives little glory, but is indispensable.

At Indian Life Ministries, we are both producing culturally relevant material and being "evangelical tomato sticks" for our Native friends.

*Tim and Sue Nielsen,
Manitoba*

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NEEDED

Living Waters Christian Fellowship in Tusket, Nova Scotia, is in need of a person to serve as principal of their Christian day school. This individual would be expected to assume a regular teaching load as well as administer the school. He or she is expected to consider LWCF their church home. Interested persons should contact Clyde Raynard at (902) 648-2270 as soon as possible.

WESTERN U.S.A.

1500 INMATE STUDENTS

Emmaus Arizona Prison Ministry is a fellowship of Christians committed to reaching inmates in prisons and jails in Arizona and Utah, and their families with the Gospel. Last year (1995) was the ministry's 13th year at the Bible Chapel here in Tucson. We have seen God work in many wonderful ways. There is a great

hunger and response to God's Word in prisons and jails today. Currently we have 13 faithful volunteers doing various functions to keep the ministry going.

Over 22,000 Emmaus and Navigator Bible courses were used in 1995 with an active student body of more than 1500 inmates in 48 institutions. There are upwards of 350 Spanish students studying a curriculum of 42 Spanish courses. At least 400 new students are enrolled each month. They receive the first course, "Born to Win," a New Testament and tracts; a full Bible is sent upon request.

Jim and Wanda Cichy,
Arizona

THE PRESSES ARE ROLLING

On January first we started the move to the building we rented a few blocks from our home. The first two days we cleaned and painted the whole building before the movers came with the big presses and other equipment. Since then we have put many machines, work tables in place and also desks in the office. We praise the Lord for several brothers and sisters who helped us.

We have started receiving letters and calls requesting the Olympic booklet.

Pedro and Lucy Dillon,
California

SHEETROCK, INSULATION AND SCHOOL TEACHERS

A work team of 13 college age youth and several adults from Boulder, Colorado, helped out at Immanuel Mission for a week in January. Insulation was put in the ceiling of the elementary building, sheet rock was put up in the new fire house addition to the bus garage. (This now houses the fire truck and equipment for the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Department. Insulation and sheet rock were also put up in the new used clothing room.

A couple from Tulsa, Oklahoma, spent three weeks with us. They helped out in maintenance and did a lot of work on the chapel bathroom.

Patty Clark from Kansas has come to teach 7th and 8th grade for the remainder of the school year. It's a joy for us to have her respond to the need for a teacher.

Immanuel Mission,
Arizona

CENTRAL U.S.A.

SUMMER STAFF NEEDED

Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp is looking for summer staff. Contact Steve Allan, Rt. 71, Box 190, Vienna, MO 65582 (573) 744-5843.

THE EZEKIEL PROJECT

We are preparing for the summer and The Ezekiel Project seminars. This year we will be offering Basic Training (July 22-26), Reaching Children (July 29 to August 2) and Advanced Seminars (August 5-9) in the New York City area. Guest lecturers will teach puppetry, Gospel illusions, sketchboard techniques, as well as leading other workshops and lectures. For more information contact The Ezekiel Project, P.O. Box 463123, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046.

Chris and Barbara Schroeder,
Michigan

INSURANCE AVAILABLE

This is to inform you of an exciting health insurance some of our workers have been using for some time. It's called The United Church Servants Plan, administered by Health Claims Administration Inc., 20 E. Cass St., Joliet, IL 60433. For further information call (815) 740-4251.

Donovan Case,
Missouri

NORTHEASTERN U.S.A.

READER'S DIGEST IN INDIA

The Indian Brethren Assembly in Bronx, New York has completed their 1995 Emmaus Bible Study Outreach through the *Reader's Digest* in India. They thank all who actively participated and prayed for this ministry.

Chapter titles in the English edition included The Bible, God, Man, The New Birth, Heaven and Hell. Chapter titles published in Hindi included Results of Regeneration, Sure Salvation, Permanent Preservation, and many others. There were 12 lessons, one each month.

The ministry was envisioned by brethren at the Indian Brethren Assembly with the intent to reach out to the Indian sub-continent. This pioneering ministry has a potential of discipling

over 4,600,000 people monthly.

For more details on this continuing ministry, write to The Indian Brethren Assembly, 3241 Whiteplains Rd., Bronx, NY 10467

Jacob Matthen,
New York

SOUTHERN U.S.A.

BASKETBALL THREE ON THREE

It's been an exciting four years since our return to Conway. The Lord has given us many contacts and opportunities for service. This past fall I was asked to serve as chaplain for the high school football team. This March 9th our chapel will be hosting its third three on three basketball tournament at the high school gym. The Gospel is shared with many unsaved participants.

This fall we enjoyed a week of gospel meetings with Frank Perry and then again in January with Worth Ellis. There is a concern among our people to see others come to Christ and God has been answering prayer. In 1995 we saw 15 trust Christ as Savior and many others are coming who are interested. Please pray for us as we seriously consider expanding our facilities. It's a big undertaking, but the need is obvious.

David and Doris Rickert,
South Carolina

David and Doris Rickert



EVANGELIZING CHILDREN

The question has passed through most of our minds, "How can I be used in reaching boys and girls for Christ?"

In the last 25 years my wife and I have been involved in a ministry which answers the question for us. We call it Tel-A-Child Evangelism, where boys and girls call in and receive a message including God's plan of salvation. You may read into the machine any of over

may read into the machine any of over 100 type-written messages that are included in a package or purchase seven different albums. Each one has 32 messages pre-recorded.

Since 1970 the ministry has gone worldwide, with units in Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada and the U.S.A. If you are interested in a ministry you can own and operate from your own home or as a group, write for a free brochure to: Tel-A-Child Evangelism, 12814 Wild Acres Road, Largo, FL 34643 or call (813) 531-2784.

*Walter Hall,
Florida*

HOME FELLOWSHIPS

We are kept busy in various aspects of ministry and are kept close by as we meet weekly in our home. We are in touch consistently with two other home fellowships, in Georgetown and the other in North Austin, our state capitol.

*Edwin and Mary Ellen Meschkat,
Texas*

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH INC.

Our team is in the process of organizing ministry which we left off in the U.S. when we came to India. Our hearts are still strong on literature ministry to the Muslim world through mailing Gospel tracts and Scripture. We are trusting the Lord to provide a printing press to continue this aspect of our ministry. We also need to bring one set of printing presses to India for the work here. As soon as our new tracts are ready we will resume the mailing ministry.

*Mobin and Gladys Khan,
Georgia*

ADDRESSES

WARREN AND FLORENCE DUNHAM
W2655 W. South St., Lake Geneva,
WI 53147

JOHN AND GRETHA LANGENDOEN
125 Allen St., Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0;
(519) 335-3888

MIKE AND BEVERLY SMITS
705 Main St., P.O. Box 435, Luxemburg, WI 54217

MICHAEL D. AND LAURA THOMAS

3916 State Rd, Ashtabula, OH 44004;
(216) 992-7822

CHURCH LISTINGS

CROSSROADS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Crossroads has begun Sunday meetings. We praise the Lord for a core group of ten men and women who desire to build the new assembly through evangelism and discipleship. Correspondent: Chuck Gianotti, 27 Watchman Court, Rochester, NY 14624-4930; (716) 429-5435, e-mail: crgianotti@aol.com

DEVINE STREET GOSPEL CHAPEL

714 Devine St., Sarnia, ON N7T 1X2

CONFERENCES

SPRING MINI-CONFERENCE

Annual Spring Mini-Conference at Wauwatosa (Wisconsin) Community Chapel, April 20 at 3 and 8 p.m. Speakers: J. Philip Morgan and Jamie Hull on the Theme, "Harvest Time."

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY CONFERENCE.

The 32nd Annual Northern Ontario Women's Missionary Conference will be held April 27 at Bible Fellowship Assembly in Porcupine.

LIMON BIBLE CONFERENCE

Annual Bible Conference at the Limon (Colorado) Bible Chapel. Speakers: William MacDonald, Carroll Van Ryn and Ben Parmer. Limon Bible Chapel, P.O. Box 1208, Limon, CO 80828; (719) 775-9788 or 346-8547.

40TH ANNUAL IOWA BIBLE CAMP

The Bible Camp will be held June 23-29 at Twin Lakes Christian Center near Manson, Iowa. On Friday evening there will be a special celebration to commemorate the occasion. All former Iowa Bible campers, counselors and speakers are cordially invited. For further information contact Tom Baird at (515) 276-1309 or 3125 - 46th St., Des Moines, IA 50310. Reservations requested by June 1.

KANSAS BIBLE CAMP

The Bible Camp is celebrating its 40th anniversary in Hutchinson, Kansas.

An invitation is extended to all KBC alumni. May 10 to 12 is a special occasion for the original founding campers and staff. Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, everyone who has been associated with KBC is invited to renew friendships, make new ones, see the present work and catch a vision for the future. Contact Rick Mills at KBC, 4508 W 56th St., Hutchinson, KS 67502; (316) 662-7791.

TURKEY HILL RANCH BIBLE CAMP SUMMER SCHEDULE

May 24-27—Family Camp,
John Gordon,

Children, Craig Rolinger

May 29-June 1—Staff Training,
Stuart Henrich

June 2-8—Boys & Girls (8-13),
George Farber

June 9-15—Boys & Girls (8-13),
Tom Brammer

June 16-22—Teen 1,
Keith Trevolt

June 23-29—Boys & Girls (8-13),
Rich Khol

June 30-July 5—Boys & Girls (8-13),
Paul Parmer

July 7-13—Boys & Girls (8-13),
Craig Rolinger

July 7-13—Wilderness (Boys 13-17),
Dave Robertson

July 14-20—Teen 2,
Eddie Williams.

July 21-26—Boys & Girls (8-13),
Dan Lindsted

July 27-Aug 2—Ozark 1,
Arnot McIntee

Aug 3-9—Ozark 2,
Arnot McIntee

Aug 30-Sept. 2—Labor Day,
Family Camp, Dave Glock

Children, Tim McNeal

Sept 13-15—Back to School,
John Heller

COMMENDATIONS

FRANCOIS AND LOUISE FRECHETTE

The Assemblee Evangelique de la Rive Sud, Saint-Jean-Chrysostome, Quebec, has commended Francois

INTERNET 101

WHAT IS THE INTERNET?

The easiest way to describe the Internet is as group of computers that are linked together. It is made up of computers and networks of computers from all over the world.

Originally designed for military use, the Internet is now one of the major forms of communication across the United States and around the world. Educators first discovered the non-military value of the Internet. Only more recently has it caught on for commercial uses.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS USE THE INTERNET?

Many people have condemned the whole Internet because of parts of it. Yes, there is pornography on the Internet. Yes, disgusting newsgroups, graphics and other elements proliferate on the Internet. It is a cross-section of humanity at its best, and worst. Should we throw out the good in order to avoid the evil? I would suggest not.

Extraordinarily wonderful opportunities exist on the Internet—opportunities that bring glory to God and to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Due caution must be exercised, however. Just as when one walks into a secular bookstore one needs to be careful where "not" to look, Christians must carefully control what sites they contact using the Web browser (program that allows the user to "surf" the World Wide Web).

On a much more positive note, Christians now utilize the Internet to spread the Gospel and encourage believers. The Internet touches individuals who would never have been reached in any other way. Jesus met the people where they were at, not where they should have been. Many times those who needed Him most never darken the door of an assembly. Thus, the Internet can be used to touch the lives of many people who might not otherwise hear the Gospel. ■

Next month: "Onramps to the Information Super-highway."

and Louise Frechette to serve the Lord in our region. In 1983 Francois was one of the brethren who founded the Assemblee Evangelique de la Rive Sud where he has been an elder for several years. Francois will spend most of his time in the Lord's work within the assembly, but continue his commitments to Camp Brochet, L'Heure de la Bonne Nouvelle and to other local assemblies. We recommend them to God's grace.

MICHAEL AND LAURA THOMAS

The Christians at Believers Bible Chapel in Painesville, Ohio, commend to the work and care of the Lord, Michael and Laura Thomas. Both trusted Christ as children and were brought up in the assembly. Michael has gift and ability in teaching and preaching. The saints at Believers Bible Chapel commend them to the work of itinerant ministry among the assemblies.

MISC. CHANGES

MIKE AND BEVERLY SMITS

The brethren at Country Bible Church in Casco, Wis., have commended Mike and Beverly Smits to the work of the Lord in the Midwest in evangelism and ministry. They have faithfully served the Lord in the Philippines for the past twelve years, but felt the need to return to the States for an extended period of time.

DAVID AND MARY LYNN KNIGHT

The elders of Westview Bible Church have commended David and Mary Lynn Knight to full time pastoral ministry in the assembly. For the past 16 years David has worked with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada. They have both been involved in the assembly since its inception, David as a preaching elder and Mary Lynn as a leader in women's ministries. They were previously

commended by Lakeshore Bible Chapel in Waterloo, Ontario, and Westmount Gospel Chapel, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

MIKE AND JANET ADKINS

Christians at Upton Gospel Chapel and Montague Bible Chapel in Prince Edward Island have commended Mike and Janet Adkins to the Lord's work at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya, Africa. Mike and Janet are responsible for 7-8th grade boys. Janet is head of the Home Economics Department and Mike is head of Industrial Arts. They have six children including two recently-adopted African children.

PYE CHEW

University Chapel in Vancouver, British Columbia, has informed us that as of January 1, 1996, Pye Chew is no longer commended by their assembly. He is now in full time ministry in another church.

BELIEVE IT

by Alice Fryling



The day I found the letter in my mailbox had not been a good day. I was a senior at the University of Maryland, active in my campus ministry group, busy with studies and overwhelmed by responsibilities. The mirror above my dresser was peppered with reminders of things to do. I

couldn't get dressed in the morning without remembering that there was more to do that day than I could possibly accomplish. God was expecting too

much. No, it couldn't be God's problem. It was mine. I was inadequate, or worse yet, somehow disobedient. God must be really disappointed with me.

My spirits rose a bit as I saw that I had mail (someone loved me after all), but they immediately fell back into discouragement when I read the letter. It was from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, the parent organization of my Christian group on campus. The newsletter told about a young woman who was an active Christian at a large university on the east coast. She was on the leadership team of her group. She led Bible studies. Fellow students were becoming Christians. She sounded like a real dynamo. I didn't like her. She was everything I was trying to be. I was just an ordinary person. I wanted to live a spectacular Christian life. I had tried, but I couldn't be like that. I had failed.

I read on, turning the page to finish the article. It

gave more details about this girl's activities. Suddenly the light dawned. "Wait a minute!" I said to myself. "No, This couldn't be." I called my InterVarsity staff member. "Harold," I said, "did you send in a report about me to the IVCF newsletter last month?"

"Yes, I did. Did it come out already?"

Did it come out already? You bet it did! It was in my mailbox that day, and the girl in that article was me! Unbelievable.

That was, in fact, my problem: unbelief. It was unbelievable to me that God was using me. I knew my life from the inside out. I compared my weaknesses with other people's

strengths. I was so busy serving God that I did not even know I was not believing. I didn't choose not to believe. I just forgot.

Perhaps this is why Scripture tells us again and again to remember. "Remember this, fix it in mind...I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me" (Is 46:8-9). Belief is remembering what we know about God and applying it to the situation at hand. Jesus said that belief is work. "The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent" (Jn 6:29,30). Work does not happen without effort. The work of belief is instructing our hearts and our minds so that in the throes of our battles with sin, we will be able to remember. It is reminding ourselves, in our better moments, what we know about God. And it is reminding ourselves that God is in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary.

Our lives, day by day, seldom look like miracles. They are really quite regular. Believing God means believing that He is with us even on our most ordinary days. We are quick to remember Jesus' miraculous ability to calm the stormy sea (Lk 8:22-25). A miracle like that would make me sit up and take notice! But I would do well to notice, also, that before the spectacular miracle happened, another miracle took place. God himself was sitting in a regular, dirty fishing boat.

Our lives are like that fishing boat. Most days are ordinary. Some days are stormy. Our boats rise and fall on waves of success and failure, criticism and praise. When

we are doing the work of belief, we are remembering that whatever is happening, God is in the boat.

The day I stood at the mailbox, I wasn't thinking about fishing boats, and I didn't see any changes in the stormy weather, but, nevertheless, a miracle happened. I found out that God lived in me. He was loving me, working through me, and using me, in spite of myself. That was, indeed, Good News. I decided to believe it. ■

Alice Fryling and her husband Robert are commended workers, serving the Lord with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in Madison, Wisconsin.

HOW TO TALK TO PEOPLE WHO ARE SINNING

OPTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Ignore it—maybe they'll just stop doing it.
2. Immediately attack anyone who steps out of line. Tell them just how despicable and abhorrent their behavior is to God. They'll either be frightened into stopping immediately, or they'll be frightened off.
3. Pretend you have no trouble with sin in your own life. It makes it much easier to do either of the above. (You will have to ignore Galatians 6:1-3).
4. Make sure you don't share the Gospel with anyone whose life is "messy." It means you'll be stuck trying to help clean up his life later should they become a Christian.
5. Pretend that, when a person does come to Christ, all her problems, habits, brokenness and sinful behavior will be immediately resolved. When this doesn't happen, tell yourself that the person probably isn't a Christian after all, and tell her that she just doesn't have enough faith. (Try to avoid Romans 7:14-25).
6. Make a big deal about "preach the Gospel" (Mk 16:15), and try to forget about "make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded" (Mat 25:19,20).

If the above suggestions don't work for you (and I pray they don't), consider using Jesus' approach to the Samaritan woman (Jn 4) as a model. (Note: When mature Christians flagrantly and pridefully take part in what they already know to be immoral behavior, 1 Corinthians 5 points us to a direct and unequivocal response—excommunication—and, perhaps, Matthew 18:15-17 gives us some principles of approach to that kind of situation. Here, however, we're considering people who are new to the faith, or just beginning to investigate it.)

Remember how surprised the Samaritan woman was when Jesus asked her for a drink? She didn't expect Him to acknowledge her as a human being, let alone obligate Himself to her. In a word, He dignified her. My friend with the messy life may seem unconcerned, or even unaware that his behavior is sinful, but, chances are, 'way down deep,' he struggles with a burden of shame and inadequacy. That's the way God made us. He needs to know that I respect him as a human being, and approach him as a fellow, not as one who looks down on him.

Next, Jesus offered living water to the Samaritan woman, a beautiful picture of the refreshing, restorative power of personal relationship with Christ Himself. I need to remember

that sin is not the central issue—Jesus is! When I encourage a person toward new or deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus, I am leading him or her to the only place their sin can truly be revealed and forgiven, their wounds healed and their thirst quenched. When Jesus did finally address the woman's sin, He gently identified her life situation. There were no condemning words, no lecture, no threats of judgment. He didn't even use the word "sin," but neither did He shrink from the reality of her behavior. He said, without further comment, "You've gone through a slew of men, and now you're living with someone who doesn't belong to you." This is a very difficult point for me. I do my friend no favor by pretending his sinful behavior is not really that bad. Yet, if I condemn him, I usurp the role of the great Judge. Jesus allowed the Samaritan woman to describe her own situation, then He simply (and more accurately) restated it: "Yes, this is the way your life really is."

If I have confidence that the Holy Spirit will fulfill His mandate to "convict the world concerning sin," it will be easier to avoid the temptation to try to do so myself. Finally, and, for me, surprisingly, Jesus challenges the woman's nominal adherence to religious form, and calls her to worship in spirit and in truth! In the context, it would seem that the phrase indicates "in real personal relationship with God, and in moral integrity." True worship demands these things of us, and produces them in us. The deeper our appreciation of God's grace and holiness, the deeper will be our understanding of our own need. Is your friend struggling with habitual sin and temptation? Try calling him to worship.

One last thought. Notice the results of Jesus' approach to the Samaritan woman: "many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'He told me all the things that I have done'...and many more believed because of His word...." It may take a long time to work through these four steps (in my work with street people, addicts and prostitutes, it usually takes a year or more of dignifying a person before I can even begin to offer living water, but ultimately God's work of regeneration or restoration in one person's life will attract others. Then I'll have to be ready to deal with more "messy" lives! ■

THE CANADIAN ARENA is produced by Vision Ministries Canada (formerly Interest Ministries Canada). It operates in Ontario as VISION ONTARIO. Greg Paul serves the Lord at Sanctuary in Toronto, a ministry to street people.

INTEREST

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Permit 138
Kent, Ohio

With the skill and perfection of the Master's Touch, He sketched glorious paintings on the immense azure screen of a late autumn sky. I was captivated with the colors and hues encompassing an enchanting Alberta sunset. The sky seemed to open up before me, as I surveyed shepherd delight crimson and pinks with intermittent streaks of coral and gold. Fluffy white clouds, dreamily floating in circles, seemed not the least bit threatened by much darker clouds swirling nearby, smug in their linings of silver and gold. It seemed as if every color and tint, so generously splashed across the evening sky, was put there for my personal enjoyment.

As I descended into the lush and beautiful riverside, I refocused my gaze on the silhouette of the city. There against the backdrop of a darkening skyline, my eyes were drawn to hundreds of office windows reaching up into the dizzying heights. In that huge wall of mirrored glass I was delighted to see a copy of what I had just seen in the West, another glorious sunset. It was a reflection portrayed in the glass windows.

For the rest of that day and many times since, I remembered that scene. Hundreds of windows, some reflecting, others rejecting. While some of them sparkled in bright reflection, others lacked lustre and shine, as if dulled by pollution and grime. Still the sunset design, though blurred here and there, was reflecting a glorious sunset. But why, I wondered, were so many blinds pulled down to shut out the sun?

"We all, with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image" (2 Cor 3:18).

"The outstanding characteristic of a Christian is the unveiled frankness before God, so that the life becomes a mirror for other lives. By beholding we become mirrors." —OSWALD CHAMBERS.

As I watched the sunset fade away into the night, I thought of the lesson it had taught me. Whether our clouds are fluffy and white or even when they are grey, viewed in the light of God's Son they reflect glory for others to see. All too often critics will say: "I looked for Him in the life of a Christian, but He was not there." The grime and pollution of worldly pursuit often smudge witnessing windows. It may very well be the reason why some shut out God's Son.

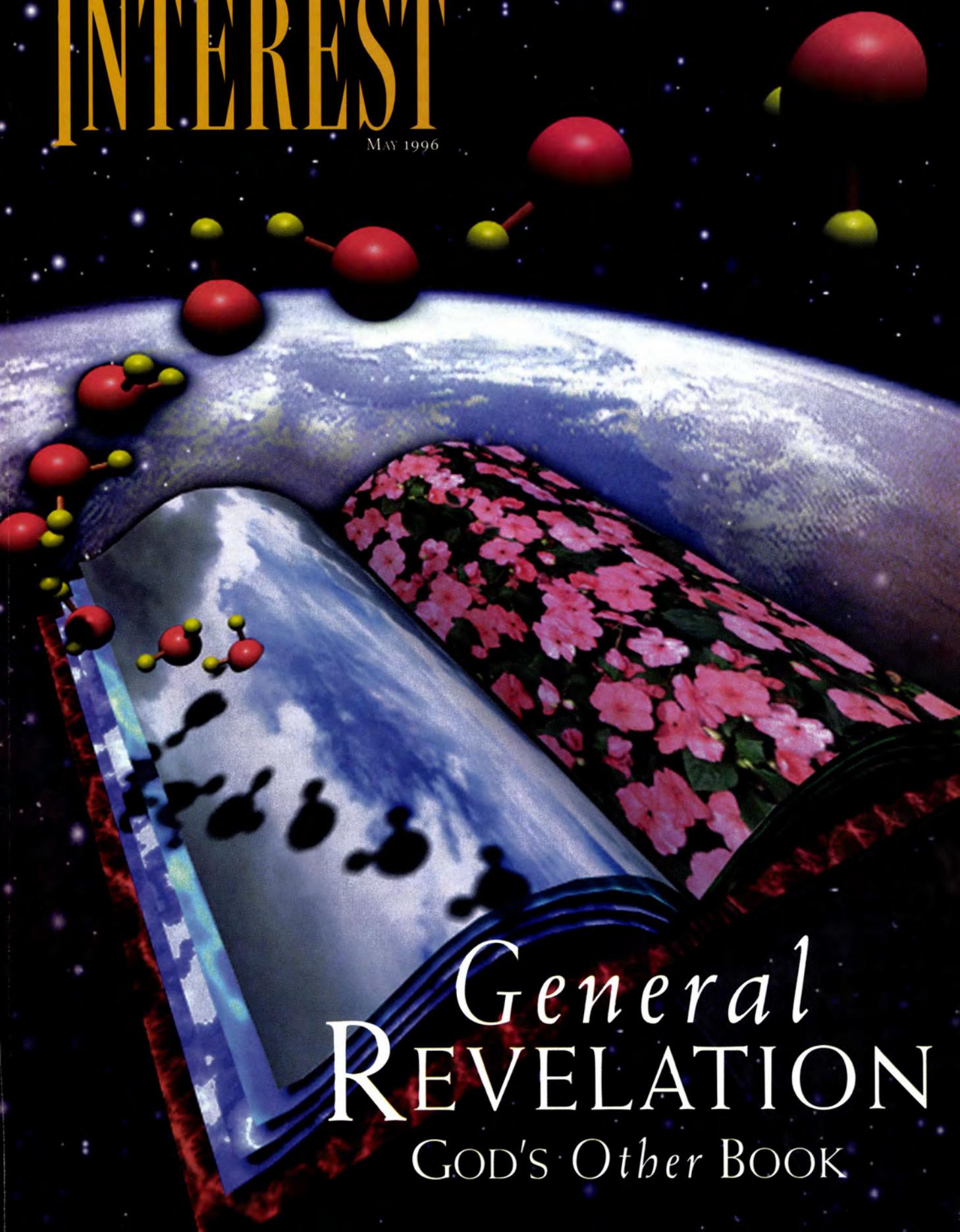
Have you noticed that more and more blinds are being pulled down to shut out God's message to man? There's a need for new lustre and glow on God's witnessing windows. The dirt and grime, the allure of the world has impeded clear reflection of Him. Better beholding brings brighter reflection. Let's take a new look at the Savior.

Before we can do that there is work to be done. We need to get busy and scrub the stains from our windows. —BETTY TORDOFF

INTEREST

MAY 1996

General
REVELATION
GOD'S Other BOOK



EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS



Ken Botton

*General Revelation
is like a watermelon.
It's full of some great
stuff. It also has
plenty of pits—
especially after
Adam went
shopping at the
wrong tree.*

Ilove a good watermelon. Don't you? Can't you taste the rich, red, watery sweetness on a hot summer's day just after a family barbecue? What a treat!

Watermelon, with its non-fat, no cholesterol, low calorie constitution is very nearly an ideal fruit. Easy on both the wallet and the waistband, who could ask for more? Yet even watermelons have a few drawbacks.

Take the pits, for example ("pips" for my British readers). They make eating even the best of watermelons considerably more complicated. They're everywhere!

What's a watermelon lover to do with all those pits? Well, each person must deal with them in their own way. Some eat the watermelon VERY carefully, religiously avoiding any sign of the dreaded pits. Others—kids, for example—take great delight in transforming pits into orally launched projectiles which they "fire," machine gun-like, at anything or anyone. Parents seem to accept this behavior as part of the watermelon "rites of passage." That is, unless the machine gun is aimed at them.

In my lifetime I learned at least two things about pits. First, once they have entered your mouth there is virtually no civilized way to get them out again. Oh, they come out all right. It's just a matter of choosing the least embarrassing method.

