

"Holding fast the Faithful Word . . ."



The Word and Work



"Holding forth the Word of Life."

OCTOBER, 1997

THE

10-40

WINDOW

CENTRAL LOUISIANA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

*November 17-20, 1996,
Glenmora, La. Church of Christ*

Evening Sessions: Mon. - Thurs. 7:00

OUR AWESOME GOD! - Julius Hovan

Day Sessions: LET THE PREACHER PREACH!!

TUESDAY Nov. 18

Prayer Time daily, Tuesday - Thursday: 9:30 A.M.

10:00	God's Grace	Bob Yarbrough
11:10	Maintaining our Passion	Mike Abbott
1:15	Eternal Investments	Paul Kitzmiller

WEDNESDAY Nov. 19

10:00	Christ, Church: One Power	Bennie Hill
11:10	Udenominational Christianity	Hank Tankersly
1:15	The Mind of Christ in His Church	Nathan Burks

THURSDAY Nov. 20

10:00	Moriah, Calvary of O. T.	Stan Broussard
11:10	Agony and Ecstasy of Divine Love	Jack Harris
1:15	The Harvest, The Workers, The Prayer	Don McGee

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THE WORD AND WORK

"Declare the whole counsel of God"

Alex V. Wilson, Editor

Dennis L. Allen, Missions

Jack Blaas, News

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EDITORIAL

THE 10-40 WINDOW

Dennis L. Allen

What is meant by the 10-40 Window? It is a term frequently used by mission leaders in recent years to focus attention on the world's neediest area. It stretches from West Africa all across Asia between 10 degrees latitude north to 40 degrees north of the equator. (See map on p. 291). It is so strategic because within this window live most of the world's unreached peoples (but not all). Here live two-thirds of the population of the world on one third of the world's land area. Here also are 80% of the world's poorest poor, existing on the world's lowest standard of living. Within this window are the strongholds of Hindu, Buddhist, and (Islamic) religions. Manifestly this area is a stronghold of Satan and his forces.

In the light of the warfare we are engaged in with Satan and his hosts, let us look at some disturbing facts. Only 8% of the world's missionary force is working in this area. The world's Christians spend 0.09% of their income on ministries to non-Christians in the reached people groups (i.e., groups that already have an indigenous church operating). Only 0.01% is spent by Christians world-wide on reaching the unreached peoples groups. What does this say about our priorities? When you consider your own congregation, how much prayer support is focused in this area of the world?

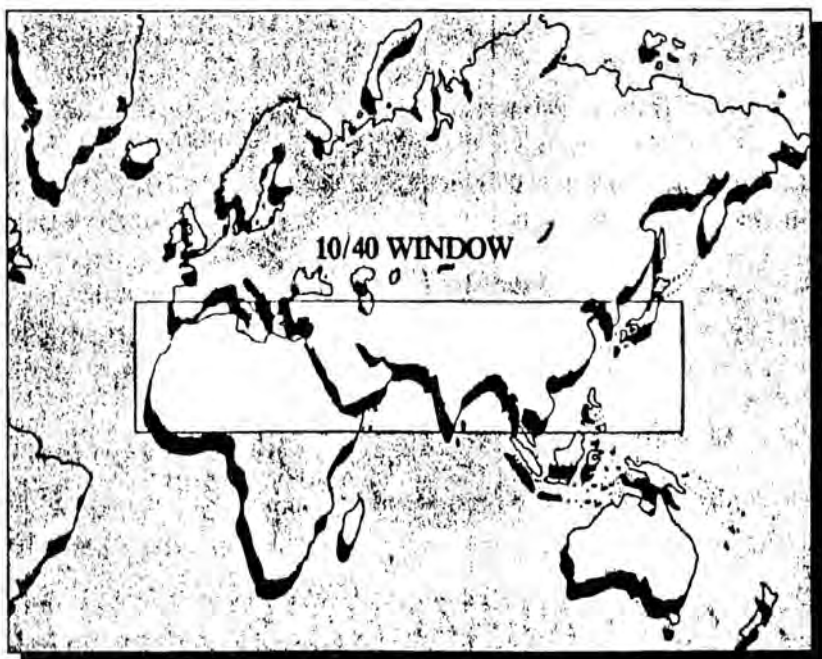
Is it surprising that we see so much "land yet to be possessed"? Take India for example. Over the long period of British rule missionaries made significant impact. In the half century since independence the church has made further progress. Officially 2.5% of the population are Christians. Actually the true figure may be 4% or about 40 million people. However, there are 2,000 people groups in this vast population of almost one billion that are still unreached. Only a third of the country's 219 languages have any portion of Scripture.

Does the task seem overwhelming? God has provided everything we really need if only we can be made aware of it. Just suppose 20,000 churches the world over were to commit themselves to pray daily for India. Or better yet, each 10 churches would zero in on one of the 2,000 people groups as a target for earnest prayer. I am confident we would see the Lord of the harvest sending out waves of new workers along with the resources to supply their needs. This is not far-fetched. It is estimated that the world-wide there are about 600 churches for every unreached people group.

The sad fact is that we have the resources but we are not using them to complete the work the Lord has given us to do. We have not lifted our eyes from our own personal, family and local problems long enough to look on the fields and see that they are truly white unto harvest. What is true for India is true for the other unreached peoples within the 10-40 window.

One further consideration. We said earlier that only 8% of the world's missionary force are working among the unreached peoples. Does this mean the other 92% are in the wrong place and should be repositioned to target the unreached peoples? In most cases, no. The work many of them are doing is crucial too. Many new missionaries from these churches in the third world are going out to the unreached peoples. They are being envisioned and trained by missionaries who are serving as mobilizers.

In addition to this many new missionaries in this country need to be raised up and sent forth. We can do much more than we have done. The light has been kept out of the 10-40 Window far too long.



Where over 85 % of the unreached live.

GLOBAL ADOPT-A-PEOPLE CAMPAIGN

When questioned by His disciples as to why He was reaching out to a neglected, unreached people group, the Samaritans, Jesus replied, "My food is to do the will of my Father and to FINISH His work." Today, as never before, thousands of churches worldwide are drawing near to Christ to discover God's will, and He is showing them how to FINISH the assignment given to the Church two thousand years ago: "Go and make disciples of all nations."

Since 1980, the Adopt-A-People Campaign of the U.S. Center for World Mission has been used by the Lord to link thousands of churches with mission agencies, focusing their joint efforts on the unreached peoples of the 10-40 Window.

Through the Adopt-A-People Campaign, church after church has strategically channeled regular finances and diligent prayer toward their adopted people group. These churches are also assisting missionaries to reach their adopted people in a variety of other creative ways. And these partnerships have not been without effect; multiplied thousands have come to Christ and are being disciplined among Hindu, Muslim, Tribal, Chinese and Buddhist people groups--groups that seemed impenetrable twenty years ago.

In the last three decades the Holy Spirit has used dedicated missionaries working in Africa, Asia and Latin America to reap a harvest of 200 million new and vibrant born-again believers. He is preparing them for a major role in this final push to FINISH the Great Commission. In recognition of this, the U.S. Center for World Mission has moved its Global Adopt-A-People Campaign office to Manila. The purpose of this international office is to partner with evangelical mission leaders in 135 countries, assisting them in the establishment of strong, national Adopt-A-People campaigns. This will be done through five global initiatives.

