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THE WORD AND WORK

"Declare the whole counsel of God"

Alex V. Wilson, Editor

Dennis L. Allen, Missions

Bennie Hill, News & Notes

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THE HIGHEST MOTIVATION FOR MISSIONS

Dennis L. Allen

There are many motivations behind missionary service. Some who go feel compelled by the great physical needs of the world. We are so blessed; they are so needy. Then there is the spiritual need. They are in spiritual darkness and bondage. They have never heard the good news of salvation. We need to share the light and freedom that has come to us. To many it is primarily a matter of obedience to the great commission. Jesus said to go. To Paul a large motivation was his response to the love that had been shown to him. "The love of Christ constraineth us." All of these can enter into a call.

But there is a further motivation which we would do well to consider. John speaks of those who "for the sake of the Name went forth." (III Jn. 7). God works for His name's sake. When God redeemed His chosen people from bondage He revealed His purpose. To Pharaoh He said, "For this very purpose did I raise thee up, that I might show in thee my power, and that my name might be published abroad in all the earth." (Rom. 9: 17). So the purpose of the great working of God in the Exodus was to make His mighty Name known throughout the earth. How effectively it was done is revealed in Rahab's testimony to the two spies. (See Joshua 2:9-11). Remember this was forty years after they had left Egypt. The word of what God had done in Egypt was still proclaiming to the nations that "He is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath."

Moses interceded for Israel at Mt. Sinai and after the sending of the spies solely on the basis of God's reputation. (Deut. 9:27-29; Num. 14: 13-16). When Joshua was stunned and dismayed by Israel's defeat at Ai, he used the same logic as he pours out his heart to God. (Josh. 7:8-9). David proclaimed the same thing in his prayer when he says, "And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for himself a people, and to make him a name." (11 Sam. 7:23a). These men of God knew that God's first love is for His holy name, so they could intercede for the sinful people because they knew God would not let His Name be dishonored for long among the nations.

At the end of 70 years captivity Daniel made intercession for Israel's return on the same basis. "O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God, because thy city and thy people are called by thy name." (Dan. 9: 19).

Again in Isaiah God makes perfectly clear His motive in saving Israel from Babylon. "For mine own sake, for mine own sake, will I do it; for how should my name be profaned? and my glory will I not give to another." (Isa. 48: 11).

Is this still true today? Jesus taught His disciples to pray by beginning with, "Hallowed by thy name." He wants all peoples of the earth to hallow God's Name, so He teaches His own to pray in this way. So it is basically a missionary prayer. He was also showing them that the glory of God's Name should be the basis and the goal of everything they prayed. For example, when we pray for forgiveness, we are not only basing our appeal on God's mercy, but also on an appeal to His justice in crediting the worth of His Son's atoning sacrifice. God "is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn. 1:9). In Rom. 3:25,26, Paul shows that Christ's death was a propitiation reaching back before the cross to clear the name of God from any accusation of injustice in the covering of sins "done aforetime." In John 12:27-28 we see that the death of Christ was to glorify the name of the Father.

In harmony with this John tells us, "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake." (1 Jn. 2: 12).

God not only takes pleasure in glorifying His Name by granting pardon, but also in our daily life and ministry. He leads us "in paths of righteousness for His name's sake." (Psa. 23:3). Jesus commends the saints at Ephesus, "Thou hast patience and didst bear for my name's sake." (Rev.2;3). To the Colossians Paul sums up our whole life in Christ by saying, "And whatsoever ye do in word or indeed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." In other words, the goal of our whole life should be to honor the Name of Jesus in all that we say and do.

This is the great goal of missions. God wants the glory of His Name spread to all the peoples of the world that do not yet know Him. We see this in the consuming passion of the apostle Paul who declared, "making it my aim, so to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named." (Rom.15:20). This burning ambition goes back to his original call. In Rom. 1:5 Paul says he "received grace and apostleship, unto obedience of faith among all nations for his name's sake." Through the nations coming to Christ the Name of Christ would be exalted. This conviction of Paul's enabled him to "labor more abundantly than they all."

The exaltation of His Name has been God's stated purpose throughout His Word.

"I will send such an escape of them unto the nations...and they shall declare my glory among the nations." (Isa. 66: 19).

"So the nations shall fear the name of Jehovah, And all the kings of the earth thy glory." (Psa. 102: 15).

" All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord~ and they shall glorify thy name." (Psa. 86:9).

We are in the midst of an election campaign. The purpose of the conventions was to exalt the name of the respective candidates and now there are many devoting all their energies to building up their candidate that his name will be exalted and thus be elected. They of course hope if their candidate is elected they will not go unrewarded.

One day Peter said to Jesus, "Lo, we have left all, and followed thee, what then shall we have?" Jesus responded, "Everyone that hath left houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mothers, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit eternal life." (Mt. 19:29).

