

"Holding fast the Faithful Word . . ."



The Word and Work



"Holding forth the Word of Life."

JANUARY, 1999

What if the world
GRINDS TO A HALT?

**Y2K: Opportunities to MINISTER, to
EVANGELIZE, and to GROW OUR FAITH!**

Joe Beam found out that spiritual foes are
very **REAL**

R. H. Boll:
a fighter for Freedom,
a lover of opponents

The School of Biblical Studies presents

SEEING *the* UNSEEN

A Seminar on

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

led by

JOE BEAM

President of Family Dynamics Institute

Author of *Seeing the Unseen*

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- 1. Learning to See the Unseen**
- 2. Forces at Work Against Us**

Saturday, March 27, 9:00 - Noon

- 3. Forces at Work Within Us**
- 4. Forces at Work For Us**

What are angels? Do they help us? -- What is Satan's master strategy? -- What power does Satan have?-- Does Satan empower some humans? -- How does Satan use pain? How does he use religion? -- Why does God let Satan hurt us? -- How do the cross of Christ and the Holy Spirit make victory possible? -- How does faith give us the victory?

THE WORD AND WORK

"Declare the whole counsel of God"

Alex V. Wilson, Editor

Dennis L. Allen, Missions

Bennie Hill, New & Notes

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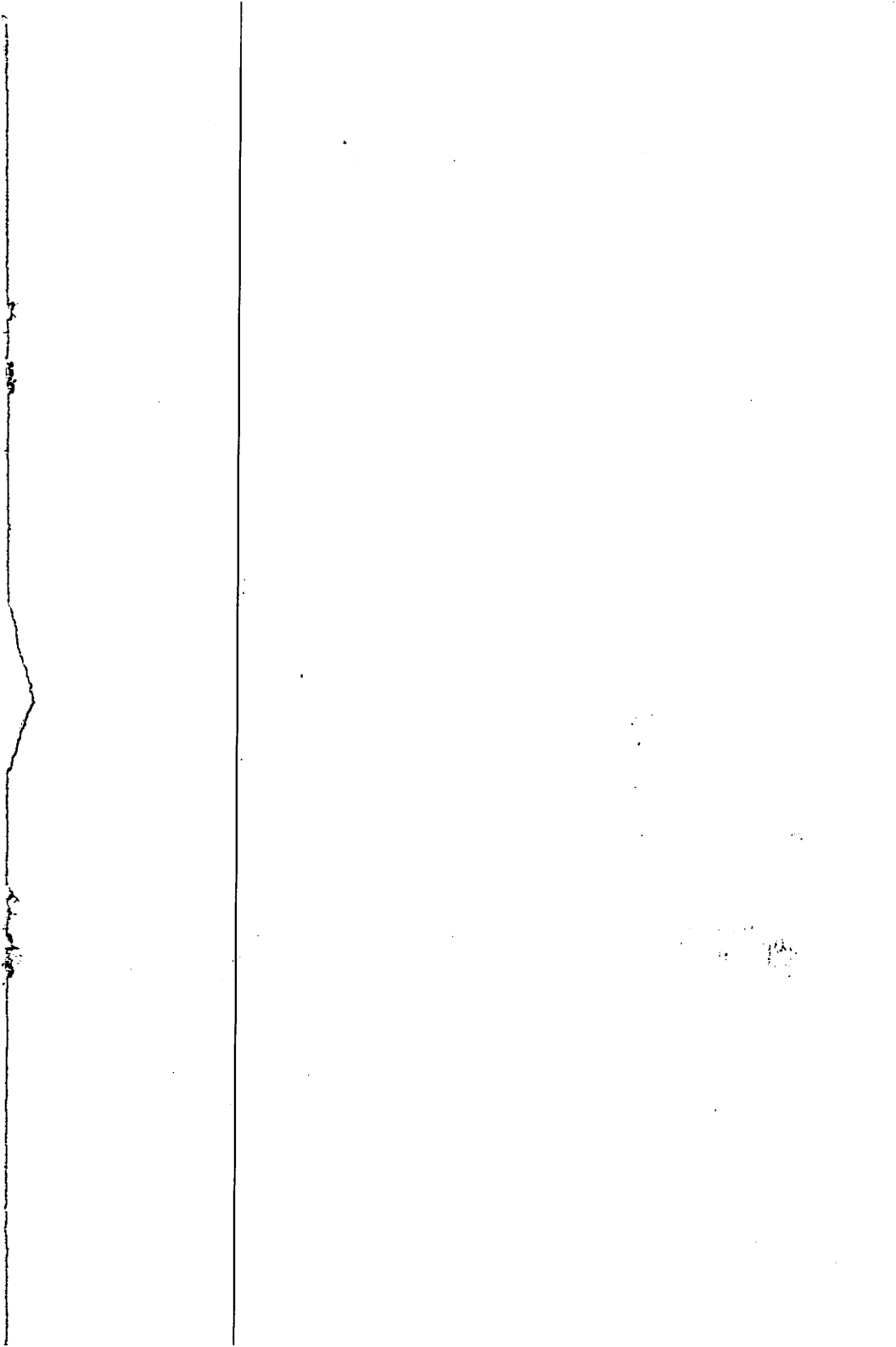
JANUARY, 1999

No. 1

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*The 5 year budgeting system of a U.S. government agency failed while processing the fifth year (2000).

*The case management system of some courts do not accept a probation period extending past 1999 because '00' and following years are flagged as invalid dates.

*Driving licenses due to expire in 2000 are being rejected as already expired by some car rental agencies.

*Some [not all] credit card transaction processing systems refuse cards which expire in 2000. (quoted in Y2K-CPR)

O'Riley calls these embedded computer chips "the unseen guardians of our lives. They keep the oil, gas, water and electricity flowing; they keep intensive care units operating and our military forces armed and mobile." Some of them (nobody knows how many or exactly which ones) are date-sensitive, and will probably be affected when the date "00" rolls around. Depending on which ones shut down, the following problems are somewhere between "possible" and "probable": The 911 emergency phone system malfunctions. Local public services break down--light, heat (in January!), water, sewage disposal, telephones. Prescription medicines may not be available if their expiration dates are after 2000. If there are massive breakdowns in communication and transportation, food may be seriously delayed in reaching the supermarkets.

The 11-28-98 issue of *World* magazine gives this report: A survey by a multi-national consulting firm "says virtually every big corporation has a war plan for battling the bug. But nine out of ten have already missed repair deadlines....GartnerGroup's numbers are worse: 23% of all enterprises haven't started Y2K fixes." All of which seems to reinforce Ed Yourdon's dire outlook given above: it's too late to fix the entire system in time.