During the last 10 years the Adopt-A-People Campaign of the U.S. Center for World Mission has worked with mission leaders in Africa, Asia and Latin America to assist in initiating or strengthening national Adopt-A-People campaigns.

We have led training seminars on how to run an effective campaign, and have provided print and audio visual resources that have been translated and contextualized to help churches and mission agencies

powerfully work together.

Within the next year, by God's grace, we will be partnering with mission leaders in 135 countries to see national Adopt-A-People campaigns dynamically working to FINISH our Lord's assignment to disciple all peoples. They will help link 1,000,000 churches and fellowships with mission agencies in order to send and powerfully support the missionaries necessary to reach the remaining unreached people groups of the 10-40 Window.

— From Sept.- Oct. *Mission Frontiers*, 1996.

MUSLIM MISSION BREAKTHROUGH

by Stan Guthrie

Last March, deep in the bush of northern Chad, a team of Chadian students and missionary Larry Gray explained salvation through faith in Christ to the people of a mostly Muslim village. As the students sang the words of invitation, "Today is the day of grace," a villager shouted to his compatriots, "Today is the day! We have prayed that this message would come to us. God has heard us. Now is the time for our decision!"

"Without hesitation," reports Gray, a missionary with the Evangelical Alliance Mission and the Evangelical Church in Chad, 56 Muslims stood and came forward to commit themselves to Christ. Included were the chief of the village and his three wives.

It is response being repeated in many parts of the world. Christians working among Muslims in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia report unprecedented openness, overturning conventional wisdom that Muslims are impenetrably resistant to the gospel.

Ron Peck, a missionary of 32 years to the Muslim world with the Assemblies of God, has been organizing a prayer fellowship in which thousands of Christians in over 30 countries fast and pray for Muslims at noon on Fridays, one of the chief times of prayer in Islam. Peck urges Christians to get beyond the media stereotypes of radical Islam.

"We have looked at Muslims almost as if they were non-humans at times," Peck said. "Muslim people are some of the most wonderful,

warm-hearted, hospitable, family-centered, and, in many cases--particularly with those who are devout--God-conscious people. You can't win people to Christ if you don't respect them."

If the aphorism "out of sight, out of mind" is true, so is its reverse. Media coverage of the various hostage crises, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Persian Gulf War has sparked new interest among Christians in missions to Muslims. Says Ray Tallman, formerly chairman of the Department of

Some estimate that only 2 percent of the Protestant missionary force is focused on Muslims, who make up almost 20 percent of the world's population.

World Missions at Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, and now international director of Arab World Ministries, London, "There's a new spirit among the youth who are committed to reaching the world for Christ. They recognize that the most unevangelized areas of the world are Muslim areas, that the last wall to fall before the Great Commission is anywhere near completion is primarily the Muslim world."

In Latin America, where the number of evangelicals was a mere 50,000 at the turn of the century but is surging to a predicted 100 million by 2000, Christians feel a strong burden for Muslims. William Taylor, executive director of the Missions Commission of the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF), says, "Physically, they blend in easier. Second, they're willing to suffer economic hardships and go on a very low budget. They don't have all the middle-class expectations or all the benefit packages and financial obligations of the North Americans. Third, they're willing to suffer."

Groups of converted Muslims, although small, now exist in areas closed to the gospel for centuries. Abe Ghaffari of Iranian Christians International, Colorado Springs, Colorado, estimates that the evangelical church in Iran, not including secret believers numbers about 14,000-half of whom are converts from Islam. Phil Parshall, a long-term missionary to Muslims and author of five books on Islam counts 10,000 baptized believers in Bangladesh, compared to a "handful" before 1975; some estimates are much higher. Steve Hagerman, director of the Grand Junction, Colorado-based Friends of Turkey ministry, says there are "well over 1,000 Bible-believing Turks from Turkish Muslim

background" in Turkey.

In Sudan, where a Muslim government has declared holy war against opponents, the church is growing. A Sudanese Christian leader says that as tens of thousands of southern Sudanese have fled their homelands to the relative safety of the Arab-dominated north, Christians among them have begun planting churches and reaching out to their Muslim neighbors. Patrick Johnstone, author of *Operation World*, says the church in Sudan "is growing fast with a great ingathering of people in the midst of terrible suffering through war, famine, and persecution."

Where The Challenges Lie

Christians, both nationals and missionaries, are using a variety of methods to respond to the spiritual needs of their potential brothers and sisters in Christ in the Muslim world:

- *Bible distribution.* Arab Christian leaders report an almost insatiable demand for Bibles and say Scripture distribution has never been higher in the Middle East, making this one of the most effective ways to introduce Muslims to Christ. Jordanian believers and other have sent more than a quarter of a million Scriptures into Iraq since the Gulf War. The evangelical church in Baghdad, where many of the Bibles have gone, had only five members in the 1970's. Today it has 300 to 500 people attending every Sunday.

Several Muslim clerics in West Africa's Burkina Faso have come to faith in Christ after studying the Scriptures in Arabic, reports Tite Tienou, professor of theology and missiology at Alliance Theological Seminary, Nyack, New York.

- *Relief and development.* As long as Muslims suffer, Christian humanitarian aid combined with evangelism will continue to open doors in sharing Christ.

When the Communists in Bulgaria lost power in 1989, most of the Bulgarian Turks returned. Last year some Christian organizations brought relief supplies to Burgas, Bulgaria, home to many of these returned Turks. Unasked, the mayor came to the Christians and said, "While you're helping us physically, don't forget about our spiritual needs." The Christians got his permission to use the city stadium for an evangelistic crusade, at which hundreds came forward to receive Christ. In the last four years, between 3,000 and 4,000 Bulgarian Turks have made the same decision.

Relief efforts by national Christians and outside agencies have advanced Christianity in Mali, where the desert is inexorably moving

south and displacing Muslim herders and farmers, according to Jim Taylor, vice president in charge of Europe and Africa for Gospel Missionary Union, Kansas City, Missouri. There were just 6,000 believers in 40 churches back in 1980, he said, today there are 22,000 believers in 300 congregations, "Christianity has a very pleasant ring to it in Mali today," Taylor said.

A similar story is told of the Kurds in northern Iraq. "The Kurds have no friends," a Kurdish proverb states. When a team from WEC International visited the Kurds of Northern Iraq to explore ministry options after the Gulf War, Kurdish authorities asked them, "Are you missionaries?" When they admitted they were, the officials answered, "You are most welcome. Bring as many of your friends as you can."

• *Media ministries.* Islam's crescent moon may not symbolize a satellite dish, but Muslims are increasingly media conscious. Growing numbers of Muslims across Asia and the Middle East are picking up television and radio programs through an array of international satellite broadcasters, which are sprouting like mushrooms. Christians are capitalizing on it, Brant says.

Power Encounters

In Nigeria a Muslim man paid a local shaman to curse a group of evangelizing Christians so that they would die. But instead, the Muslim got sick, and the shaman could not lift the spell. So in desperation, the Muslim asked the Christians he tried to curse to pray for him. They did, and he was delivered. Realizing where the power came from, the Muslim became a follower of Christ.

Dreams, visions, and miraculous events are happening, but they are not everyday occurrences. Many argue we should break down the barriers of Islam both through disciplined study of apologetics and through faith in God's ability and willingness to intervene miraculously.