Whatever is committed to exalting the Name of Christ among the nations cannot be in vain. It is assured of ultimate success and great reward. One day a great multitude from every nation, and of all tribes and peoples and tongues will stand before the throne and before the Lamb and give praise to God. (Rev. 7:9,10). Then the Lord Jesus "will see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied." (Isa.53:11).

There Is No Greater Satisfaction!

By John Piper

Duty is good. But delight is better. Picture me bringing a dozen roses home to my wife on our wedding anniversary. I hold them out to her at the door, she smiles and says, "Oh, Johnny, they're beautiful, why did you?" Suppose I lift my hand in a self-effacing gesture and say, "It's my duty." (Laughter!)

So what's wrong? Is duty a bad thing? No, it's not a bad thing. But it can only take you so far. If you want romance, duty won't reach. The right answer to my wife's question goes like this: "I couldn't help myself. My happiness just got out of hand. In fact, to make my day, I'd really enjoy asking you out tonight."

The amazing thing about this answer is that it does two things that many people think won't fit together. It expresses my happiness and

makes her feel honored. A lot of people think that if I do something because it makes me happy, it can't honor another person. But it can! Why? Because delighting in someone is a very high compliment. If you enjoy someone, two amazing things happen: you get the joy, they get the glory. Pleasure is the measure of your treasure.

This is a revolutionary insight in relation to God. Here's what it means: God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him. This is a radically life-changing discovery. It means that the pursuit of God's glory and the pursuit of your joy are not at odds. They are, in fact, one.

The chief end of man is to glorify God BY enjoying Him forever. Not by enjoying money and comfort and prestige and power and achievement, but by enjoying HIM, God! And every other good thing for God's sake. As St. Augustine prayed, "He loves you too little who loves anything together with you which he loves not for your sake." The Biblical command, "Delight yourself in the Lord," (Psalm 37:4) is another way of saying, "Do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31). God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him.

And the greatest passion of God's heart is to be glorified. He created us for His glory (Isaiah 43:7); He called Israel to be His people for His glory (Isaiah 49:3); Jesus lived (John 17:4) and died (John 12:27-28; Romans 3:25-26) and rose (Romans 6:4) and reigns (Philippians 2:11) for the glory of God; He chose us before the foundation of the world for His glory (Ephesians 1:4-6); He forgives us for His glory (Psalm 25: 11; Isaiah 43:25); He works through us for His glory (1 Peter 4:11); He calls us to do all things for His glory (1 Corinthians 10:31); and His aim is that the earth will be covered with the knowledge of His glory the way the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2: 14), and in the age to come that the glory of the Lord alone will be the awesome light of endless days (Revelation 21:23).

If the glory of God is the highest passion of His own heart, then it should be the highest passion of ours. And if God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him, then we should spare nothing to maximize our joy in Him. But where is this maximum joy to be found? Well, we have already said it: in God! Yes, but here we can make a very subtle and devastating mistake. Be careful.

There is something about the nature of true joy that is restless. It is expansive by nature. It wants out. Imagine me at my son's soccer championship, and someone saying to me, "You are permitted to have all the pleasure you want in your son's performance, but you may not express any of it verbally or physically." Would my joy be full? No.

There is something about joy that comes to consummation when it gets out. Joy gets bigger by expanding. Joy increases by extending itself to others. My gladness gets bigger when it becomes your gladness.

This means, that the human quest for joy leads straight to the missionary heart of God. You can see it already. But let me put it together. God is the fountain of joy because He is blindingly glorious, and infinitely worthy, and breathtakingly beautiful, and awesome in power, and inscrutable in wisdom, and limitless in knowledge, and tender in mercy, and terrible in wrath, and the source and foundation of all truth and goodness and beauty. When we see Him for who He really is, and turn from all the broken cisterns of the world that cannot satisfy (Jeremiah 2: 13), we find "joy unspeakable and full of glory"(1 Peter 1 :8).

But this joy, like all joy, wants out. It wants to expand. If it doesn't extend itself and overflow, it begins to stagnate. There is something about God that cannot be hoarded. And to hoard joy in God is to lose joy in God. But to lose joy in God is to dishonor God--just like my wife would be dishonored if I said, .." It's my duty ", instead of "it's my delight." God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. Therefore our joy must get out for God's sake and for our sake. God wills for His glory to be reflected in the joy of redeemed people from every tribe and tongue and nation (Revelation 7:9). He wills worldwide praise. Therefore world evangelization is the pathway to maximum joy and maximum worship.

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. The glory of God is the ultimate goal of the church--because it's the ultimate goal of God. The final goal of all things is that God might be worshipped with white-hot affection by a redeemed company of countless persons from every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5:9; 7:9). Missions exists because worship doesn't. When the kingdom finally comes in glory, missions will cease. Missions is penultimate, worship is ultimate. If we forget and reverse their roles the passion and the power for both diminish.