Extreme Rumors

But some far-out exaggerations are making the rounds too. An article in the December *Reader's Digest* tends to downplay the whole problem by focusing mainly on some exaggerated fears. Various rumors have spread about 1-1-2000: All pacemakers will go haywire (actually, says the article, they are not affected by the month or year). The stock exchanges will malfunction (no, they "fully expect to be ready for Y2K"). Nuclear plants will start melting down (no, "the worst thing that would happen is [they] would shut down"). Your word processor, internet browser and email will expire (no, they'll "probably work just fine" even if your PC still uses a 2-digit date format, though you might have trouble doing "budget or spreadsheet functions"). Perhaps that article is correct about some or all of those

particular points. But I believe its conclusion -- that there is really no major problem -- is dangerous because it doesn't consider the big picture. Just because a few predictions have been overstated doesn't mean there's no trouble at all and we can relax. Nevertheless, the writer ends with a point that may have some validity:

So what could fail? We won't have to wait until January 1, 2000, to find out. Airlines sell tickets up to a year in advance, and customers can start booking for 2000 next month [Jan.'99]. Different computer systems throughout the world have to link up, and that will be a test of how well the converted systems are working together.

Just Hiccups, or a Heart Attack?

Let me repeat: **Nobody knows how big or how many the problems will be.** Estimates range from one end of the spectrum to the other. We referred above to the opinions of "experts." But there are experts on both sides. I asked a respected friend of mine, who works in the field of computer systems, "On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the worst), how bad do you believe Y2K will be?" "Three," he replied. So we see that some knowledgeable folks expect a mere "brownout," others predict a severe "blackout," and some forecast a devastating "melt-down."

Well, then, since that's the case, **how can we non-experts know who's right? And what to do?** I'm impressed by Karen Anderson's approach. She writes,

It seems fairly evident that Y2K will pose "challenges." What we don't know is how difficult those challenges will be. At best there will be inconveniences. At worst, it could mean a major disruption in the way we live our lives.

Most of these types of "challenges" aren't unique to the year 2000 problem. Many of these same problems could befall you in the event of a natural disaster, such as an earthquake, tornado, hurricane, or ice storm. Yet, unlike an earthquake or a flood, when the Y2K problem will happen is totally predictable. We know exactly when the clock will strike twelve....

You still may not be convinced that Y2K is really a problem. That's OK, because what I'm recommending about being prepared for an emergency applies whether you believe in Y2K or not. Being prepared...applies to earthquakes, floods, snow-storms, power outages, any kind of disaster, natural or man-made, that could strike. **By being prepared in the unlikely event of a disaster, you increase the chances of keeping yourself and your family safe.** (quoted in Y2K-CPR)

She keeps mentioning "being prepared." What does she mean? Well, the Y2K-CPR manual from which we have quoted several times

recommends "12 Steps of Preparation for the Crisis." Most are obvious, others are quite controversial. Here are a few of the obvious ones:

- *Have a supply of pure drinking water (it gives over a page of advice on this).
- *Stockpile food and necessary household goods.
- *Have adequate clothing for warmth.
- *Have your 1st-aid-kit ready (just in case) & your regular medicines well stocked.
- *Be ready to cook, heat and light with non-electric energy sources.
- *Have some extra money at home, in case you can't use checks, credit-cards or ATMs for a week (or month?)

[And here's an additional thought of mine, related to that last point: Let's see that our missionaries have an extra month's supply of funds on hand -- that is, in *their* hands -- in case we can't forward it to them via usual channels in Jan. 2000. For other parts of the world are further behind the U.S. in Y2K preparedness, and the banks in Africa and Asia, etc. may be unable to receive funds from the U.S. for some time.]

Well, the matters we just listed will keep us busy for awhile. Then we can do some more. **Those may seem like impossible tasks. But they are not, if we do them a little at a time, continuously.** Over and over the various leaders who are sounding the Y2K alarm tell us, Prepare little by little, but steadily. As the old saying goes, "Eat the elephant one bite at a time." **1st, get enough food, water and other essentials for a 3-DAY EMERGENCY.** Once you've done that, build up to a week's supply. By then you're getting the hang of it, so build up to 4 weeks. (Get double your usual amount of canned goods every week for a month, and you've accomplished that one part. That's not so hard, is it?) Then, for extra safety, you may want to expand to 2 months' supplies. After that...? Stay tuned, pray and think and decide for yourself.

But **Do Not Delay.** Pray about this, certainly. Make a thorough study of it, of course. Discuss it with your church, friends and neighbors, yes. But while you are praying, studying and discussing -- **start doing something NOW about that 3-day plan.** It was the end of November when I began writing this. The previous weekend Ruth and I bought some Coleman lamps, some extra batteries and extra nonperishable food--enough for over 3 days. Then the Christmas rush began, and Mom Wood's death...so we've had little time to give to this since then. More needs to be done, and soon. But at least we've begun, as we continue to pray and discuss it. By the way, there's nothing unethical about this. Mike Hyatt observes, "Purchasing food when it is plen-

tiful and storing it for an emergency is not hoarding...but stockpiling. Hoarding will occur after a disaster when those who didn't prepare strip grocery shelves and squirrel away the food for their own use."

This whole Y2K business often seems unreal -- like a fantastic dream. Could it turn out to be just a practical joke some computer-jerks are playing on us all? One guy claims, "This is the most over-hyped technology thing in my whole career." Is his opinion on target? From my study thus far I'm inclined to believe he's missing it widely. But even if he is correct, remember that floods, blizzards, tornadoes, earthquakes or another massive economic depression could strike unexpectedly. It never hurts to be prepared. The Bible says, "A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it" (*Prov.22:3*). Friends, let's be prudent.

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE to the YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

Alex V. Wilson

You may have observed that the preceding article never quotes Scripture till the last paragraph! Is God's Word just an afterthought, used to bolster a view which may not be scriptural at all? I don't think so. That first article needed to lay the groundwork for those few who are largely unaware of what the possible problems are. Now we move on to basic spiritual considerations.

I believe the Lord has graciously done for us what He did for Egypt in the days of Joseph. That time He did it supernaturally, through Pharaoh's dreams and Joseph's interpretation. This time He's done it naturally, by letting the Y2K computer-bug be discovered and warnings broadcast by those in the know.

Notice: (1)The Lord forewarned Egypt of a soon-coming crisis, and (2)through Joseph gave wisdom to prepare for it. But (3)He did not prevent the crisis, nor solve it for them automatically. (4)They had to work hard to prevent the calamity of starvation. Since they did so, (5)they came safely through the famine. Perhaps the same five steps will occur today. Many, including myself, believe that (1)much evidence exists of a soon-coming crisis -- though its magnitude is unknown. (2)God is able to give us the wisdom we need to meet it. But (3)at present it seems He will not prevent the catastrophe. Instead, (4)hard work will be required to prepare for it, as in Joseph's

day. Yet with confidence in our heavenly Father, and prayer for wisdom, plus hard work, (5)we may be able to come safely through.

Would God Do Such a Thing?

You might ask that question. Would God do such a disastrous thing as some predict that Y2K may be? Would He cause devastation such as the breakdown of electricity, and the banking system, and government, and food supplies? No, don't blame Him for it. It's men, not God, whose folly goofed up the computers. It's men, not God, who have for some years ignored the warnings of those who foresaw this tragedy.

Now sometimes the Lord does send destruction. The flood in Noah's day. The Assyrians to deport Israel in 722 B.C. The Babylonians to conquer Judah and destroy Jerusalem (including the temple) in 586 B.C. He sent these horrors as judgments on His people's persistent sins. At other times He sent various judgments as warnings, so His people might repent and escape full punishment.