Events across the world show that the Islamic crescent is being illuminated by the light of the gospel. Spiritually hungry Muslims are finding a peace and forgiveness unknown in Islam. But making Muslims brothers and sisters in the faith--not the estranged half-brothers and half-sisters they are now--will require continued work worldwide. In area after area across northern Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, unprecedented numbers of Muslims are becoming believers in Jesus Christ through such accelerating efforts.

--Excerpted from **CHRISTIANITY TODAY**

“On The Right Plane?”

By Jim Reapsome

The plane was packed. Last minute travelers laden with bags trundled down the aisle. The man stopped and checked his boarding pass for his and his wife's assigned seats: 22E and F, the row in front of us. Sure enough, they were occupied and the people said, Yes, they were in the right seats.

No fight ensued. I was pleasantly surprised how amiable the fellow was. “Just glad to be on the plane,” he said to no one in particular. To his wife he said, “Don't worry. They'll find us some seats.” And they did, a couple of rows behind us.

Not long afterward the man discovered why seats 22E and F had been taken. No, it wasn't a computer foul-up. He and his wife had dashed down the wrong jetway. Gates B12 and 13 opened side by side in Terminal 4 of the Phoenix Skyharbor airport. One led to Chicago, the other to Dallas. They thought they were headed for Dallas, but now climbing to 31,000 feet over the Sonora Desert they discovered that Chicago was their destination.

Were they sincere? Yes. Were they dedicated? Yes. Were they zealous? Yes. Did they have the right motives? Yes. Did they have their “support”? Yes, they had their tickets in hand. Were they on the right plane? No. Unfortunately, in our missionary zeal we sometimes take the wrong planes. No amount of zeal and dedication will make up for a lack of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding about Scripture, culture, and the church. Such knowledge is critical, however, because many gates and flights beckon us like a shimmering mirage in the desert.

Mission ministries, no matter how attractive and appealing, can be seductive and carnal when they stress how easy it is to win people to faith in Jesus Christ, and how exciting it is to be a part of something big God is doing (as if God never does small things).

Every day planes lift off from our American runways, carrying eager, zealous people, who depart with high hopes, expectations, and steep price tags. But just because they are on the plane does not mean they will necessarily achieve their expectations, or do God's will. They could very well be flying in the wrong direction, for a number of reasons.

Poor Motives. Their missionary engines have been revved up by the Go! motive. Or, they see themselves as the answer to other people's needs. They may be overcome by pity. They may be driven to impart

superior ways.

Misunderstandings. Of themselves, their strengths, their weaknesses. Of their partnership with the church. Of the nature of the battle that awaits them. Of culture, language. Of their own cultural baggage.

Spiritual immaturity. They've taken the required courses, but have no battle ribbons to show they have previously encountered some pagans. They are bottle fed, and have not yet mastered the knack of feeding themselves.

Theological shallowness. Their theological roots have not penetrated beyond some proof texts. They have never been challenged by pluralism and syncretism, or by Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

Should we then ground them for a while? Perhaps. The sheer number of Christian bodies being transported abroad does not necessarily prove we are pushing back the kingdom of darkness. Rather than rushing to go, and running through the wrong gate to the wrong plane, perhaps we should first check the integrity and biblical values of both our missionary appeals and our responses.

God places no premium on either our cleverness to sell ministries and needs, or on our speedy responses. He does require honesty, compassion, and justice. Jesus Christ builds his church his way. Before we reserve our seats to do his work in the world, we must master his priorities and values.

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LAST DAYS' AMBASSADORS

Dennis L. Allen

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming" 2 Pet. 3:10-12a.

Peter's last statement calls forth two questions. **Why should we want to speed this great day of burning and destruction?** Is it not because it is necessary to destroy the old order before the new order can be ushered in— "a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."? **How**

can we then speed this day? The Lord Jesus answered this in His Olivet discourse regarding the second coming. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come." Matt. 24:14. The great commission was to make disciples of all nations (people groups). This is further confirmed by Rev. 7:9 where we see an innumerable multitude "out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues," standing before God's throne praising God and the Lamb.

We sometimes wonder why it has been so long and still the Lord has not returned. But there are still thousands of people groups comprising at least two billion people where the gospel has not been proclaimed. We sigh for the return of the King, but we have been so slow to finish the task which will bring Him back.

The Christians in the United States have been used of God to send out thousands of missionaries, yet at no time could it be said that the church as a whole has been mobilized for what the Lord has left His church on the earth to do. The giving that is done for finishing this great work is done by a small minority of the Christians, the going by a still smaller percentage. If the whole church were mobilized and its resources concentrated on this one goal, what is now being done would be multiplied many fold.

We are living in a time of great change and great challenge. Communism has disintegrated in Eastern Europe, and even in Russia there is more freedom in the schools and the media to proclaim the gospel than there is in the United States. Right now there is an unprecedented opportunity for getting Bibles into these countries that have been deprived of them for forty years. Is the church as a whole rising to the challenge? Sadly no. We are too engrossed in our own pursuits of pleasure and the good life to seize the opportunity as we should.

Our whole value system will have to be turned upside down before we will really give ourselves to the Lord's priorities. When the Titanic was sinking wealthy men and women left their beautiful staterooms and gladly crowded into the life boats. It was folly to think of business as usual when the ship was sinking.

Is this generation of Christians in America as wise? The world is disintegrating all around us. We see the streams of refugees, the starving millions, the have-nots of the third world in foment, and still go on accumulating more and more in our beautiful staterooms. The sirens of alarm and danger are already blowing, but still we say, "This ship will not go down. It's been predicted for years. It won't happen here." James speaks of those who have hoarded wealth in the last days, who

have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence, who have fattened themselves in a day of slaughter. Jas. 5:3-5.

When we awake to the fact that this present world order is headed for the fire, it will change our whole world view. Instead of being "earth dwellers" with our treasures and real interests here, we will become "pilgrims" looking for the new heavens and the new earth. We will realize that we must concentrate our energies not on that which is soon to be dissolved and taken out of the way, but on making way for the new order.

We have had the experience several times of leaving a home, work, and friends on one side of the world and going half way around the world to enter into a new way of life. Once the decision is made your outlook on everything in your present situation is changed. You become a pilgrim at heart. You begin to feel differently about things and detached from that which you were attached. Things you once valued are expendable if they would not be useful or practical "over there". In your heart you have already "left" your present abode, because all thought, energy, and preparation must be devoted to the new home and work. Is the new heaven and new earth a disturbing thought to you or one that fills your heart with joyful anticipation? Does it change your attitude to things here?

When a new President is campaigning to come to power those who believe in him line themselves up with him beforehand. They show loyalty by sacrifices they are willing to make to see him elected. The King is coming back. Have we really lined ourselves up with Him ahead of time?

Stewardship is a matter of lordship. We are not going to have more to give until we change our priorities. If we really believe the world is a sinking ship it is going to change our lifestyles, our spending habits. How many foolish, useless purchases have we made this year? Good stewards are faithful in the way they use their Lord's goods. It must be according to His priorities. In view of the unfinished task, what manner of men ought we to be?

Not Wedded To The Mind Set Of Our Age

Men can be challenged to risk their lives in war, for financial gain, or even in sports. We see men laying their lives on the line all the time in car racing, hang gliding, sky diving, exploring under the sea, etc., and men applaud them for it, but where are those willing to hazard their lives for the Gospel?