Second, and most importantly, though pits are a constant source of annoyance, I do not allow them to spoil my enjoyment of the watermelon. Simply put, I eat the fruit and spit the pits—aiming carefully, of course.

Astute readers will understand that my editorial goal for May is NOT to pump watermelon sales for the summer. If allowed to mix metaphors, I would say that I have bigger fish to fry.

No, the parable of the pits refers to the way many Christians treat one of God's most important gifts to us: General Revelation. As Henry Holloman so ably describes it in his article, General Revelation is God's "other" book. Yet, no matter how we acknowledge that God created the world and called it "good" many refuse to venture outside of the Bible for information.

General Revelation is like a watermelon. It's full of some great stuff. It also has plenty of pits—especially after Adam went shopping at the wrong tree. Indeed, since Eden, life has been pretty complicated. We can't just "eat" what this world has to offer without some measure of discernment. Of course, when our minds have been transformed (Rom 12:1-2) Christ gives us the necessary judgment. Why? So we won't have to give up on watermelons just because of the pits.

Let me be a bit more specific. I have heard Christians make some very sweeping statements such as "All psychology is wrong." "Some assemblies use *statistics* to help plan their program." (The word "statistics" is said with a condescending sneer.) "Seeker sensitive churches are bad because they use 'man's' methods." "I don't see [fill in the blank] method mentioned in Scripture."

The potential list of such broad brush statements is endless. And when I hear these statements, I hear Christians who, for lack of discernment, have thrown out the watermelon because of the seeds. This is regrettable and sad. Such an attitude causes needless division among God's people. (See Charles Coleman's article "New Testament Principles" on page 7.)

Just by way of a quick answer, psychology is NOT all wrong any more than it is all right. Statistics, like any tool, may be used rightly or wrongly—it's just not a substitute for the leading of the Holy Spirit. As for "man's methods," one must be exceedingly careful that an argument against method "x" or "y" is not merely an argument from silence.

Yes, the watermelon analogy constitutes a warning against pronouncing guilt by virtue of "association." Pits do not render the watermelon useless.

Here also resides a challenge of cosmic proportions. Have we brought every thought captive to Christ? Have we ransacked General Revelation until it yields the whole message of God's creative genius? Do we know from personal experience and knowledge that "we are fearfully and wonderfully made" or that "the heavens declare the Glory of God?" Or, have we stopped short for fear of the inevitable pits? Let me borrow an Old Testament picture and ask, "Have we failed to enter the promised land of General Revelation for 'fear of the Giants'?"

Brothers and sisters in Christ, everyone of us who turns on a light switch, drives a car, enjoys indoor plumbing or calls a neighbor on the telephone while warming your coffee in the microwave oven is enjoying the "watermelon" of General Revelation. But there's more, much more. Won't you have another slice of watermelon?

Thanks for staying INTERESTed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken" or "Ken Botton".

INTEREST

PROMOTING NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

YOUR TURN

QUALITY IF NOT QUANTITY

The size of the magazine is obviously diminished, but the spiritual content is not. Thanks for your very honest "Focus" that we can all identify with, plus the moving article by Emily Ross.

Neil and Vonnie Glass,
Florida

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BRETHREN GONE?

You are to be commended for your excellent magazine. Your covers are artful and intriguing. I nearly lost my eyesight over the September cover, but it was the January one that really caught my attention.

Without reading your answer to the question, "Do you know where the Brethren are?" I began to answer it in my own mind. I come across them many times in the greater Christian community. They are now in Community, Baptist, Presbyterian, C&MA, and Bible Churches, etc. They had their roots in the Brethren movement but have left the assemblies. Can you imagine the size our assemblies would be if we could gather up all those former members and return them to assembly fellowship?

Jeanne Jeffery,
Florida

RENEWED INTEREST

In the spring of 1995 we were not too interested in keeping on with the magazine. What a tragedy to hear Christians fighting about how to disburse funds. We were not sure just where you stood. Ken, you have done a fantastic job to clear the air about the three persons that left INTEREST Ministries. Your articles are a

delight and encouragement. "A December to Remember" was a laugh.

Amos and Velina Martin,
Ontario

THE CHURCH A BATTLESHIP

Joel Coppeters' article in the March issue touched a nerve that was exposed during the recent Promise Keepers conference. In his call for harmony in the body of Christ, Max Lucado gave a superb analogy of the church as a battleship. He suggested that we often spend so much time fighting each other that, not only do we rock the boat and discourage others from coming on board, we never get around to fighting the real enemy.

I wept as I considered the past and present divisions in my own brethren tradition.

John Ottley,
Illinois

THEY DID NOT DIE IN VAIN

I heard about the martyrdom of Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, Nate Saint and Roger Youdarian at a Youth for Christ conference in Hyderabad, India, in the early 1960s. An American who had known one of the men narrated the events that led to their martyrdom. There was not a single person with dry eyes among the several thousand young adults from all over India.

I was pedaling on an exercise bicycle and thumbing through the March issue. As I started to read "They Did Not Die in Vain," a lump moved up in my throat and tears trickled down my cheeks. It was a heaven-sent blessing.

P.C. Thomas,
Missouri

INTEREST

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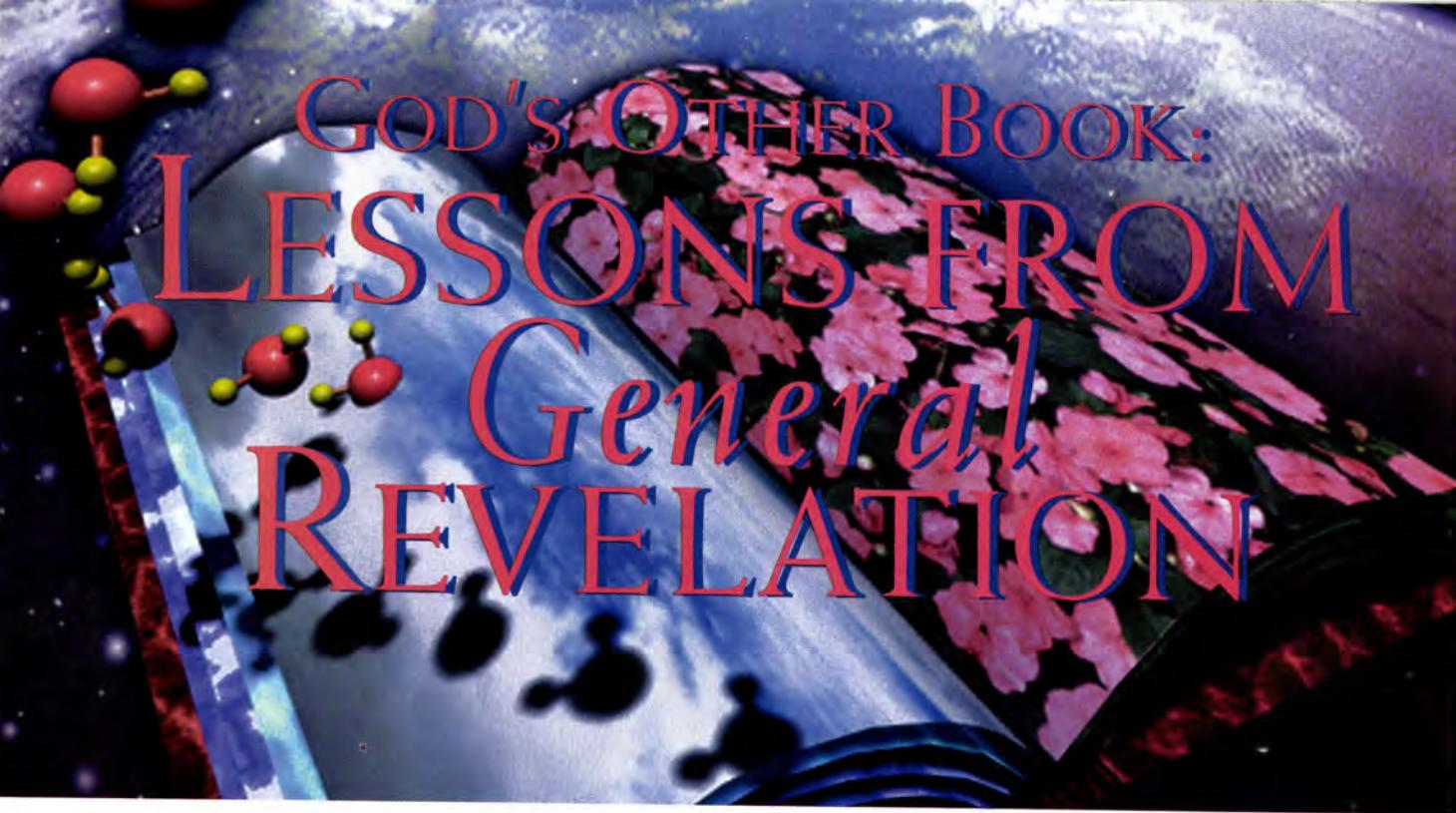
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GOD'S OTHER BOOK: LESSONS FROM General REVELATION

by Henry Holloman

*Be assured
that what we
truly learn
from general
revelation
agrees with
special
revelation.*

Henry Holloman is a commended worker and Professor of Systematic Theology at Talbot School of Theology. He and his wife Shirley attend Sierra Vista Community Church in La Mirada, California.

God has two books. One is relatively small, but the other is very large. The small book has many pages; the large book only two. The first has white pages with many black letters on them. The second has a blue page and a green page. The small book with many pages is the Bible, and the large book is nature with two pages, heaven and earth.¹

These two books appear in Scripture as two types of revelation: special revelation and general revelation. The Bible does not use these two expressions, but the concepts of "special revelation" and "general revelation" are biblical, just as the Trinity is a biblical concept though not a biblical term.

Psalm 19 brings together both types of revelation. Verses 1-6 teach that general revelation through nature or creation manifests God's glory and workmanship (cf. v. 1, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands"). Verses 7-11 present special revelation through God's Word (cf. v 7, "The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul").

AGREEMENT BETWEEN SPECIAL REVELATION AND GENERAL REVELATION

Special revelation and general revelation are compatible because the "God of truth" originated both and truth is self-consistent (Ps 31:5 cf. 1 John 2:21). Both special and general revelation reveal the true and living God as personal, powerful, wise, good and righ-

teous. And "in this harmony of the special and general lies the touchstone for any legitimate discussion of general revelation."² So be assured that what we truly learn from general revelation agrees with special revelation.

DISTINCTION BETWEEN SPECIAL REVELATION AND GENERAL REVELATION

Special revelation provides much more spiritual truth or knowledge about God and man's relation to Him than general revelation does. God gives special revelation through divine appearances, acts and words, particularly those recorded in Scripture. Scripture then is our primary means of special revelation. Only biblical truth can point us to salvation through faith in Christ, help us grow to spirituality, and equip us adequately for Christian service (2 Tim 3:15-17).

General revelation provides more natural truth but less spiritual truth than special revelation does. It is also more available than special revelation since general revelation is "God's communication of Himself to all persons at all times and in all places."³

THREE MAIN MEANS OF GENERAL REVELATION

General revelation presents basic truth about God and man's expected response to Him primarily through nature or creation, through human nature and through providence.

First, creation or nature reveals knowledge of God to man (Rom 1:20), "For since

the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made."

Psalm 19:1-6 teaches that the disclosure of God and His glory through creation is: (1) constant, since creation is declaring its message both day and night (vv 1-2), (2) visible but not verbal, "There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard" (v 3), and (3) universal (vv 4-6). Other biblical passages point to nature and its phenomena as evidence for God's attributes and activity (Job 36:24-39:30, esp. 36:25; Ps 104:1-35; Isa 40:21-26; Acts 17:24-29).

CONSIDER THE WORLD AROUND US

The minuteness, vastness, grandeur, beauty, variety and intricacy in creation point to a Creator and Designer of stupendous power and wisdom. We can join the Psalmist in praise: "O LORD, our LORD how majestic is Thy name in all the earth!" (Ps 8:9).

Second, human nature is another means of general revelation and also a specific example of God's revelation through creation. Both our outer being and our inner being are fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps 139:14 cf. 2 Cor 4:16). Human nature, though fallen, still testifies to God's personality and creative wisdom (Ps 139:13-18; Acts 17:29). Also, the specific spiritual, rational, moral, social and creative functions of humans are truths of general revelation which support the special revelation that "God created man in His own image" (Gen 1:27 cf 9:6; James 3:9).

Conscience is God's keenest witness built into human nature. Even where special revelation is unknown to people, conscience combines with the work of the Law written in their hearts to witness to a moral God who is supreme Lawgiver and Judge (Rom 2:14-15).

Third, God's providence is also a main means of general revelation, and history is included as a subset of God's providential control of the whole universe.

The context of Acts 14:8-18 and the teaching of Matthew 5:45 "He causes His sun to rise on the evil and good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" show that God's providential goodness includes unbelievers. God's revealed kindness then has the salvatory purpose of leading people to repentance (Rom 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9).

And what responsibilities do people have toward general revelation? Basically these: to acknowledge God (Rom 1:28), to honor Him as God (v 21), to give thanks (v 21) and to

worship and serve Him (v 25).

Sadly, humans have responded to general revelation in a negative way. "They knew God," but "they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks" (Rom 1:21). The witness of general revelation is so dimmed and distorted by people's inherent sinfulness and individual sins that they are left groping in darkness (Rom 1:18-32; Acts 17:22-29, esp. v 27). Only the Spirit through the Gospel message can convict and enlighten unbelievers so that they can repent and trust Christ (Jn 16:7-11; Acts 20:21; 1 Cor 12:3).⁴

God's people have salvation and spiritual illumination which gives them heightened perception and appreciation of general revelation (Jn 16:12-15; 1 Cor 2:9-16). "Therefore the way to the works of God's hands leads always by the way of the Cross. Here the windows are opened and the Light shines forth. Here sympathy is wakened for the world and here the world is seen in God's light."⁵

TRUTHS OF GENERAL REVELATION

General revelation through creation, human nature and providence presents certain basic truths about God and man's expected response to Him. Scripture affirms this role of general revelation though these basic truths are more clearly taught in Scripture.

Since general revelation includes all creation, we can discover numerous detailed truths that Scripture does not address directly such as the atomic structure of matter.

The following principles can help us discern and appreciate these more detailed truths of general revelation.

First, remember that all truth is God's truth, whether found in the book of the Bible or the book of nature (cf. Jn 17:17, "Thy word is truth" and Phil 4:8, "whatever is true").

Second, approach general revelation as a spiritual child of God to realize that "this is my Father's world." "The earth is the Lord's and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it," (Ps 24:1). All other things being equal, through biblical revelation, the Spirit's illumination and a Christian world view, the believer is better equipped than the unbeliever to evaluate alleged knowledge from general revelation and avoid what is falsely called knowledge (1 Tim 6:20). This principle upholds rather than depreciates the Christian development of academic training, artistic abilities and other skills (cf. Ex 28:3; Ez 7:10; Mk 6:3; Acts 18:3).

Third, recognize that God has given us minds with which to reason so that we can

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book of nature.*

A Christian once assured me that God would not allow humans to go to the moon. He had neither biblical warrant nor sufficient reason for this dogmatic opinion.

learn truth in the natural realm. Our minds function best for God when conformed to the mind of Christ and His Word so that we think our Creator's thoughts after Him (Rom 12:2; 1 Cor 2:16; Col 3:16; cf. Col 1:16-17).

Consider, for example, the health benefits we receive through discovery and research in the medical sciences because of God-given reason to learn truth in the natural realm.

Fourth, carefully examine apparent truth from general revelation before accepting it as real truth "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thes 5:21). We have God's Word as our truthful standard (Jn 17:17). Also, we have God-given reason allied with "the mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2:16) to help evaluate information that comes to us from the natural realm.

Knowledge from general revelation such as the physical law of gravity, the periodic table of chemical elements, mathematical equations, the laws of genetics, the sphericity of the earth are either self-evident or so strongly supported by reasonable evidence that we can readily accept them as true.

However, we encounter difficulty with certain scientific theories such as the theory of macro-evolution which most scientists accept based on evidence interpreted from a naturalistic perspective. From a Christian perspective, macro-evolution contradicts biblical evidence for creation and lacks sufficient support from available evidence to accept it as true.

In the social sciences we have the example of B. F. Skinner, the famous behavioral psychologist who taught that man is simply a physical and chemical process with no soul. For him, a person's death is just like an animal's; all conscious existence ceases. Though Skinner's experiments provided valuable insight into patterns of human behavior, his interpretations contradict biblical teaching. (cf. Gen 2:7; Matt 22:37; Lk 16:19-31; Rev 6:9).⁶

Fifth, expect creation to reflect truth about man since God created man in His image (Gen 1:26-27). True knowledge about our physical and psychological structure and function can fill in the details of more general truths in Scripture about our physical and psychological being (cf. 2 Cor 4:16). Again, the book by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, expands our knowledge of human anatomy and the abilities of the body.

Sixth, suspend judgment about theories: (1) that are neither confirmed nor contradicted by Scripture and (2) that are not yet supported by sufficient evidence to consider them definitely

true. Einstein's general theory of relativity was strongly questioned when first proposed, but further evidence has supported it.

Some well-meaning Christians readily swallow the latest theories from the physical sciences, social sciences or other fields. Today's theories may soon prove false or have so little truth that they become outmoded and superseded by others.

On the other hand, beware of a guilt by association complex. Some theories, not entirely true, are not necessarily all false either. The discerning Christian will resist the temptation to throw the baby out with the bath water. Discoveries made by non-Christians or Christians may likewise be used to the glory of God. Remember, all truth is God's truth.

Seventh, avoid clinging to ideas and predictions that have no support from biblical revelation, general revelation or reason. In the late 1950s, landing a man on the moon was still only an idea and not a reality. A Christian once assured me that God would not allow humans to go to the moon. He had neither biblical warrant nor sufficient reason for this dogmatic opinion, and, if anything, scriptural evidence leaned in the opposite direction (Gen 1:26-27; 9:6; 11:6). Such uninformed pronouncements bring unnecessary ridicule upon the Lord, His Word and His people. Truth from general revelation is intended to glorify God (Ps 19:1).

Eighth, remember that we can learn much from general revelation; but only through special revelation in Scripture do we see the Gospel and learn of God's sacrificial love for us in Christ (Jn 5:39; Rom 5:8; 2 Tim 3:15).

FUTURE OF GENERAL REVELATION

When God fulfills His promise of a new heaven and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells (2 Pet 3:13), then general revelation and special revelation shall merge without distinction. All believers will be in God's presence where God's glory shines brilliantly in the holy city, New Jerusalem (Rev 21:23; 22:5). Then all of God's creative and redemptive works through Christ shall be seen in the full revelatory light of divine glory. Until then we see in a mirror dimly and know in part (1 Cor 13:12). So let us learn diligently from God's two books: the book of Scripture and the book of nature. In this way we will obey Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom." ■

¹Adapted from Erich Sauer, *The King of the Earth* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1962); ²G. C. Berkouwer, "General and Special Divine Revelation," in *Revelation and the Bible*, ed. Carl F. H. Henry (Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1958); ³Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985); ⁴Cf. Acts 13:48; 16:14; 17:30; 1 Cor 2:9-16; 2 Cor 4:3-4; Eph 6:17; ⁵Berkouwer; ⁶Cf. Matt 22:31-32; 2 Cor 5:1-10; Phil 1:23; 1 Pet 2:11.

NEW TESTAMENT Principles

by Charles G. Coleman

All of us who attend Brethren assemblies would like to see these assemblies united on a common ground of fellowship. At present, there are unresolved differences which prevent this from happening and which sometimes seem to be driving us apart into separate groups. Most of these differences concern assembly practices: the things assemblies do or don't do. I would like to shift the focus of attention from practices to principles. While it is true that practices are important, principles are equally important. If we are assured that our assemblies still agree on a solid group of principles—and I believe they do—we can deal with our differences more confidently.

Before we go further, let's talk about the relationship between principles and practices. Someone has said, "Principles are guideposts, practices are hitching posts." Principles are our basic convictions. Like guideposts they give us direction on our journey through life. Practices, like hitching posts, mark points where we stop on this journey to deal with practical problems or circumstances.

Our principles are usually permanent, and they are not visible to others. We may vary our practices as circumstances change. But, if we are people of integrity, our practices will remain consistent with our principles. Practices are visible to those around.

The Brethren movement was founded on the basis of New Testament principles. One group of these principles relates to fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith: the inspiration of the Scriptures, the Trinity, the deity of Christ, His death, burial and resurrection, salvation by faith, and so on. Other Bible-believing churches share our belief in these fundamentals.

There is also a second group of New Testament principles—those known as "church principles"—which we will consider in more detail. They are the convictions which guided operations of the first churches, those which were founded in apostolic times. The Brethren are fully committed to putting these New Testament church principles into practice. Most other evangelical bodies have not made this commitment.

What specifically are these New Testament church principles as assemblies today understand them? Unfortunately, there is no single, agreed-upon list. Because Brethren assemblies are autonomous, each is responsible to study the Scriptures and to discover and apply these principles for itself. There is no inter-assembly mechanism for compiling and publishing them.

SERVICE GUIDELINES

Let's tackle the problem from another angle. Some time ago, three U.S. Brethren-related service organizations, Stewards Foundation, Stewards Ministries and Interest Ministries created a set of guidelines to help them distinguish Brethren assemblies

from churches of other types. These guidelines are oriented toward practices, rather than principles, but we can use them as a starting point. Since their creation, the guidelines have been widely circulated and are generally accepted by North American assemblies. They serve as the basis on which each new congregation is listed in the assembly address book. These guidelines are:

1. The church recognizes and gives opportunity for the manifesting of the priesthood of all believers with no clergy/laity division.
2. The church is committed to the concept of a plurality of leadership, usually demonstrated by a group of elders with equal authority who lead as shepherds under the headship of Christ.
3. The church is independent of any controlling organization or other affiliation, is autonomous in its government, and is in fellowship with other brethren assemblies.
4. The church remembers the Lord in the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper.
5. The church has a statement of faith consistent with the Stewards Foundation/ Stewards Ministries/Interest Ministries statement of faith.

FROM GUIDELINES TO PRINCIPLES

From these guidelines, we can work backward to identify the principles on which they are based. I have gone through this exercise and found seven principles which I believe underlie the guidelines. They are:

1. THE PRINCIPLE OF PRIESTHOOD: The principle that all believers are priests with direct access to God. *From guideline 1.*
2. THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY: The principle that class distinctions have no place among Christians and should be eliminated, including clergy/laity distinctions. *From guideline 1.*
3. THE PRINCIPLE OF PLURAL LEADERSHIP: The principle that each assembly should be guided by a group of spiritually mature persons, normally biblical elders with equal authority. *From guideline 2.*
4. THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY: The principle that local churches should be autonomous in government and independent of outside human authority or affiliation. *From guideline 3.*
5. THE PRINCIPLE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY: The principle that all

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practices will
remain consistent
with our principles.*

We can enjoy unity without insisting on unanimity.

believers are members of the body of Christ and that there should be no man-made barriers to fellowship. (Note that the guideline calls only for fellowship among Brethren assemblies. However, by extension it supports the scriptural concept of fellowship among all believers.) *From guideline 3.*

6. THE PRINCIPLE OF THE CENTRALITY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: The principle that the Lord's Supper should be given a central place in assembly worship and observed frequently. The emphasis given this ordinance in the New Testament suggests weekly observance. *From guideline 4.*

7. THE PRINCIPLE OF SOUND DOCTRINE: The principle that each assembly should adhere to a solidly evangelical statement of faith. *From guideline 5.*

What can we say about these principles? All seven are clearly supportable from Scripture. Moreover, since the service guidelines from which we derived them are common in North American assemblies, it seems reasonable to assume that the principles themselves are also held by these assemblies.

Do they provide an adequate base on which North American assemblies can unite? Any judgment on this point must necessarily be subjective. Personally, I believe these seven principles are sufficiently comprehensive and definitive of the Brethren movement to serve this purpose. In any case, if the process of deriving them has been accurate, they tell us where our assemblies are at the present time.

DEALING WITH DIFFERENCES

Let's take a look at some of the issues on which assemblies differ. Many of these subjects are important. They include such matters as the interpretation of prophetic Scriptures, divorce and remarriage, women's head covering, the public role of women in the church. No doubt my readers can name others.

Without discounting the significance of these matters, it is worth noting that none of them involves the fundamentals of the faith, and that differences about them are not new. These differences have been with us for generations, some since the time of the early church fathers.

In a February 1988 INTEREST article entitled "Fundamentals and Secondary Issues," William MacDonald called matters such as those listed above: "Subjects that are not fundamental but are nonetheless important." He wrote, "The problem is that Christians hold differing views on these matters. While there is only one right interpretation, believers do not agree as to what that interpretation is. Great and godly men do not see eye to eye."

MacDonald suggested that Christians make certain of their own beliefs on these issues, and exercise tolerance with respect to the views of others.

Some forty years earlier, across the Atlantic, Dr. Stephen Short gave similar advice to a conference of assembly leaders. His remarks concerned only one of these thorny issues, but, in my view, could be equally applied to others. He said, "The evidence is not all one-sided, there is no cast-iron case one way or another....My own recommendation therefore is this: that

each church should be left by other churches, and indeed by visiting preachers, in complete freedom to make their decision before God, and in the light of what they honestly believe the Scripture to teach, as to the practice they propose to follow."¹

As members of the Brethren movement, we can enjoy unity without insisting on unanimity. We can recognize this sort of interpretive difference as evidence of the spirit of free inquiry which has been traditional among Brethren. Of this spirit F. F. Bruce wrote, "It is part of our heritage [as Brethren] that we are encouraged to study the Bible for ourselves and reach our own conclusions about its teaching, without undue deference to one particular school of thought."²

In addition to differences in Scripture interpretation, assemblies often have divergent views on things about which Scripture is silent. These may include types of music used in assembly services, order of meetings, and the use of resident full time workers. On such matters, of course, each assembly should have full liberty.

WRAPPING IT UP

Like other old-timers, I remember when most assemblies conducted their breaking of bread services in the same way, sung the same hymns, and had nearly the same schedule of meetings. The result was that one could visit a strange assembly and feel instantly comfortable. While those days are gone, I believe assembly fellowship based on common principles need not disappear.

I have listed below a few tentative suggestions as to how we might encourage a spirit of fellowship and unity among our assemblies in these confusing times. They are:

- That we agree to seek a common ground of fellowship on the basis of principles, not practices.
- That as an initial step, we accept informally the seven principles listed in this paper as a basis for practical inter-assembly fellowship.
- That we support with prayer and fellowship the assemblies which accept these principles, even if we are not entirely comfortable with some of their practices.
- That we encourage free discussion of our differences, with the expectation that exchanging views in a spirit of grace will help us to understand the reasons for these differences, and may in some cases help to resolve them.

In a few years, if the Lord has not come, our assemblies, along with the rest of the world, will be tumbled, ready or not, into the third millennium. New cultural and technological changes will provide a special challenge for all evangelical Christians including Brethren assemblies.

If we are to do our part in meeting this challenge, we must begin now to forge a spirit of renewed unity and mutual support. If we are successful in this effort, our assemblies can be an effective witness for Christ in the world of 2000 A.D. and beyond. ■

Charles Coleman is a commended worker living in Bowie, Maryland. For many years he was the endorsing agent for brethren chaplains serving in the military.

¹Short, Stephen, *The New Testament Church in 1955. Report of Conference of Brethren held at "High Leigh."* Rushden, England: Stanley Hunt (Printer) Ltd., ²Bruce, F.F., 1993, *In Retrospect*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

I recently had to use a computer that did not have a modem attached. It was like using a car that didn't have tires. Everything works, but you can't go anywhere. Modems open the world to your computer. If you have a computer, but you don't have a modem you are missing out on much of your computer's potential. A modem will allow you access to other people via online services, the Internet and e-mail.