I gave you empty stomachs...yet you have not returned to me, declares the Lord. I also withheld rain from you...yet you have not returned to me. I struck your gardens with blight and mildew...yet you have not returned to me. I sent plagues among you...yet... I overthrew some of you...yet....

Therefore prepare to meet your God, O Israel. (Amos 4:6-12)

But often God merely allows adversities to take place. They are caused by human evil or error, or by Satanic attacks. God simply permits them, for reasons known to Him. We think of Job, and Israel's forty years of wandering in the wilderness, and martyrdoms such as Stephen's and James.' God didn't cause those tribulations.

Similar tragedies, whether caused or simply permitted by the Lord, have occurred up till the present. And that's our point: He didn't stop them. The Black Death (bubonic plague) wiped out at least one fourth of Europe's population during the mid-1300s. Again, the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), fought over religion, reduced Germany's population from fifteen million to less than five million. The century now ending has seen World War I, the flu epidemic of 1918, the Great Depression, the horrors of Hitler's holocaust and the slave-labor camps of Stalin and Mao, the annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the angst of Viet-Nam, and Christians in Sudan being crucified or sold as slaves. So what makes us think God will not allow Y2K to occur?

When you consider it, perhaps 1/3 of the Psalms were written due to emergencies the psalmist was undergoing. And most of the OT pro-

phetic books were written in times of crisis. So why do we think God will prevent Y2K? He can, of course, and He may (for His mercies endure forever). Let's pray that He will, if that be best, or that at least He will curtail its severity. Regarding our current government crisis, and its root -- our moral crisis -- as well as Y2K, I often repeat Habakkuk's prayer, "O Lord, In wrath remember mercy" (3:2).

But since we know 1-1-2000 marches always nearer, and may bring severe trials, let's do what Joseph did. He warned Pharaoh. Should we not warn our fellow-Christians and fellow-citizens about Y2K? They may ridicule us, but so what? Let's be wise in doing this, and avoid extremism. But let's warn people -- by means of well-researched sermons, classes, articles, and personal exhortations. Let's also plan and act. *Joseph planned his work, and worked his plan.* Let's do the same.

We need not panic, for God is with us. (See the next article.) **But we need to prayerfully prepare.** It is better to prepare for the worst and be pleasantly surprised (even at the risk of being jeered, "I told you so"), than to glibly expect only the best and be grimly disappointed -- and even threatened by it.

We must not let fear of Y2K nor busyness regarding Y2K divert us from the Great Commission worldwide nor evangelism here at home. In fact, we can use the growing fear over this matter to open doors for testifying about Jesus our Lord. When warning folks about the need to prepare for Y2K, whatever its degree of severity, we can add: "Of course nobody knows how bad the year 2000 crisis will be, but everybody knows that sooner or later this life will end. Then our Creator will hold us responsible for our deeds, words and thoughts during this life. That's why we definitely need to make our peace with God -- and I believe Jesus is the only Way to do that."

Jessica Wadkins put it very well: "**Prepare for Y2K as a time for ministry.** If [at that time] someone comes to your door seeking assistance, will you have enough supplies on hand to help him? What will your attitude be -- one of hope...or terror?" I heard of a church in a town of 30,000 (I believe it was) who began early in this matter of preparation. They have already stockpiled enough food, not only for all the members of their congregation but everyone in their whole town! That's vision, and ministry, and lifestyle evangelism. May we seek wisdom from the Lord regarding these matters.

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCES for TIMES of TROUBLE

When trials and tribulations loom on the horizon, we need to lean hard on our Lord God's wonderful words of comfort.

**Feed upon His great promises
to protect and provide for His children.**

***The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him. --Nahum 1:7**

**Do not worry, saying "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. --Matt. 6:31-33*

***Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!...It stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest....How long will you lie there, you sluggard?....A little sleep, a little slumber...and poverty will come on you like a bandit. --Prov. 6:6-11 [This passage helps us not to mis-apply the previous passage.]**

***Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. --1 Pet. 5:7**

***Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vine, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength. --Habak. 3:17-18**

***My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. --Phil. 4:19**

***Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. --Isa. 43:1-2**

***Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. --Phil. 4:6,7**

***Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. --Isa.41:10**

**In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.... Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. --John 16:33b; 14:2*

***Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge under the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. --Psa. 57:1**

**We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. --Rom. 8:28*

***The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing. --Zeph. 3:17**

**The Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships,...in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. --2 Cor. 12:9,10*

***The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. --Isa. 40:28,29**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. --Rom. 15:13*

***O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. --Psa. 34:3,4**

**Be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." --Heb. 13:5,6*

***God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea....The LORD Almighty is with us. --Psa.46:1,2,7a**

More Quotes about Y2K

Be Cautious, not Nutty

"I don't think people should panic, but I don't think people should disregard [Y2K] either. Caution is the key.

"I'm more worried about people going nuts than machines not being able to handle the problem...."

"Pastors should be leading and advising -- not causing their congregations to panic. They should advise common sense. The Christian community as a whole should be an example by being responsible and cautious -- not instigating panic." --Jason Clemmer, a lab engineer at Century Date-Change / New Technology

* * *

But Don't Think it Can't Happen at All

Here were the results of a problem that already occurred -- a problem that was similar in nature to Y2K: *"A telephone outage, which occurred in New York City on September 17, 1991, shut down all three New York airports for four hours. Why? Because of low voltage, AT&T's computers were taken off the network. And when its backup generators failed to run because of a hookup failure and a series of other mishaps, the phone service eventually shut down--causing massive problems in the city. It is estimated that 5 million phone calls were stopped, and almost 1,200 flights were delayed or canceled."*

Here's another incident: *"A computer in an emergency room read a 99-year-old man's white blood cell count as normal -- even though it was highly abnormal -- because the readings were within the limits for an infant child. The man was born in 1889, but the computer assumed his birth date to be 1989." --Family Voice magazine (Nov./Dec.'98)*

* * *

Comments from a Y2K Skeptic

News columnist James K. Glassman believes that worry about Y2K has blossomed into "full-blown, completely unwarranted hysteria" based on "paranoia, end-of-the-world religiosity, hatred of technology and fear of the future." He reports that an extensive study by Merrill Lynch & Co. revealed that "all 29 Latin American banks that were surveyed 'will be compliant,' as will eight of the 10 major U.S. pollution-control companies (the others are listed as 'likely compliant')."

Glassman continues, "Lacking the spur of competition, federal and state government agencies are behind the private sector, but they are hustling. The Social Security Administration, for example, is in great shape, but...only 6% of state Medicaid systems were compliant, raising the specter of delays in benefit payments."

* * *

Report from the Office of Kentucky's Governor

A booklet published by this office has a list of **potential Y2K problems**: *Benefit and payroll systems may fail or miscalculate information. *Billing systems may fail or miscalculate information. *Critical infrastructure like stoplights and sewage systems may fail. *Personnel and academic records could be invalidated. *Security systems may fail or malfunction. *Heating, ventilation, and airconditioning systems may fail."

It continues, "**The Year 2000 Problem has Already Struck**. You may have heard news reports about: *credit card failures; *customer accounts accidentally deleted; *incorrect billings; *deleted health care records....

"Some analysts estimate that more than 5% of medium to small companies will go out of business!"

* * *

Prudence, Yes. Hysteria, No.