Not Wedded To Possessions, Fringe Benefits, Or Insurance

We need to challenge the Yuppie standards of our decade and its emptiness and boldly and hilariously espouse a simpler lifestyle. Last day Christians need to come to terms with what the Lord has said about money as opposed to what the world thinks about it and what our own thoughts are. The Lord has made us some fantastic promises. We need to settle it in our hearts that the Lord is able to care for His own even during the end time.

Not Wedded To Racial Superiority

A patronizing, superior attitude does not become the ambassador of Christ. What do we have that we have not received, so why should we glory as if we had not received it? There are now thousands of missionaries being sent out from churches in third world countries. We should be happy to work with others, even **under others**, as servants of Christ. God has not given white Caucasians a monopoly on leadership.

Not Wedded To Their Own Country

We are not sent to promote the American way of life or to justify our country right or wrong. Our primary loyalty is to the kingdom of God. There is much in the American way of life today and even in the policies of our government that is not pleasing to the Lord. We are called to represent the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we would be world Christians and truly ambassadors of Christ, what manner of men then should we be?

Ambassadors Are Expendable

Paul said, "I consider my life worth nothing to me." (Acts 20:24a). As Brother Andrew has often reminded us, Christ has commanded us to go. He did not promise that we would always come back.

Ambassadors Are Reconcilers

We have been given the ministry of reconciliation. As we see the Lord Jesus dealing with the woman taken in adultery, the Samaritan woman, and even with His disciples, we see Him as the great reconciler. He did not beat them over the head with the Scriptures or thunder out their sins, but with sensitivity and love He brought them to an awareness

of their need and His supply.

Ambassadors Have Christ's Authority

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Cor. 5:20). An ambassador has the authority of the country he represents behind him. When Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go-", He was conferring authority upon those who go forth in His name. It is thrilling how some faithful, humble ambassadors have acted on that authority and have not been intimidated by the enemies of Christ.

When missionary Helen Willis saw all the other missionaries leaving Shanghai after the communist occupation there were times when fear gripped her heart, but a quiet assurance that it was God's will for her to stay kept her at her post of duty. A passage in 2 Sam. 23:11,12 came often to her heart in those days. "Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the Lord brought about a great victory." She felt that God had given her a field to defend in the form of a Christian book room so that God's people might have spiritual food in a time of great need.

Before restrictions were imposed the Lord provided her with money and she had a lot of printing done. For ten years she was the only missionary left, but God allowed her to maintain the little book room. By various means the Word was distributed to Christians all over China by this little old lady whom the communists thought could do no harm. A man would never have been allowed to stay and do the work that she did, but she was God's instrument for sustaining many a hard-pressed saint in those dark days. She was on the alert and willing to be used though at great cost to herself. Only the Lord knows how important that work was.

God's great heart of love takes in the whole world. There are no color, race, or caste barriers with Him. As we come more and more to have the mind of Christ we will find ourselves becoming color blind, and blind to every other superficial barrier that keeps our hearts from being enlarged to embrace all the people of the world. God has given to us who are reconciled the ministry of reconciliation to those who are still at enmity with Him. God is still entreating through His ambassadors, "Be reconciled to God."

MOZAMBIQUE RAMBLINGS

Martin Brooks

[These fresh and honest accounts from Martin Brooks not only give stimulating insights into the challenges being faced there, but also spur us to pray. Read and enjoy. --D. L. A.]

August 18, 1997

Don Hulsley and I just returned from another trip to Inhambane. It was a great trip. On the way we saw a man attempting to tie a live hog onto the back of this bicycle. We also saw a reed house with a satellite dish on the roof. Sometimes I wonder about people's value systems.

Saturday we held the first classes of a two year curriculum. If things go as planned, we will make around 80 trips to Inhambane over the next two years. The students will study various Biblical topics designed to help them teach and lead the churches. The classes were taught in Portuguese and went really well. The students seem hungry to study the Bible. In two weeks we will return and see if they understood the lessons and were able to complete their assignments.

That evening, we sat outside under a nearly full moon. We and the men sat on benches and the women dragged out the reed mats and sat on the ground around us.

I called the names of three of the older men. I told them I had three questions. First, from where did the world, the stars, the sun, the moon, fish, birds, animals, trees and humans come? This was a "give me" question. They responded Deus (God). Second question, How were they created? They said Deus made them by His power. I looked at the third man and said, "Why were all these things created?" That got the discussion going.

Don said, "God made a lot of good things like fruit and fish, but why did He make mosquitoes?"

Someone explained the He had made everything good but sin changed things so some things became bad.

In the course of the questions we learned that some believed that if you cried at the funeral of a Christian, it would stop their soul from entering heaven. Toby, the oldest man in the church told us what they

believe happens when a person dies. If the person is a Christian, they go to heaven. If they are not a Christian, they go to heaven but God says "You can't get in. You must go back to earth." This person then goes back to the family as a spirit and tries to convince the family to NOT follow Jesus. They may believe this scenario to be the source of demons, but we did not fully understand all that Toby was saying. Please continue to pray that we learn Portuguese well. I miss a lot of details of conversations and many are important to teaching to their real needs.

I asked them, "Who decides if a person goes to heaven or hell?" One person said God, another said Jesus. I said "right," and proceeded to my next question which was "On what is that decision based?" I wanted them to see it was not based on crying relatives but the individual's decision in life, to follow Jesus. They, however, wanted to know if it was God or Jesus who made the decision. I was never able to get to my second question. A lot of the teaching we do is simply asking the right questions and helping them think through the implications of their answers.

Don and I were hungry and tired. We ate supper (fish broth over rice) and went to bed. They thought it was odd that we opted to have our hot tea with our meal instead of bread and tea before our meal. In South Africa and here, they rarely serve anything but water with a meal. After supper, Don and I went to bed. They walked to the church building about a hundred meters away and continued talking about the questions we had asked.

The next morning was Sunday. The young minister, Fernando, led the singing. Many songs were a sort of African opera. You may have heard the "Spiritual" songs of the South like "Amen" and Ezekiel Saw Da Wheel." The congregation would sing a simple chorus again and again while Fernando would weave a Bible story through many solo lines. He even incorporated the names of Don and myself into the songs. It was fun to hear and be a part of their worship.

My sermon that morning was very simple. In fact, beforehand, I worried it was too simple and may bore them. I opted to do it anyway because it laid a foundation for truths I wanted to teach on our next trip up. My lesson was about God being before "the beginning" of Genesis 1:1. He was before all creation. He was before all of our ancestors or any man. He was before all the spirits. He was before the earth.

I still have to read my Portuguese sermons. I can't "wing-it" yet. So, in addition to a simple topic, I was afraid I was going to bore them with my reading as well. After the sermon, as is their custom, the people stood and gave testimonies. It usually consists of a short recap of the

lesson or an application of the lesson or a word of thanks for bringing the lesson.

The first to stand was a young policeman. In his testimony he had never known that God was before the world. A girl stood and said she did not know where God came from but she was happy to hear that God was before the spirits.

An older woman stood and said she had thought God simply dwelt in all the ancestral spirits and she had not known God was before the ancestral spirits.

Another older woman stood and said she was glad to know she could work her garden for God instead of the ancestral spirits. (Don had said something about everything we do, we should do for God)

Tobe is the father of the church.. He is the oldest member. He is probably in his sixties and he smiles a lot. For work, he swims under water in the Indian Ocean with a spear gun and spears larger fish. He's quite a character. After I spoke, he was crying. He stood up, touched his gray hair and said, "I am an old man but now I am happy. I have waited all my life for someone to come explain what the Bible says and now they are here." He thanked us again and again as we fought back our own tears. I thought, Satan has so blinded them with fears and superstitions because no one has told them the simple truths of God. God is more powerful than all the spirits they fear. God had provided freedom for them long ago, if only someone had told them.