There are two main ways to get "online." The first is to use an online service. There are four major online services: America Online, CompuServe, Prodigy and Microsoft Network. (They are listed in order of the number of users.) All of these provide access to the Internet as well as to content that is unique to that service. America Online has the largest Christian area (Keyword: Christianity or <><). *Christianity Today* and all its affiliated magazines are available on America Online, along with other Christian magazines. There are chat areas where you can talk to other Christians and message boards where you can post letters to lots of people at one time. CompuServe also has a large Christian area called Christian Interactive Network (Go CIN). There are forums here for people who homeschooled as well as areas for Christian companies to keep us informed about their services and products. Prodigy and MSN are still playing the catch up game for most content, including Christian content.

Prodigy has been known for having the best Internet access. America Online's is the most tightly integrated, but AOL's Web browser is lacking. (This will be changing shortly with the announcement that AOL will be shipping Microsoft's Internet Explorer as part of their package. You will also be able to download Netscape to use with AOL shortly.) CompuServe has been shipping Spry's Mosaic with their program for Internet access. They are still working on integrating it into their WinCIM program better. Microsoft has good Internet access using their Internet Explorer. These services cost between \$4.95 and \$9.95 per month for basic access. You typically get a certain number of hours online and pay extra per hour beyond your free time.

The second way to get online is through an Internet provider. Most towns have at least one local Internet provider. If your town doesn't, there are companies that provide access across the nation. Pick up any magazine that has Internet in the title and you will find a dozen ads for such companies. There are several companies run by Christians (some are

Internet 101

MODEMS and ONLINE SERVICES

"assembly" people) that offer Internet access. When you sign on with an Internet provider they typically give you a basic set of software for getting on the Internet as part of your sign up fee. The two best Web browsers are Netscape and Microsoft Internet Explorer. Internet providers typically charge from \$5 for 10 to 15 hours free to \$200 for unlimited usage per month. This is starting to change. I recently heard that AT&T is offering unlimited access for \$20 per month. Going through an Internet provider is typically more complicated to set up than using an online service.

Both of these ways will give you an e-mail address. Examples from the various services are:

COMPUSERVE: 72570.1330 (within CompuServe), 72570.1330@compuserve.com (for Internet)

AMERICAONLINE: JimVanDuze (within AOL), JimVanDuze@aol.com (for Internet)

MICROSOFT NETWORK: Jim_VanDizer (within MSN), Jim_VanDizer@msn.com (for Internet)

DIRECT INTERNET: jvanduze@inav.net

Using the "for Internet" address will allow you to communicate with friends across service providers. For example, if I only used CompuServe I could still send e-mail to someone on AOL just by adding the @aol.com attached to their screen name.

The thrill of e-mail is being able to communicate instantly with anyone (say, overseas missionaries) at the click of a computer key. No envelopes, no stamps, no trips to the post office and your mail arrives in seconds.

BUYING TIP: If you are about to buy a modem, make sure you get one that is at least a 14,400 baud. If you can afford the extra \$50-\$100 get a 28,800 baud modem. The higher the "baud rate" the faster the modem. ■

by Jim VanDuzer
jimvanduze@aol.com

If you have a computer, but you don't have a modem you are missing out on much of your computer's potential.

NEWS & NOTICES

WESTERN CANADA

100% INVOLVEMENT

It has been an encouraging year at Bethany Christian Assembly in Richmond, British Columbia. A year ago we committed ourselves to developing healthy mid-week groups for discipleship and spiritual growth. From a beginning with one group, there are now five groups with 75 percent of our people involved. This year we have set a goal of 100 percent involvement.

A significant number of seekers have been part of these groups. As a result we expect to baptize six very soon. Each of these came initially as unbelievers or as people who had previously made a profession of belief but never seriously pursued the reality of Christ in their lives. We are delighted to see what God is doing in these groups.

Pray that God will add new and established believers to our church family. Three years ago we began with twelve people, now attendance on a Sunday morning is from 45 to 70.

*Grant and Carol Galpin,
British Columbia*

HELPING STREET PEOPLE

For five years we directed the men's work at the Winnipeg rescue mission. We realized that this approach does not work for many people who have been through programs and treatment centers.

In 1991 we started a ministry to street people. Forward House offers a home to men who want to start a new life, re-establish access to their children and family. The program is different

for each person. We network programs that are already available, alcohol awareness, life skills, etc. We teach Bible studies and a Christ-centered 12-step class.

Until now we have had two houses, totalling 13 beds. A third house is expected to be ready in July.

*Ed and Jo-Anne Mullis,
Manitoba*



Ed and Jo-Anne Mullis

for each person. We network programs that are already available, alcohol awareness, life skills, etc. We teach Bible studies and a Christ-centered 12-step class.

Until now we have had two houses, totalling 13 beds. A third house is expected to be ready in July.

*Ed and Jo-Anne Mullis,
Manitoba*

EASTERN CANADA

10,000 BOOKS

We have been pleased to see the Lord use the printed materials of Every-day Publications. This year started off with more than 10,000 books being shipped to various parts of the world. Many were sent free of charge to commended missionaries working in third world countries. Our prayer is that the Lord might use these for the encouragement and edification of His people in less privileged parts of the world.

*William and Della Letkeman,
Ontario*

CUBAN ASSEMBLIES

After leaving Cuba a number of years ago, we have been able to visit some six other Spanish-speaking countries where missionaries carry on a similar work as we did.

Cuba and the assemblies there have been much blessed in recent times and a number of new assemblies have been raised up. They have liberty now to buy buildings (with U.S. dollars) and convert them into assembly halls. Conversions have multiplied and conferences held in three different areas of the country number 300 to 400 in attendance. Visits with them are most encouraging and their enthusiasm is contagious.

*David and Agnes Adams,
Ontario*

AS THE LORD LEADS

Over the past couple years the Lord has led us into a new and broader ministry than exclusively with the



Steven and Gail Faulkner, Benjamin, Laura, Jessica, Megan, Thomas, Kyla

Brethren. Because of His leading we have requested that our commendation be ended effective as of this writing. We thank God for all who have been part of the work of God in our life and ministry. We will continue to minister whole time as the Lord leads.

*Steven and Gail Faulkner,
Ontario*

WESTERN U.S.A.

PRESSURES WITHOUT AND WITHIN

We continue to serve the Lord at Immanuel Mission on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona. I am administrator of the Christian school with about 80 students in grades K-12. Several have trusted the Lord this year, one other student was baptized.

Navajo young people find it very difficult to maintain a strong testimony due to peer pressure to drink and family pressure to attend traditional ceremonies. Several Christian students are being discipled by staff to try to strengthen them.

We anticipate needing more staff for next school year. A teaching certificate is not required, but some college credit is preferable.

*John and Ruth Bloom,
Arizona*



John and Ruth Bloom

HAWAII CONDO

A Christian-owned condo is available in Kihei, Maui (Hawaii), Kamaole Beach. Completely furnished, sleeps four. Large pool, excellent restaurants, golf, tennis, shopping, water sports activities nearby. Call (California) (800) 484-9829, Security Code Maui (6284).

A PACKED NEW BUILDING
 The meeting here continues to see encouragement with new visitors each week. The night of our Christmas Outreach to the community, the building was packed with an overflow crowd of just under 300 people. Our location gives us high visibility and there is commercial and residential growth all around. After five years of meeting in a day care, we are thankful for God's provision of this building.

*Venture and Darlene Coy,
 Idaho*

CENTRAL U.S.A.

WORKING AND PRAYING
 Things are moving along here. We are still working to complete the construction of the new building. The Lord is bringing us into contact with new people on a regular basis and we are praying that He will add many to our church in this coming year.

*Jim and Shirley Iverson,
 Iowa*

SOUTHERN U.S.A.

EXPANSION AT PITTSBORO CHRISTIAN VILLAGE

February 24 marked a day in history for the folk at Pittsboro Christian Village. A ground breaking was held for the new Assisted Living Wing which will be built this summer. The theme of the program was "Praising God for Past and Future." President Reggie Edwards spoke of how God has met the needs of the ministry over the past 40 years and we depend on Him to meet the needs in the future.

Funds have been coming in to help



with the cost of the new \$400,000 wing. This will also open additional opportunities for service in nursing and food service. Inquiries can be sent to W. D. Dewhurst, P.O. Box 518, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or (919) 542-3151.

AT-RISK YOUTH
 We have been busy with Sunday School classes, mentoring At-risk youths and tutoring some youths on Thursday evenings. On Martin Luther King's birthday I was guest speaker at an area Baptist church. What a great opportunity to preach the Good News to many.

Our newly elected sheriff, the first black sheriff in Pike County, asked us to help establish a G.E.D. program in the local jail. We are busy writing procedures and teaching guidelines and sorting book sets.

During February I was inspired to teach on "Searching for Blacks in the Bible," and "History: God's Style" on the Exodus Broadcast. Many encouraging comments and calls were received for the information shared.

*Nathan and Regina Johnson,
 Mississippi*

ADDRESSES

BRIAN AND KRISTINE ANDERSON

Bair Lake Bible Camp, 12500 Prang Road, Jones, MI 49061

FRANCOIS AND LOUISE FRECHETTE

1302 Chemin Belair Ouest, St-Jean Chrysostome, PQ G6Z 2L2;
 (418) 839-3311

PETER AND CHARLENE SANTUCCI

7 - 4335 W. 10th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6R 2H6; (604) 228-9769

REG AND JOANNE SNYDER

22A - 190 Lester St., Waterloo, ON N2L 3W4; (519) 746-0354



Groundbreaking at Pittsboro Christian Village

CHURCH LISTINGS

BROWNS HILL BIBLE CHAPEL
 c/o David Murison, 913 Stevendale Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15221;
 (412) 271-0958

CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR
 Sarasota, Florida, meets in homes. For information call Brian Chase (941) 922-1803 or Dr. Charles Nixon, (941) 924-0802.

QUEENSDALE BIBLE CHAPEL

Meets in Comley School, 771 Limeridge Rd. E., Hamilton; (905) 383-0700. Mailing address: Box 79505 Gagemoat P.O., 712 Mohawk Rd. E., Hamilton, ON L8T 5A2 (Correction to February listing).

CONFERENCES

LADIES MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The New England Ladies Missionary Conference will be held May 4 at Buttonwoods Bible Chapel, 311 Buttonwoods Ave., Warwick, RI, 9:30 to 4 p.m. Speakers: Darlene Fizer, Nita Papworth, Joyce Anna, Sheela Dandeker. For further information contact Joan Shaw (401) 246-1192 or Frances Gardner (401) 739-2556.

OKANAGAN VALLEY CONFERENCE

The Okanagan Valley Conference will be held May 17-19 at Morning Star Bible Camp, Westbank, BC. Speaker: Jean Gibson and music by Garry Bresch Trio. Call (604) 762-0222

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Fourth annual Missions Conference at Hillside Bible Chapel in Orillia, Ontario, May 19, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Speakers: Ron Pearce, Don Brooks, Robert Harris and Claude Loney.

MEMORIAL DAY CONFERENCE

Meadow Ridge Bible Chapel, West Fargo, North Dakota, will hold their 1996 Memorial Day Weekend Bible Conference May 24-27. Stephen Hulshizer and Steve Price will be the speakers. Contact: Myron and Kathy Martinson, RR 2, Box 197, Moorhead, MN 56560; (218) 233-9790.

SKYLAND BIBLE CONFERENCE

The 40th annual Skyland Bible Conference will be held June 29 to July 5 at Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Georgia. Speakers: Tom Taylor and James Cochrane. Nursery, children's meetings and activities for all ages. For registration write to John and Tina Taylor, P.O. Box 754, Jamestown, NC 27282 (910) 454-4927.

INT. CHRISTIAN VISUAL MEDIA ASSOC. CONVENTION

A conference for Christian video producers/users; July 9-12 at Inn at the Park Hotel, Anaheim, CA. For attendance or exhibitor information call Paul Marks (303) 694-4286.

WORKERS AND ELDERS CONFERENCE

Palos Hills (Illinois) Christian Assembly will host the Workers and Elders Conference, October 8-10. Elliot Van Ryn will lead a daily Bible study. Other speakers include Arthur Auld, Ken Hampton, David MacLeod and Steven Thompson. For reservations contact John McKillop, 10005 Westmanor Dr., Franklin Park, IL 60131-3129 (708) 455-7595.

COMMENDATIONS

ROBERT AND RUTH DANIELS
After serious prayer and discussion the elders of Bridgeway Community Church in Carol Stream, Illinois, have commended Robert Daniels as Pastor of Creative Communication. His desire is to utilize his gifts and heart to propagate Christ's kingdom in the Carol Stream area. We trust that together we will see many more people come to

know Christ and built up in him.

Rob and Ruthie have two children, Josiah and Jonah.

RAY AND CAROL JONES

Christians at Wallenstein (Ont) Bible Chapel have commended Ray and Carol Jones to a continuation of their ministry with New Tribes Mission and in itinerant public teaching.

Ray and Carol have been serving for a number of years with New Tribes Mission at the training centre in Durham and are in happy fellowship at Wallenstein. Ray is frequently invited to preach and teach in various local churches throughout Southern Ontario. We believe God has given him the gift of communicating spiritual truth.

ED AND JO-ANNE MULLIS

Christians at The Maples Community Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, have commended Ed and Jo-Anne Mullis to the Lord's work with Forward House and Ed to the work at the Winnipeg International Airport.

In 1991 the Mullises opened their home to eight men. These men are referred to them by organizations such as Union Gospel Mission, Addictions Foundation, Headingley Jail and Stoney Mountain Penitentiary. Biblical guidance is given along with life skill development. The Gospel is clearly presented by word and deed in this context.

Ed has recently been appointed Senior Airport Chaplain at the Winnipeg International Airport. This is a faith ministry whereby Ed provides consultation to passengers and some of the 4000 staff who work in the complex.

We believe the Lord has called the Mullises to these ministries; their gifts are suited to each of these ministry areas.

PETER AND CHARLENE SANTUCCI

The elders at Granville Chapel, Vancouver, British Columbia, have commended Peter and Charlene Santucci. The Santuccis are engaged in a ministry to young people and have also provided support, guidance and teaching to the Granville Teens outreach.

Apart from the work at the Chapel, they have directed a Training in Christian Living program at Lakeside Bible

Camp. Both have a good grasp of the Scriptures and are good role models.

REG AND JOANNE SNYDER

Christians at Lakeshore Bible Chapel, Waterloo, Ontario, have commended Reg and Joanne Snyder to the work of the Lord at International Teams of Canada. Reg is an accountant and has been working in that capacity at the IT Canadian office since 1994. Joanne has also served in the office in various capacities. We believe the Snyders are providing a valuable contribution to the overall missions ministry of International Teams of Canada.

FOREIGN

MICHELLE (SHELLY) JOHNSON

The saints at Greenwood Hills Assembly in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, commend Michelle Johnson to the work of the Lord in the Philippine Islands where she will be laboring with her husband, Dr. David Johnson.

Shelly has served on the staff of Greenwood Hills Bible Conference the past few years and has demonstrated her love for the Lord and her desire to serve Him.

KEN AND DEBBIE MARTIN

Christians at Wallenstein (Ontario) Bible Chapel have commended Ken and Debbie Martin to the work of the Lord in foreign missions. The Snyders have attended New Tribes Mission Training Institute in Durham, Ontario, and the Mission School of Linguistics in Missouri. Throughout their training period, the Lord led them to consider Guinea, West Africa. Initially they will be studying French, the official language of Guinea, but hope to get involved in construction projects.

EDWARD AND TECKLA SMIETANSKI

After serious prayer and discussion the elders of Bridgeway Community Church, Carol Stream, Illinois, have commended Ed and Teckla to missionary service. The Smietanskis hope to serve with a Christian publishing ministry in Belgium.

Pray for the Smietanski family as they use their gifts for His kingdom.

JOSEPH JEREMIAH

Christians at The Washington (D.C.) Christian Assembly have added their commendation to that of Colmar Manor (MD) Assembly for brother Joseph Jeremiah. Mr. Jeremiah is now in fellowship in the Washington assembly but helps out at Colmar Manor in weekly Bible studies. He is also engaged in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry.

CHRIS AND BECKY HOWARD

Bridgeway Community Church has withdrawn the commendation of Christopher and Rebecca Howard.

MONTE AND MARGARET MCGIBBON

The Christians of Bancroft (Ontario) Bible Chapel have withdrawn the commendation of Monte and Margaret McGibbon as they have moved into a self supporting ministry, after many years of unselfish service. They are active in happy fellowship in the assembly.

WITH THE LORD**GARLAND T. FESCHE**

Garland T. Fesche of Longport, New Jersey, went to be with the Lord on February 16. She and her husband, Edwin Fesche, spent many years in pioneer work. She spent the last two years at the Longport Home for the Aged.

MRS. GENEVIEVE A. RODGERS

Mrs. Genevieve A. Rodgers of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, went to be with the Lord on February 15. In 1925 she married Willard Rodgers and together they served the Lord until his homecall in January 1994.

ALEXANDER WILSON

Alexander Wilson went to be with the Lord on January 15. He was commended to the Lord's work in 1934 by Fourth Street Gospel Hall in North Vancouver, British Columbia, and spent his years in Gospel preaching and assembly ministry in the western provinces of Canada and in Washington state. ■

NORTH AMERICA • The Worldwide Church of God continues to emerge from theological isolationism toward mainstream Christianity. "Skepticism about the WCG's transformation was understandable," WCG President, Joseph Tkach said. Founder Herbert W. Armstrong insisted his was the true church, while teaching doctrines that contradicted historic Christianity. "We called other churches children of the devil," Tkach said. "We completely repent of that." WCG doctrine began to change after Armstrong's death. They now teach the doctrines of the Trinity and salvation by grace through faith, but certain distinctives are maintained.

• America is headed for anarchy or revival in five to ten years, researcher George Barna predicted during a Feb. 19 seminar in Nashville, TN. The church hasn't prevented a massive moral or ethical decline in America, he said. Despite the growth of some churches, there has been no increase overall in people becoming Christians. Although 82% of Americans call themselves Christians, only 37% attend services in a given week, the Barna Research Group said. The survey showed that 31% of baby boomers, those ages 31-50, had attended church in the past seven days. The figure was 50% in 1981. Among the baby bust generation, those 18-30, 34% can be found at a worship service on a typical weekend.

• Black churches targeted to burn. In scenes reminiscent of the civil rights struggles of decades past, more than 20 churches in southern states have recently been set ablaze. For Christians, this is not just a racially-motivated act but an attack against the church of Jesus Christ. We condemn this injustice toward our brothers and sisters in the faith and have communicated to the Justice Department that the perpetrators of these crimes must be found and stopped. (National Association of Evangelicals, Washington *INSIGHT*, April 1996.)

• The New Era bankruptcy case appears to be headed for a settlement. During a March 6 meeting in Philadelphia, representatives of many Christian and secular nonprofit groups involved agreed in principle on terms of a negotiated agreement. This would include a substantial return of net monetary gains by some charities to cover losses that others suffered when The Foundation for New Era Philosophy collapsed last May.

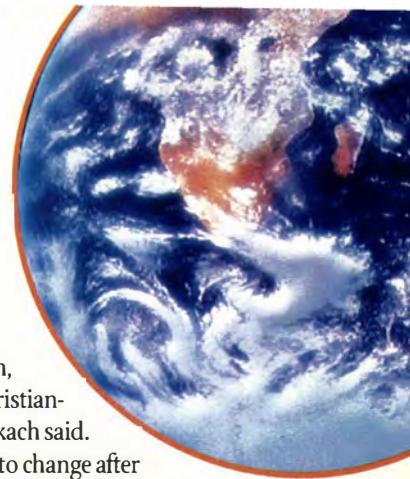
INDONESIA • Six months ago, Mission Aviation Fellowship contacted the Tukeni tribe in Irian Jaya, which never had heard the Gospel. Since then, evangelists have visited and about 20 Tukenis became Christians, MAF said.

AUSTRALIA • More than 25,000 people came to Festival 96, a three-day Franklin Graham Crusade in Sydney. The March 8-11 crusade was the first stop in his 12-day tour through the country. Some 1,500 people made commitments to Christ in Sydney and about 100 did so in Cairns. Graham filled in for his father, Billy, who canceled his appearances for health reasons.

SWEDEN • A national television network refused to air Christian messages at Easter. A network spokesman said Swedish law prohibits the airing of religious or political views, according to news reports. The Swedish Free Church had planned an advertising campaign to increase church attendance, but was told the ads could not mention the name Jesus. "If we had done that there would have been nothing left," said campaign organizer Curt Ankaberg.

SOUTH AMERICA • Most of the 9.4 million Mormons in the world now live outside of the United States, the church said. The most growth has occurred in Latin America, where there are more than three million Mormons. The church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has 50,000 missionaries, it said.

(Excerpted from National & International Religion Report, unless otherwise stated.)



*I've looked at life from both sides now, from win and lose and still somehow—
It's life's illusions I recall; I really don't know life at all.* —JONI MITCHELL

My sister Ruby has looked at life from both sides; she has suffered many losses. My father, who loved horse races, would probably have said, "We've backed a long shot."

We've nearly lost her several times. At those times I realized the value of our friendship. But like the Phoenix, she has risen again and again from her illness with MS for 25 years and defied even the doctors. Her life has closely paralleled mine in terms of spirituality, books, friends, travel and creative things she has done.

When we were in our teens, we sat up all night traveling to New York by bus. We ate only hamburgers for four days, and stood throughout the performance of "My Fair Lady." We both went abroad—she traveled first class on an ocean liner—I was the only passenger on a Dutch cargo ship. I lived in London, England—she in Germany. At one point our letters crossed in the mail. I traveled to Germany to see her, while she flew to London and sat on my doorstep waiting for me. She loaned me her dress to return home to meet my fiance. I flew to her in Montreal when she was very ill. In the wee hours of the morning (when my husband was away) she drove me

the youngest (Ruby) would jump in.

Ruby has parachuted into many situations. She would say, "I've had guts but no talent." Her audacity has taken her far beyond her limitations. As a teacher, when asked to stand in for a math class, she solved the problem of finding out the circumference of a circle by quickly tying a piece of string around a cylinder and then measuring it. For years she did T.V. interviews with celebrities and edited scripts. She put together a children's choir for 100 Huntley Street, a Toronto television program, when she couldn't read music.

Despite her handicap, Ruby has invested her life in people. They can relate to her because through her brokenness, she has gained wisdom. Here is part of a piece she wrote called "Green Valley."

"I have come to the conclusion that my address for the past year has been Green Valley. In the valley, though that's where the grass is green, you can't see very far and when you speak it's as though you hear only your own words echoing.

"After another vicious blow with MS, I felt like David facing Goliath—so big, so powerful, screaming threats of defeat. David tackled the giant with a sling and five stones.

"I looked at the five stones I had. One is hope—without this one I might as well take the other four and skip them

by Esther McIlveen



Woman to Woman

to the hospital when I was expecting twins and gave me courage.

After a recent trip to Toronto to see her, I came back to Vancouver feeling that the time had come to write about her.

My father was an austere man who judged us by our handwriting and straight backs. Mother distinguished each child by what she called her "hole" philosophy. It went like this. The character of each child could be determined by their reaction to a hole. The eldest would turn and retreat if she came across a hole. The second would stand frozen to the spot, the third (me) would see how near the edge she could move without falling in and

across the water. Patience—I learned that the hard way. Determination—there were many 'walking wounded' around me, while I determined. Recollections—a record of God's faithfulness that could never be forgotten. And last, Faith—that is the one that would bring the giant down.

"The sling that would bolster these stones was a supportive, praying, caring community. Without that I would still be sitting in my valley, playing with my stones.

"I still go down to the Green Valley to pick up my mail. If I meet you there, I hope I've gained enough strength to sit with you until we can climb the mountain together." ■

Esther McIlveen is a columnist for a community newspaper, *The Richmond Review*, writing a weekly column called "Matters of Faith." Her Jewish editor has given her a great deal of freedom to write about the uniqueness of Jesus Christ in a multicultural society.

WILL THEY KNOW THAT GOD IS REALLY AMONG YOU?

by Keith Price

Stan was a policeman neighbour of my Australian friend Norman. They had often talked about Jesus over the fence. "Time to take him to church" thought Norman. So, they went. Five hundred packed the auditorium. "Hope he preaches a good one today," thought Norman. He did! It couldn't have been clearer. They squeezed and greeted their way to the door. People were so friendly. Walking home, Norman ventured, "How did you like the sermon, Stan?" Surprised, Stan said, "Oh, I guess it was O.K." But then added excitedly, "Norman, those people really love each other! Could I become like one of them?" He did!

If unbelievers say "God is really among you," would they be right? Are they always reliable judges of what is or is not from God? Could their subjective evaluation be biased by what gives them pleasure, rather than by what God would do if He really took over?

Take a "seeker sensitive" church with a genuine concern for reaching the lost (may their tribe increase!). If they have an "if-we-please-them-they may-come-back" philosophy, they can become so market-driven they do everything they think of to make the audience feel at home. Some may even have a policy of not opening the Bible lest they turn off the uninitiated. The audience could be so ecstatic about the program, they may say "God is really among you." Yet probably nothing would be further from the truth! In our eagerness to please, we finish up worshipping man rather than God.

So, I'm going to change my assigned topic from "How to function so that even visitors will say 'God is really among you,'" to "How to function so that hungry hearts will know God is really among you."

Unbelievers quickly see through man-made imitations trying to compete with television entertainment. Communist China has few of our props. Yet, without buildings, church growth machinery or fund raising organizations, churches have multiplied themselves seventy times. Could our so-called helps actually be hindrances?

Other than the purely subjective sense of God's presence (which, although enjoyable, is not always the most reliable) we must let Scripture show us what makes visitors know that God is among us.

The apostle John is the mystic among the four evangelists. He is the one with deep feelings and a sensitivity to tell-tale vibes marking God's presence. But such extrasensory perception was not good enough for John. He quotes Jesus: "by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

The purpose of Jesus' prayer "that they all may be one"

(John 17) is that the world may believe (v. 21) and know (v. 23). That prayer shows that true unity is a compelling drawing card and has two elements. First, there is a unity with the apostles (vv 20-21—*them, those, all of them* {NIV} refer respectively to the disciples, to subsequent generations of believers, and to both groups together). Second, there is a unity with the Father and the Son (v. 21). Only on these twin bases can unity among us today be genuinely Christian. But what do they mean?

I suggest that the unity with the apostles is a unity in a common truth—the apostles' doctrine; and that the unity with the Father and the Son is a unity in a common life, that given us by the Holy Spirit upon believing the truth.

Believing in the message preached (v. 20) will result in the Life of Jesus Christ (i.e., the fruit of the Holy Spirit) flowing through our lives (vv 21-22). The primary indication will be love—in its many different forms (Gal 5:22-23).

Therefore, where God is at work in His church it will be known primarily because the Truth (which grabs a hungry person's heart) is proclaimed, and the Love (which is irresistible) is observed in a thousand ways.

My joy may be either bubbling or quiet but peace will mark my spirit. My longsuffering will listen well and my gentleness be kind; my goodness will reach out and my faithfulness persevere; meekness will hold back my sharp tongue and self control will show God is in control. I will take the initiative to restore a broken relationship even though it's clearly his fault. My thankful spirit will be contagious and my life saturated with Scripture—always ready with a word, in season and out. I will overflow to others in works of service and I will be quick to recognize the whole Body of Christ (there is only one!) no matter by what name it is called.