Lamb and Lion Ministries' Dec.'98 *Lamplighter* just arrived. Here are excerpts from an article by David Reagan:

"...Grant Jeffrey lists 42 pieces of home equipment that contain embedded chips. The list ranges from your auto to your TV, and contains many other items like your refrigerator, microwave, washer and dryer, camcorder, and clock radio. He then asks, 'Will the failure of any of [these items] have a negative impact on your family's life?' Sounds pretty scary, doesn't it?

"Well, what he fails to point out is that most likely there is not a single one of the 42 items that contains a chip that is sensitive to the year date! Time sensitive, yes, but not date sensitive. When you set your microwave, do you insert a date? Of course not. You only insert a time that you want it to run. Even when setting your VCR to record a future TV program, all you set is the month, day and time. It doesn't ask for the year.

"The fact...is that probably less than 5% of all embedded chips are date sensitive with regard to the year. Still, that represents a large number -- how large, no one seems to know..."

"The bottom line is that, yes, there are going to be some problems. All of us may be inconvenienced to one degree or another. But the end of the world scenarios that are clogging the Internet are nothing but rumor-mongering nonsense.....

"My greatest concern is that the rumor mongers will generate enough hysteria to cause runs on banks. In other words, some of the disaster prophecies could become self-fulfilling through the hysteria that they manufacture....

" 'A prudent man sees evil and hides himself'....[but] the hysterical person sees danger where there is none."

* * *

A Senator's Findings

Senator Bob Bennett, R-Utah, is the Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem. Thus he has the task of analyzing the U.S. private sector's preparedness for Y2K. Since he holds Congressional hearings about this, he regularly hears testimony from representatives of the electric utilities industry, global financial institutions, the health care industry, and the telecommunications industry.

In mid-1998, around 6 months ago, he said, "My line on the seriousness of the problem is, I tell everybody I'm Paul Revere, but I'm not yet Chicken Little. The British are coming, we need to get out of bed and get worried. But as of the moment I'm not ready to say the sky is falling."

He also reported, "A major oil company...tested one of its oil refineries. They found that the refinery had 90 separate systems that somehow used a microprocessor. Many of these were key systems. Of the 90 systems, they were able to come up with detailed documentation on 70. Of these 70, they determined that twelve had date dependent embedded chips. Of the 12, four failed a Y2K test and will have to be replaced. Had any of the four failed on January 1st, 2000, they would either have completely shut down the plant or would have caused a high level safety hazard which would have caused other systems to shut it down.

"What is really worrying the company's experts now is the other 20 systems. They don't know what functions the chips in these systems have and are leaning toward replacing them all. This happens to be a relatively modern plant...." [I.e., many older plants will probably have even worse results.--avw]

"A midwestern electric generation facility...was taken off-line to test for Y2K compliance. When the test clock was rolled forward to January 1st, 2000, a safety system mistakenly detected dangerous operating condi-

tions and shut the generator down. After three days, they reran the test, only to have a different sector fail,, shutting down the generators again....

"Infrastructure plays an important supporting role for almost any business. Utilities, for example, are dependant on transportation, telecommunications, water and sewer facilities; all of which are critical to continuous business operations.

"Ripple effects are an important concern. If foreign oil production is not Y2K compliant, or if oil tankers' navigation and propulsion systems are not Y2K compliant, what effect will that have on our electric generation facilities that are dependent on petroleum products to generate power?...."

Senator Bennett, Part 2 (Speaking Months Later)

"As I deal with the Y2K thing the old cliché about peeling an onion comes to mind, and the more I get closer to the core of this onion the more my eyes cloud up and the more difficulty I have trying to tell you exactly what's going to happen....

"The biggest handicap anybody has in trying to come up with an answer to [the questions] -- that is, is the [electric] power grid going to work, are we going to have telephone service, is the water system going to fail, etc. etc.... is the lack of information. And the one frustrating thing about the Committee that I chair is that as we probe in all of these areas -- and we've now held hearings virtually across the entire spectrum -- we still don't know. People lie to us. Or they don't talk to us at all." [Emphasis added]

* * *

For Websites & also Free Materials on the Year 2000 Problem:

Why not get a copy of the 48-page magazine, Y2K-CPR, plus an accompanying audio-cassette, "The Many Faces of Y2K." (*1 copy of each is free; after that, you may order the mags in sets of 50, @ \$0.50 per mag. + postage*) Contact David Bradshaw at 1-800- 289-2646. Or you may order by email: ideaman@y2knet.com

Some but not all contributors to these resources are Christians. Differing views and opinions are expressed, from moderate to extreme. The magazine also lists many websites on the internet with valuable information and practical suggestions. Some of them are as follows:

www.y2kwomen.com www.y2kprep.com www.y2knet.com

www.y2knews.com

Spiritual Enemies are REAL Enemies

Joe Beam

(Thousands of people around the country have attended Joe Beam's seminars on various important topics--the grace of God; strengthening marriage; spiritual warfare. He will speak on that last subject at the S. B. S. Seminar in Louisville on March 26-27. See last month's W&W pages 349-50, regarding his marriage seminars.

Brother Beam has spoken at many places including "Jubilee" in Nashville, also at Pepperdine and David Lipscomb universities. The following is excerpted by permission of Howard Publishing Co. from Joe's book, "*Seeing the Unseen*". He begins his book asking, "Who am I to guide you?" --avw)

Who am I to guide you as you search for deeper understanding on spiritual matters? I am not a well-known Bible scholar. I have no great experience in casting out demons or speaking in tongues or working miracles. I am simply a Christian businessman who is a respectful and serious student of the Word of God and who is fiercely committed to arming myself and others against the evil ones in this spiritual warfare.

Perhaps more important to this study, I used to be a minister for growing churches, but I lost my ministry because of my own grievous sin. In the process, I lost my wife and children. Worst of all, I lost my intimate communion with God. I experienced my own personal hell as I allowed the devil to convince me I was separated from God. Having bought that lie, I lived as one lost. I became rebellious and insensitive, unable to pray, and bitterly angry toward God and His church.

My knowledge of what is now popularly called "spiritual warfare" wasn't learned from a weekend seminar or from leading a great church in a victorious battle against evil or from sitting at the feet of a great scholar. It wasn't gleaned from the numerous popular books on the subject. It was learned in trenches of sin -- fighting wicked angels who used my own weaknesses against me. Their weapons included lies and deception and manipulation, and the battle was waged in my heart and mind. Struggling with the deceptions I accepted and the lies I believed -- even when I knew deep in my heart what God wanted of me -- eventually led me to face what was behind those deceptions and to see the unseen.

My victory in Jesus was won several years ago. Not only was the war won in my life, it was won in the lives of my wife and our children. We are together now -- protected by God, shielded by

faith. We know evil. We know the schemes of Satan. Thankfully, we also know the power of God and the validity of prayer.

Since my victory, God has sent many struggling warriors my way. Like myself, many have been blinded by Satan's lies and deceptions. I am impressed over and over with the need for spiritual vision -- the ability to see the unseen. Driven by a desire to equip these searching souls with the power to be victorious, I began to study the unseen. I felt that the answers must be somewhere in the spiritual realm that I believed existed but knew so little about. My motivation was potent: I never again wanted to watch anyone, including myself, buy the lies of Satan. I'm certain God doesn't either.