August 27, 1997

This past weekend Don and I participated in a "crusade" in Panda. We made the seven hour drive to Panda with Job Chambaul. He works with the "Minister of Justice" and is responsible for regulating all the religious organizations in the country. We had to have his signature to get our work permits. It was good to be with a government official that loves the Lord.

Heratio Neve is a Mozambican who has introduced us to several churches in the Inhambane province. He was responsible for the organization, or lack thereof, of the crusade. He had planned to go up Thursday to make final arrangements for the crusade. On the way up, his old truck had three flat tires. He only arrived a few minutes before we arrived on Friday afternoon.

The crusade was to begin at six Friday night. Heratio drove through the area with his pickup full of relatives and a bullhorn, inviting the people of the area out to the meeting and to see the "Jesus Film."

start their own churches to be the benefactor of these sacrificial chickens and the offerings.

Saturday night, I preached a simple gospel message on how to accept Christ to about 500 people. Heratio was a little better organized. He had mats for the children up front. Benches were placed behind the mats and there was room in the rear of the tent for people to stand. He once again showed the Jesus Film, again very few could hear the words, but the 500+ people stayed and watched. Some even commented that they wanted to come back and watch it Sunday night because they had missed parts of the film Friday and Saturday night.

At 5:30 A.M. Heratio got out the bullhorn and began preaching to the bush. There are not a lot of people around, but with the bullhorn cranked up to full power, they don't have to be very close to hear. As he walked around our tents and around in circles, he invited whoever might hear to services that he said would start at 8 A.M. This preaching went on for about a half an hour. He reminded me of a man with a new car. Every chance he had, he was talking through the bullhorn. As the congregation would sing songs, he would sing through the bullhorn. I always tried to not sit in front of him. After he had preached to the neighborhood, he fired up the generator and turned on his stereo. It was a treat for the people of the area to have music. My preference would have been to have had music and preaching a little later in the morning.

Mark Beagerly was scheduled to preach that morning and he did a great job. He had worked with Don in Zambia. Now he lives in Zimbabwe and had come to visit Don. When we heard he was coming, we plugged him into the crusade. So if you come to visit, come prepared.

We will be traveling again this weekend to Inhambane. Heratio will be traveling with us. He never lets us too far out of his sight. He is going to perform a baptismal service. I think he does all the baptizing for this group of churches. Please pray he will be receptive to teaching and that we will respond to him as would Christ. Also, please pray for our families as we travel. It's always a little difficult on them. AND, please pray for increased language skills as we teach on a more regular basis.

The Persecution Most House Church Christians Face In China

The young Chinese couple's only son died when he was two, killed suddenly in an accident with a borrowed tractor. But this tragedy paled before the religious tragedy that surrounded it.

The mother, a frail woman with barely enough clothes to cover her, explained later to a Western visitor, "In our religion we have lots of demons. They come from the spirits of the young dead.

"We believe that everyone is born with a lifetime's energy. If you die young, you carry a lot of that unused energy with your spirit. This can be dangerous, because the young dead seek revenge."

The entire village was frightened that the dead son's spirit would become a tormenting demon. Sure enough, things soon began to go wrong. A neighbor came down with appendicitis, another found a growth at the back of his head. A relative's field was flooded beyond rescue.

People banged drums and tambourines in an effort to frighten the spirit away. They made offerings to many gods, but to no avail. Before long, they turned on the parents, accusing them of deliberately killing the boy. The couple was completely isolated, unable even to buy vegetables at the market. They contemplated suicide.

Most Compassionate God

Soon after, a stranger arrived in town to stay with a relative. Three hours later, she knocked on the door of the couple's home. Her first words were, "I know the greatest and most compassionate God of all the gods. His name is Jesus, and your son is with Him, happy forever."

The couple staggered. The father explained later, "The idea that a human could know the supreme Deity seemed impossible to us. We believed that our lives are watched by small village gods, who report up to larger gods who control the province, and so on up the vast celestial bureaucracy."

The stranger took out a small text and read from the gospel of Mark about the children coming to Jesus. She ended with, "Then Jesus took the children in His arms and blessed them by placing His hands on them."

That night, the mother had a vivid dream about her son's death. But a giant hand--with a large hole in it--bore him up to the sky as he looked back and smiled. Her heart was filled with warmth and happiness.

As she awoke, her husband turned to her and said, "I had the most amazing dream." It turned out to be exactly the same as hers!

When they told others of their experience, they were rebuffed. When they destroyed their household gods and prayed only to Jesus, the village persecuted them even more, afraid that they would bring disaster on the whole community.

"The villagers think they are doing the right thing," explained a Western visitor who talked with the couple following their conversion.

“After all, their gods have seen them through for 2,200 years. This Jesus is just a recent interloper. Better to trust the proven record of the past.”

But Jesus blessed the couple with another son and now, two years later, they are still following Him. As yet, they have no Bible and no fellowship. They live an isolated life, surrounded by superstition and suspicion. All they have is Jesus.

Local Persecution

One could be forgiven for thinking that most persecution in China comes from the state. Headlines are dominated by the house church leaders jailed and harassed by the Public Security Bureau.

Yet jailed leaders are numbered only in *hundreds*; house church members are numbered in *millions*. Most of them will never see the inside of a jail cell. Instead, for these people scattered throughout China's villages, their cell is their own home, their jailers their own neighbors, and their persecutors the village gods they once trusted in and then abandoned in order to worship Christ.

The average Chinese village is awash with gods. There are gods for the kitchen sink, gods for the bathroom, gods for the yard, gods for the hearth. Every action is watched and noted by each god. For centuries this folk religion has rolled on, picking up Buddhism and Taoism like a lint cloth wiped over a dusty jacket.

When Chinese people convert to Christ, this tradition is challenged. Worse, the gods of the village may become angry at being ignored and will plague the community with accidents, illnesses and strife.

This fear is the source of persecution for most Chinese Christians. Eighty percent of China's population live in villages just like the one described.

In some revival areas, whole villages became Christian together, thus eliminating local persecution. But in most provinces, this is not so. Rural Christians are the forgotten core of the house churches. They have a hard enough life as peasants. They have a harder one when they become Christian peasants.

Pray for these unsung heroes of the faith, who despite little Christian education and often even less fellowship, follow their newfound God-in-Christ in defiance of 2000-year-old cultural traditions.

Exiles in their own villages, they shine for the Lord.

--From *Open Doors Newsbrief*, July, 1997

VOICES From The FIELDS

Crispin and Gloria Carado

Bulucan, Philippines

The good Lord has been very faithful to us to send us to the World Mission school in Butuan City. It has changed and widened our perspective in missions. YWAM has changed our hearts toward our relationship with God, but World Mission has given us the know how or strategies and foundations in missions. Praise the Lord!

In our two weeks stay in Bulucan, my wife and I began teaching and mobilizing our congregation in missions. I'm also encouraging some of the pastors here to attend the three weeks schooling in Mindinao. There are five pastors already who are interested to go. Here in this whole province there are three persons who are in missions-my wife and I and one young man who went to India. We feel that we will go to foreign lands after our schooling in Wisconsin. Pray for us.