A gripping atmosphere and a sense of a divine presence, enjoyable though they are to me, are not to be trusted as something indisputably produced by the Spirit of God. (The New Age version is almost indistinguishable). Rather, give me Love and Truth. When they're in balance, the Spirit of God goes to work! ■



The Canadian Arena is produced by Vision Canada (formerly Interest Ministries Canada). It operates in Ontario as Vision Ontario. Keith Price is a commended worker living in British Columbia. He has a worldwide preaching ministry.

INTEREST

P.O. Box 190
Wheaton, IL 60189
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DUALITY

There is a principle, scientific,
That awes the mind as fact terrific!
For light and particles behave,
As both particles AND waves!
This is called "DUALITY,"
Which is a paradox, you see.
How can these contradictions be?

Each excludes the other mutually.
Both properties it has, it's true.
Like saying 'blue is red and red is blue.'

"Yes," says the physicist, "We want 'em,
To be described by mechanics, quantum."
The electron though discrete in mass,
For an energy wave may pass,
And, so also, the light wave photon
Is both wave and particle to dote on.

Waves can bend and be refracted,
Particle mass can be impacted,
And be measured as momentum.
But why, as such, did God invent 'em?

I think He wanted an object lesson,
For each Christian whose confession,
Includes paradox of Christ's dual nature,
Both God and man with human stature.

He set the lesson in our bodies,
To show greatness that our God is,
Reflected in such properties, it seems,
In every atom in our genes,
Displays the Son's DUALITY,
Though God, He shares humanity.

—DALE HUGO



May 1, 1996

INTEREST

P.O. Box 190, Wheaton, IL 60189

Dear friend of INTEREST Ministries:

As you look back on life, do you remember times when you were faced with the need to make a major change? It may have been giving up that beloved old vehicle that served you well for 15 years or moving out of a house that was home for a generation or more. This kind of change is never easy. The deeper the sense of stability and security, the deeper the grief and loss when separation takes place. The Lord, facing the reality of being separated from His Father for the first time in eternity, said "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death" (Matthew 26:38). The deeper the love, the deeper the sorrow in separation.

The time has come for us to announce some major changes at INTEREST Ministries. For some, it will be as painless as trading in a car every year. For others, it may be as painful as saying good-bye to a life-long friend. We understand that, and if it were possible, we would avoid causing any pain at all. Many of us have been through enough pain in recent years to last a lifetime.

For the past eighteen months particularly, the Board of IM has had to wrestle with the realities of the times in which we live. After much consultation from mature and godly men we have reached the following conclusions:

1. It is time to end an era of publishing INTEREST Magazine as most of us know it. While the recipients of the magazine have never fully paid the cost, in recent years the annual donations in the US and subscriptions in Canada have covered only about 25% of the cost of production and distribution. It should not be expected that anyone continue subsidizing that kind of red ink. Consistently, our surveys tell us that the News and Notices section is the most widely read. So, beginning with the July/August issue, only that section will be published in a newsletter format to provide the connectedness that many have enjoyed and still desire. Those who are currently receiving the magazine will receive this monthly publication through December 1996. Some time in the fall of this year each recipient will be given the opportunity to subscribe on an annual basis for continuing service for 1997.
2. It is also time to end the ministry of serving as a conduit for financial gifts to commended workers. It has been a joy to serve in this capacity for many years and many have been blessed. Our recommendation is that gifts be given to workers through their own commanding assemblies, since that is where the accountability and responsibility actually lie. If, for some reason, that is not an acceptable alternative, we recommend that you contact the Christian Worker Fellowship Fund, PO Box 2365, Kansas City, KS 66110 or MSC, 27 Charles Street East, Toronto, ON, Canada M4Y 1R9. All gifts received at our office for this purpose after May 31, 1996 will be returned to the donor for redirection.
3. On a more positive note, INTEREST Ministries will continue to serve as the recording and publishing agency of all changes in commendations that are directed to us, and to publish the North American Missions Resource Guide.
4. Finally, the responsibility for Military Chaplains who are commended from assemblies will transfer to Stewards Ministries beginning on July 1, 1996. Retired Navy chaplain Ken Botton, current editor of INTEREST magazine, will continue to function as Endorsing Agent.

So, where is INTEREST Ministries going from here? We can't recreate the past nor perpetuate the present. However, the Board can sharpen the focus of this ministry and concentrate on those items that we do well. Due to the strife and division of the past few years, we have discovered that many commended workers and leaders are feeling lonely and isolated. They are on the front lines and in the trenches, sometimes feeling like the Lone Ranger (but without even Tonto or Silver). They are experiencing the significant and increasing challenges of reaching today's generation with the good news of Jesus Christ in a relevant way. They have a desire and need to be connected to and encouraged by brothers and sisters who identify with those challenges. God continues to burden our hearts for these men and women, and we want to direct our efforts and resources toward them.

We believe that encouraged leaders encourage followers, and encouraged leaders and followers together make healthy, growing and reproducing churches. If, on the other hand, leaders are discouraged and frustrated, the trickle down has the opposite effect. We want to encourage and help in the development of those who want to stay connected. We are not sure exactly how, but we believe God will show us as we seek His direction.

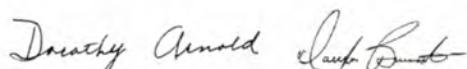
The refocusing of this vision has been a long and often difficult process, but we are confident that we are to be working in the areas of networking, encouraging and developing leaders. This clear biblically-consistent vision from the Lord has been revitalizing for us on the IM Board.

Major downsizing takes a toll. Our staff needs your prayers. We are thankful for a group of dedicated servants who don't see their work as just a job but as a ministry. It's obviously time for that ministry to change for all of them, some more than others. We are deeply grateful for Ken Botton who stepped up to the plate in the bottom of the ninth, enabling INTEREST Ministries to go into extra innings. He has done an admirable job as administrator and editor and we commend him on both counts. Roger Bigney has served faithfully as Business Manager and we will continue looking to him as the General Manager of INTEREST Ministries. Both have been aided by the qualified and competent assistance of Debra Locklear and Larry Servin, respectively. If you have called our office lately you have also been greeted by the pleasant voice of Polly Grismore. Thank you, Polly, for brightening our day.

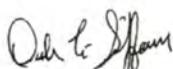
There is one servant who deserves special recognition. For thirty-three years Naomi Bauman has quietly and faithfully served the Lord through INTEREST Ministries. If anyone has felt the trauma of change it's Naomi, but her joyful spirit has been an encouragement to all of us. She will continue to serve INTEREST Ministries as the editor of the reformatted News & Notices newsletter and the keeper of historical records and files. It is our desire to make it possible for Naomi to be able to retire in two years if she so desires. Perhaps others would like to express their appreciation to Naomi by helping to make that a reality. To that end we are establishing a special fund and invite your participation. All contributions given for this purpose will be administered wisely to produce the greatest long-term benefit to Naomi.

Change is never easy. Yet, some changes are beneficial when seen in the light of eternity. It is our desire and prayer that eternity will reveal that these changes were of God and glorified Him. Please pray with us and for us during this crucial time in our history, that we will be wise in our deliberations and ongoing decision-making.

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P. S. Due to the significant responsibilities that our staff will have in coming weeks, please send any responses to this letter directly to one of the above listed Board members. If you don't know any personally, write to INTEREST Ministries President, Jim Hislop. You may, of course, send notes of encouragement or appreciation to the staff at the address on the letterhead.

1934-1996

1934 LETTERS OF INTEREST *from the HOME FIELD*
1940s LETTERS OF INTEREST

- 1934 WILLIAM G. McCARTNEY, *Editor*
- 1961 DONALD M. TAYLOR, *Editor*
- 1970 C. DONALD COLE, *Editor*
- 1971 JAMES A. STAHR, *Editor*
- 1986 BILL CONARD, *Editor*
- 1993 MIKE HAMEL, *Editor*
- 1995 KEN BOTTON, *Editor*

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- 31 THE CANADIAN ARENA

INTEREST

PROMOTING NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

From the Board of Directors

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Debra Locklear, *Managing Editor*
Thomas Moraitis, *Designer*
Timothy Moraitis, *Production Assistant*

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INTEREST

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While we have tried to be clear in the letter about the future of INTEREST Ministries, there are always questions that arise. This is an attempt to answer some of the more obvious ones.

IS MONEY THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE MAGAZINE?

Yes, because we use money to pay the rent on our office, the electric and telephone bills, our employees' salaries and benefits, the printer and the post office. We are told the contributions given for *INTEREST Magazine* have never fully paid for it, it has always been subsidized in one way or another. With the heavy rise in costs in the past few years, the subsidy required has become approximately 75%. For at least five years prior to cutting our mailing list this past year, only 25% of those receiving the magazine contributed anything, even though they were given an opportunity on an annual basis.

HOW MUCH WILL THE NEWSLETTER COST FOR 1997? That has not been determined yet but will be by the time we provide the opportunity to subscribe. That opportunity should come sometime in October or November. It will be based on actual costs which we will know more clearly after the first few are published.

DO I UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY THOSE WHO SUBSCRIBE WILL GET THE NEWSLETTER IN 1997? Yes. Our thought is that by sending the new format between July and December you will have the opportunity to see what it is like before making a commitment to continue.

WHAT IF I CONTRIBUTED FOR THIS YEAR AND DON'T WANT TO GET THE REDUCED NEWSLETTER FORMAT, CAN I GET MY MONEY BACK?

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. All contributions that come to us between those dates are viewed as a contribution for the magazine during that year, even if it was given late in the twelve month period. In the U.S. the contribution for the magazine is a tax deductible donation and therefore not refundable. In Canada it is a subscription, and we will be happy to refund the full amount you paid if you feel you have not received full value, even though the \$15 only pays for mailing and handling costs. Just drop us a note and we will take care of it.

WHAT WILL THE NEWS & NOTICES NEWSLETTER CONTAIN? Primarily the content of the current News and Notices section of the magazine which averages four pages each issue. There may be a short article at times in addition to the letters. Many have told us they turn to this section first, scan the names and catch up on the lives of those they recognize as well as become informed about what God is doing in other ways. Being connected in a disjointed world is important. This provides that connectedness.

WHY ARE WE NO LONGER SERVING AS A CONDUIT FOR GIFTS TO COM-MENDED WORKERS? While tax accountants and attorneys disagree with each other, ours have been expressing concern for some time about this method of handling tax deductible gifts. Last year we tried to remedy the concern by asking commanding assemblies to take responsibility for being accountable for their commended workers by giving us a letter that stated such. This request was met with some concern. Additionally, to handle such a process for so many is rather expensive. Our attempt to recoup expenses by utilizing 10% of the gift generated even greater misunderstanding and concern. A better way to send a tax deductible gift to a commended worker is through that worker's commanding assembly.

WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW THE COMMENDING ASSEMBLY OF A WORKER I WANT TO HELP? IM has and will continue to publish a Resource Guide listing every commended worker and their commanding assembly's name. Walterick Publishers publish a list of all commanding assemblies, their addresses and usually a person to contact. A combination of these two will solve that problem.

HOW & WHEN WILL THE IM BOARD KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS? Each person who received the letter that is reprinted in this issue also received a questionnaire. The results of those will be considered seriously as to what the needs are and how IM can be involved in helping meet them. We are trusting God that through this process of dialog, He will make it clear to us, what aspects of ministry we should be involved in to encourage those that He has raised up to lead others. Please pray for the Board and their advisors that we will hear God's voice. We anticipate this process taking several months and look forward to sharing our decisions with those who want to stay in touch as soon as possible.

WHY THE FOCUS ON LEADERS? Sometimes by trying to minister to everyone you actually minister to no one. If those in leadership are actually leading, people are following, otherwise they are just out for a walk. By encouraging the leaders, he or she will in turn encourage their followers because encouragement is contagious. When you can't do everything you would like to do, you do what ultimately has the greatest impact.

DO WE SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF RENEWAL COMING TO THE ASSEMBLIES THAT WOULD CHANGE THE "REALITIES" OF OUR TIMES? Historically there has never been reconciliation of any major division within this "movement." It would be wonderful to see that tradition broken. Renewal can occur, but only if there is genuine brokenness and repentance from the arrogance that not only keeps many isolated from the rest of God's Kingdom, but now isolates us from each other. Could we issue a final call to renewal? "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place." (2 Chron 7:14-15). Some of God's people in isolated fellowships have and are experiencing revival as a result of obedience to this call, may it be so on a wider scale. ■

If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

—2 Chron 7:14-15

A LOVING FAREWELL



Ken Botton

Some might ask, "If you knew 18 months ago that the magazine would not survive, would you still have become editor?" Without hesitation, I answer "Yes!"

After 62 years, INTEREST Magazine as we know it will be no more. If final words are the ones most remembered, what can one say at a time like this? What should one say?

Being the good dispensationalist that I am, I naturally asked the question "What would the Apostle Paul write?" Somehow, to a movement in turmoil, Paul's final admonition to the Philippians (Phil 4:8) seemed very appropriate.

Now, the Apostle Paul could have closed out his epistle to the church at Philippi in a variety of ways. To some, he would have been justified in lashing out at his enemies, many of whom brought him grief in the church.

After all, even David, the man after God's own heart, never forgot the fact that Shimei had humiliated him as he was fleeing Jerusalem from the forces of Absalom. In fact, David's final charge to Solomon included the admonition which I have paraphrased as follows: "Get Shimei!" (See 2 Kings 2:8-10)

By contrast, the beloved Paul chose to lift his Philippians readers to a much higher plane. He wanted them to dwell on things true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report.

This is not to suggest that INTEREST has been completely free from defect in its long history. I'm sure each former editor had a mental list of things they wish they could have done better and even a few things that they wish they hadn't done at all. My 20/20 hindsight gets clearer all the time.

Nor is this to suggest that INTEREST lacked critics. We've had our share—even a few "Shimei's" thrown in for good measure. Criticism of INTEREST Magazine at one time reached "cottage industry" proportions with some publications offering line by line "correctives" to errors real or perceived. Yet, even this sad state of affairs was merely symptomatic of deeper issues that have perennially caused concern in our movement.

Defects and critics notwithstanding, INTEREST Magazine is being "decommissioned." At this milestone of Christian history I, for one, would like to concentrate on those things that one can honestly say are of good report.

As you have already seen from the magazine cover, much of our focus for this final issue revolves around INTEREST's great legacy from the past and its implications for the future. There is much for which we can be justifiably grateful.

INTEREST'S LEGACY—A TREASURE CHEST OF SCRIPTURAL RICHES

Many will say that Letters of Interest from the Home Field emerged out of the "golden" age of brethrenism in North America. Indeed, the mid-1930s witnessed the planting of many new assemblies, great Bible conferences like Guelph and the early beginnings of Emmaus Bible School. Concurrent with these developments was the healing of old divisions, notably the merging of many "Grant" assemblies with other so-called "open" assemblies. INTEREST was there.

God turned the curse of World War II into a blessing as Emmaus Bible Correspondence Courses touched hearts and led to the conversion of many service men and women. When these new converts returned home they wanted to attend churches built on New Testament principles and even go to a Bible school where such principles were taught and honored. INTEREST was there.

The demand for new assemblies soon outstripped conventional resources. Visionary men, seeking to provide scriptural financial backing for local assemblies developed Stewards Foundation. Brethren hospitals were not far behind. INTEREST was there.

INTEREST documented the Call to Renewal, Decade of Promise conferences, Leadership Forums and various other church planting and leadership development activities all the while publicizing the work of commended workers and local assemblies. Not everyone agreed with these new developments. Yet, through it all, INTEREST remained a point of focus for the assemblies of North America, and a source of great encouragement for its readers.

Despite a look and feel that changed with the times (not to mention the name), some things in INTEREST never changed. Long before "plurality leadership" became fashionable in evangelical circles, INTEREST promoted this biblical concept. Additionally, the concept of the priesthood of the believer without artificial clergy/laity division always found support in INTEREST's pages. Moreover, as opposed

to the view found in some denominational groups, INTEREST steadfastly advocated the independent, autonomous assembly, beholden to none but Christ, yet in fellowship with like minded meetings.

Most importantly, INTEREST, reflecting assembly priorities, placed supreme value in the exaltation of Christ. When I first "discovered" the assemblies for myself over 20 years ago, one of the first things that I noticed (apart from the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper) was an incredible level of biblical literacy among the rank and file. Yet, this was no ordinary Bible knowledge. I knew from personal experience that what passed for Bible literacy in another denomination resulted in a legalistic caricature of Christianity. However, in the assemblies (at least the ones I attended) all Scripture led to Christ. The Bible was His book, the Church was His body, and we were His people.

I was hooked! The more I learned about the assemblies, the more I found out about the chief men and women of the brethren and their uncompromising passion for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Further, the assemblies constituted a church without any man-made walls. Those whom Christ accepted we accepted. What a breath of fresh, heavenly air.

In late 1994, when Bruce McNicol asked me to become the next editor of INTEREST, I felt overwhelmed by the significance and complexity of the position. Many still viewed INTEREST Magazine as the voice of the assemblies in North America. This was a 60 year old publication, representing a movement dating back to the mid-1820s, which itself recaptured principles of meeting straight out of the first century. I considered the privilege of editing INTEREST Magazine a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

At the same time, I knew that I was inheriting a magazine on "life support." I realized that divisions and disagreements within the movement had all taken their toll. The magazine would now be half its former size, and, for the sake of reconciliation, content would be restricted. I understood that some might even misinterpret our attempts at promoting reconciliation and healing. I even told some of my close friends that taking over at INTEREST Magazine felt like becoming Captain of the Titanic, AFTER it hit the iceberg!

However, who can explain the "peace of God, which passes all understanding?" Despite INTEREST's uncertain future, I felt a "settled conviction"—the "peace of God," if you will. I accepted the position with fear and trembling from a human perspective, but also with an abiding sense that God was in control of this situation.

As I look back, I have to admit that it's been quite a ride.

THE FINAL VOYAGE

Now it is my privilege to guide this proud ship into its final harbor for decommissioning. Unlike a battleship, a "ship of the line" who makes her mark with 16 inch guns blazing, INTEREST magazine was an "auxiliary" ship with a motto of "service to the fleet." Instead of providing "beans, bullets and black oil," INTEREST faithfully brought biblical nourishment, biblical encouragement and news of the brethren movement in North America to generations of readers.

The ship is at full dress for this final ceremony. Every flag waves proudly in the stiff breeze. Rows of freshly re-painted campaign ribbons festoon the bridge reminding those watching of the ship's long and honored career. Resplendent in their dress uniforms, the crew mans the rails. After the invocation, distinguished personages make speeches recalling this vessel's faithful service in war and peace.

In the final moments invited guests respectfully rise to their feet. The Quartermasters lower the ensign and the commissioning pennant. The crew snaps to attention, renders honors and files off smartly. The Boatswain Mate of the Watch dates his final entry into the logbook, 30 June 1996. He notes that the rudder is amidship and the machinery jacking gear has been engaged for the last time.

Once busy decks are now vacant. And, as the "Amen" from the Chaplain's benediction touches the ears and then vanishes, the good ship INTEREST passes into history.

It is with a mixture of sorrow and joy, humility and gratitude that we present to you this final issue of INTEREST Magazine. INTEREST represents a goodly heritage. I trust that you will accept this heritage as our gift for your future.

... IF THERE BE ANY VIRTUE, AND IF THERE BE ANY PRAISE, THINK ON THESE THINGS.

In Christ,



*Finally, brethren,
whatsoever things
are true, whatsoever
things are honest,
whatsoever things
are just, whatsoever
things are pure,
whatsoever things
are lovely, whatsoever
things are of good
report; if there be any
virtue, and if there be
any praise, think on
these things.*

—Philippians 4:8

REFLECTIONS, REMINISC

APPEALING to the NEXT GENERATION

The time has come not to alter any principles, but to apply them in a newly relevant way.



Keith Price

retain that which characterized the last 2,000 years (live in the past).

With this issue, INTEREST reaches a major milestone in the marathon. The time has come not to alter any principles, but to apply them in a newly relevant way.

It seems it takes about three generations to blunt the cutting edge of most ecclesiastical traditions. By this time many adherents find they are unable to differentiate between unchanging principles and years of habit. What was done in past generations becomes sacrosanct and is often only

In these days of rapid change it has been so good to have the stability and consistency of decades of INTEREST. Throughout its changes in leadership it has maintained a faithful witness to the unchanging values of the gospel.

But whereas the principles of Scripture are unchanging, each generation must be on the lookout for relevant ways to express those principles. In relationships and communication, we must live in and address our own age (i.e. live in the present). In our planning we must anticipate change so that our vision will put us on the leading edge of new evangelistic thrusts (live in the future). But in our doctrinal belief and biblical principles, we simply must

changed at the terrible cost of church splits.

We are living in such a time.

The movement that God has used out of all proportion to its size has, in many places, stagnated. It struggles even to maintain the status quo and seems to have completely lost sight of its original purpose. Clubs abound. Their members are too ingrown and habit-bound to change very much. They are faithful to everything except a relevant, vibrant witness in the world. Attempts to induce change are usually futile.

Such persons need comfort and encouragement to at least keep running the race to the degree they still can. To maintain informational and devotional input to their lives will require some facets of our current INTEREST which a new group with financial backing may need to pick up. Let's pray for them, for God may well give them further vision and new ideas.

But to look ahead, be on the cutting edge of mission and appeal to the next generation with our principles will require the courage and new ideas of our young people. There will be enough of the older generation who still think young so as to back them financially. I am confident such young initiative will emerge and I, for one, will encourage it while fully expecting that (at my age) I will not see eye to eye with everything.

We need grace to minister encouragement to both groups. This does not mean however that we should dilute the efforts of either group by trying to address both in the same publication. They do indeed need to be kept separate, yet with that kind of understanding and tolerance which will encourage both and continue to express the unity of the Body of Christ.

I want to thank the Board and staff of INTEREST, past and present, for their untiring efforts to keep us both stimulated and informed. May their tribe increase!

—Keith Price, Commended worker and Minister-at-Large, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Victoria, British Columbia

LOSING a FRIEND

I am sad to see INTEREST Magazine in its final days. It is like losing a close friend. However, the years of ministry to individuals and local churches should not be easily lost or forgotten. For me it was the continued focus on the development of a group of churches passionate for seeing people won to Christ, desirous of developing tomorrow's church leaders and the planting of new churches that I enjoyed most. During the years of this magazine, these three goals were constantly sought after and accomplished. My hope is that this legacy will continue into the future with new means of communication and media.

—Andy Holloman, former IM Director of Church Planting, Global Steel, Inc., Colorado Springs, Colorado

ENCES and a FEW REGRETS

Was the magazine perfect? No! Am I going to miss it? Yes, tearfully and regretfully!—Hugo



Hugo & Kathleen Santucci

*Perhaps
INTEREST
must die so that
the lamp-stand
can be relit.*

—Kathleen

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. "For me, this is a time to reflect on the one magazine that I always read immediately from cover to cover. I followed with great interest the development of the magazine over the years when it reported the various ministries of commanded workers. How delighted I was, as a young believer, to meet these workers whose names I had seen in the pages of Letters of Interest.

I remember reading articles long ago that reported the number of assemblies in each of the States. I was shocked at how few there were. This article and a host of other influences were the push I needed to begin serious thinking and study regarding the New Testament Church, church planting, renewal, etc.

The Call to Renewal came as the breath of the Holy Spirit—challenging, moving, inspiring. How could one be complacent after such a call? INTEREST Magazine took on a new dynamic as I continued to read month by month. The message of the Call to Renewal permeated its pages. I was thrilled. At last the "brethren" seemed like they were on the move. Behind it all, encouraging, giving timely ministry articles, was INTEREST Magazine.

Was the magazine perfect? No! Am I going to miss it? Yes, tearfully and regretfully! To the editors of INTEREST and its staff, Well done! Perhaps another Call to Renewal, preceded by a Call to Repentance, will be what we need to relight the torch of INTEREST once again. Count me in!

—Hugo Santucci, fulltime worker, Moraga, California

A TIME for EVERYTHING

As a child whose grandparents came into eternal life through devoted followers of Jesus in the Brethren movement, I remember a small magazine called Letters of Interest. Fifty years later my youngest child, Peter Santucci, became assistant editor. His passion, as a Christian journalist, was to see this magazine become increasingly relevant in its communication, pictorially and otherwise, more able to grab the attention of sleepy disciples and stimulate response to the urgent obedience call to disciple the ethnic nations among us and to those across the oceans.

In time its name was abbreviated to INTEREST. Perhaps, as Paul Gullans recently noted in a letter to INTEREST, an anointing seems to be missing in the Brethren assemblies. Is that why INTEREST has become disInterest? James Stahr endeavored to awaken us from interest (a very un-energetic, unenthusiastic, passionless word) to aliveness and renewal by the fire of the Holy Spirit...pleading for the anointing. Perhaps INTEREST must die so that the Lampstand can be relit. "When Christ comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

I was sad to see the men of vision who established Interest Ministries be redirected elsewhere. "Without vision (the KJV says) the people perish." Valiant people took up the torch to keep the passion of vision alive. I, personally, thank them for trying. I thank the Lord for the godly men associated with the Brethren movement who inspired me with a passion to discover, know and love God. My husband, Hugo, is grateful for the open door into preaching and teaching that was given him.

I thank all my esteemed brothers and sisters who have given themselves to be that communication link among Brethren assemblies. Your hearts belong to our Lord and His "well done" is your greatest thank you and will follow you wherever He leads you.

—Kathleen Santucci, Moraga, California



Harold Barrington

We will thank God for all its reporting, its insights, its challenges and its encouragement through the years.

MISSED, BUT NOT MOURNED

God, in His infinite wisdom and according to His perfect timetable, brings His servants on stage to fill their role in the Church, and then moves them off when it is completed. With their passing there is often a deep sense of loss, but it is tempered with thoughts of gratitude and victory for faithful service rendered and missions accomplished. These are my sentiments as I reflect on the sixty-plus years of Letters of Interest/INTEREST Magazine.

This publication was in my parents' home when I was a boy, and then continually in our own home. It was "drop-everything" reading at each monthly arrival. All but its earliest editors (whom I did not know) I count as my personal friends and am indebted to them. It has been a privilege to contribute articles from time to time, but I've received far more than I've given.

As with the passing of a valued Christian friend, whose life has counted for God, INTEREST Magazine will be missed, but not mourned. Rather, we will thank God for all its reporting, its insights, its challenges and its encouragement through the years. May those who have staffed and served diligently during those years find deep satisfaction in the knowledge that they have been God's instruments for blessing to His people, and may they be guided clearly by the Spirit into further fruitful service. A big "thank you," in the Lord's name to you all! "You know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (2 Cor 15:58).

—Harold Barrington, fulltime worker, Mesa, Arizona

THREE GUSTS of FRESH AIR

First. "How to Know God's Will," by William Anderson. His articles on that subject, printed in the late sixties, were a great relief to me! I had committed my life to Christ but was puzzled and bewildered by the concept of knowing God's will. I gave a copy of the article to another struggler just last week!

Second. The Serious Call to Renewal. What a great day it was when men of experience and stature were able to say unitedly, "We are in trouble and need to do something about it." Willingness to admit to a problem can go a long way.

Third. The "let's-go-for-it" years with Bruce McNicol and Bill Conard. They may have made mistakes, like all of us do, but they went all out to bring vigorous fresh thinking to people who needed it, and they did it with a lot of grace.

—Gord Martin, Vision Ministries Canada, Waterloo, Ontario



Gord Martin

Willingness to admit to a problem can go a long way.



George Verwer

THE WORKINGS of GOD

When will we all understand the wide range of ways that God works?