When my study began, I found that I knew nearly nothing about spiritual warfare. My Christian heritage is in a brotherhood that studies little about angels, demons, or spirits. We are a biblical people who pride ourselves in our knowledge of the Word. When we come together in regional gatherings, we are more likely to debate the meaning of a certain Greek word in a specific passage than to explore the power of spiritual beings. Our knowledge of the Holy Spirit, angels, demons, and spirits is limited, and although our scholars have studied them, the person in the pew hardly knows they exist. I appreciate the deep love for the Bible my brotherhood created in me, but to win this spiritual war I need something more. I must grow past knowing the technical to understanding the spiritual. I crave a deep-seated knowledge of the Bible, but much more intensely, I want a close and personal walk with God.

Perhaps your religious heritage is similar, or perhaps for some other reason, it hasn't given you the personal relationship you want with God. Then you must open your eyes.

I discovered that my relationship with God was immensely strengthened by my knowledge of the spirit world. Studying the Scriptures on Satan made God more holy, more wonderful, and more desirable. Realizing that angels -- both good and bad -- operate in my daily world has caused me to change my perspective on many things, including religion.

I now find myself looking for the unseen in almost every situation I encounter. With the insight gained in my search, I can help people who come to me with their problems in ways I never imagined. By His marvelous grace, God presently uses me to help many people see the unseen, finding His deliverance before the evil ones destroy them. He has done that by having me invited to conduct weekend seminars on Spiritual Warfare across the United States and Canada.

There is so much evil to be battled that this book is the next step in God's using me.

Spiritual Warfare Is Real.

But the real battle of evil is not against ghosts or demonic possession. It is in ourselves. *The primary tool of Satan is not possession, it is deception.* It is time we look past the exciting to the real. Unprovable, often unbiblical, wild, and misleading speculations on this subject don't help Christians win the spiritual war. They aid and abet Satan. Those believing the wildly sensational get so busy looking for a demon under every bush that they unwittingly expose themselves to the real attacks of satanic forces, which come unseen from seemingly innocent sources and hit them on the blind side. On the other hand, those who reject the *sensationalism* often reject the *reality* of the spiritual war that the sensationalism masks. Rejecting the foolish they also reject the wise. The devil becomes a cartoon character not to be feared but to be ignored, having no more power or substance than the goblins of children's dreams.

Satan *is* real. There *are* angels about us. If you believe the Bible is true, you must believe this is true.

R. H. Boll as a Writer, Editor, and Christian

Part 2

Alex V. Wilson

C. He Valued Doctrinal Freedom -- for All, not just Himself

Boll might aptly be called a "freedom fighter." He had left a religion in which the hierarchy dictated what the members had to believe. Such a system discouraged the individual from studying God's Word for himself. Unthinking obedience was required. To Boll this was totally contrary to the Berean attitude which Scripture commends (Acts 17:11).

He was determined to follow what he thought God's Word taught rather than follow any group's party-line. He valued his freedom more than popularity or riches. And he sought to extend such freedom to others too. He claimed he never forced his own strongly-held beliefs on others. Was that true or not?

Notice first his claim. When in the *Word and Work* he announced his "winter course of Bible classes" for 1916-17, he explained "the nature of the Bible work":

.... The members of these classes, both the teacher and the taught, are free under God. The teacher counts his liberty in Christ precious. By liberty he does not mean license,...nor irresponsibility, nor a disregard of love and righteous restraint--but the liberty of the children of God, which includes the privilege of studying, believing and teaching all the Word of God with all faithfulness, no man forbidding...

The students are just as free as the teacher. They search and study as unto God. If any fact or truth is pointed out and the student sees it for himself in God's Word, he is free to accept it. If he is unable to see it, he is free (and even obliged) to reject it, and that without fear of affecting our mutual love and fellowship.

That was Boll's stated goal. Did he accomplish it? The edition of *Word and Work* which was published the month after his death contained a number of "Tributes from Friends." One was by Howard Marsh, long-time preacher in Sellersburg, Indiana. He wrote,

To me there was one thing that stood out in the life and work of Brother Boll. He never forced or even asked anyone to agree with him in his teaching, but left us free to examine God's word. I spent seven years in his classes, and not once during this time did he ask me to accept what he taught us unless we could see clearly that it was what the word of God taught. Neither did I hear him ask anyone else this question.

Another preacher, Gaston Collins, stressed this fact in his testimony too:

It seemed to me that he was always willing to let me be responsible for my own faith -- not once did he (nor those associated with him) ever try to get me to sign on the dotted line, or sound me out to line me up on any peculiar item of faith or doctrine, to commit me to their views. To me...this idea of freedom in Christ...grew to be very precious.

Hans Rollmann points out that during Boll's dispute with the Gospel Advocate in 1915 he made the freedom of the Christian a main point in his discussions and considered his views on prophecy to be included in such evangelical freedom. He saw that freedom vanishing when only one party line was being propagated. Thus he defended his articulation of eschatological views with reference to a wide spectrum of millennial thinking in the past. He wrote in a letter of 26 May 1915 to J.C. McQuiddy:

"If old Bro. J L Martin can publish the Voice of the Seven Thunders; Johnson his Vision of the Ages; A M Morris his Prophecy Unveiled; if the Standard can give Battenfield's book serialim [in serial form] to its readers and no one fear any divisions of Churches from these causes, why should my humble teaching cause it? Unless, indeed, some should rise up in unbrotherly intolerance and by unbrotherly practices try to force a division; but in that case,

those men would themselves be the dividers, and the Lord will hold them to account."

Years later, as various leaders' attempts to silence Boll got worse, not better, he sounded the following alarm in a letter to N. B. Harde-
man.

Permit me to voice this warning to my brethren: that if we are unable to handle such a difference as this without division or disruption of fellowship we must evermore cease to preach unity to the denominational world; and if we make our prophetic views...an article of faith, to be subscribed to in order to fellowship, we forfeit the right to the name of the simple church of Christ, and must... adopt a sectarian designation to indicate that fact that we are Christians of a certain sectarian creed.³

It is obvious that RHB thought that Christians could maintain both freedom and fellowship, that there could be unity along with diversity. And I can testify that he practiced what he preached -- and it worked! For the last ten years of Boll's ministry at the Portland Avenue church, my father was one of the four elders there. We saw earlier that Boll opposed Christians' serving as combatants in war. My dad was a captain in the field artillery! Boll also took the view which David Lipscomb espoused in his book, *Civil Government*, that Jesus' disciples should not run for political office, nor vote in elections. Dad and at least some of the other elders regularly voted! Yet Dad thought the world of Brother Boll, and Boll had a great respect and love for Dad. I don't believe so much as an angry word ever passed between them. Their unity in Christ was greater than their differences in belief. That was loving, responsible freedom.

D. He was Gracious toward Those who Differed from Him -- Not Vengeful or Mean-spirited

Related to his positive approach was Boll's graciousness of attitude toward others. This was seen both in his writing and his editing. He would be the first to say that it is God's grace to us that stimulates our graciousness to others.