Dave and Linda Moldez

Novaliches, Philippines

July 30, 1997

I am happy to see new students at CBC especially as they attend my Christian Ethics class. Former students also returned, some of whom are already pastoring and doing church planting works. More from Novaliches church enrolled at CBC this semester. I have had to divide them into two groups so that I can accommodate them to the vehicle that I am using in going to school.

I thank God also for the mission work here. In our own group, three students are doing church planting work. Please pray for me as I visit them from time to time.

The Lord has opened work for us also in different offices and factories. Because of this office ministry, 5 people were baptized recently. An owner of a garment factory invited us in Antipolo (2 ½ hr. drive) and as a result 18 people accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Sometimes I am thinking not to drive in farther places but then my mind can not rest because I know there are people who are waiting for us there. There's another group whom we are visiting at Pampangga (3 hrs. drive). Sometimes I feel sad because we lack workers and pastors. Please pray that we can challenge and support those who want to enter the ministry. The church in Novaliches supports 7 workers at present and the Frisco church supports presently 2 missionaries.

Please pray for the needed amount for the vehicle that we are using. After several repairs, it still breaks down several times along the highway. Engine oil keeps on leaking and it still needs a major repair. One of the tires needs changing yet we need to go and preach the gospel to people waiting for us even in distant places.

Robert and Joy Garrett
August 24, 1997

Ruwa, Zimbabwe

August 1-6 was a camp at Lupane. We left early AM as it takes five hours to get to Bulawayo. We reached there midday and picked up Bob Morrow and two other men--and cabbages, groceries and bread. It took Bob G. half an hour to fit it all into the back of the truck with enough room for 3 men. He's excellent at packing. I'd never have made it.

An hour and a half on the Victoria Falls Road we reached Lupane and turned left--good tarred road ended and dirt and rock roads began. About 45 minutes of shaking began--eventually ending in St. Paul's Secondary School where the meeting was to be held. Bro Khumalo teaches history there. Three years ago he began a congregation there and despite persecutions it has grown. He's very zealous. Bob G. and Bob M. took turns as they did in South Africa and a lot of teaching was done on prophecy and other related subjects--really starting from Genesis. There's no electricity there which complicates the evening services. The jarring roads broke our mantel and the one lent us was too small. Bro. Khumalo phoned Bulawayo and they put two on the bus which we didn't get for two nights: therefore it was candles and flashlight to preach by. Classes were held during the day. I had 4 classes with the women when they weren't cooking. The first on the *Role of the Women in the Church*.

These folks know so little. Bro. Khumalo started another congregation closeby and the amillennials came and took it over. He wants these St. Paul Christians well grounded in Prophecy. Bro. and Sis. Khumalo had come to Ruwa and stayed a week with us last December holidays and we taught them prophecy and sent tracts, etc.

We had one day free, Aug. 8, to prepare. On Aug. 9 the men's meeting began. There were 79 leaders registered. They had breakfast at 6 A.M. and lessons from various men till 10 P.M. through the 12th. It is the Hero's Days Holiday. I taught the cooks at least an hour, as they cooked every morning. I did minor prophets: Zephaniah, Micah 4, 5, 6, and Zechariah 12-14.

Sept. 19, 1997

Last week we had a hard but rewarding week in Binga. Bob Morrow and Bob Garrett took turns and preached all day for 7 ½ days. This

place Bob G. visited last year and knew they had very little. They'd burned the brick, built the big church and put up Maponi tree poles which the termites won't eat. Bob G. had contributed heavily to getting grass for their thatched roof. They had to buy the tall grass and transport it by bus. Binga area doesn't have tall grass. Folks in U. S. A. donated money for Bibles and we took 46 Tonga Bibles and 16 English ones. The floor was dirt and winds would pick up dust and swirl it around. It was a teaching session: Genesis to Revelation.

When we reached home on Sunday evening, we saw our latest robbery. One set of double doors on the church auditorium had been burned, so they could crawl in. Then, they took a key and opened the pantry taking about \$13,000 worth of kitchen utensils--pots, knives, spoons, hot plate, etc. Such things are imports here and expensive. Little by little we had accumulated these things. Bob plans to put up steel barred doors on the 4 double doors and 1 single door. All our other buildings had these burglar barred doors, but we knew these would be expensive. We could use an alarm system, but that would cost even more.

Susan Brooks Mozambique Sept. 21, 1997

I showed my thumb to a doctor at church this morning, and he said that it is an unusually deep abscess that must be drained. This means that tomorrow I get to go and let him poke it with a needle. Yes, I'll probably faint again. When my sister came, she brought some anti-biotics sent by a friend. I'm thankful to you, friend, that I now have a good anti-biotic to take for my infected thumb.

My illustrations for the literacy book are nearly finished, YES! Actually, I would have been finished except that Nila decided that the book needed one more story. "This is the book that never ends . . ." I love you, Nila. There will be another book after this one, but I'll get a break for a couple of months while Nila travels north to do literacy seminars and works on plans for the second book.

I was leading a Bible study the other day with the local church ladies. We were discussing the existence of Jesus before the creation. "Basics, let's just hurry through this," I was thinking. Then one of the ladies says that she has trouble believing that Jesus exists because she can't see him. This lady has been in church for a long time and is supposed to be a Christian. I couldn't believe it. I decided that I must have misunderstood the Portuguese, and went on with the lesson. When Angie got there later I asked her about it. No, I hadn't misunderstood. Angie dealt with it well, but you can see what we're up against at times. Even people who

have been in church for years may not understand the basics. Martin has found the same situation in the bush. I hadn't realized that it would be true here in Maputo as well. I suppose that's why God sent us here. Pray with us that we can communicate the basic truths of God's Word to the people around us.

Sept. 22, 1997

I didn't faint today at the doctor's. He couldn't get anything out, though he tried. He said that I have let it go too long, and it has hardened. Now I can only take pain killer and an anti-inflammatory, and wait for the body to heal itself. That's all right. I'm learning patience or something, I hope. I'm thankful that it's only a sore thumb, and that our God is concerned with all our problems, big and small. Thanks for praying!

What the Bible Teaches about...

X. THE CROSS -- CHRIST'S DEATH for US

Alex V. Wilson

He meditated on Calvary, and was awestruck. His heart reeled at how incredible it is. Stirred to the depths, Charles Wesley took his quill and penned these words:

Amazing love! How can it be?

That Thou, my God, should'st die for me!

There is no way that we can really grasp why or how the Creator could give His life for His creatures. Why God would sacrifice Himself for man. How the Immortal could die. Why the perfect Holy One would become sin for wretched rebels. As another songwriter put it, "O the wonder of it all, The wonder of it all!"

But though we'll never plumb the depths of what happened at Golgotha (place of the Skull) that terrible and glorious day, the Bible presents **three pictures** to help overcome our limitations. First, we attend a classroom to learn. Second we go to a battlefield where war is raging. Third, we visit a court where our trial is in session!

A. Christ's Cross is a REVELATION: His Death TEACHES Us.

We are ignorant, so God brings us into His classroom to teach us. Actually it's more like a science lab, for our Professor doesn't just tell us information but **demonstrates** the truths we need to know. Jesus' death teaches us at least five important lessons:

1. It Reveals an Example to Imitate. Peter wrote this to slaves: "What credit is there in enduring beatings which you deserve for having done wrong? But if you endure suffering even when you have done right, God will bless you for it. It was to this that God called you; because **Christ himself suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in his steps.** He committed no sin; no one ever heard a lie come from his lips. When he was cursed he did not answer back with a curse; when he suffered he did not threaten, but placed his hopes in God, the righteous Judge....Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude" (1 Pet.2:20-23: 4:1).