J. Campbell White, the secretary of the Laymen's Missionary Movement wrote in 1909:

Most men are not satisfied with the permanent output of their lives. Nothing can wholly satisfy the life of Christ within His followers except the adoption of Christ's purpose toward the world He came to redeem. Fame, pleasure and riches are but husks and ashes in contrast with the boundless and abiding joy of working with God for the fulfillment of His eternal plans. The men who are putting everything

into Christ's undertaking are getting out of life its sweetest and most priceless rewards.

This is the testimony of virtually all the great missionaries in the history of the church. Pouring out their lives brought their lives back to them. They proved again and again the words of the Lord, "He who loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:38). In other words, joy in God grows by expanding toward others. Jesus said to Peter, "There is no one who has left house or brother or sister or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundred-fold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions and in the age to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29-30). You can't out give God. On December 4, 1857, David Livingstone, the great pioneer missionary to Africa, made a stirring appeal to the students of Cambridge University, showing what he had learned about these words of Jesus through the years:

For my own part, I have never ceased to rejoice that God has appointed me to such an office. People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa... Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blest reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering, or danger, now and then, with a foregoing of the common conveniences and charities of this life, may make us pause and cause the spirit to waver, and the soul to sink, but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice.

And in saying that, Livingstone paid his God the highest tribute possible. It was not mere duty. It was a profound delight--beyond what anything in this world can give. God was glorified in him because he was satisfied in God. And his satisfaction came to consummation not with the comforts of cozy life in England, but with the expansive vision of giving his life and his joy away on the frontiers. That's it. That's the most profound, God-centered motivation. It makes my heart beat faster even as I think about it again. O, may God give us eyes to see where true satisfaction can be found--the glory of God!

What's The Church For?

Back in 1937 a huge snowstorm hit Salem, Oregon, and caved in the roof of the tiny Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. Without funds for repairs, and with no hope for growth, the elders decided to close up shop.

"YOU CAN'T DO THAT," protested one of the women. "You can't close down this church," she insisted. "Why not?" they demanded. "Because our missionaries won't have a church to come home to," she explained.

Her logic compelled the brothers to change their minds. They found money to fix the roof and today that church has some 2000 people worshipping on Sunday mornings and supports 32 missionaries.

By refusing to allow her church to die because the missionaries needed it, that woman embodied the spirit of A. B. Simpson, the father of the Alliance. He knew the church exists for missions, to send people anywhere and everywhere to declare the gospel. He didn't invent the idea, of course. It originated with Jesus Christ and was carried out by the church at Antioch in Syria. But as we look at all churches past and present, relatively few have copied either Antioch or the Salem Alliance Church. We simply do not have our priorities straight.

Why not? Because churches see world missions as an adjunct, something like the men's bowling league or mom's club--the hobby of a special interest group. For years, churches have salved their consciences with the ladies' missionary society.

But what about the typical churchgoers? How many can say their church exists for missions? How many can own Christ's mission to save the world as their mission? How many can see beyond the confines of their own lives, their own families, their own jobs, their own communities?

When people walk into a church they must smell worldwide outreach for Jesus Christ as if incense were burning. The smoke of missionary passion must permeate the whole place, beginning with worship, pastoral prayer, and on down through all of the educational programs and various age and social groups. **EVERYONE MUST BOLDLY DECLARE** "Our church exists for missions to the ends of the earth."

The woman in Salem had it right. The church lives for missions.

--From *The Lamplighter*

HOW TO START A REPRODUCING CHURCH?

By Carol Davis

A fresh outlook on planting churches that reproduce themselves. It will stimulate your thinking. "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good." --D.L.A.

"I have a question I've been wanting to ask you for four years, " I said to Charles Brock, author of *Practicing Principles of Indigenous Church Planting*, when I met him in the Philippines a few years ago. "You go into the poor areas of Manila, you plant churches rapidly, they always produce their own leadership, they are never dependent on outside funds and they always reproduce.

"I know two other brothers who plant churches in the same areas and it takes them six or seven years. They are always dependent, they never reproduce and they never can produce their own leadership. They say poverty has destroyed the psyche of the people and they are not leadership quality.

"I want to know why you can do it and they can't."

The question was a burning one, because I have been involved in planting churches for as long as I can remember, but not with the speed and rapid reproduction that I saw in Brock's ministry.

SICK, DEAD OR STERILE

Growing up, I remember there were few evangelical churches on the West coast of the United States when my family moved there in the early 40's. Our little church of about 85 began to start churches in the Fresno area and later in Sacramento.

My dad would take the family to the new church start where we would stay for a year or so. When it was up and going, we would go back to the mother church and move out from there to the next church start.

I returned to that area as an adult nine years later, but I couldn't find all those churches in our association of churches. I wondered where they were.