Though for decades he faced opposition that was often fierce, he infrequently referred to these matters in his magazine, and hardly at all in his sermons. I would guess that a sizeable number of people who heard him preach regularly had not the slightest idea that he was the object of sharp attacks. The inner core of the congregation knew about this -- in a general way from reading *Word and Work*, or in a more detailed way from the various papers of "the other side," as we termed the editors who opposed Brother Boll and "our" churches. And those in his regular classes (on Mon.-Wed. afternoons, for instance) might learn of such matters from questions sometimes raised by students re-

garding disputed doctrines or accusations which had been heard. But in the numerous classes I attended (maybe ten years of Fri. night classes, plus two years of Mon.-Wed. afternoons), I never remember his slurring his detractors nor even mentioning them by name. He considered them brethren, and would not drag them down. In warning against fundamental errors like modernism he would caution us against writers who were dangerous -- like Harry Emerson Fosdick. But in teaching about differences among people who were truly committed to God's Word, he would discuss *issues* (like legalism, sectarianism, or watering down God's promises) rather than *personalities*.

In January 1934, *Word and Work* publisher E. L. Jorgenson, probably Boll's closest friend, wrote these remarks as part of an article introducing the new year: "As to any personal reflections and aspersions directed our way, such scribes are to us, in this character, as if they did not exist. The editor of W&W rarely reads their fulminations. His message could well be: 'I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down.' (Neh. 6:3.)"

Another example of this magnanimous approach is found in a statement Jorgenson made twelve years later. He mentions that a series of articles in *Word and Work* had been strongly opposed by some writers. He and Boll had "disregarded" those criticisms "for the reason that they have generally come from harsh and 'extreme' sources"--people who were drawing lines and causing divisions. "But now there has appeared a long article from a man that we respect and esteem; a brother in the Lord that we have long thought of as wishing to be fair--namely, Brother G. C. Brewer." Then comes this significant sentence: "We call no names unless we can commend." Jorgenson then presented Brewer's criticisms and replied to them,

Yes, Boll (and his associates) called names when commending others, but not when replying to belligerent accusers. The latter he would ignore if he knew his replies would only be twisted and abused. Or, if his antagonists seemed to be honest seekers for truth, he would deal with issues and defend his position. But he chose not to vilify anyone.

Due to this policy, some of his aggressive opponents felt he was a wimp. His most caustic attacker from the early 1930s onward was Foy E. Wallace, Jr. (I would follow Boll's example and omit Brother Wallace's name, except that almost everyone knows of his opposition to Boll. And I'll refer to him for another reason soon.) Richard Hughes in his book, *Reviving the Ancient Faith*, writes,

In the very first issue of the Bible Banner, [Wallace] complained that 'a general softness is pervading the church....Plain preaching...[is] now yielding to the persuasions of the plush-

mouthed and velvet-tongued moderns.' He blamed this decline...on 'the Bollistic blight [that] has been a malignant growth in the body of Christ,' and on 'the spirit of pacifism....' He called instead for 'militant preaching...that defends the truth against all errors, teachers of error and institutions of error by name, make, model and number.'

Another preacher echoed those sentiments, writing "There are those among us who believe in being soft, noncontroversial, nonfighting. But the old Book still tells us to fight the good fight and to put on the whole armor of God." (!) His major targets in this regard were the Truth-Seeker, published at Harding College, "which is determined to be sweet-spirited, never pugnacious," and Boll's *Word and Work*, which "does not mention names of those it attacks."

Another writer we all know wrote these words: "The Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead he must be kind to everyone...not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct" (2 Tim.2:24-25). Say, that sounds good to me; what about you? In the memorial issue of *Word and Work*, published the month after his Homegoing, this trait of Boll's was mentioned by several of his friends in their tributes to him. For example, L. V. Houtz wrote that his life

taught the lesson that the great man of God has no time to defend self. For those who maligned him, Brother Boll had only the kindest of words. When one of his erstwhile enemies would be called from this earthly scene of action, Brother Boll would write a kindly tribute to the life of the departed brother. I am sure that now, as he shakes hands with them on the other side, the kindly feeling is mutual.

I myself was deeply touched several years ago when browsing through the Dec. 1937 *Word and Work*. Its "News and Notes" section contained reports sent in from churches in many parts of the country. One of them said, "Horse Cave, Ky.: Ancient gospel preached at Greer's Chapel by Brother Foy E. Wallace Jr. of Denton, Texas....Many heard, believed and were baptized. The Lord added daily to the church such as should be saved. Church strengthened and edified. Wallace...endeared [himself] to us. -- R. L. Dunagan." That report had crossed Boll's desk. Perhaps Jorgenson asked, "Should we run that in *Word and Work*?" I am guessing that Boll replied, "Yes, why not? We hold no malice in our hearts toward him."

Ten months later, in the Oct. 1938 *Bible Banner*, Wallace declared pre-millennialists and their sympathizers no longer members of Churches of Christ. Nonetheless, Boll continued to apply the words of Paul we quoted above. He felt Edwin Markham's poem summarized it well:

He drew a circle that shut me out --
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!

³ Boll's letter, which includes at Hardeman's request a long list of the former's beliefs, was written Jan. 11, 1939. It may be found in Thomas Bradshaw's book, *R. H. Boll: Controversy and Accomplishment Among Churches of Christ* (Louisville: Word and Work Publishers, 1998).

[To be continued]

More on Brother Boll and Christian Freedom and Fellowship

Since writing the preceding paper, I ran across a wonderful example of how Bro. Boll not only asked for "freedom" in studying God's Word, but also extended it. He practiced what he preached. I have never heard anyone tell of the following incident, but it was reported (probably by E. L. Jorgenson) in the "News and Notes" section of the Oct. 1945 *Word and Work*, page 221. It's too bad there is no indication of when these events occurred, nor who the brother was. (Don Haymes guesses it was J. D. Tant in the early 1930s, but the evidence is merely circumstantial.) Now here's the quote. --avw

Fellowship and Liberty

A good brother says, "I received a copy of the *Word and Work* and enjoyed it very much. I do not hold to your views concerning the second coming of Christ, but I appreciate very much your attitude concerning fellowship."

We appreciate this fine expression from our good brother. It might interest this brother and others to know that an aged brother, whom we love for his work's sake, at one time asked for permission to speak in Portland Avenue Congregation where Brother Boll is minister, stating that he wished to set forth his views which were contrary to the way Brother Boll saw the prophecies. His request was granted and for three nights he spoke and was heard patiently by the congregation. Not a word of antagonism was spoken from the floor, and the brother was treated with kindness and courtesy before and after the meetings. This is a demonstration of the fact that such men as Brother Boll are willing to differ on the matters of prophecy and still to receive one another. But if any man is factious concerning these matters, pro or con, he will stir up trouble in the church and should not be encouraged. Those who are at agreement concerning fellowship should set an example before other brethren by fraternizing one another in an active way.

Additional gems from Proverbs (see Aug. '98 for more)

The Tongue of the Wise

Summary of a Sermon on Proverbs 12: 15-19

John R.W. Stott

One of the factors common to all is that we have a tongue and possess the gift of speech. True, we are not the only creatures able to make noises. Birds sing, fish grunt, rodents squeak, and other mammals bark, mew, whine, howl and roar. But these are rudimentary forms of communication, and are stylized for particular situations like courtship, mating and self-defense. Only man is capable of the highly flexible means of communication called "speech". It is one of his unique distinctions. Further, one of the main differences between the wise man and the fool concerns the use to which he puts his tongue.