Our Lord Jesus suffered more than any of us ever will. And He did it with meekness, a forgiving spirit--not desiring revenge; and confidence in the Father's righteousness. We should imitate Him, following in His steps. Charles Sheldon chose those underlined words as the title for his great novel. His book portrayed the wonderful differences that resulted when some Christians began to ask themselves regularly, "Since He is my example, **what would Jesus do** if He faced my circumstances?" What would He do? He would go the way of the cross, of sacrifice.

2. Jesus' Death Reveals how Serious our Sins Are. We see this in two ways. 1st, the great Person who came to solve our sin problem. When you go to your bank, does its president come down from his office to wait on you? No, not unless you've got a super-major problem involving millions of dollars! An ordinary teller can take care of most customers' needs. The president deals with the major decisions and the emergencies.

Our sin problem, then, must be severe indeed. For we read that God "condemned sin in human nature by sending his own Son" (Rom.8:3). An angel couldn't do the job. Even an archangel would have been inadequate. Only the eternal, fully divine Son could handle our crisis. Thomas Kelly wrote,

Ye who think of sin but lightly, Nor suppose the evil great,
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate:
Mark the Sacrifice appointed! See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

2nd, what He did to save us is another revelation of how serious our sins are. The worse the crime, the greater the penalty. How monstrous our sins must be, then, if the penalty they deserve was nothing less than Christ's death and separation from His holy Father. He screamed, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" That's what my sins did to

Jesus.

3. Calvary Reveals how Helpless We Are to Save Ourselves. Some folks will admit they've sinned and fallen short of God's standard, yet feel they can still handle that problem on their own. "One of these days" they'll improve and pull their gradepoint average up to meet God's requirement. Theirs is a do-it-yourself type of religion, based on self-dependence.

This is both absurd and arrogant. "If a man is put right with God through the Law [i.e. our own goodness and obedience], it means that Christ died for nothing!" wrote Paul to the self-righteous Galatians (2:21). If all we need is divine advice and example, then why did Jesus die? If we could be saved apart from Calvary, then His death was a drastic mistake--that is, God goofed!

The cross of Christ tells us some very unpleasant truths about ourselves, namely that we are sinners under the righteous condemnation of God's law and we cannot save ourselves. Christ bore our sin and condemnation precisely because we could gain release from them in no other way....

Every time we look at the cross Christ seems to say to us, "I am here because of you. I'm bearing your sins in my own body. I am suffering the condemnation you deserve. If you were not a sinner I would not be here. If you could save yourself, I would not be here. I am here because you are guilty and helpless, and because God loves you and longs to save you, and because there is no other way."

Nothing in...the universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves...until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross, that we shrink to our true size.

And of course many people do not like it. They resent the humiliation of seeing themselves as God sees them and as they really are. They prefer their comfortable illusions. So they steer clear of the cross. They construct a Christianity without the cross, which relies for salvation on their works and not on Jesus Christ's works."

(John Stott in The Message of Galatians)

4. Christ's Cross Reveals How Infinite God's Love Is. "This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us." "To us, the greatest demonstration of God's love for us has been his sending his only Son...to make personal atonement for our sins." (1 John 3:16a, 4:9-10.)

Tornadoes show God's power. The regularity of the seasons shows His orderliness. Photosynthesis shows His wisdom. But is He loving? How can we know, in a world of suffering and tragedy? Unbelievers say, "Think of Hitler's human ovens, and Cambodia's killing fields, and

present-day crucifixions of Christians in Sudan, and the atrocities in Bosnia and Rwanda. And do you still claim that God is love?" Yes, we do. For man--not God--invented torture chambers, the rack, flame-throwers and nuclear bombs. God does not inflict atrocity, He suffered it.

Do you doubt God's love for you? Look at Calvary. Learn there your worth in God's sight. Some wise person wrote, "Jesus Christ never met an unimportant person. That is why God sent His Son to die for us. **If someone dies for you, you must be important.**"

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom.5:8). That summarizes lessons 2, 3 and 4 in a nutshell. May we remember and apply these great truths.

5. Christ's Cross Reveals How Perfect God's Justice Is. We don't think of this point very often, but Paul brings it out in Rom.3:25-26. "God presented [Jesus] as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood...." We might expect him to continue, "He did this to demonstrate his mercy," but he doesn't. Instead he writes (and then repeats it for emphasis): "He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies the man who has faith in Jesus."

If the Lawgiver and Judge of the universe freely forgave sinners and did not make them pay for their sins, that would make Him unjust--allowing lawbreaking to go unpunished. Moral anarchy and chaos would result. Think of all the sins God forgave in the many centuries before Jesus came and died. The sins of Adam and Eve, Enoch and Noah, Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, Moses and Aaron, David and Solomon, Hezekiah and Manassch, Elijah and John the baptizer--and all the rest. Justice demands punishment, so it seemed God was unjust to forgive them.

How could He do it? Well, He put all those sins on their charge-account. They all had "IOU" by their names in His ledger. And then when Christ died for sins, those debts were wiped out at one stroke! The songwriters say it well: "Jesus paid it all; All to Him I owe." "On the cross He sealed my pardon, Paid the debt and made me free."

A story, reportedly true, comes from England early in this century. It tells of two boys who were inseparable friends during the years of childhood, highschool and university. After graduation their paths parted. One went into business, the other to law school. Decades later, they came face to face again, but in tragic circumstances. It was in court.

The businessman had embezzled from his employer. His friend who went into law was the judge trying the case. As they will do, the press discovered and publicized the earlier friendship of the two men. Speculation ran wild as to what the judge would do, for the businessman had confessed his guilt. Would the judge find a loophole for his friend to wriggle through? Would he give a lenient sentence? Or due to the spotlight on the case, would he throw the book at him?

Can you imagine the struggle in the judge's heart? How would you have solved his dilemma--the struggle between love and justice? When the time for sentencing came, the judge fined him the largest amount allowed by the law. If the defendant could not pay it, he must go to prison for several years. The crowd gasped. Many felt he was too harsh. The judge banged his gavel, ended the trial, and left the courtroom. In his chambers, he removed his robe and took out his wallet. Going quickly into the hall, he met the prisoner as they were taking him away. The hopeless man had no funds to pay the penalty. But the judge handed him his own personal check--for the full amount of the fine! He had solved his dilemma. As judge he had upheld the law. As friend he freed the guilty man, but at tremendous cost to himself.

And that, multiplied manyfold, is what God did for us at the cross. Sin was punished and integrity maintained, yet sinners were provided with forgiveness. At Calvary, God was our Just Judge and our Forgiving Friend.

The cross proves God will surely judge ALL sin. Many people foolishly turn down Christ's oh-so-costly and oh-so-generous offer to be their forgiver and debt-payer. Know it or not, by doing so they are demanding that the Judge sentence them to doom!--for that is what their sins and pride deserve. Rejecting the only way of escape, they leave Him no alternative but to exact strict justice.