For many years I have had the joy of not only reading INTEREST but of also distributing it to many friends. Only eternity will show how God has used it. When will we all understand the wide range of ways that God works?

—George Verwer, International Director, Operation Mobilization, Kent, England

REFLECTIONS

I remember the first time I walked into the Stewards Foundation/Letters of Interest office. It was 1956. The office was at 127 S. Wacker Drive in Chicago. I climbed the stairs and opened the door. Don Taylor and Bob Mojonnier were standing in the middle of the room discussing the layout of the next magazine.

Don and Bob loved the assemblies and they were open to ideas that would advance the cause of New Testament church principles. Don Taylor, in his quiet way, often said many profound things. He understood trends. He thought carefully about the future and made many wise decisions to enhance assembly life all across the country.

Bob Mojonnier was outgoing, and he told it like it was. He loved people and encouraged many younger men. Both men influenced my life with their wise counsel, encouragement and willingness to challenge the status quo. Other men followed in their trail, and the ministry of INTEREST continued through many advancements and retrenchments.

In 1980 I was asked to be on the Call to Renewal Committee. There were intense discussions, periods of prayer and bold future castings. Not everybody agreed with all that was proposed, but the openness to change and the willingness to evaluate were refreshing.

INTEREST spearheaded finding solutions to many of the challenges that the Call to Renewal Committee had raised. Bruce McNicol became president to help bring a younger generation into our church life. Don Cole stirred the pot for a while as editor. He was a change agent constantly asking the hard questions, but never deviating from sound biblical teaching. Jim Stahr carried the flag for many years. Bill Conard kept challenging us to fresh approaches as he drew us

into evaluating both the good and bad of our heritage. Mike Hamel brought innovative and fresh ideas to us in his editorship. Recently, Ken Botton has used his editorial skills to keep the magazine moving forward.

There were many other wonderful men and women behind the scenes: board members, executives, administrative assistants, finance and program personnel. God has profoundly used the ministry of INTEREST over the years to glorify His name.

My heart resounds with a big thank you to all who have shared their life and ministry with us. In the midst of all this change, some assemblies have grown and flourished seeing many come to Christ. Hundreds of others have faded and declined.

Now another change is upon us. It is comforting to know that God is bigger than our churches, organizations and groups. Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." Our confidence is unquestionably rooted in that promise, so we give praise to His powerful name.

—Kevin Dyer, Founder, International Teams, Prospect Heights, IL

It is comforting to know that God is bigger than our churches, organizations and groups.



Kevin Dyer

A PART of the WHOLE

INTEREST magazine came into our home in Ontario when I was a teenager. I certainly didn't read it from cover to cover in those years, but it was the beginning of my awareness of the magazine. For forty-five years I have been a regular reader!

The magazine, with its distinctive editors, various emphases and stylistic changes, has been a positive influence in my life. Many articles encouraged and inspired me; the news and letters kept me in contact with many friends in the U.S. and Canada; and there was a sense of association with others moving in a similar direction.

INTEREST was not my only input. As a Bible school, college and seminary student I had to read widely. There are dozens of maga-

zines and hundreds of books that have helped to shape my life and challenge me in Christian ministry since 1961. But INTEREST Magazine has been a part of the whole. I thank God, and the many people who have labored hard and long, for that input in my life. No doubt hundreds of others will echo my gratitude.

I'm sorry to see INTEREST Magazine end its long career. It has been a useful tool in God's kingdom. Fresh breezes were blowing for several years. Fortunately, God's Word and work in the church are published widely today. Inspiration, instruction and encouragement will continue to come from other sources.

—Abner Bauman, fulltime worker, Arlington Countryside Church, Prospect Heights, IL

There was a sense of association with others...



Abner Bauman

OPENED DOOR

Carol Porter

Since 1987 God has used INTEREST Ministries to make me more dependent on Him and rely less on my own abilities. It all began one warm evening in Los Angeles when Bruce McNicol invited my husband, Mark, to join with the team in Chicago to assist in church planting and helping existing churches to grow. While Bruce and Mark were out walking and talking about the possibilities of potential problems in the ministry, the Holy Spirit led me verse by verse through Romans 12, asking whether I was willing to serve Him with all my heart, use every gift He would give me and learn to love others unreservedly. In His power I responded with a whole-hearted "yes." I had very little idea what that yes would mean.

It did not mean a move to Chicago; we could serve from our home in California. It meant meeting and teaching, training and deeply caring for many hundreds of people across the country. It meant learning to write. I remember the day Bill Conard called and asked if I would write an article for the magazine. With a sense of awe I sat at the then-unfamiliar word processor and began to write. The Spirit moved, the words flowed. I read a finished article that came from the Lord, not from myself. I learned I could trust God in an area where I had no natural abilities.

Eventually article writing and ministry travel led to spearheading and editing the Women's Ministry Handbook. Published in 1992, it is still helping women in churches to be more effective in their ministry to the Lord. I knew God was at work in a remarkable way. I learned to lean hard on Him as Mike Hamel and I edited paragraph after paragraph often late into the night. From IM came a tool that is changing lives across the world. And God was willing to use me—the girl whose high school English teacher had told her she would never learn to write!

IM has opened the door for me to life-changing friendships. People far too numerous to mention have contributed to my life. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve God with these people. Ministries change, people grow and develop. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. What He began in each of us He will complete—perhaps using new organizations and more enriching relationships.

—Carol Porter, Women's Ministries leader, Pleasanton, California

THANKS for the COMMITMENT

As INTEREST Magazine concludes its years of effective and fruitful service, I want to say thank you.

Thank you for your commitment to the primacy and foundation of biblical orthodoxy. You will be remembered for your high regard for Scripture.

Thank you for your commitment to servanthood. Through the years you have served with humility, generosity and sacrifice. Full-time workers, local churches and individual believers have all been greatly encouraged by your assistance.

Thank you for your commitment to prayer. INTEREST Magazine has been a great tool in encouraging and facilitating prayer for the work of God.

Thank you for your commitment to promoting the essential role of the local Church in mission. Your respect for the autonomy of the local church has been evident.

Thank you for your commitment to evangelism. Only eternity will reveal how many people have come to Christ because of the stimulation and practical help received through articles written on how to share the Gospel of Christ.

Thank you for your commitment to tackling the tough issues. The Christian life is filled with all sorts of potential landmines. You didn't shy away from dealing with these issues head on.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence. The quality of the writing and the production of the magazine have demonstrated your desire to do all things well.

Thank you for your commitment in seeking to reflect the unity of the body of Christ. In spite of our diversity Jesus called us to be one, so that the world might know Him. Thank you for pointing us to this high calling.

As INTEREST Magazine now writes its final chapter, we recognize we will miss this "old friend." However, we celebrate with you the contribution it has made to the advancement of God's kingdom.

—Geoff Tunnicliffe, President, International Teams of Canada, Burnaby, British Columbia



Geoff Tunnicliffe

DISTINCTIVE and RELEVANT

Through the years INTEREST Magazine has been our means of discovering what is happening among Brethren assemblies. It has provided informative and inspirational articles on a variety of subjects. I was especially pleased with the revised approach that appeared a few years ago, but which



Melvin Banks

was reduced in content in more recent issues.

INTEREST Magazine projected to both insiders and the Christian community at large that the Brethren assemblies' tradition was distinctive and relevant. I regret that it must be discontinued. Perhaps in the not too distant future we may again see the re-emergence of the publication for both its historic and ministry purposes.—Melvin Banks, Chairman and CEO, Urban Ministries, Chicago, IL

CREATIVITY without COMPROMISE

Growing up in the assemblies, I came to greatly appreciate INTEREST Magazine and its people. During the past fourteen years as I've served with International Teams, I have benefitted from the wisdom and leadership given by the writers of the magazine.

I've appreciated the emphasis and help given to the assemblies on issues of vibrant worship and authentic witness. I've admired their creativity as they sought to instruct us on more contemporary styles of worship without compromising scriptural principles.

INTEREST Magazine's concern for the lost has been seen in articles on how to reach our unchurched neighbors and how to witness through our everyday life experiences. Only in heaven will we find out how many people have come to trust Christ as a result of the exhortation provided by INTEREST Magazine.

Most importantly, however, I have been personally impacted by the men and women who have helped write and produce the magazine. They are godly people who have sought to do their best and poured their hearts out for the sake of God's kingdom. Often they received little reward and, in some cases, a lot of criticism. Yet they remained faithful to God and rose above the problems in order for the glory to be given to Jesus. We have all been blessed by these servants of the Lord and His vehicle, INTEREST Magazine.

—Mark Dyer, Associate International Director, International Teams, Prospect Heights, IL



Mark Dyer

A TRUE LANDMARK

Robert W. Mojonnier

Forty-two years ago my wife and I were graciously welcomed into the fellowship of Christians in Wheaton, Illinois. A few years later we were farmed out to Warrenville, a nearby community, to help in the planting of an expansion assembly in that city. One of our benefits was becoming closely associated with two gifted servants of the Lord, William G. McCartney and Donald Taylor.

Bill McCartney was a man of action. He had visionary ideas and the courage to put them to work. He loved the Lord and His people, and was the originator of "Letters of Interest," which later became INTEREST. Don Taylor was a kind man with an unusual ability to understand and to communicate with people. He could work with the most noted of men, or with the humblest of his fellows, all to the glory of God and the betterment of those with whom he had contact. Don was the editor of INTEREST. He put the magazine together in a readable fashion in the early days and drew "letters of interest" from theologians and from friends at the grass roots level.

To us, the magazine was a true landmark—the kind that we really should not destroy. It provided factual and personal infor-

mation from every area in which the assemblies were engaged in the work of spreading the Gospel. It provided profitable ministry, practical suggestions, warnings about things to avoid, and especially simple thoughts from other simple people like ourselves, which came from personal experience.

But few religious publications have been able to survive many years or many changes in editorial direction—and INTEREST seems to have finally lost its ability to be of "interest" to its readers. I, for one, will miss it. In parting, I want to offer a sincere "thank you" to the memory of Bill McCartney and Don Taylor, both with the Lord in Glory, and to the many workers, editors, trustees and friends that have been faithfully involved down through the years. All of you together have faithfully added to my appreciation of the Lord, His Word, His people and His work.

—Robert W. Mojonnier, (former Director of Interest Ministries), Park of the Palms, Keystone Heights, Florida

To us, INTEREST was a true landmark—the kind that we really should not destroy.

LIVES TOUCHED

We at the National Coalition for Pioneering Black America regret that this is the last issue of INTEREST Magazine. We praise God for the great number of lives that have been touched through this written ministry. We will miss the stimulating articles and timely information the magazine has provided for us all.

—Donovan Case, President, National Coalition for Pioneering Black America, Wentzville, Missouri



Donovan Case

FELLOWSHIP and ENCOURAGEMENT

I was saved at age 20 through the witness of a young Christian woman who later became my wife. Recently we celebrated our 43rd anniversary. She was raised in an assembly in Sturgis, Michigan. Since getting saved I've been actively involved in a Brethren type of ministry in the inner city of Chicago. My work has been church planting, youth camp [Circle Y Ranch] and conferences and professional Christian counseling.

I have been a long time follower of Interest Ministries and INTEREST Magazine—it used to be called Letters of Interest. I was privileged to serve on the board for many years and was blessed to have fellowship with some wonderful and godly men and women on the INTEREST staff.

I was especially blessed and helped by the fact that INTEREST included urban minorities, the interests of women and produced special conferences such as Decade of Promise. I feel that we have lost a vital connection of fellowship and encouragement in the work of ministry in the body of Christ.

—Leroy L. Yates, Sr., fulltime worker and elder, Westlawn Gospel Chapel, Chicago, Illinois



Leroy L. Yates

Recent events leading to the discontinuation of INTEREST Magazine have saddened me.

THANKS INTEREST MAGAZINE

INTEREST has helped to maintain a warm fellowship and contact with people ... whose ministry has challenged our thinking and sustained our concerns ...

Very often we find new friends on the pages of books and magazines. The Gutenberg revolution opened the door for wide contact with the world outside our small geographic locations.

Through the years INTEREST has helped to maintain a warm fellowship and contact with people we may know only by reputation, but whose ministry has challenged our thinking and sustained our concerns about life through their varying ministries. We have found many of those who write like the "men of Issachar" (1 Chron 12:32), men and women who know what to do when this world presses in upon us.

We often think of people in illiterate societies, and of our ancient forbearers who communicated only by story and personal contacts. Our horizons have been expanded by monthly visits from people who are in touch with God, and who give us a dose of realism or maybe a comforting spiritual back rub, and sometimes even a needed dose of castor oil. They have simply reflected the Scriptures which are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. They have particularized the Christian life in many ways.

We rejoiced with those who rejoice in God's blessing in the ministry and empathized with those who found their ministry assaulted by the enemy. As informed Christians we became more effective prayer warriors.

Thank you for enriching our lives by increasing our knowledge of God's work in many places.

—Chuck and Winnie Christensen, elder and women's Bible studies leader, Alpine Chapel, Lake Zurich, Illinois



Chuck and Winnie Christensen

AVISION of SERVICE

My father had a profound influence on my life. He was committed to serving the Lord he loved and to the servants who ministered in the fields of harvest. It was this vision of service that was common among the founders of Letters of Interest and was a driving force in Charlie's life as he served in various leadership positions in Letters of Interest. We live in a world of change; and while change may be uncomfortable for many of us, we have an unchanging God. The future is in His hands, and I am thankful for the many people over the years who have made the ministry of INTEREST a ministry of service.

—C. William Pollard, ServiceMaster Corporation, Wheaton, Illinois

DON TAYLOR REMEMBERED

I have, of course, a lot of memories of my father, Donald M. Taylor, but the ones I especially treasure, and which are most vivid in my mind, are of incidents which provided a momentary, unexpected glimpse into his very special character, his habits of thought and action.

My father had the habit of sitting and thinking, frequently with an open Bible in his lap. When he was lost in thought (my mother called it "meditating"), he could be hard to reach. I can remember more than once, as a child playing on the floor of the living room, calling out "daddy" to get his attention, giving up and going back to my play, whereupon, five or ten minutes later, my call having been put on hold, so to speak, by the brain, he would complete his train of thought and surface with a "hmm?" By then I probably would have forgotten the original question.

Though I got up fairly early for school, my father was up earlier and out the door to catch the local Chicago & Northwestern commuter train from Wheaton into Chicago, where the offices of Stewards Foundation and Interest were then located. One morning I was up early for some reason and, coming down the stairs in the pre-dawn darkness, found out how he spent his early mornings, on his knees in prayer.

When you're growing up in a family you have no perspective on the uniqueness of your family; it's all you know until you get out and see how other families act. I never saw my parents argue or heard them raise their voices to each other. That that was anything other than ordinary I didn't suspect until much later. Only once can I remember my mother becoming momentarily upset at something my father had said, and then, what stands out in my mind is how quickly he moved to show his concern for her, to apologize and to reassure her of his love and support. It was over in seconds, but the memory is indelible. The lesson remains too: when tensions arise, you set the issues aside and work to restore the relationship. With a unified relationship based on love and mutual respect, problems can be dealt with together and probably solved.

The final memory I want to relate is from a later period, after my father's retirement, when my parents were living on the West Coast. Thinking back on his years with Stewards Foundation and INTEREST, my father told me that he had been in the habit for

years of asking the Lord, each day before going to work, to allow him to be of service to the Lord's people that day. He added that that was a prayer the Lord had always been pleased to answer.

Four brief memories of a man. Yet a lot is revealed in them, I think. If there was a secret to my father's effectiveness, other than innate gifts, perhaps it was in taking the principles of God's Word seriously and putting them into practice in his life and in his work. Seeing them actually modeled in someone makes us realize that the experience is both normal and somewhat rare. The result, in his case I think, was a rather curious combination of both spiritual and practical insight and wisdom.

Donald Francis Tovey, the British musicologist, quotes Dr. Samuel Johnson as saying that after having his eyes examined by an ophthalmologist, he was congratulated on having normal vision and told that it was very rare. I think that Donald M. Taylor had something to normal spiritual vision.

—Marshall Taylor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Marshall Taylor

When tensions arise, you set the issues aside and work to restore the relationship.

A KERNEL of WHEAT

My involvement in INTEREST Ministries from 1987 to 1992 was one of the most exciting ventures in ministry I have experienced. It was a bold vision to implement the recommendations of "The Call Committee." We saw scores of assemblies rejuvenated and set on a growth track that impacted their communities for the Kingdom of God. The effort was, in the words of one Call Committee member, "The last great hope for Brethren assemblies."



Mark Porter

...It remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Of course, there was a cost and a painful one. Was it worth it? Amen! The new life and vision which so many assemblies have experienced was indeed worth the bursting of the old wine skins to bring new life out of death.

In a very real sense, the words of Jesus in John 12:24 are true of INTEREST Ministries: "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

—Mark Porter, full-time worker, Valley Bible Church, Pleasanton, California

UNDERSTANDING *the* BRETHREN MOVEMENT

Letters of Interest was the vehicle most used by God to give me an understanding of the Brethren movement in Canada and the U.S. It helped me learn workers' names and something of their area of labor. I was thrilled to read of evangelistic efforts by Lester Wilson, followed by teaching and pastoral ministry by Harold Mackay. Schools, camps, prison ministries, missions, His Mansion, etc., all broadened my world.



Paul Fletcher

The articles dealing with issues that I was facing in ministry are still in my files today. They covered everything from Divorce and Remarriage to Homosexuality. Most challenging of all was the Call to Renewal, followed by scores of articles that helped me know the difference between theology and methodology. The need to adjust our methods, but also "how" and "to what" became "must" reading. I waited eagerly for each new copy. Whatever lies in the future for the assemblies, I am filled with very happy memories from the ministry of INTEREST.

—Paul Fletcher, fulltime worker, Woodside Bible Fellowship, Elmira, Ontario

Most challenging of all was the Call to Renewal, followed by articles that helped me know the difference between theology and methodology.

FOOTPRINTS *in the* SAND

The editorial baton was passed from Bill to Don to Don to Jim to Bill to Mike and to Ken. The names were different, the vision the same.

I understand that INTEREST Magazine is closing down. The end of an era? Not at all. While many, many will miss the unique contributions of this assembly serving magazine, its capable efforts for over 60 years to encourage, inform and assist new generations of believers will not be forgotten.

Through written and spoken words, by selfless acts of vision, by caring ministries to the needy and voiceless, by encouraging small and hurting assemblies, assisting growing assemblies, providing helps to elders and workers, informing of the work of dedicated assembly commended workers, calling for prayers for needs, rejoicing in answered prayers and in a multitude of quiet ministries known only to the recipients, the devoted work has gone on.

The editorial baton was passed from Bill to Don to Don to Jim to Bill to Mike and to Ken. The names were different, the vision the same. Glorifying the name of the Lord through ministries to all the assemblies. Thousands and thousands have read the magazine and been touched for good through the encouraging, enabling, visionary pages.

Yes, some may forget. That's true. But what really matters is the fact that, as has been said, "The tide will come in and wash the footprints from the sand, but God will know they walked there." That's what really matters.

—Neil Glass, former President, INTEREST Ministries, Sarasota, Florida



Neil Glass



Beth & Rick Knox

A 25 YEAR CONNECTION

INTEREST has been an important part of our connection to the Brethren movement since we were married 25 years ago. We've appreciated the opportunity to learn how God is using various of His servants and to identify new ways of serving and knowing Him through the pages of INTEREST. That we will miss the magazine is certain; more importantly—and sadly—its loss will leave a giant gap in the web of relationships among Christians of good will in our movement.

—Beth and Rick Knox, fulltime workers, Alpine Chapel, Lake Zurich, Illinois

SEEDS: PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE

When my sisters were younger, they wanted what most little girls in our church had—a fake gold necklace with a dangling glass ball that encased a mustard seed. They pestered mother with requests for the necklace and mustard seed ball until she finally relented and, even before their birthdays bought them each what they wanted.

For weeks my sisters wore their necklaces and seeds every Sunday. But then styles changed, no other girls were wearing their necklace and seed, and the fake gold chains and glass-encased seeds languished, forgotten in the bottom of dresser drawers.

We moved a few years later. As the girls cleaned out their dresser drawers they found the necklaces (tarnished and ugly) and the glass-encased seeds (perfect but sterile).

This morning I thought about that childhood memory, and I wondered, "What are mustard seeds for—to be encased in glass and to remain sterile forever, or for something else, something riskier but with infinitely greater potential?"

Mustard seed faith is a glorious thing.

To some people "faith" is the act of believing in God in heaven. To others, it is a body of doctrine, a harmonious arrangement of teachings about God, the ultimate answers, and the purpose for life. To others faith is stepping out to do something impossible in which you will fail and be publicly embarrassed unless God does the miraculous and gets you the money or the people or the opportunities.

I think mustard seed faith is all three. And especially, it is the third—the willing-to-risk-it-all and desperately-hope-that-God-will-help-you.

That's what the early brethren and "sistren" had. That was before they split over personality differences or lopsided emphases or control or money. They were believing in the God of heaven. They were discovering a trinity-honoring body of doctrines, and practices that uniquely fit their culture and their times. And most of all, they were recklessly casting themselves into the teeth of failure and embarrassment, hoping against hope that God would prosper their weak, inexperienced efforts and give them success.

"The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field...and [it] becometh a tree" (Mat 13:31-32). "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed...nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Mat 17:20). "Behold, a sower went forth to sow...seeds fell by the way side...upon stony places...among thorns...but other fell into good ground" (Mat 13:3-8).

This evening I wonder, "Will the sons and daughters of the Brethren pioneers keep their mustard seed encased in glass—perfect but sterile—or will they faithfully risk their seed by planting it in dirty, worldly soil? (Outside the glass there are worms and viruses and creepy things and storms and possible drought and we can't control it and...)"

But what is a mustard seed for?

—Bill Conard, former editor, *INTEREST Magazine*. Bill helps raise prayer and financial support for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He and Ruth live in Maple Grove, Minnesota, and are members of Woodridge Church (Baptist General Conference).

"What are mustard seeds for—to be encased in glass and to remain sterile forever, or for something else, something riskier but with infinitely greater potential?"



Bill Conard

A COMMUNICATION BRIDGE



Clifford S. Ice

When I was in college it was always good to hear from home. The letters and calls were the communication bridge that afforded me the chance to compare and to share my journey with the journey of those at home. Likewise, the *INTEREST* magazine told me something about the journey of others as it recorded the working of God in the life of fellow believers for whom Christ died. I was challenged, inspired and even disappointed at various times by the views of some, but I did hear from them and that was good.

Well, the communication bridge is too hard to maintain now, and when this happens, it is time to dismantle the beams and planks and prepare for demolition. Maybe somebody else will build another bridge one day in its place.

—Clifford S. Ice, fulltime worker and elder, Community Bible Chapel, Atlanta, Georgia

INTEREST HAS SERVED US WELL

Our thanks to all past and present board members, officers, editors and staff.

For 62 years INTEREST Magazine has provided excellent Christian ministry to readers. The editors have kept the magazine biblical, Christ-centered and practical.

Sometimes writers suggested different methods for church operation, but this was always within the bounds of biblical principles. And they reminded us not to confuse human tradition with divine truth in our Christian faith and practice.

We're going to miss INTEREST Magazine! For the past 25 years we have joyfully anticipated the news, teachings and blessings from each issue. Like a life completed in faithful service for Christ, so INTEREST Magazine has served well the Lord's people. It has been the foremost Christian magazine for many people inside and outside the brethren assemblies.

Reports in INTEREST from Christian workers informed us about Christ's work through His people in many other places. We enjoyed meeting other Christian servants through the pages of INTEREST, though some we never met in person.

Our thanks to all past and present board members, officers, editors and staff. Through the Lord's wisdom and strength you made INTEREST Magazine serve us well. May this promise be your portion: "For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints" (Heb 6:10).

—Henry W. Holloman, Prof. of Systematic Theology, Talbot School of Theology, La Mirada, California



Henry W. Holloman

A STRONG COMMITMENT

I remember with joy and sorrow our years of ministry with INTEREST. I felt very honored to be invited in 1982 to meet with the ad hoc group which would eventually issue the Call to Renewal in INTEREST Magazine. As the youngest member of this group I was impressed with the wisdom and years of experience represented by my older brethren. I said to my wife, "If this group cannot lead the assemblies into renewal, then probably no one can."

Soon I was invited to join the Board. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve for ten years, and to take my turn as Chairman. Board meetings were always stimulating and the fellowship was warm. I miss the good friends I made on the Board.

It was a pleasure to work with those who served on the staff of INTEREST during that time. Jim Stahr modeled strong commitment to the Lord and our assemblies. He encouraged me to write and published my articles on church growth which later grew into a book.

Bruce McNicol graciously but firmly led us into a new era with an expanded mandate. He assembled a creative energetic staff in Bill Conard, Andy Holloman and Mike Hamel (along with excellent support staff). These men were always thinking on the cutting edge. They wanted the best for the assemblies. There was a strong commitment to planting new churches, training young leaders and providing resources for many believers. I believe they formed one of the best young leadership teams among North American evangelicals. How ironic that they received so much criticism from those they sought to serve.

Our two high quality Decade of Promise conferences were special highlights. What marvelous teaching, worship and fellowship we all enjoyed. I felt great regret this past December as I thought of the third conference that might have been held in 1995.

I am proud of those who served so well at INTEREST. I feel great sorrow as I realize that some misguided men caused this most effective ministry to founder. What a tragedy that many assemblies never realized the tremendous resources that INTEREST provided. I feel sorrow, yet I count it a privilege to have served alongside such faithful servants. Mistakes were made, I am certain, by all of us. Yet God judges the thoughts and intents of the heart—and I believe He will commend those who served so faithfully at INTEREST.

—Nelson Annan, Pastor, Bayview Glen Church, Thornhill, Ontario

God judges the thoughts and intents of the heart and I believe He will commend those who served so faithfully at INTEREST.



Nelson Annan

RETURNING to FIRST THINGS

Fine magazines, like good people, typically serve their generation only. For example, 13 U.S. presidents and ten Canadian prime ministers directed their countries during INTEREST's 62 year tenure—not that all these served their generation! Hundreds of secular and Christian magazines came and went during INTEREST's extended tenure.

Why did INTEREST flourish for so long? Largely because INTEREST found two needs close to God's heart and kept filling them right through the mid 90s. First, INTEREST deeply encouraged pioneering church planters and other workers. The periodical challenged Christians to pray, give and write to these workers. I observed INTEREST constantly spurring on both

planters and supporters during the 80s and 90s when INTEREST Ministries helped to establish over 100 new churches.

The magazine also filled a second need by faithfully teaching Bible and doctrine to Christians from many backgrounds. Several denominational leaders ranked INTEREST high among "church group" periodicals. Thousands treasured the magazine

as it continued to thoughtfully teach the Word and publish news that made a difference.

Sustaining ministry to these two needs required a string of godly and gifted servants. I knew six of the seven editors and

worked with four of them. They fit this description.

INTEREST now retires. Why? Several reasons exist, including one classic explanation: Christian magazines usually serve God only in their generation. Then, God raises up fresh resources. Numerous ministries from the larger body of Christ can now provide INTEREST's readers with outstanding resources for pioneer church planting, Bible study, growing in Christ, local church ministry, etc. Even commended workers, who ten years ago relied on assembly magazines to release their views and teaching, can now afford desktop publishing. Credit the current INTEREST Ministries directors for understanding their times.

Here's the good news. Next month INTEREST returns to its forte: news. During much of the past 25 years, over 70% of the constituency read News and Notices, making it one of the most read departments of the magazine and the one that comprised the whole magazine when Bill McCartney and others first published Letters of Interest from the Home Field. I wish these current directors well. I thank God for the significant influence of INTEREST over the decades and I look forward to News of INTEREST.