The Tongue of the Wise is Restrained

The wise man knows when and how to hold his tongue. He recognizes that "there is a time to speak and a time to be silent."

By contrast, the fool is a compulsive talker. His are "rash words" (v.18). He does not think before he speaks. He rushes in where angels fear to tread. Indeed, he cannot stop talking. So we read of "the babbling of a fool" and that "the mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil" (1:14; 15:28).

Here are some of the occasions on which the wise man holds his tongue, and remains silent:

He listens before he speaks. He "listens to advice" (v. 15), because "if one gives answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame" (18:13). We all know that it is much easier to give advice than to listen to it, to volunteer information than to admit one's ignorance and ask for it, and to administer a rebuke than to receive one. Many misunderstandings between people would never arise, or having arisen would never grow, if both sides would only listen to each other's point of view.

He speaks only when his spirit is cool. "The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent man ignores an insult" (v.16). The fool's vexation is known immediately because he flashes with anger, rushes to his own defense, and even hurls insults back at the one who has insulted him. But the prudent man ignores an insult. He controls himself and holds his peace. He may reply later, but never in the heat of the moment, for he cannot trust himself to do so. He knows that it is the cool head which is the clear head. "He who restrains his words

has knowledge; and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding" (17:27). Moreover, when he does reply he gives a "soft answer", for it is this which "turns away wrath" (15:1).

He keeps some things to himself. "A prudent man conceals his knowledge" (v.23) partly because he is modest and does not parade his knowledge, and partly because he is discreet and does not break confidences. One of the most despised characters in the Book of Proverbs is the "tale-bearer" who cannot keep a secret. "He who goes about as a tale-bearer reveals secrets; but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing hidden" (11:13). Another despised character is the "whisperer" who loves hearing juicy bits of gossip and cannot resist circulating them round town. Scripture concedes in its honesty how delicious a thing gossip can be to the unscrupulous: "The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body" (18:8, 26:22).

There is a great need for honorable people who are able to keep secrets, who hear confidences and never betray them, who learn unsavory things about others and turn their information into prayer instead of gossip, who can shut their mouths like oysters and resist all pressure to open them.

The Tongue of the Wise Is Honest

It is a characteristic of the wise man not only that he knows when to speak, but that when he does speak what he says is always true. His word can be depended on. But the Book of Proverbs describes two people whose word cannot be trusted.

The false witness. "He who speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit" (v.17). The false witness is not only someone who perjures himself by giving false evidence in a court of law. To denigrate somebody by blackening his character or running him down is to be a false witness. Indeed, to tell lies about anyone, even half-truths, is to cast oneself in the role of a false witness. If we cannot find anything nice to say about someone, it is best to say nothing at all.

The flatterer. "He who rebukes a man will afterwards find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue" (28:23). There is certainly a place for gratitude and genuine appreciation of what people are and do. But "flattery" is different. It is either exaggerated praise which is not deserved, or insincere praise which is not meant. We usually indulge in flattery for bad reasons. We flatter people not because we genuinely appreciate them, but because we want them to like us and hope to buy their favor with our flattery.

Exaggeration is something else to be avoided. If our word is to be trusted, we have to be sparing in our use of superlatives and to forego the use of oaths (except when required to take one in a court of law). Jesus said that there was no need for us to back up our promises with solemn oaths. Is our word so uncertain and untrustworthy that we have to "swear by Almighty God" or "swear on the Holy Bible" before people will believe us? No. Jesus said: "Let what you say be simply "yes" or "no". Anything more than this comes from evil" (Mt. 5:37).

The Tongue of the Wise Is Constructive

The Bible emphasizes the great power of the tongue. According to James its influence is in inverse proportion to its size. As the bit in a horse's mouth is small but controls the horse, as a rudder is a small blade but directs great ships, as a tiny spark sets a whole forest ablaze, so the tongue is a little insignificant organ, that "boasts great things". According to Proverbs "death and life are in the power of the tongue" (18:21).

The tongue can hurt or heal individuals. "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Probably all of us have been wounded by somebody's cutting words and have ourselves wounded others by our tongue. Unkind, sarcastic or scornful words can be "like sword thrusts," causing a wound which leaves a permanent scar.

By contrast, "the tongue of the wise brings healing". A word in season, a word fitly spoken, can bring comfort to sad and lonely hearts, encourage the dispirited, revive the weary, and persuade someone on the point of despair to carry on. "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body" (16:24). And the most pleasant words of all, which bring the greatest healing, are words of eternal life, the good news of Jesus Christ. There is no higher or nobler use of the human tongue than Christian witness, unless it be Christian worship. When the Christian good news is on your tongue, it becomes a "fountain of life" and "a tree of life" (10:4).

The tongue can hurt or heal a community. By breathing out lies, sowing discord and spreading strife we can ruin the society in which we live or work (6:19; 16:28). That is why the tongue is likened to a scorching fire, which spreads devastation far and wide (16:27; James 3:6). Whole communities have been poisoned and destroyed by the tongue. On the other hand, the tongue can have a wonderfully beneficial effect on a community, spreading truth instead of lies, building confidence instead of suspicion, and sowing love and peace instead of discord and strife. As Paul wrote in Ephesians, "no evil talk" should proceed out of our mouths, but "only such as is good for edifying", that is, what is constructive.

We have seen the great influence of the tongue for good or evil. Do you sometimes feel a victim of forces beyond your control in the world, and wonder what you could do to help? You can use your tongue for Christ! It is a little member, but it can wield great power. You can use it to warn, to encourage, to comfort, to uplift, and especially to make known the good news of Christ.

--Used by permission

Voices From The Field

Irene Allen

Eagle River, Alaska

December 1998

Each year has its joys and struggles, and I thank God for both, as His love and faithfulness are constantly revealed. In April I had shoulder surgery which kept me in the hospital eight days (rather than overnight) because of complications. In September a stroke was experienced, from which there appear to be no adverse after-effects. The shoulder surgery and last year's unsuccessful spinal surgery have resulted in some continued distress and limitations. The Dr. has advised that I not drive through the winter, which means I am more or less housebound and dependent on others for needs which are fully met by friends. I attend and support all services at the church, use my phone and WEBTV (gift of the church last Christmas), and look to the Lord to use me daily, and to direct my future.

The men and women at Spring Brook church continue to minister in various capacities, and spiritual growth has resulted. One activity of the group has been to be tested weekly on a specified New Testament-book chapter. It has created good interest and motivated closer study, increasing our knowledge. We've gone through about 15 books. We have also studied Revelation and Daniel and recognize that present world conditions are fulfilling prophecies leading to the Great Tribulation. Men are "waxing worse and worse". A fatal shooting two blocks from us and break-in robberies of four area churches are fresh on our minds here.