(To be concluded)

NEWS and NOTES

Edited by Jack Blaes

Splendid Videos Available

After the July W&W on Genesis was published, Julius Hovan sent us a letter of warm appreciation. He also mentioned that the Gallatin Church of Christ library (P.O. Box 984, Tenn. 37066) has many videos on Creation vs. Evolution. We will send these to any individual, church or school. The only stipulations are: use carefully, do not copy, and return promptly. Almost 30 titles are available. They include a seminar (7 sessions) with Dr. Kent Hovind, & over 15 videos with John Mackay of Creation Research. Five of Mackay's have been prepared for use in public schools (presently being used in at least 4 states & in Canada).

For full information write the church library or phone (615) 452-0271.

Gallatin Church of Christ

Oct. 19th was Homecoming Sunday with Terry Morrison as speaker. We had all regular services with our usual great lunch at noon. Terry shared with us how we can know God and grow in Him even through adversity.

Sellersburg, Ind.

The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful season of refreshing. Wed & Thurs. evenings were profitable for time & eternity, because of the very needful messages from God's Word (Tapes are available. Please contact Clinton Dorman.) We thank Sonny Childs for the very good

seminar. It was a pleasure having Sonny, Cindy, and Bryson with us for a few days.

Our young people had a "special treat" with Open Christian Center, Sat. afternoon Seminar, and the "fun activity" at the Rick Dreyer's farm--a Feast-time and Hay Ride, etc.

Maple Manor Adult Division, Sellersburg, Ind. August 1997

The expansion project is now underway! We are very grateful to the Lord that He has seen to our reaching the goal of \$100,000 in the building fund. The Lord blessed the building fund in many ways.

As a result of this, we have engaged *The Interdesign Group of Indianapolis* as the architects for our building project. This firm has worked in the long term care field designing facilities for over 20 years. They are very knowledgeable as to building codes, regulations, etc. We are looking forward with excitement and expectation to the successful completion of this project. Please keep this in our prayers.

It looks as though we will be ready to begin construction as soon as possible in the spring, the Lord willing. All contributions to the building fund will help to lower the amount we must borrow!

Jennings, La.

Acadiana Bible Institute continues. Each Thursday evening this month, at the Crowley

church, Bruce Runner will hold forth on New Testament Survey.

Thanks to Bro. A. J. Bro A. J. has just completed the study in Revelation which began in February on Wednesday evenings. The survey was informative and inspiring.

The Bible and Archeology meeting nears. Dr. Harvey Porter, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, will share his experiences. For the past 20 years, he has led 30 trips to the Biblical world. A 1952 Abilene Christian College graduate with a major in Bible and minor in Greek, he went on to get an M.A. in Religion from Pepperdine and the Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary. Married 47 years, he and Sue have 4 children and 5 grandchildren.

Dr. Porter recently retired as minister of Montgomery Boulevard Church of Christ after 39 years to hold gospel meetings throughout the U.S. With a series of 52 presentations of the Bible and Archaeology for New Mexico Educational television, he has been accepted as an expert. Sessions held October 19 through 22.

E. L. Jorgenson Remembered

Sunday afternoon there was a meeting at the Highland church in Louisville to honor the memory of Bro. E. L. Jorgenson,

long-time minister and leader in the Churches of Christ, and, among many other worth-while contributions of his life, to remember with praise to God the gift of the *Great Songs of the Church*, which has ministered to the churches of Christ aiding us in properly worshiping our wonderful God and His glorious Son our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Great Songs* has been one of America's leading song books for more than sixty years. E. L. Jorgenson-- "...He being dead..." yet singeth.

Antioch Church

The Antioch Church, near Frankfort, Ky. celebrated home-coming, Sunday, Oct. 5 with dinner-on-the-grounds and a Sunday thru Wed series of messages on prophecy yet to be fulfilled. Jack Blaes, former minister of 27 years was honored to be invited to deliver the message. It was truly "home-coming" for Ann and me. The fellowship was "like to that above."

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A Memorable Day At Amite Church of Christ

Some days are bench marks in the history of a church. Sept. 13, 1997 was one of those historic days in the history of our church. The very first full-blown youth rally that anyone in the congregation could remember was held, and it shall never be forgotten. The theme was

“Bridging The Gap” and focused upon how Jesus bridges those gaps in life for people. Nearly 250 people hit the doors at 9:00 AM with hardly any idea of what good things lay in store for that day. Kids from a number of churches of Christ were present along with a large percentage of non-church of Christ kids from the local area. By 5:00 PM everyone had been filled with so much joy that it could hardly be contained. What a day it was!

The speaker for the day was Paul Gillihan, preacher at the Big Creek Church of Christ located just north of Amite. Paul has been in our community only about one year, but has made a tremendous impact in the lives of many kids in that short time. He also teaches junior high and high school at Oak Forest Academy and has been a very positive influence there. The catalyst which brought out such a great measure of praise from everyone was the singing group “Full Access” from Nashville, TN. They kept the crowd on their feet nearly the entire time and brought them to a wonderful crescendo of praise and worship of our God. Never have these walls witnessed such laughter, joy, clapping and singing. Though a few of the songs had taped instrumental accompaniment, most did not and for those kids and grown-ups who had never heard this type of unaccompanied singing before, this event was nothing less than unbelievable!

In addition to focusing upon the theme of Jesus bridging gaps in people’s lives, both the kids and the adults were proud of our church’s effort to “bridge gaps” in our community. The dedication of the kids was seen in many ways, but especially in their going out in person to area churches to promote the youth rally. Along with spiritual nourishment, the church provided fully-loaded grilled hamburgers for lunch which were heartily received.

Thanks was given to many people for the success of the day. To Paul, to “Full Access”, to our church members and to many others who had a part in the day. But, especially we gave thanks to our Lord Jesus Who made it all come together. Prayer was the major part of the planning and He went beyond our expectations . . .we just didn’t get mercy drops, He gave us showers! By 6:30 PM everyone was gone and some of the adults stood outside to see “Full Access” off. As we watched the taillights of their van disappear a feeling of sadness was present because the day had come to an end. Yet, at the same time we had a profound sense of joy and thanksgiving as we stood around talking and laughing about the events of the day. Before departing we took a few moments while out on the sidewalk and prayed. Forming a circle we took each other’s hands and simply thanked our Lord first for what He did on the cross and also for what He did for us that day. You know, some days are bench marks in the history of a church. . .

CLOSE CALLS--

Perils Of Bible Translation

“Bible readers are familiar with Jesus’ warm words in John 15:15, ‘I call you my friends,’ Until Dr. Osborn corrected it, Peru’s Cuzco Quechua draft of that passage, derived from a misunderstanding of the Spanish Bible, put these words in Jesus’ mouth, ‘I call you my thieves.’

The same draft, also misunderstanding the Spanish bible, at Mark 3:10 said of Jesus, ‘The people packed Him down in a basket.’ Of course, the consultant pointed out the right word from another version. The passage now correctly reads, ‘The people crowded Him.’

An African draft of the Luke 8:5 parable of the sower said, ‘The sower dropped some seed into the hole he poked in the soil.’ Dr. Osborn pointed out to the translator that, as in Jesus’ day, the Greek word ‘sowed’ means to broadcast or scatter the seed on the surface of the soil. The translator gasped, ‘Oh, I see Here in Tchad, we never scatter seed. We only poke seed holes in the plowed soil. I always thought that the farmer in the parable was foolish to use his pole to try to poke planting holes in the path and in the stony, thorny soil!’”