—Bruce McNicol, President, Leadership Catalyst, former President, INTEREST Ministries, Phoenix, Arizona



Bruce McNicol

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TIMELESS TRUTHS

Whether you've been an INTEREST reader for a few years or several decades you're no doubt aware that the magazine has often been the center of controversy. Every editor, including myself, has heard cries of concern from his contemporaries over everything from worldly graphics to doctrinal drift. For some readers the magazine went too far, for others not far enough. But that's to be expected given our constituency. Think about it.

The Brethren are a people of conviction, zealous for the Lord, committed to the Book and concerned for the lost. They always have—and always will—feel the tension of communicating timeless truths in timely ways. INTEREST has served as a public forum for the ongoing debate between reverence and relevancy. Such dialogue produces sparks, and I believe more light has been generated than heat.

As we look back over the long and fruitful ministry of INTEREST magazine we should follow Paul's advice to the Philippians. "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Remember what was good, forgive what wasn't and thank God for all He has accomplished through INTEREST.

—Mike Hamel, former editor INTEREST Magazine, Colorado Springs, Colorado



Mike Hamel

NO MORE INTEREST

Solomon says "There is a time for everything." Would he say this is the time to shut down INTEREST Magazine? I don't know. But Solomon was a practical chap, except where women were concerned, and he would accept the inevitable. He might say, "Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account."

INTEREST is not the first good Brethren periodical to shut down. My great-grandfather Donald Ross started a few magazines (e.g. *The Barley Cake, Our Record*). They were useful in their time, but they no longer exist and nobody misses them. *The Harvester* and *The Witness*, two excellent British periodicals that ministered to us when we lived in Angola, are no longer published. As long as they were published, they were vehicles for the superb teaching of good men and women with whom we had no other contact. Now, nobody misses them.

I shall remember INTEREST lovingly, especially the contact with board members. They were the excellent of the earth: Don Taylor, Wilson McCracken, Neil Glass, Bob Mojonnier, John McCallum, Walt Liefeld...I stop, lest I overlook the names of other deeply revered colleagues. There

were many others in addition to those just named, all good men and women who served God in their generation as faithfully as David served the Lord in his generation. I remember them with deepest love and respect.

I also remember Naomi Bauman. If Paul were writing a letter to America, such as the Epistle to the Romans, he would say something special about Naomi Bauman and her work at INTEREST. In the 16th chapter, he might say, "Greet Naomi who worked hard in the Lord."

There is a time for everything, but some occasions are painful. The shutting down of INTEREST is, for me, a painful event.

—Don Cole, former editor *INTEREST Magazine*, Bloomingdale, Illinois



Don Cole

*I shall remember
INTEREST lovingly,
especially the contact
with board members.*

A BAROMETER

Paul Regan

Icame to know Christ while still in college. The local church I was introduced to at that time was an assembly where INTEREST Magazine was the magazine to read, and read it I did. I've been reading it ever since!

For me, the greatest attraction of the magazine has always been the sense of familiarity and fellowship it conveyed. These were articles by people I had met. The news items were about workers and ministries I prayed for and supported. And the focus of every issue was always on a family of churches I knew and respected.

Perhaps one of the magazine's greatest strengths has been its ability to change with the times. Some may have viewed that as inconsistency; I understood it as a reflection of the assemblies themselves. In many ways INTEREST Magazine has served as a barometer of the Brethren Movement in North America.

As is often the case, true value is best assessed in the light of posterity. Perhaps now we'll be able to fully appreciate the critical role that INTEREST Magazine filled.

—Paul Regan, President, Stewards Ministries, Batavia, Illinois

FELLOWSHIP & UNITY

One of my earliest memories of an awareness of the assemblies came in my first reading of a Letters of Interest magazine. I was impressed with the brief but informative reports from those who were serving the Lord in various ways and places in North America. Over the years many have been well served by the regular dissemination of these reports. This gracious ministry has also served to encourage a spirit of fellowship and unity among the Lord's people.

The same graciousness has been seen in the transmission of funds to Christian workers. We are thankful for this ministry and praise God for those who have given their lives in serving our Lord in this practical way.

On many occasions INTEREST provided a good point of communication with the Lord's people for Emmaus Bible College. Articles written—even a poem I wrote—were published and a number of informational articles and ads placed before the wide readership of the magazine.

—Daniel H. Smith, President, Emmaus Bible College, Dubuque, Iowa



Daniel H. Smith

INTEREST and the FUTURE

The brethren movement has a mission and a future! And the long ministry of INTEREST will continue to bear fruit. I say this from the perspective of almost 50 years since my awakening to spiritual worship in a small assembly in Ozone Park, NY. I have been enriched by my association with brethren assemblies here and overseas, and especially by the ministry of INTEREST. My relationship of over 30 years with this periodical, its staff and its board has meant a life of excitement, blessing, memories and strong expectations for the future.

If INTEREST had been a narrow denominational paper it would have had an easier job of it, but would have failed to spread "brethren principles" broadly outside our circles.

Christians become aware of the implications of the priesthood of all believers—the last principle of the Reformation to be actualized. Many believers have dropped denominational barriers and have embraced each other in the bonds of Christ. Many pastors have discovered that what we used to call "one man ministry" is not biblical and that the true pastor will equip others so that the whole body ministers according to their individual gifts. Christians have discovered the blessing of simply meeting to remember the Lord in the bread and wine for the sole purpose of honoring Him. In short, the principles recovered by the early brethren have permeated much of evangelical Christianity today.

God has worked in and through the brethren movement in amazing ways. In the early years of my ministry I was impressed by those like Jack Wyrtzen (Word of Life), C. Stacey Woods (Inter-Varsity), Theo McCully (Christian Business Men) and Alfred E Kunz (Pocket Testament League) who were in brethren assemblies but led significant non-denominational ministries. There have been other men and women like them, through whose ministry and influence many came to appreciate our simple principles. God has worked in some unusual ways, as when Christians became more aware of the brethren presence in missions through the sacrifice of Pete Fleming, Ed McCully and

Successive editors, Donald Taylor (whose counsel influenced the direction of my life), C. Donald Cole, James Stahr, William Conard, Mike Hamel and Kenneth Botton, as well as Bruce McNicol, have all been deeply valued friends. Involvement in the "Call to Renewal," issued when Jim Stahr was editor, was an exciting experience. We saw how God could work freshly and powerfully in spite of our own human limitations. Writing the Viewpoint column for more than a decade stimulated me to listen carefully to the real questions and needs of others and to keep searching the Scriptures with open heart and mind.

What is the heritage of the Brethren and of INTEREST?

Over the years I have seen many

Jim Elliot among the five who died in Ecuador 40 years ago. My wife, Olive, who had been married to Pete Fleming, has often commented that the way those men came from different missions to serve God together should be a model for us in Christian work at home.

In all of the diversity and cross-pollination that has increasingly taken place, INTEREST has served to keep those in brethren ministries and brethren in other ministries linked together. It has provided a means of communication in which we learned to pray for one another, to listen to one another and to offer one another encouragement. If INTEREST had been a narrow denominational paper it would have had an easier job of it, but would have failed to spread "brethren principles" broadly outside our circles. And isn't that what the brethren were all about—broadening the circle to include all believers who love the Lord Jesus, whether or not they have the same practices? That first group in the early 1800s did not come together to establish a uniform procedure but to worship and remember the Lord together with no denominational or clerical boundaries. Perhaps we could call it "worship without walls." Maybe the true successors of the early brethren will prove to be not merely an association of churches with similar practices, but rather all those who follow the biblical principles faithfully.

Once, at a seminar in the Toronto area, I was speaking on the teaching of the early brethren. Noting that Christ alone is our center and that we are simply believers meeting in His name without drawing lines of inclusion or exclusion, I said, "If we had been true to the teachings of the early brethren, perhaps by now all believers would be one with us." In the discussion that followed a man disagreed. "No," he said, "If we had been true to the teachings of the early brethren, there wouldn't be any 'us.'"

Maybe one day there won't be any "us." If so, we should rejoice that mere reproduction of brethren assemblies has given way to broad application of brethren principles. Both the growth of vital assemblies and the adoption by many other churches of the principles we proclaim would constitute a significant future for the brethren movement and a worthy heritage of INTEREST.

Perhaps there can still be some equivalent of INTEREST, addressed to contemporary churches and individuals seeking a vital application of biblical principles in worship and service. Perhaps the Internet can be a vehicle of such communication. Perhaps desktop publishing can have a part. Perhaps God will have other means. The Lord is building His church among brethren—traditional and progressive, among churches with denominational connections and among those that are totally independent. He is building His church around the world, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

—Walter Liefeld, commended worker, former board member INTEREST Ministries, Deerfield, Illinois



Walter Liefeld

CHANGING TIMES



James A. Stahr

Perhaps, therefore, it became inevitable that INTEREST Magazine would cease publication. Still, it is hard to see it go.

Ten years ago this month I stepped down as Editor of INTEREST. I held that title for almost 15 years, second in duration only to the original editor, William G. McCartney (1934-1961). I never had the privilege of working with him. When I did see him, or when he did write, he always encouraged me. Two months before the Lord called him home, I published an article he had submitted some months before.

On one occasion, Mr. McCartney sent me a rare copy of the first issue of this magazine, July 1934. I treasure it today, both for its historical value and for the man who gave it to me. The opening words of that issue, presumably written by him, tell why the magazine came into being. Pioneer evangelists, travelling from place to place to win souls and plant assemblies, were little known to the churches whose support they needed. Some faced severe hardship because of the Great Depression. It would be the function of the new magazine to publish reports of their labors and receive gifts that could be channeled to them.

BEGINNINGS OF CHANGE

In those days, almost all home-field workers were itinerant. By the time I became editor, a slow change was underway. New full-time workers were more inclined to settle down with a single assembly. Commendations began to come, not from assemblies sending out a worker (as in Acts 13:2-4; 15:40 and 18:27), but rather from churches that invited workers to come to them. Because such invitations implied local financial responsibility, the support base of the resident worker tended to be much narrower than that of the itinerant. He did not need to write letters to a magazine letting people know where he was and what he was doing.

Today there are relatively few itinerants. With this changing situation, the original function of INTEREST became increasingly irrelevant.

Historically, INTEREST has been a mouth-piece for the principles and practices that united assemblies. Here, too, a change was taking place that undermined the usefulness of the magazine. Distinctives had often been misused to isolate assembly people from other evangelicals, but now a reaction began to the other extreme. Some called the biblical practices "baggage" that should be cast aside. They wanted to lose any distinctive identity and be as much like the main stream of evangelicalism as possible.

LOOKING FOR MIDDLE GROUND

Many, myself included, felt a middle ground was possible. We should emphasize our distinc-

tives, not as promoting sectarianism but as making a valuable contribution to the body of Christ. We felt that every American and Canadian community had an inherent right of access to at least one local church that followed what we perceived to be a New Testament pattern of operation.

Influencing the wider body of Christ is not the only worthy motive that can rest in the hearts of God's people. The desire for soul winning and church planting arises naturally from the Great Commission. There was a time when these two motives nested together beautifully, a time when the attractiveness of biblical principles contributed to church growth. But times have changed. Audiences today are drawn more to relational teaching than to doctrine. Preachers are known more for their counseling ministry than for expository preaching of the Word. So our different priorities polarize rather than unite us. Given a choice between church growth and church principles, some choose one and some the other.

The reverse influence of the wider body of Christ further complicates the polarization. Practices once foreign to assemblies crowd in—practices like calling one man the pastor, paying salaries or pledging support to Christian workers, and using commercial methods of fund raising.

SERVING ALL ASSEMBLIES

Today the unity of thinking and purpose so characteristic of the past has been replaced by a destructive polarization. INTEREST could survive by aligning itself with one side or the other. In its more than 60 years of existence, it has never done this, but always sought to serve all the churches that share our common roots. Perhaps, therefore, it became inevitable that INTEREST Magazine would cease publication. Still, it is hard to see it go.

A PERSONAL NOTE

For me, these last ten years have not been without personal difficulty, including quadruple bypass heart surgery in 1992. I turned 70 this month. Though less active than in earlier years, I continue to preach and teach the Word of God as invitations come. I am thankful to God for 42 years as a commended worker. I have never regretted my decision 54 years ago to follow Jesus Christ. Nor for another decision ten years later to go into full time service among assemblies that make New Testament principles a priority in their local church life and in their missionary endeavors. His "yoke is easy and His burden is light" (Matthew 11:30).

—James A. Stahr, former editor INTEREST Magazine, Wheaton, Illinois.

The PLYMOUTH BRETHREN MOVEMENT

As a boy in a Pennsylvania assembly many years ago, I first heard the statement, "The Plymouth Brethren are a movement, not a denomination." I had only a vague idea what the words meant, but they had a nice ring!

By the time I reached high school age, I had heard many references to the "Brethren movement." The term continued to intrigue me, particularly since I had begun trying to make sense of the curious group called "assemblies" in which I had been raised. Could the fact that they were a movement help me figure them out? I decided the answer had to be "yes." Now, many years later, I am even more convinced that seeing the Brethren as a movement is a key to understanding them.

SECULAR MOVEMENTS

In the world around us, social or political movements arise when people feel strongly that something is wrong, and decide to correct it. Such movements have often been powerful engines of change.

Consider the "anti-slavery movement." In the United States, strong sentiment against slavery existed as far back as colonial days. It took form as a movement in the early 1800s. Half a century and a devastating civil war later, this movement successfully sponsored the thirteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution which, in 1865, banned human slavery.

The "suffrage movement" was similarly effective. After many years of struggle, it produced our nineteenth constitutional amendment in 1920, giving women the right to vote.

Movements currently active in our society concern abortion (pro and con), environmental protection, civil rights and other issues.

MOVEMENT CHARACTERISTICS

A current dictionary defines a movement as "a diffusely organized or heterogeneous group of people or organizations tending toward a common goal." This tangle of words, when unraveled, suggests three of the characteristics of a movement.

First, a movement has a common goal. The word "common" indicates that this goal is shared by all members. The goal is the glue that holds the organism together and the compass which guides its actions. Every activity within the movement must contribute in some way to reaching the goal. The goal also sustains the morale of members and draws others into the ranks.

Second, a movement has no central control. The phrase "diffusely organized or heterogeneous" tells us this. Unlike other organizations, a movement has no single leader or central headquarters. Actions are planned and carried out at the grass roots level. While there may be organized units

within a movement, they are not the movement itself.

Without a headquarters, there are no central files, no rules and regulations, no fussy admission requirements. Since there is no formal membership, a movement has an indefinite perimeter. Those influenced by its message may choose to be secret supporters, or to join its ranks publicly.

Third, a movement is flexible. The use of the ambiguous verb "tending," in the phrase "tending toward a common goal," suggests this quality. Since a movement is not centrally orchestrated, there is often a great deal of variation in the activities that occur from time to time and in different places. I've called this quality "flexibility." It allows those on the firing line to change tactics quickly to take advantage of new situations.

There is a fourth characteristic not covered in the definition, but inherent in the name: A movement moves! There may be stagnant periods and setbacks, but ultimately there must be progress if it is to survive as a movement.

THE EARLY CHURCH AS A MOVEMENT

The word "movement" in the sense used here is not a biblical term, nor was it in common use in New Testament times. Nevertheless a look at the history of the early church (the one we read about in the Book of Acts and the Epistles), shows us the four movement characteristics clearly displayed.

The church had a goal. This goal had two elements: first, to fulfill Christ's Great Commission, which included preaching the Gospel, baptizing, discipling and teaching converts, and second, to be guided by principles taught by the apostles.

The church had no central human control. While Christ was the invisible head of the church, there was no earthly headquarters. Local churches were independent. They served as bases for the spread of the Gospel and centers for teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. The apostles, who founded the first churches, acted subsequently as advisors rather than dictators.

The church was flexible in operation. Brethren scholar F. F. Bruce, wrote, "Flexibility is an essential element of spiritual liberty."¹ This flexibility stood in contrast to the restrictive rules under which contemporary Jewish and pagan religions labored. Under the banner of liberty, every believer was a witness. Believers were free to preach and teach in homes, public meetings, prisons and royal courts. In the local churches which sprang up everywhere, individuals exercised their spiritual gifts. These

Brethren scholar F. F. Bruce wrote, "Flexibility is an essential element of spiritual liberty."

If we regain a "movement perspective," we will realize that the brethren movement is not dead, dying or obsolete.

churches were not stamped out of a single mold, but were free to adapt their practices to Jewish, Greek, Roman and other ethnic cultures as appropriate.

The church moved! Undeterred by persecution, the Christian faith spread through the Roman Empire and beyond. Its impact was such that Christians were described by their opponents as people "who have turned the world upside down!" (Acts 17:6)

THE COMING OF HUMAN CONTROL

All too soon the organizers moved in! As they established centralized control, hierarchies were created and church beliefs and practices standardized. Public ministry in each church became the province of a special class of individuals called "clergy." In this process, movement qualities vanished. As time passed, disputes erupted, spawning church divisions. This led ultimately to the many denominations we see today.

God continued to work, often mightily, within these man-made structures; however, the clear message of the Gospel often became clouded, and in some churches disappeared completely.

Through the centuries, efforts were made by concerned Christians to return to the simple, uncluttered faith of the early church. Some of these efforts died out, others ultimately organized themselves into new denominations.

Then in the 1820s a quest for spiritual renewal produced a new group of churches in the British Isles. The group not only survived, but also escaped the organizational trap. These Christians became known as the Plymouth Brethren.

ENTER THE BRETHREN

The brethren believed that Christ's initial design for the church could be successfully followed in all subsequent generations. In emulating this design, they, like the early church, became a movement. William Kelly, a friend of Brethren founder J. N. Darby, used this term in describing the Brethren.² In 1968, Brethren historian F. Roy Coad verified that classification when he wrote, "The characteristics of the main stream of Brethren have been those of a movement rather than those of a formal denomination."³

The brethren movement displayed the four characteristics already described. Their goal was identical to that of the early church. They established no central headquarters; each assembly was autonomous. They were flexible in operation; their assemblies expressed New Testament principles in a way suited to their environment of the 1800s. And they moved!

They presented a strong challenge to the entrenched denominationalism around them. Their assemblies recognized no clergy/laity division, and gave the Lord's Supper a central place in their worship. They affirmed the unity of the body of Christ by accepting individuals into assembly fellowship simply as believ-

ers. As one of the founders, J. G. Bellett, put it, "All who were known to be newborn were welcome."⁴ (Exceptions were those holding heretical doctrines or living immoral lives.)

John Phillips has summarized their progress in these words: "The Brethren movement took rapid root in Britain and in a number of other countries....In its early days the movement made a tremendous impact on a world tired of religious formalism....In spite of [some] tragic internal struggles, such was the spiritual force of the movement that it became the predominant Christian group in countries like Italy, Egypt and Argentina. Its teachers produced libraries of useful commentaries."⁵

Incidentally, the fact that a movement usually has an indefinite perimeter was true of the Brethren. Their influence extended beyond their assemblies. One result was that other believers were encouraged to establish informal, assembly-like fellowships. Many such unlabeled groups exist today.

THE BRETHREN, CURRENT EDITION

The brethren are now a worldwide faith group. We who are members of assemblies today can claim this heritage and be thankful for it.

However, in North America at least, there is a quiet but widespread concern about the current state of our assemblies. While some congregations are flourishing, many others are not. There appears to be little or no overall numerical growth. There seems to be no question that our movement has stopped moving.

If we accept a static condition as the norm, it is likely that church practices, programs and meeting schedules will become a matter of habit, and thus set and unchangeable, even when changes are desirable. The important quality of flexibility will be lost. We may also lose our will to carry out the Great Commission and our understanding of the New Testament principles which should guide us.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

There is no simple formula for reversing this trend. However, we can take a first step by beginning again to think of ourselves as a movement, rather than a group of static churches.

I believe that if we regain a "movement perspective," we will realize that the brethren movement is not dead, dying or obsolete. Movement elements are still intact, therefore the mechanism for progress is in place. That is the good news. The bad news is that, like an out-of-tune automobile, our movement is sputtering and limping along instead of running smoothly.

With the help of God's Spirit, we can accomplish a tune-up.

First, since progress in a movement is a grass roots thing, a tune-up must start with individual assemblies, and in each assembly, with individual believers. While the encouragement of elders and preachers in an assembly is important, they cannot do the job alone. Those with the gift of leadership in the congregation must also strike the spark, and others must join in repentance and prayer for guidance.

Second, the assembly as a whole must recommit itself to the two-part "common goal" of the early church: fulfillment of the Great Commission, and adherence to New Testament principles.

Continued on page 29

A MENTOR'S GUIDE to BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP

by Alex Strauch

Friends of ours, elders in another church, were discussing the need to train more men for eldership. As they sought suitable material for training of potential elders, one remarked, "No one ever trained us!" This assessment could be echoed by 95 percent of all elders and deacons.

WHY TRAIN MEN FOR ELDERSHIP?

The local church is an extended family that does God's business. Like many family-owned businesses, local churches fail to train the next generation of leaders. Church leaders are often too busy with the work of the church or lack vision for training future leaders. They have seriously under-estimated both the need and their responsibility. Like flowers in spring, leaders who are ready to bless the flock will not appear without planting or preparation.

Kenneth O. Gangel, a biblically sound expert in church management and training points out, "The key to reproducing leadership is to clearly plan for it. Church leaders," exhorts Gangel, "need to produce leaders who will reproduce leaders, precisely as it is done in the family—through experience, instruction and modeling."

THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL AND TIMOTHY

Training men for future leadership and ministry is not a novel concept to the Christian familiar with what the Bible teaches. Our Lord Jesus spent a significant part of His public ministry preparing for the future. He patiently poured His life into twelve men, training them to be the future leaders of the church. He was a master teacher and mentor.

Like his Lord, Paul was also a discipler of men. He had his Timothys, and He expected them to train others: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim 2:2). Paul expected that when Timothy departed from Ephesus he would leave in place trained, faithful men who would continue the development of future teachers and leaders.

ELDER QUALIFICATIONS

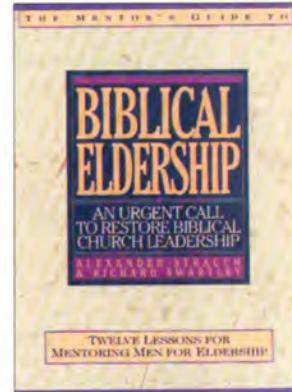
Local church elders are to be faithful men who are determined to train other faithful men. Elders must understand that the shepherding-leading task includes planning for ongoing leadership for the flock. As spiritual overseers of the congregation, elders have a special obligation to recognize, develop and establish those to whom the Spirit has given the desire to shepherd God's people.

The fact that the Spirit plants in some men the desire to shepherd does not eliminate the elders' responsibility to

prayerfully search for potential shepherd elders and to challenge, recognize, mentor and appoint such men. The Holy Spirit uses people to help others discover and develop their gifts. The Holy Spirit also requires that elders protect the church from pushy, deceived people who think they are gifted and motivated by the Spirit when in reality they are not. Such people are a detriment to the church. So, the elders must actively participate in the process of selecting, examining and training prospective elders. Whether they intend to or not, elders encourage or stifle the development of new elders.

Elder training is essential to the church's response to the great commission. Our Lord's command to go, teach and make disciples of all the nations cannot be sustained without elders. In any mission field, whether it be local or at a great distance culturally, the planting of new churches is paced by the availability of elders. The stability of those new churches and their ability to grow will be determined by the maturity of their founding elders and their training of future elders.

Alex Strauch is a commended worker, serving the Lord in Littleton, Colorado. He is the author of several books including, Biblical Eldership, Agape Leadership and Using Your Home for Christ.



*Like flowers in
spring, leaders
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or preparation.*

ELDERSHIP TRAINING RESOURCES

A Study Guide to Biblical Eldership is designed primarily as a mentoring tool for training prospective new leaders. It consists of twelve lessons based on the revised and expanded edition of *Biblical Eldership*. The study guide is designed to be used by the prospective new elder under the direction of a mentoring elder.

The Mentor's Guide to Biblical Eldership is for the mentoring elder only. It is a leader's guide to the *Study Guide to Biblical Eldership*. Elders are busy men, and many may not have the time or adequate resources to prepare for mentoring. This guide provides them with extensive answers to all the questions in the study guide.

Both of these guides are available from Lewis and Roth Publishers, P.O. Box 569, Littleton, CO 80160. Toll free (800) 477-3239.

EASTERN CANADA

33 YEARS AND STILL GOING
Now in our 33rd year, we are still on the air and preaching the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. We've received news from HCJB Quito Ecuador that La Foi Vivifiante programs will be broadcast during the next six months all over Europe and Africa, reaching the largest French populations in the whole world. They will also cover North America over short waves as they have done for many years.

I have been invited by the television company that airs our TV programs on the south shore of Montreal to submit a new series for the fall. We are still waiting for approval to air our programs all through the greater Montreal area.

*Fernand and Yolande Saint Louis,
Quebec*



Fernand and Yolande Saint Louis

THE SAMARIA PRINCIPLE

The LINC program (English as a Second Language) that I manage at our church offers one class this year, but has the same enrollment as last year. My interim work at the Mississauga Chinese Christian Church continues to grow. There was a baptism at Christmas where I saw the firstfruits of this ministry.

Since December I have completed my booklet *The Samaria Principle: Reaching Newcomers to Canada*, consulted with pastors and leaders and worked on a series of regional training conferences for ethnic focus workers. I've been invited to make the book available to Ontario Theological Seminary students to use in their missions program.

Our daughter Heather leads a Christian fellowship at her high school where several kids have come to the

Lord. She is growing in her friendship with Christ.

*Brian and Sally Seim,
Ontario*



Brian Seim

UNITY IN CHRIST

The Bible club ministry continues to grow. We presently have three active clubs and six requests for new ones in different churches in September. We are praying that I may be able to start full time so I can serve and meet the needs.

We often hear of Quebec as a dividing element in the country. It is interesting to see that the arrival of Word of Life Canada in Quebec has had a unifying effect. As this youth ministry was serving Ontario and New Brunswick, the addition of the Quebec area gave a natural boost to the ministry which is now expanding west. Clubs have already started in Winnipeg. We are united and there is no separation in Jesus Christ.

*Serge and Michele Lemee,
Quebec*

AMICUS MINISTRIES

We are encouraged as we review what God has done since the formation of Amicus Ministries International. In May 1995 we opened administrative and counseling offices in downtown Peterborough. In September a lovely home was miraculously supplied where many have been blessed through hospitality, teaching and encouragement. More than 465 guests have crossed our threshold.

The counseling ministry continues to grow. People are being helped to honestly seek solutions to their difficult situations. We thank the Lord that He



Claude and Marion Loney

uses this ministry to bring encouragement to hurting people.

The summer months are approaching and some major decisions must be made. We are required to move from the Interim Retreat Centre and wonder where the Lord would have us continue. Funds are needed to complete the permanent Retreat Centre. We have volunteers and donated furnishings waiting to be utilized.

*D. Claude and Marion Loney,
Ontario*

FULL TIME WORKER NEEDED

Auburn Bible Chapel in Peterborough, Ontario, is looking for a full time worker, beginning this fall. We would welcome inquiries to Gerrit Van Essen, RR 4, Peterborough, ON K9J 6X5; Phone (705) 652-1153 or Fax (705) 742-1032

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

This winter I had the opportunity to do some Gospel music recording and, Lord willing, everything will be complete in a few weeks. We continue with Children's Bible Clubs, Youth work and one-on-one Bible studies. We're also looking forward to our 11th summer at Aush-Bik-Koong Camp. Registrations are getting busy.