I have been sorting through more than 50 years of personal notes, clippings and books (both Winston's and mine), and am impressed that every generation of Christian has looked forward to the imminent return of the Savior. That Blessed Hope was promised to His disciples when He said, "I will come again and receive you unto myself." The Thessalonian Christians turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven. May we as chil-

dren of the light also serve and faithfully wait, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Robert Garrett Zimbabwe December 8, 1998
[Condensed from personal Email.]

We are in the middle of our Junior Camp and have had a number of dramatic happenings. Two weeks ago someone or several someones broke into the kitchen of the camp building and stole the curtains, broke into the coldroom and cut off and removed the refrigeration unit that is fastened to the ceiling of the cold room and a number of other things. He had cut the bars with a bolt cutter. I have now reinforced all the windows at the church kitchen with angle iron and also the garage apartment. They can no longer be cut with a bolt cutter.

Then two nights ago, someone stole Patrick's pick-up. Patrick and Ruchiva were sleeping in the office of the church and Hunda was sleeping with the boys at the other end of the building. Patrick's pickup was parked close. He woke up when someone smashed the window. He stepped outside and saw someone inside the car and shouted at him. A second thief carrying an iron bar came running at Patrick. The thief grabbed Ruchiva and raised the iron bar and threatened to kill him unless they did what he wanted. In short, he demanded the keys to the car so Patrick went and got the keys and gave them to him.

The next evening I received a phone call from the Police. They had found a vehicle, was it mine? It seems one of the thieves had driven it about 50 miles away and left it in a field far from any road. The locals saw it and questioned the man as to what he was doing there. He then walked off and left it there. They reported it to the police who discovered the logbook in the glove compartment with the information Church of Christ, and phone number. So they phoned me. Was it ours and was it there on legitimate business. I told them it had been stolen that very morning.

Patrick and I drove to Mhondoro. The last half of the roads are dirt and in terrible condition: must crawl along in first and second gears. Reached the police post about 8:pm. Eventually reached the place--quite some miles further on--and recovered the vehicle. it was OK, only the jack was missing and also the steering lock and the keys. Grateful to the Lord. Must replace the drivers door window and the locks.

NEWS and NOTES

Edited by Bennie Hill

52nd Kentucky/Indiana Christian Fellowship: August 2-6, 1999! Theme: "Back to the Basics with the Family." Make this a family experience.

Mackville hosted the last 5th Sunday Singspiration among several Central Kentucky Churches. A great time of Christian fellowship was enjoyed by everyone as plans were already being made by Bohon to host the next 5th Sunday Singspiration on January 31, 1999. It was encouraging to have so many good song leaders lead in worship to the Lord "How good it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Gallatin (Julius Hovan) Christian Towers of Gallatin, Inc., the non-profit organization which owns and operates **Christian Towers**, was formed by this congregation in the summer of 1974 with a mission to develop affordable housing for our senior citizens 62 years of age and older. After crossing many hurdles, the Towers was opened in September, 1979, providing 100 one-bedroom apartments. In April 1997, a second facility, **The Manor**, was opened adjacent to the Towers. The Manor has 55 one-bedroom apartments. We give God the glory for what He has done through this work.

Mindanao, South Philippines

Cyrus Gesulga points out that in 1980 "premillennial" was

still a strange word to almost all members of the Churches of Christ in the southern Philippines. But in 1981, through the radio broadcasts of Robert Boyd on *Words of Life*, the return of Christ as a blessed hope, & teaching about His glorious future reign on earth found fertile soil on the Island of Mindanao beginning with Cyrus Gesulga. With a very small beginning and amid great opposition, there are now over 70 churches that hold these Bible teachings dear.

Bro. Cyrus's address: P.O. Box 239, Cagayan de Oro City, 9000, Philippines.

High-Lysine Corn Project

These are busy days for distributing high lysine corn to third world countries. Because of the hurricanes this last summer and fall (Georges & Mitch) the poor people in both Haiti and Central America have need of food. Honduras and Nicaragua are the most needy. We have shipped 78,000 lbs. of the new crop of high lysine corn to these countries through Feed the Children program. From area Christians we need: financial support and physical help in bagging and loading the bags for shipment. Please contact us at **High-Lysine Corn Project, Rural Route 1, Box 408, Mitchell, Indiana 47446** or call (812) 849-2640 for scheduling your church group.



of God, and some great delicious food provided by the area churches. Bro.Hank Tankersly of Hemphill, Texas spoke the four nights on the subject: "The Christian Home." The evening attendance averaged 154. Day sessions all came from the Gospel of John and included such speakers as: Dale Foster, Dale Offutt, Jack Harris, Harry Coultas, Jerry Carmichael, and Earl C.Mullins. We were all the richer for it.

Searching for a Preacher...

The Ebenezer Church, outside of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, is looking for a preacher. Who will hear and answer the call? Anyone interested may call Dalton Hendren at (606) 734-0432)

She Will Be Missed...Sis. Florence Olmstead Collins of Nashville, TN, has gone home to be with the Lord. She is the daughter of H.L.Olmstead, a longtime preacher among us. She excelled as a Bible teacher, writing study booklets on the Gospel of John and on Colossians. Her study of Jonah ran in WW several years ago. She also wrote a humorous but stirring history of her family; much of it was about

her dad. She compiled a number of his sermons, speeches and articles too. The latter 2 books are still available from WW. Pray for her husband George, and their 2 sons.

An Avid Reader..."I look forward to each month's issue, I must say that it's the one publication (and I subscribe to at least a dozen) that I read from cover to cover within a few minutes of its arrival..." John Byrd, Seoul, South Korea.

Too Many Cereals?

In case you wonder what happened to our series, "what the Bible Teaches," it hasn't died! It merely has gotten bumped a few times, especially since the series on Bro. Boll has begun. Sometimes we bite off more than we can chew, or than we have room for. The next article: the Day of the Lord. --avw

Send Me "News & Notes"

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More Regarding Y2K: Interdependence in the Electric Industry

Part of the testimony of Michehl Gent, President of the North American Electric Reliability Council, before the Senate Special Committee on the Year 2000 Problem:

"An individual electric utility that invests tens of millions of dollars in solving Y2K problems could be affected in a major way by neighboring systems that have not been as diligent. The preparation of the electricity systems in North America must be a coordinated team effort by those entities responsible for system reliability."

Randy Guidry supplies examples of what the preceding paragraph means. "The events in the Western U.S. in the summer of 1996 are a perfect illustration of just how vulnerable and interdependent these [electrical] interconnections are. A major blackout on July 2, 1996 left 2 million customers in 14 states without power. Three other states experienced brownouts. The following month, on August 10, an even bigger outage affected 4 million customers throughout the west...." -- Y2K News Magazine, Nov.1998

James T. Wilson (no relative of mine), editor of the Y2K News Magazine, gives his personal position. "I am not one of the doomsayers who preach that the infrastructure will collapse upon itself....I personally do not feel this is 'the end of the world as we know it.' I do however, have a deep anxiety that the utility industry...will not be ready for Y2K. I base that upon my background as an engineer, my understanding of computers and embedded systems, and various pieces of information obtained from the electric industry and its representatives. Furthermore, I am aware that at least two governments (Britain and Canada) are actively preparing for possible loss of infrastructure." (ibid.)

99-05 Z:1
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Contact Brian Williams for more information: 812:843-5858