*Marlene Allyn,
Ontario*

TRAINING FOR LEADERSHIP

One of the highlights of the past few months has been our training school for His Mansion Ontario which included a trip to His Mansion New Hampshire. We took part in the Christian Counseling Training course taught by Rob Wynja here and then the eight days in New Hampshire were spent alongside staff and students. Our main focus was to better understand the program itself and the process of healing that God takes students through during their time here. It was wonderful to see how God uses the family unit as part of the student's healing process.

As we write, HMMO is negotiating with Horton Township regarding the township recreation centre located at the corner of our property. We're close

to having the program ready on paper and with the provision of this community center we would have the facilities necessary to provide housing for our first students.

*Dale and Melodie Shantz,
Ontario*

REACHING THE DOWN AND OUT

It's been a rough, draining winter at Sanctuary. A couple of our older people (30 and 42 years old) died on the streets, another came within millimetres of dying in a knife fight in a rooming house, some who we thought were beginning to really hear the good news of God's love and forgiveness have slipped back into the darkness, some of our new believers have gone through terrible struggles and children we work with are hopelessly trapped in the world of drugs and prostitution. In the downtown core of Canada's largest city, on its most famous street, the consistent evangelical witness is limited to two outposts: Yonge Street Mission's centre for street youth and Sanctuary.

Our resources are pitifully small. But we have a treasure beyond any human measurement of value. The rougher it gets and the more desperate the needs become, the more we are convinced that personal salvation through Jesus Christ is the only answer. Only the Creator can redeem His creation.

*Greg and Karen Paul,
Ontario*

VBS IN MARCH

The Lord gave us a good week of VBS at Scottlea Gospel Chapel, St. Catharines, Ontario, during the March break. Numbers averaged 97 and were most consistent. One girl professed faith in Christ. The theme

was "Pilgrim's Progress."

May 19-28 I will be using the model of the Tabernacle for a series of meetings at Wallenstein (ON) Bible Chapel. Presently I am preparing messages for the



James and Heather Comte

Family Bible radio ministry.

Our summer is full with camp and VBS work in Ontario, New Brunswick, New Hampshire and Maine. We value prayer for us as we work with the assembly in Barrie as well as our ministry in other places.

*James and Heather Comte,
Ontario*

WESTERN USA

NEW BEGINNINGS

The first and most important new beginning for us is that Amy is pregnant with our first child to be born in November. Our second new beginning is our move to a new home not far from downtown San Jose.

The ministry of DIME has also moved. It's a miracle that the machines, boxes of books and computers have been moved out of the basement and just two blocks down the street. The building is the nicest building on the block and has a reasonable price. We are amazed at how the Lord has provided.

*Pablo and Amy Dillon,
California*

YOUTH WORKER NEEDED

Spring Mountain Bible Church in Clackamas, Oregon, is seeking a youth worker to maintain and further develop our existing youth program. The position is full-time and will serve the leadership, pastoral and administrative needs of the Junior and Senior High School programs. If interested, write to Spring Mountain Bible Church, Youth Worker Personnel Committee, 12152 SE Mather Rd., Portland, OR 97015 or call Greg Matthews at (503) 698-2864.

IMMANUEL MISSION

In March Ken and Helena Fleming came from Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa, to Immanuel Mission in Teec Nos Pos, Arizona, to challenge and encourage us in an evaluation of the ministry. After sharing messages from the life of Elijah and recounting some of their own experiences, they met with us for informal discussion. Some of the questions asked were: "Why does Immanuel

Mission exist?" "What are the goals?" "How will they be accomplished?" These helped us bring our thoughts and ideas into a central focus. A big thank you to Ken and Helena for sharing so openly of themselves and their personal experiences.

We look forward to the summer break, but many of our students have little or no Christian encouragement until school time next fall. They are often exposed to Satanic influence through ceremonies and other traditional observances. Pray for growth among those who have professed salvation.

*David and Leona Douglas,
Arizona*

CENTRAL USA

FIVE MIGHTY WARRIOR

Five young men from across the country will be disciples during short term mission trips this summer. Pray that the Lord's will be done in each heart.

*Dwight Knight,
Michigan*



Dwight Knight

NEW PRESIDENT/CEO

International Teams/USA, in Prospect Heights, IL., has named a new President and CEO for this 35-year-old evangelical missions agency. Stephen Freed replaces Mark K. Dyer who becomes Associate International Director at the partnership's international office based in London, England.

International Teams is a global partnership of five national Christian organizations from Australia, Canada, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the U.S., whose 400 staff from 15 nationalities serve in 20 countries.

Stephen Freed has traveled and worked in 92 countries. He has served as Latin American Director and Executive Vice President of Trans World Radio. He has served with Campus Crusade for Christ in the Jesus Film project and in various other ministries.

A GROWING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Victory Christian School in St. Louis, Missouri, is growing and remaining strong. Enrollment for the 1995/96 school year was 195. If growth continues at last year's pace, we should serve over 200 students next year. In May this year the school graduated 13 seniors. We praise the Lord for His continued guidance and faithfulness.

Steven P. Mizel, Secondary Principal,
Missouri

MOVING TO ENGLAND

We are about to begin our 13th year of ministry with International Teams. Our years as missionaries in the Philippines and then on the U.S. staff have been filled with wonderful friendships, learning experiences and opportunities to make Christ known and see lives transformed.

Lord willing, this summer we move our family to London, England. Working directly with 40 leaders, I'll assist them in matching gifts and abilities on the teams with the needs of the community and country they serve in. The desire is to see them multiply their ministry and have it reproduced many times over in the lives of nationals.

Mark and Sue Dyer,
Illinois



The Dyer family

NORTHEASTERN US

FOR HIS GLORY

During 1995 Ray began to suffer severe pain throughout his body. As the summer camp season [at Li-Lo-Li] came and went he was having problems walking. In December, after a second exploratory surgery, they found a rare bone cancer. Without treatment



Ray and Becky Blais

kept saying we gave up our spring break," said Tenish Patrick. "I don't feel like I gave up anything." The other students agreed.

Lisa Madison,
Iowa

ON THE RIO GRANDE

This year Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburgh, Texas, celebrates 50 years of service training Christian leaders for Latin America. I thank God for the opportunity to serve Him in a ministry which aims to reach souls and plant churches all over the continent.

Every afternoon I talk to young people on a new radio program called Entre Amigos. It is a blessing to hear that many boys and girls in our valley listen to the program. Our goal is to encourage young people to walk with the Lord and also reach those who don't know Him yet.

Wilson and Joy Campoverde,
Texas

FOREIGN

OPPORTUNITIES DOWN UNDER

Emmaus Bible College in Australia has two positions available, that of Principal and a lecturing position in one of the following fields: Old Testament Studies, Missiology or Christian Education. Applicants should possess post graduate theological qualifications in the relevant fields. Lecturing position commences January '97. Applications for principal close on June 30. Applications and inquiries should be marked "confidential" and addressed to The Chairman, Emmaus Bible College, P.O. Box 234, Epping, NSW 2121, Australia.

Grace Bible Camp has been in operation since 1952, founded by Julius Dennis and since 1992 has been directed by Ernest Singleton. At age 85, Mr. Dennis is still very active.

The students raked the five acre camp grounds, scraped and painted metal and wooden bunk beds, trimmed and roofed and installed windows in a new second story cabin and helped install a shower. Mr. Singleton hopes some of the Emmaus students will decide to come back for the summer.

"It really annoyed me when people

PRINCIPAL NEEDED IN THE WEST INDIES

Midland Bible Institute in Jamaica, West Indies, needs a principal beginning in September 1996. Call or write to Dr. Joseph Wint, President, Midland Bible Institute, P.O. Box 400, May Pen, Jamaica, WI or call 809-929-0062.

COMMENDATIONS

FOREIGN

ROBERT TRIBE

The elders of Plano (TX) Bible Chapel have commended Robert Tribe to the work of the Lord in Romania. We believe the Lord has equipped and led Robert to serve Him in the ministry of evangelism and church planting. He has been a part of our fellowship for a number of years and has demonstrated faithfulness to the Lord, commitment to the local church and obedience to the Great Commission.

SONIA MARTINEZ

The believers at Bethany Chapel Yorkdale, in Toronto, Ontario, have reaffirmed the commendation of Sonia Martinez to the work of the Lord in the Philippines. We commended her in 1987 to work with International Teams. The nature of her ministry has changed and she is no longer working through I.T.

Sonia is now ministering to people who are the products of dysfunctional and abusive homes, homosexuals and

victims of AIDS. We commend her to this field of ministry and pray that the Lord will continue to use her to His glory in the salvation of souls and the discipling of new believers.

Aug. 10-18 with Bill Meyers.

For more information contact Cathie Whitcomb, c/o Camp Li-Lo-Li, 8811 Sunfish Run Rd., Randolph, NY 14772; (716) 945-2747.

ADDRESSES

THOMAS AND LAURA EBERT
2944 N Strawberry Lane, La Porte, IN
46350-8425

RAY AND CAROL JONES
Box 707, Durham, ON N0G 1R0; (519)
369-2873

ROBERT TRIBE
764 Rostock Circle NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907

CONFERENCES

CAMP LI-LO-LI
There is excitement in the mountain air as summer approaches, with several great weeks of ministry planned: Family Camp, June 29-July 6 with Boyd Nicholson; Pre-Teen Weeks, July 7-27 and Teen Weeks, July 28-Aug. 10 with Dave Stiefler; Youth Camp,

WITH THE LORD

AGNES BOSWELL

A happy release for Mrs. Agnes Boswell, formerly of London, Ontario, 88, after many years of suffering with Alzheimers Disease. She went to be with the Lord she loved and served so faithfully in Portugal and then with her husband, James K. Boswell, in evangelism all over the world.

News of INTEREST

is looking for news. Commended workers, correspondents and other involved Christians are encouraged to send letters and reports, conference announcements, commendations and assembly changes to:

News of INTEREST
P.O. Box 190
Wheaton, IL 60189

The Plymouth Brethren,
Continued from page 23

Third, the assembly must begin functioning as part of a movement, whether or not other assemblies follow suit. This will require exercising the important quality of flexibility. Here the support of the elders is vital. The assembly must look at its own "mission field," the area where God has placed it, and decide how best to carry on an effective testimony for Christ in this environment.

Some of us as assembly members may find this process painful. While we may be comfortable with things as they are, it may be necessary to modify traditional meeting schedules, types of music and other things if we are to reach others for Christ.

In some cases, the temporary or permanent services of a full time resident worker may help. (Some of the first Brethren assemblies had resident full time workers, others did not.) However in depending on full time help we must guard against drifting into an unofficial clergy/laity relationship.

If through this process the Brethren movement in North America is again set in motion, I believe it can play a significant role in God's plan for the future. If so, to paraphrase a prayer of the Apostle Paul, we may expect that once again the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in us and we in Him (2 Thess 1:12). ■

I understand this article is scheduled to appear in the final issue of INTEREST. The articles and news items in INTEREST Magazine have, for many years, encouraged us and stimulated our thinking. Its support will be sorely missed.

However, the demise of this magazine can also serve to emphasize something which this article suggests: that the health and progress of our movement is not dependent on sources of encouragement, no matter how valuable. We who are members of Brethren assemblies can thank God that each of our congregations is a fully autonomous body, possessed of God-given resources. We are responsible and fully capable, under God's guidance, of charting the course for our own assembly and thus fulfilling the mission Christ has given us.

¹F.F. Bruce, *In Retrospect*, 1993, Baker, Grand Rapids, MI; ²William Kelly, John Nelson Darby as I Knew Him, 1986, Words of Truth, Belfast, Northern Ireland;

³F. Roy Coad, *A History of the Brethren Movement*, 1968, Paternoster Press,

Exeter, England; ⁴J. G. Bellett, John Nelson Darby, 1992, by Max S. Weremchuk, Loizeaux, Neptune, NJ; ⁵John Phillips, *One Life*, 1995, Loizeaux, Neptune, NJ.

—Charles Coleman is a commended worker and former endorsing agent for assembly-related military chaplains. He welcomes comments on this article and the one in the May issue. Send to: Charles G. Coleman, 12123 Wilmont Turn, Bowie, MD 20715.

DRIVEN INTO the STORM

by Carol Porter



by Carol Porter

I had driven to Lake Tahoe from my home in coastal California for a 48 hour visit with a friend. I knew winter travel in the Sierra's was risky. The trip over Donner summit at 7,000 plus feet could require tire chains. Now it was Sunday morning. While we were finishing a leisurely breakfast the Holy Spirit nudged me hard. "Get up and get out. It is time to go." Within 10 minutes I was out of the driveway and on my way home in the midst of a major rain storm with the temperature dropping fast. I was never to know the exact reason for the urgency.

I went out into the storm knowing I was driven there by God himself. The wind was blowing and the rain coming down hard. Driving demanded my entire concentration. I carefully observed other cars in the storm with me. Each was also going slower than usual. We all had our lights on. There was an eerie solemnity to the whole thing. All of us on our own individual missions. Shut away from one another, but all together. All there for a reason. It was not a day for "pleasure drives."

As I climbed Donner Summit, now shrouded in heavy fog there was the distinct sense that I was not alone. Jesus was riding co-pilot with me. I relaxed, loosening my grip on the steering wheel. My mind flashed back on an incident four years before when the Lord had so clearly shown me the reality of His presence. I had been scheduled to do an interview about the Women's

home, exhausted but knowing that God had specifically led me into and safely through that trip. What should have been 3 1/2 hours had been almost 6. The trip was a parable—of what I did not then know. I just knew the Lord had led me. That was Sunday. By Wednesday I was told I had eye cancer. My world suddenly spun out of control. A storm swirled savagely but inside the storm I found a calm center where the Holy Spirit was playing praise music on continuous cycle. By the next morning my spiritual antennae were raised, my inner ears were opened to every nuance of God's voice. Scripture jumped off the pages of my Bible and into my heart. I knew my Co-pilot was in the driver's seat. I was merely along for the ride.

The intensity of that storm was short-lived. Within a week a cancer specialist at University of San Francisco had overturned the decision of the "lower court." The eye cancer was now labeled a benign tumor. It is being watched. The storm is hovering off shore and may never make landfall again. I don't know what the future holds.

Not all storms are short and intense. Many of my friends are driving through worse storms—some are long and have no end in sight. Where is God during those storms? He is in the same place He was in mine. He is there. Only in the case of His Son Jesus did He not drive all the way through the storm. He left Jesus to finish His death-storm alone so that we would never have to complete ours isolated from our Heavenly Father.

Woman to Woman

Ministry Manual on a Portland, Oregon, radio station. I had been told that it was to be taped. I said to myself, "Carol, that's no problem. If I make an incorrect statement they can delete it in the final broadcast." However, five minutes before I was to begin, the hostess of the show informed me that it was to be "live." I panicked and did what I always do in a panic—I visited the ladies room. Coming out several minutes later the Holy Spirit spoke so clearly He was almost audible, "Carol, this is your first live radio interview, but I have done 1,000s, don't worry." I laughed aloud at the truth of that statement. The same thought occurred on the drive home. The Holy Spirit had co-piloted many people through storms. He knows I am here. It's His job to get me safely through.

Hours later the storm abated. I arrived

Think back to one of your storms. What helped, what comforted? Second Corinthians 1 assures us that the comfort we have received is available to comfort others. As He has poured Himself into us so He will pour Himself out from us and into others. We become a living vessel. Further on in Second Corinthians Paul describes himself as a cracked vessel that has been battered by life but not fully destroyed. My battering has been for you and your battering will be for others. May God be glorified as we drive through our storms in a certain loneliness that all storms bring. May He use each of us to walk through the life-tornadoes with others.

It is my prayer for all fellow storm-travelers that you will know God's presence in ever deepening ways.

SPIRITUALLY FLAT?

Many Christians struggle with a loss of spiritual vitality. Like a punctured tire, their lives have gone spiritually flat. We won't find a better standard by which to measure ourselves than Galatians 5:13-26. "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like." Remember, Paul was writing to the churches in Galatia, not to the unchurched. A lack of the fruit of the Spirit—"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" is not always as obvious. Does our lack of love for our fellow Christians and our lack of interest in the lost indicate our spiritual condition?

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Restoring the spiritually flat believer requires biblical discernment. Be sensitive to God's Holy Spirit and to the individual. This approach must include love, sensitivity, gentleness, humbleness—the fruit of the Spirit!

We who seek to help others must be living honest, spiritual lives. Nothing is more convincing than the example of an authentic Spirit-filled Christian life! Pray specifically. Have you earned the right to be heard? Has a relationship of trust and respect been developed?

ENCOURAGEMENT

What do we offer Christians who are experiencing lack of spiritual vitality? The love of Jesus Christ! Notice in the book of Ephesians, the frequency of the phrase "in Christ." Do they know who they are in Jesus Christ? Paul is writing to the "saints" at Ephesus to encourage them that they are "in Christ." Saints sometimes sin, but nevertheless, they are in Christ. All true Christians are saints and in Christ for time and eternity. Nothing will change that! Christians are like Noah and his family in the ark. When the ark was buffeted and tossed they may have fallen down in the ark but they never fell out of it. In the same manner, true Christians are in Christ for eternity.

HONESTY

Spiritually flat individuals need to be honest with the Lord and admit to Him their true condition. The Lord knows anyway, so why do we try to hide sin, coldness of heart or whatever the situation may be? The Lord wants us to commune with Him (to converse together

intimately). Following Jacob's all night wrestle with the angel of God, he confessed his true identity, "Jacob"—"deceiver." From that day his walk was noticeably changed. He intimately experienced God! So it will be with the Christian who admits to the Lord his/her true spiritual condition.

FORGIVENESS

Another step in the right direction is to believe God's Word. Believe Him when He says we are in Christ." Believe Him when He says we are saints (Eph 1:1); we are children of God (John 1:12); chosen of God, holy and dearly loved (Col 3:12); "fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household" (Eph 2:19). Believe Him when He says, "Your sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (never again raise against you) (Heb 8:12). "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn 1:9). Our feelings may rise and fall with circumstances, but His Word remains constant. We must trust the Truth, not our circumstances or feelings.

LOVE WITHOUT CONDEMNATION

God is actively pursuing a love relationship with each one of His own. There should be no doubt about His love for us. He settled that at Calvary and it will not change. He "does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17 NIV). When we accept his unconditional love, our lives will demonstrate obedience to Him. "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (Jn 14:15 NIV). When we truly love someone, we sometimes say, "Your wish is my command!" When we grasp the length, breadth and height of God's love for us we will desire to obey Him. God is love and wants His best for us. He is not waiting for us to step out of line, so He can show His wrath. God's wrath was poured out on Jesus at Calvary so that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:1). Believe it and praise the Lord!

Let's believe His Word and develop into Christians with a sincere, warm and personal love relationship with Jesus our Saviour. This is the crux of the matter. We have allowed our relationship with our Wonderful Saviour to deteriorate to the place where we offer Him token love and allegiance. ■

SPIRITUAL TUNE-UP TIPS: A GUIDE FOR HELPING OTHERS



by Claude Loney

*Restoring
spiritually flat
believers requires
biblical
discernment.*

Claude Loney is a commended worker living in Peterborough, Ontario. He is the director of Amicus Ministries, a retreat and counseling program. The Canadian Arena is produced by Vision Canada (formerly Interest Ministries Canada). It operates in Ontario as Vision Ontario.

NEWS of INTEREST

INSIDE

- Downtown fellowship reaches out to Generation X
- 30th Anniversary celebration in a new building

EDITORIAL *from the Board*

Things Anecdotal

I Corinthians 10 reminds us that what happened to the people of God over the years was specifically designed to give us direction about how to live.

There are some dangers in things anecdotal. What has been happening in your life may not provide the solution for my situation. And if it is true that the experiences of our life are inherently personal, that we can't learn from others' mistakes or successes, then the bulk of Christian editorial writers (including Interest Ministries Board Chairman, Jim Hislop, who usually fills this space, along with many former INTEREST editors), will be out of business. Because whatever happened to Jim at Eagle Fern Camp or to Ken in his naval career is his life.

On the other hand, the New Testament suggests that we learn from followers of God with whom He dealt and spoke many times and in various ways. Hebrews 11 stacks up the anecdotal evidence; James 5 encourages us to review the example of the prophets and 1 Corinthians 10 reminds us that what happened to the people of God over the years was specifically designed to give us direction about how to live.

News of Interest is mostly about keeping us connected and inciting one another to prayer. But some of the stories we read here in ultra-slim, précis form probably provide us with valuable examples of things that can be applied in our own lives or church situations. It's okay to use the enclosed anecdotal reports in that way.

And then, of course, there is the editorial.

I've just been through a very interesting week in my stumbling, heavenward journey. The volume of activity in my wife Margie's and my life, and the pressure of many individual personal problems among those we are discipling, came to

a head for me emotionally on Monday night. As many times as I have learned the lesson of Colossians 1:29 about "struggling with all of his energy," I was feeling worn out to the point of giving up. Margie and I prayed for each other but I still fell asleep struggling.

My devotional reading the next morning was 1 Thessalonians 1. Verse 3 says that faith in God produces works, that love prompts labor and that our hope in Jesus inspires endurance. I was grabbed by these verses and remembered that even though I must always work at those things which are most important, I must also just continue to work. As 1 Thessalonians 2:2 says, "With the help of our God" we can dare to do things that otherwise are far beyond our abilities. I was refreshed and shared my experience that morning with students at the Bible School where I work.

Then on Wednesday, at 1:17 a.m., I groggily answered the telephone. It was a street kid friend of ours who has already received lots of practical help from my wife and I. I probably should have let him rot in jail, but the thing that came to our minds at that moment was that this call was the seal on the lesson we were learning. So I went through the long process of legally springing him from a place he may end up, nonetheless, getting some breakfast into his wrecked body and lecturing him and praying with him.

I'm quite sure that the lesson of this last week was more for me than for my young friend; more for me than for any of you. But feel free to use it if it gives a glimpse of insight. And do keep reading, there are better examples on the next page.

Jay Gurnett, Board Member

EASTERN CANADA

NEW CHAPEL CONSTRUCTION

Here in Sorel we have been involved for the past two months in the building of our new chapel. Many brethren give generously of their time to help with the construction and the sisters are present daily to cook meals. We hope the chapel will be completed by mid-November because November 19 will be the 30th anniversary of the assembly here.

I have resumed my evangelistic programs on local cable television. I can preach the Gospel twice a week to the population of Sorel and area. At the assembly my work is teaching, preaching and evangelism. Pray for our daughters, two are in school in Montreal and the other two in high school and primary school in Sorel.

*Jean-Pierre and Lucie Cloutier
Sorel, PQ*

WINTER OUTREACH

Last winter was another good season for the French ministry in Hollywood, Florida. Weekly Lord's Supper and Prayer and Bible Studies were held from November through March. The beach ministry was also active with brothers and sisters going out three times a week to evangelize in French and English. If the Lord allows again this winter we will be in Hollywood for the French outreach.

*Marjorie Shontoff
Lennoxville, PQ*

CAMP WORK OPPORTUNITY

Guelph Bible Conference Grounds requires a full-time Manager/Team leader to oversee all aspects of the work. Information and job description available on request. Write: J. F. Stewart, 3406 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W., RR # 2, Oakville, ON L6J 4Z3.

A DREAM BECOMES REALITY

For years I have dreamed and worked toward putting a video into French that would explain the ministry of Parole-par-Poste. We are happy to say this is almost ready to go. We need only to add some music to a 32-minute presentation, duplicate it and

send it on its way to Quebec and other parts of the French speaking world. Pray that many may respond to the message.

Love, Dating and Marriage, our newest course, will be on the table at two large Sunday School conferences in Quebec City and Montreal. We now have seven courses, a total of 100 lessons. Earlier this year we finished a revision of *The New Life in Christ*. Revisions of other courses are becoming urgent.

*Jack and Grace Kimpel
Charny, PQ*

WESTERN U.S.A.

POLARIS ALERT

Summer camps were not filled to capacity, but we did enjoy a 15% increase over last year. A "go for the gold" mentality developed throughout the week. Campers were challenged to memorize the Word of God. Five "Olympic Ring" attributes were sought after—faith, obedience, self-control, purity and perseverance. The response was incredible and lives were changed.

Following a slow start this summer, good progress has been made on the new dining facility. As fall arrives we need to get the septic system and water supply in, then the heating unit hooked up. The completion of the interior, tile, carpet, trim, kitchen equipment, etc., will depend on our Lord's gracious supply. We are facing a \$65,000 challenge as we prepare to put this facility into operation.

*Stuart and Linda Mitchell
Willow, AK*

LATINO EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

We have been encouraged by evidence of the Lord's hand of blessing. In Highland Park, Alister and Marta Andrew, along with Jesus Robles and Beth Kitching, have seen numbers build up. There are up to 40 in attendance at the Thursday Family Night, with studies for children and adults. One or two have been saved and others have come to victory in their personal lives. There is also good attendance at a Saturday evening discipleship class.

Martin Martinez has been a good help in Westminster. Family night has over 30 in attendance. In both places numbers are lower on Sunday.

Julian Llacua came to the U.S. from Peru three years ago, contracted as a shepherd. He

Continuing the tradition of INTEREST Magazine, we want to inform readers of activities in Christian Brethren assemblies in Canada and the United States. Comended workers, assembly correspondents and other involved Christians are encouraged to send letters and reports—including pictures, conference announcements, commendation notices and assembly changes to:

News of Interest

P.O. Box 190
Wheaton, IL 60189
Phone: (630) 653-6573
Toll Free: (800) 777-3778
Fax: (630) 653-6595
E-mail: NBauman1@aol.com

Announcements received by the first of the month should appear in the following month's newsletter.

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Naomi Bauman, Editor
Roger Bigney, General Manager

Board of Directors

Jim Hislop, President
Dorothy Arnold
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Enclosed is an additional gift to help with other expenses.

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COMMENDATIONS

Larry and Phyllis Deeds

The elders and saints at Riverview Chapel, Hinton, WV, joyfully commend Larry D. Deeds to fulltime ministry. Larry is gifted in preaching and teaching the Word and in children's and youth ministries. He has served as an elder and in many other capacities in this local testimony. Larry and Phyllis have answered the Lord's call to fulltime ministry with the saints at Bethany Bible Chapel in Conway, SC.

Marion Loney

The assembly of the Lord's people at Braidwood Bible Chapel, Peterborough, ON, have commended Marion Loney to the Lord's work. Together with her late husband, Claude, Marion served the Lord in assembly related activities in Venezuela, Puerto Rico, the United States and Canada since 1965. Marion will continue in fulltime Christian service with Amicus Ministries International and in women's ministries locally. Marion is also available for women's conferences.

Steven and Kathy Veltman

The Christians at Hillendale Bible Chapel in Baltimore, MD, have commended Steven Veltman to fulltime ministry in the local assembly. Steve will be serving under the elders, fulfilling a ministry of spiritual leadership among the Christians, concentrating on discipleship, group Bible study and visitation. He will also have a part in teaching on Sunday mornings in the men's Bible study.

CHANGE OF STATUS

Jay Swisher

For the past five years, Jay Swisher has been serving as a commended worker at Plymouth (MN) Bible Chapel. He and Rosalie have had a faithful and effective ministry. In agreement with the believers at Plymouth Chapel, Jay has taken a full time position at Bethel College and his commendation has been withdrawn. He will continue to serve as an elder.

Robert Lindsted

Believers Bible Chapel, Wichita, KS, have commended Robert Lindsted as a worker in the service of the Lord. Rob is a fulltime servant and will receive prayer and support from the believers at Believers Bible Chapel. He was previously commended by South Emporia and Westside Bible Chapels in Wichita.

Jim and June McKendrick

The commendation given to Jim and June McKendrick by the saints of Northwest Gospel Hall in Grand Rapids, MI, September 9, 1986, has been given back to the assembly.

Gary Goodkey

The believers at Marathon (ON) Bible Chapel have commended Gary Goodkey to the Lord's work for one more year. Gary will assist in the work at Matheson, ON, and with other assemblies in Northeastern Ontario.

FOREIGN

Bert and Kay Bokkers

The believers at West Guilford (ON) Gospel Chapel have commended Bert and Kay Bokkers to the work of the Lord in Zambia. Particular attention will be given to teaching religious education at Luanshya during the furlough of one of the missionaries. They will continue to seek the Lord's guidance for further spheres of service. It is their desire to have an effective testimony in Zambia, to support the workers already there and to bring honor to their Savior in life and word.

John and Karen Loudon

The saints of Lake Pointe Bible Chapel in Plymouth, MI, have commended John and Karen Loudon to the work of the Lord in Zambia. The Loudons have served for several years under MAF in Tanzania. They are now moving to Zambia and will be serving under the guidance of CMML.

up which avoids "traditional church," but still longs for the love and affirmation of a functional family or community. Thus our purpose at DCF is to love unbelievers and to disciple believers with real and transparent lives, yet doing so in a way primarily relevant to the Baby Busters.

This summer four couples and ten to fifteen college students met in our home on Sundays. Our meetings were casual, consisting of worship (through prayer, sharing and communion) and Bible study. Our meeting structure changes during the school year since we meet in a combination auditorium and cafeteria, with sometimes up to 100 people.

We moved here with no promised financial support, so John worked hard to establish a job to support our family as well as establishing and supporting the planting of a church. He has spent more time on work and not enough time with people and in study, so he has decided to give up all of his accounts, trusting God to provide.

*John and Cheryl Reeves
Clemson, SC*

GROWING PAINS

We are experiencing growth from within and without here in Conway, SC. Our chapel nursery is bulging at the seams, as well as our auditorium. God is at work in many lives. It is exciting to see many unsaved coming to hear the Gospel and even more wonderful as people trust the Savior. We feel stretched as we seek to deal with the growth, both spiritually in individual lives and with our limited space.

Our growing pains have caused us to pray much for guidance in dealing with our needs. In the last month we have made two important decisions. First, we have invited Larry and Phyllis Deeds to join us in the ministry here. Larry's

teaching and administrative gifts will be put to good use as he oversees our various teaching and equipping ministries.

We have also decided to add a second Bible Hour to our Sunday morning schedule. The double services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. will give needed space for parking and seating as we seek to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission to make disciples.

*David and Doris Rickert
Conway, SC*

SETTLED VS. ITINERANT

We continue in our itinerant ministry as doors are opened to us. In the greater Tampa Bay area we minister in several assemblies on a given Sunday. On the other hand, for example, we spent three and a half months at Countryside Bible Chapel in Lexington, MA. We are spending October on Guana Cay in the Bahamas where the Christians have erected a new chapel. We find benefit in both approaches—a weekend visit or an extended period of time. We always appreciate the prayers of God's people.

*Joseph and Connie Giordano
Sun City Center, FL*

FOREIGN

REACHING SERBIANS

It is a great joy to be proclaiming God's Word in Montenegro (Yugoslavia). Montenegro means Black Mountain which is an apt description of the spiritual state of this republic. With a goal of seeing a biblical church planted, we are purposefully meeting people, proclaiming the gospel to them and inviting them to Bible studies. These studies are usually in Serbian. During a typical week we will have approximately four Bible studies with from one to three people in attendance.

Every evening we have family worship in English. At times visitors attend and this has turned out to be a witness to the reality of Christianity.

Montenegrins are hospitable people. When you visit someone, even for a quick visit, they will often set out large quantities of food and insist that you stay.

This has both a positive and a negative side. It is nice to be around friendly people, but several of these unannounced visits can take up much of your day and other activities are placed on hold.

*Stanisa and Victoria Surbatovich
Montenegro, Yugoslavia*



Carmen Harris and a Vietnamese believer



Good News Club in Millington, NJ

Our chapel nursery is bulging at the seams, as well as our auditorium.



Richard Yarrall family



John Hayden

Church planting is slow work but the Lord has given the team good unity and clear vision.

cares for about 2,000 sheep in the mountains north of Los Angeles. In March 1994 he heard our radio program, "The Open Bible," and wrote requesting an Emmaus course. We sent *What the Bible Teaches*, which cleared up a lot of his doubts and he was saved. Since then he has been baptized, studied all 35 Spanish Emmaus courses and other commentaries. His contract finished in October and he came to us for three days to thank us, have fellowship, get more teaching and find out about contacts in Peru. The Lord has put in his heart an intense desire to return to his homeland to fulfill the great commission.

*Richard and Nancye Yarrall
Long Beach, CA*

CENTRAL U.S.A.

MUSIC AND TEACHING MINISTRIES

We are in our sixth year in a teaching ministry at Living Word Community Church in Jewell, IA, being just this year recognized as an elder. Linda serves musically, both accompanying and teaching, as well as in various youth and women's ministries. I do most of the preaching and adult Sunday School teaching. The North Iowa Center for Biblical Studies (affiliated with the International Bible Institute) has asked me to join their charter faculty for classes to begin this winter.

*John and Linda Hayden
Jewell, IA*

AN EXCITING, CHALLENGING MINISTRY

We joined the family of believers at Arlington Countryside Church (Arlington Heights, IL) in January. They have welcomed us enthusiastically and the work is proving challenging and exciting. It is a privilege to work with Abner Bauman and Dave Marinello.

Arlington is a fellowship with a broad scope of ministries to the body of Christ and the surrounding communities. During July we ran a three-week day camp for 175 children, most of whom are not from Arlington. The Ladies' Coffee Hour attracts over 100 women primarily from outside our fellowship and AWANA is a new and expanding program on Friday evenings. On Sunday we hold two adult services and an energetic children's program.

We commuted from Wheaton for a few months, but have found a home in neighboring

Palatine, close by and available to the people we minister to and with. Pray that more and better disciples of Christ will be the fruit of our efforts.

*Ron and Bonnie Hall
Palatine, IL*

NORTHEASTERN U.S.A.

REJOICING IN SERVICE

We are rejoicing for all the children and adults who came to Christ at the Olympic Outreach in Atlanta. I joined International Teams of Chicago once again and God certainly showed His mercies.

September 4th was the second anniversary of my husband Ed's homegoing. It's hard, but God's grace is sufficient.

Please pray for daily wisdom in decision making, for our nursing home ministry in Trenton and the Good News Club on Friday evenings.

*Carmen Harris
Willingboro, NJ*

A GOOD FOUNDATION

We continue to lay a careful foundation for the new work of Crossroads Bible Fellowship: elder training, discipleship and evangelistic activities. We have had our first baptism and there are a number of other good contacts. Church planting is slow work but the Lord has given the team good unity and clear vision. Pray for us as we find a more public place to meet and expand our outreach.

Our children, Jason and Shannon, spent the summer counseling at Graphite Bible Camp in Ontario. Mary had a growth removed from her eye but should be fully recovered soon.

I continue to teach part time at Kawartha Lakes Bible School in Ontario and minister in other assemblies as the Lord leads.

*Chuck and Mary Gianotti
Rochester, NY*

SOUTHEASTERN U.S.A.

REACHING GENERATION X

Downtown Community Fellowship was established in Clemson, SC, a year ago in August when we moved here from Iowa. Our burden is primarily for students, or those known as Generation X. We have become aware that a new generation is rising

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CHURCH LISTINGS**Spanish Bible Fellowship**

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Grace Bible Fellowship

(name change from Grace and Truth Chapel), 12420 NE Siskiyou St., Portland, OR 97230

ADDRESSES**John and Gudny Munro**

223 Laguna Circle, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Gerald and Judith Stiles

212 Brookwood Dr., Greer, SC 29651-1744

Gordon and Margaret Strom

655 Kalmia Pl., NW, Issaquah, WA 98027

With the LORD**Everett Bachelder**

On September 2, Everett Bachelder, 83, of Nome, Alaska, went to be with the Lord. He and his wife Mina worked for many years as missionaries in Alaska.

Donald Saunders

Donald Saunders (72) of Hollywood, Florida, went to be with the Lord September 15. He was saved in 1954 during tent meetings conducted by Bill Patterson in Nassau, Bahamas. With his keen mind, disciplined life and newfound commitment he quickly became a student of the Word and a leader in the Shirley Heights assembly in Nassau.

In 1973 the Saunders family moved to Hollywood, Florida, where for 23 years Donald served as a godly elder, Bible teacher, preacher, counselor and friend.

CONFERENCES**RESOLUTIONS '97**

Second Annual Christian College Age - Student Conference, 17 yrs. and older, Dec. 29 through Jan. 1, at Lake Geneva Youth Camp in Wisconsin. Speaker and workshop director, Dwight Knight. Resolutions Praise Band and lots of fun activities.

For more information, contact Brad Gaasrud, Lake Geneva Conference Center, W2655 South St., Lake Geneva, WI 53147-2340 (414) 248-5500. Sponsored by Lake Geneva Youth Camps and College Students for Christ.



Dwight Knight

NEWS of INTEREST

INSIDE

- A nun finds the answer
- Life termers now teach the Word
- 60 inner city youths trust Christ at summer camp

EDITORIAL *from the Board*

Full of Grace and Truth

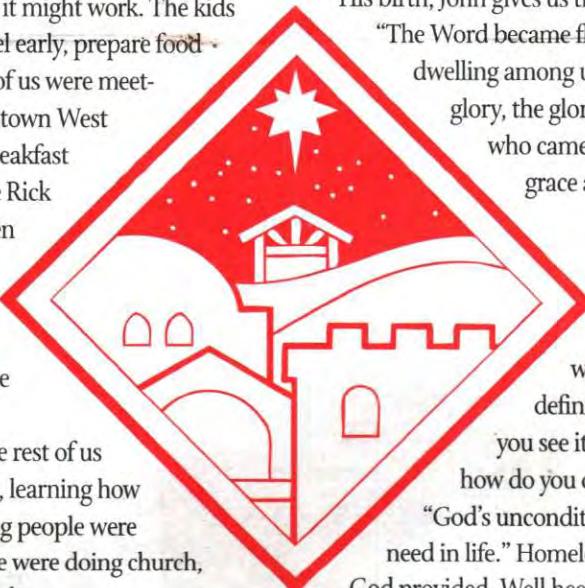
While the rest of us were sitting in a meeting, learning how to be like Jesus, our young people were being like Him.

It was the last weekend of September, 1991. We arrived at a Leadership Retreat to begin what would be a four-and-a-half year life-changing experience. During one of our brain storming sessions, Rick, the youth leader, said, "I'd like to get our young people involved in feeding the homeless one Sunday morning a month." The response was predictable; "You mean instead of being in church?" The conversation was short lived, but I never forgot it.

Six months later I approached Rick about his "crazy" idea. He thought it might work. The kids would come to the chapel early, prepare food and then, while the rest of us were meeting, they would go downtown West Palm Beach and serve breakfast to the homeless. Because Rick and a few others had been feeding the homeless every Tuesday evening for some time, he had already developed a route with three stops.

It worked. While the rest of us were sitting in a meeting, learning how to be like Jesus, our young people were being like Him. While we were doing church, they were being the church.

Within a couple of years, three other churches were involved once a month. Every Sunday was covered, except the fifth Sunday that showed up once a quarter. "What if we brought the homeless here on the fifth Sunday, then fed them a meal at the Youth Center?" Rick was at it again. Why couldn't he leave well enough alone? Hadn't we been stretched enough?



What a thrill that first fifth-Sunday, to see God's people welcome over twenty homeless people into our congregation. To sit with them during the service. To take them to the Youth Center and feed them lunch. To provide a place to shower and a change of clothes. To provide a hairdresser to cut their hair if they wanted it cut. To play games with them before taking them home to the downtown streets.

This month the "Christian world" celebrates the birth of Jesus. While Luke gives us the details of His birth, John gives us the reason and the result; "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth," (John 1:14).

The world needs that truth, but it must be wrapped in grace. Grace is one of those words that almost defies definition. You know it when you see it and experience it, but how do you define it? I define it as "God's unconditional provision for every need in life." Homeless people needed food; God provided. Well-heeled Christians needed a challenge; God provided.

Thanks Rick, for being God's instrument of grace through which He spoke truth. Thanks for being like Jesus who made His dwelling among us and showed us how to deliver truth wrapped in grace.

Jim Hislop, Chairman

Continuing the tradition of **INTEREST Magazine**, we want to inform readers of activities in Christian Brethren assemblies in Canada and the United States. Comended workers, assembly correspondents and other involved Christians are encouraged to send letters and reports (including pictures), conference announcements, commendation notices and assembly changes to:

News of Interest

P.O. Box 190
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Toll Free: (800) 777-3778
Fax: (630) 653-6595
E-mail: NBauman1@aol.com

Announcements received by the first of the month should appear in the following month's newsletter.

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Naomi Bauman, Editor
Roger Bigney, General Manager

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Jay Gurnett

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WESTERN CANADA

EIGHT UNFORGETTABLE DAYS

We were privileged to be part of the leadership of the outreach team to the Olympic Games. Clayton gave training in the areas of "What is the Gospel?" "Answering Objections to the Gospel," and "Spiritual Warfare." Isobel kept the team focussed on the importance and practice of prayer.

"Eight Days Your Church Will Never Forget" is the slogan for eight days of evangelism which we do wherever God opens the way. There is a six month training period prior to the event. Every age group is touched by the Gospel during the event. A preparation manual gives instructions for the preparation. Interested churches are invited to consider an introduction weekend.

*Clayton and Isobel Dougan
Victoria, BC*

SCHOOL IN DIFFICULT PLACES

We are deeply involved in assisting half a dozen schools in Poland, Croatia and Cuba, while also providing financial and prayer support to almost sixty schools around the non-Western world through Overseas Council International.

Joy continues as a psychiatric nurse at Cordova House, a care facility for drug addicts, alcoholics and general psychiatric patients. We hope she will be able to at least drop back to part time next year so that she can have more time to help Bill in his ministry.

*William and Joy Armerding
Richmond, BC*

EASTERN CANADA

FRENCH OUTREACH

In September we welcomed the class of 1996-97; fifteen keen young men and women who want to know the Lord and be counted for the Kingdom. In addition, there are 26 missionaries studying French in the Language School. The Lord has added new staff to our team as well. Martin & Yannick Jalbert are from Chicoutimi. We have

worked together with them over the years in youth ministry around Quebec and his presence as Mark's assistant will provide a relief to the heavy work load.

Grace Chapel in Sherbrooke has begun a French outreach which will include a club for teens. We have joined hands with a small French assembly in Lennoxville and we will be using Bible School students to help run the activities. We are hoping this will provide a basis to expand the little group of French believers.

*Mark and Laurie Strout
Lennoxville, PQ*

A NUN FINDS THE ANSWER

The ministry and pastoral visitation of Grace Chapel keeps us busy. In September we took thirteen of our seniors on a retreat in New York for four days. The fellowship and ministry were refreshing.

I went back to the former Soviet Union for three weeks as a Bible teacher on a Co-Mission team, sharing the Gospel with the Russian people.

Our Emmaus Correspondence Course ministry continues with correcting of French courses for some 40 students. Recently a nun who is studying them wrote, "In the Bible I have found the responses I was looking for." It is thrilling to see many study God's Word and grow in Him.

*Richard and Virginia Strout
Lennoxville, PQ*

WESTERN U.S.A.

CHAPLAIN TO THE SHUT-INS

A possible open door to ministry as a chaplain in a retirement community may be existent in a year or less. Ruth and I are partners in several such ventures—retirement villages and nursing homes. For years we've yearned for a more direct, hands-on ministry to the growing numbers of seniors who want or need such communities.

*Gordon and Ruth Kyle
Mt. Hermon, CA*

SETTING CAPTIVES FREE

Since our arrival in Riverside five years ago, Set Free Prison Ministries has grown each year. In 1991, 82,000 courses were distributed and this year we anticipate 140,000 courses.

ADDRESSES

David and Nancy Dawe

Box 365, 9175 South Shore Rd., Mesachie Lake, BC V0R 2N0; (250) 749-4986 or 749-6606

Larry and Phyllis Deeds

993 Chasewood Lane, Conway, SC 29526: (803) 347-9018 or 248-4817

CHURCH LISTINGS

Crossroads Bible Fellowship

c/o Charles R. Gianotti, 27 Watchman Ct., Rochester, NY 14624-4930; (716) 429 6299; E-mail gianotti@netacc.net

9:30 a.m., Lord's Supper; 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Bible Hour. Small group meetings in home. Currently meet at the Gianotti home with plans soon to relocate Sunday ministry to a more public place.

Village Bible Chapel

New mailing address: 143 Maynard Rd., Framingham, MA 01701; Phone (508) 877-7733; Fax (508) 820-3310. Still meeting at 1341 Edgell Rd., Framingham, MA

Northside Bible Chapel

(Formerly Sunrise Bible Chapel), 300 W. Kechi Rd., Kechi, KS 67067; (316) 744-8089

A MINISTRY OF COMPASSION

We praise the Lord for opening doors for me to work with an alternative school where I am involved in tutoring core curriculum subjects, offering biblical counseling and



Nathan Johnson sorts contributions to food pantry

instruction in character development. Our compassion ministry, food pantry and clothes closet are meeting felt needs. As we meet these needs we can also present the Gospel of Christ to fill their greater need.

*Nathan and Regina Johnson
Summit, MS*

OPPORTUNITIES

Camp Managers

Hope Valley Day Camp, Peterborough, Ontario, is looking for a man and wife team to take the position of Camp Managers. This requires someone responsible for their own financial support and who can take the leadership, administration, communication and other connected responsibilities. Housing is provided.

We are looking for someone whom the home assembly can commend with confidence, willing to demonstrate servant leadership, has management and handy man skills and has a heart for children and young people.

The manager's wife will be responsible for helping with the office and coordinating staff accommodations and meals.

Please send applications and resumes with references to: Jules Besseling, President, 249 Gifford Dr., Peterborough, ON K9L 1A6; Fax (705) 743-6971; Phone (705) 743-2249.

COMMENDATIONS

CHANGE OF STATUS

Carl and Joan Lehmann

The believers of Northgate Bible Chapel, Rochester, NY, have added their commendation of Carl and Joan Lehmann to that of Blasdell, NY, and Warrenville, IL. The Lehmanns have labored long and faithfully in Colombia.

The Lehmanns' primary residence while in the United States is in the Rochester area. During the times they are here they are consistently active in ministering to the Lord's people and in serving the cause of the Gospel.

Ron and Sue Bates

Christians at Cherrydale Bible Church, Arlington, VA, have withdrawn the commendation of Ron and Sue Bates to the Lord's work in Romania. This withdrawal was effective November 7, 1996.

Camp Director

Applications are being accepted for Director of a 100-bed, year-round assembly children's camp in Colorado. Camp administrative experience required. Moderate salary and housing provided.

Send resume and cover letter by January 3, 1997 to: Camp Director, 19060 Dogwood Dr., Monument, CO 80132.

Christian School Ministry

Victory Christian School, a ministry of the Bible Chapel in St. Louis, Missouri, is enjoying its 22nd year of service. Enrollment is 185 students in grades K-12.

We anticipate staff openings for the 97/98 school year on both the elementary and secondary level. A college degree and experience working with young people are preferred; certification or a teaching degree not necessarily required.

For further information and/or an application, contact Stan Vaninger, Victory Christian School, 10255 Musick Rd., St. Louis, MO 63123, (314) 849-3425 or (314) 752-3778.

NORTHEASTERN U.S.A.

MINISTRY TO YOUTH

I am still teaching at Philadelphia College of Bible as well as directing the student teaching program. In addition, I've been involved with the music and preaching ministry at Ardsley Bible Chapel. There have also been numerous speaking engagements at area churches and retreats. This past summer I spoke at Teen Quest at Camp Iroquoia and Jr High Camp at Camp Joy El. A number of teens made commitments to follow the Lord.

Gregg Garman
Bensalem, PA

OUTREACH TO INNER CITY

We look back at the summer of '96 with praise to God. Many saints worked together at Pine Bush Bible Camp to bring the Gospel to children in great need. In the first session 40 children professed faith in the Lord and in the second session 20 indicated they wanted to accept the Savior.

Four vans and several other vehicles go out each Wednesday evening, bringing many of these boys and girls to the Awana Clubs. This keeps them focused in the Word and helps them mature in the Lord. We also minister to them through the Sunday School. Pray for these children, many from broken homes and from very dangerous areas.

We are in the city jails on Mondays and Thursdays. John Bell and those of Life's Key help in this ministry.

Our children continue to serve the Lord and bring joy to our hearts.

Henry and Sara Sanchez
Elmhurst, NY

MARS HILL RADIO

The Lord has allowed me the privilege to manage the Mars Hill Network (four FM radio stations) 16 translator/satellator stations. We're digitally uplinked via satellite and employ 14 employees in the work.



Baptism and game time
at Pine Bush Camp

In addition, I produce radio programming which includes Arabic language programs for HCJB, FEBC and TWR. I am also involved with the production of Bible Truth with Rob Lindsted and the radio program hosted by Arnold Ross. All are associated with the brethren assemblies.

John and Linda Green
Camillus, NY

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

We are celebrating the 125th year of the New York City Rescue Mission. In October 1872, Jerry and Maria McAuley opened the doors of America's oldest rescue mission. They wanted a place where they could clean people up on the outside while God cleaned them up on the inside. Ministry to hurting, homeless and destitute people continues to this day.

James and Anita VarnHagen
New York, NY

SOUTHERN U.S.A.

ACTIVE IN OLD AGE

The past years have been filled with many trials and troubles and yet these have been the means in His hands of great blessing.

For many years I held family rallies with the emphasis on youth and children. Now my ministry is on the other end of the spectrum and is largely with old people. I have a weekly meeting in the Rehabilitation Department of the Augusta Regional Hospital and at the convalescent home here in Washington. I would appreciate prayer for an eye problem that bothers me.

Owen Hoffman
Washington, GA

BACK TO BASICS

God has been impressing upon us the importance of getting back to the basics in the ministry of Loving Hands Home, our local church and in our personal lives. The phone continues to ring with pleas for help from women devastated by drugs, alcohol, emotional or family problems. We have changed the re-entry program and are assigning the women ministry jobs previously done by staff. This allows us to operate with fewer staff and still gives students opportunities to learn new skills.

Frank and Helen Pianki
Tequesta, FL

*A father
becomes a
Christian at 70
years of age.*



Ruth and Gordon Kyle

Many come to know the Lord, lives are changed and families reunited.

We are currently organizing our Christmas gift box outreach to the Riverside county jail. Volunteers will conduct 45-50 mini-services and reach at least 3,500 inmates with the Gospel and the true meaning of Christmas.

On weekends I am busy ministering in a number of southern California assemblies as well as at Bethel Chapel, Riverside.

*Bob and Norma Irvine
Riverside, CA*

RETIREMENT ACTIVITIES

Iam retired from 34 years as principal of the mission school at Immanuel Mission in Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. We attend a large Bible Church and are active in several jobs that others do not like to do. We are happy to be able to serve Him in this manner. We are small group leaders and participate in the Africa prayer group that meets monthly.

*Robert and Esther Staley
Phoenix, AZ*

A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

The Workers and Elders Conference held at Palos Hills Christian Assembly in Chicago, Illinois, October 8-10 had a broad representation of workers and elders as well as younger men from across the United States. Elliot Van Ryn brought daily ministry on the theme, "Arise and Be Doing."

I had to leave the conference early because of the death of my father. He became a Christian at age 70 and had lived a full life of 94 years.

Next year's conference will be held October 7-9 at Blasdell Gospel Chapel in Buffalo, New York. Contact person is David Steifler, 4 Marlowe Ave., Blasdell, NY 14219-1720.

*Donald and Marie Norbie
Greeley, CO*

CENTRAL U.S.A.

INNER CITY AMERICA

We continue to see the hand of the Lord in our varied ministries. At International Teams we now have ministries in Boston in the inner city, in Philadelphia among Vietnamese and Cambodians, in Chicago in the African American

and Hispanic communities and in Los Angeles in the Iranian community.

We are praying that the Lord would send us some people to start in Miami. In addition we have teams in about 40 locations overseas.

At Bright Hope International we are caring for about 30,000 poor families all around the world. We are praying for the Lord's provision to help an additional 20,000 families. Many have come to know the Lord in recent days.

We also continue in our encouragement ministry to many of the Lord's servants.

Mark and Sue and their family are well settled in Britain where they have responsibility for our teams in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia and the Ukraine. Craig continues to work hard ministering to poor families.

*Kevin and Eloise Dyer
Prospect Heights, IL*

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Iretired from the ministry of writing and publications in 1989. However, I'm still a commendable servant of the Lord. Four days a week I serve at a nearby nursing home as a volunteer. The Lord has been pleased to bless me in this service and I praise Him for reasonable health and look forward to every new day.

*Alyce Procaccino
New Carlisle, IN*

LIFETIME SENTENCES

Emmaus Correspondence School, St. Louis, Missouri, continues to send courses into the many prisons and jails throughout the state. We now serve over 50 institutions with over 1,000 active students.

One highlight of the work is the men in Potosi Correctional Center who serve as instructors. Dewayne Fann and Marvin Irvin, both serving life terms, were once our students but have proven themselves faithful servants of our Lord and Savior and others are inspired to follow their examples.

A burden that has been on our hearts for several years is to begin a similar outreach using the Emmaus courses to reach public school students. We plan to offer a 10-unit curriculum that will present the Gospel and the basic truths needed to live a consistent life for Christ. We believe the harvest is ripe.

*Randy and Donna Gruber
Affton, MO*

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With the LORD

**Norman Buchanan in
early days of his min-
istry**



Jack Davies (about 1974)

Norman Buchanan

of Sherbrooke, Quebec, went to be with the Lord September 30. In the 1940s Norman Buchanan arrived in Quebec from Ontario, to begin a missionary career that would span five decades. Norman and his wife Marion served at Bethel Bible Institute, began Publications Chretiennes, a printing operation that served the needs of evangelical groups in Quebec, and ministered in the assemblies. On returning from a short-term missionary project in Zaire a year ago Norman was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

Jack Davies

of Danville, California, went to be with the Lord on October 10 of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). He was a founding elder of Fairhaven Bible Chapel in San Leandro and Valley Bible Church in Pleasanton, California. He was a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and was uniquely gifted as an administrator and pastor. His humble servanthood revealed the Eternal Son to all who knew him.

CONFERENCES**UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH**

Grace Bible Chapel, St. Louis, MO, is sponsoring a national conference in St. Louis May 15-17, 1997, entitled "Understanding the Church: A Colloquium for Serious Christians." Topics and speakers are: "Primacy of Scripture" by David MacLeod; "Nature of the Universal Church" by Ted Grant; "Character of the Local Church" by Paul Sapp; "Life of the Local Church" by Jack Fish; "Interdependence of the Local Church" by Alex Strauch and "Autonomy of Local Churches" by Jack Spender.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Westport Plaza. Conference fee of \$125.00 includes attendance at all sessions, program materials, double occupancy accommodations for two nights, two continental breakfasts and a banquet dinner.

For brochure and registration information, contact Joe Vogl, 1418 Forest Ave., St. Louis, MO 63122; Phone (314) 821-3314.