Now I have a very simple mind. I knew that anything that was alive was reproducing. It is a natural thing for trees and plants to drop their seeds and spontaneously spring up. We don't try to have babies, we try to not have babies. In fact, if an organism does not reproduce, we say it is sick, dead or sterile.

I finally concluded that we had planted sterile churches, churches that were not church-starting churches. I studied and surveyed four cities on the West coast and found the same phenomenon. A mother church would go into an area and in a period of 12 to 15 years would plant other churches. But few of those new churches would ever plant another one.

What we found is that people in America either consider it optional to plant a church or they consider it a two-step process. "We're going to grow and we're going to train ourselves and get equipped and then we are going to do the reproduction." But those in the two-step process usually have been there for years, and I'm not sure if they will ever get to a place where they are going to reproduce.

That began to drive a lot of questions in my own heart and mind, questions that began to be answered when I talked with Charles Brock in Manila.

'THE PERSON OF PEACE'

He said there are two things that make rapid planting and reproduction possible. First of all, he would find the "person of peace."

"I always wait for the element of the miraculous in every work I start," he explained. "One day I thought that a church needed to be started in an area. On my way out there I saw this woman in a second floor window. I didn't think a thing about it. When I came back an hour later she was still in the second floor window.

"Just as I got past her on my motor bike she called out to me, 'Sir, are you a Bible man?' I said, 'Well, I teach the Bible.' She asked, 'Would you teach me and my family?'"

"I had thought the other area was where I was supposed to go, but it wasn't. It was here, because God had prepared it." Jesus told his disciples as they went out, "Whatever house you enter first say 'Peace be to this house' and if a man of peace (or person of peace) is there, your peace will rest upon him. Stay in that house eating and drinking whatever they give you..Do not keep moving from house to house."

There are reasons for Jesus' instructions. If God has sent us, and we are on his wavelength, there are people he has ready. They're the people he has intended for the core of the starting of that church.

This special person he has prepared he would call a "person of peace." Most of the time pastors, small group leaders and church planters stop before they find this person. You therefore get a slow church start and it's not necessarily very spontaneous.

THE AUTHENTIC WITNESS

There is no verse that describes what the person of peace looks like. But what we can do is look at people of peace, see where God did a work and then begin to see what the common threads were.

Lydia was one. Cornelius was one. The demoniac was one. The woman at the well was one. There were others. Once you begin to look, you will see that they have these three marks:

1. They are receptive. Not every receptive person is a person of peace. There will be many people along the way who receive Christ before you have found this person. But every person of peace is receptive.

2. They are a person of reputation. They are known. They may have a good or a bad reputation. But they are known. The woman at the well had a bad reputation. Cornelius' reputation was good.

3. They have influence. They are a person who, when they respond to Christ, will bring many others along with them.

When Jesus came to one town, a demoniac was crying out in the caves. Jesus cast the demons out, put them in pigs, the pigs went over a cliff and the whole town wanted Jesus out.

Later we find Jesus coming back to this same region where he had been thrown out, and now everyone wants him. The only difference between those two scenes is that now a cleansed demoniac is living among them, a transformed life that demonstrates every day the power of God to change a life.

It is a very powerful thing once you see it. It becomes the authentic witness of who Christ is and what he can do. So when you are going, you are looking for this certain kind of person. When you find him, you will have a neat church start. You will stay there and go through his circle of influence.

NOT ONE, BUT 200

Paul and Silas referred to that circle of influence when they told the Philippian jailor to "believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household." Anthropologists tell us that in every culture in every age you have four relationships: family, neighbors, co-workers, friends. So when we find this person of peace, he has family, neighbors, co-workers and friends that are going to be impacted by his decision.

They tell us that most people in a healthy society in the West have 25-30 that are really quite close. So I can know when I find a person with influence I'm probably immediately impacting at least 200 people.

I don't see one person anymore. I see 200.

What is exciting is that this is the precision way to start a church. Precision to go in and find that person of peace. Then you are connecting with what God is already doing.

LOOK TO THE ONE-WEEK-OLD CHRISTIAN

The second thing Charles told me was, "I never do anything that a one-week-old Christian can't do. If I preached like I did in my home church they would think they couldn't carry the gospel until they had my skills, my abilities, my training. If I prayed like I did in my home church they would think they couldn't talk with God until they had words and phrases like mine. I don't bring a worship leader because if I did they would think they couldn't worship God until they had someone trained.

"Everything they see me do, they can do. Sometimes I don't get back to the area for several weeks. But since they didn't know they couldn't do it, they went and told their cousin in another area and they already had another group started."

That's simplicity. We have made things so complex and required so much training. It has to be indigenous.

'GROWTH' VERSUS 'REPRODUCTION'

I want to show you the difference between what I call a "growth culture" in which we've all been trained and a "reproduction model." Because I believe to plant a church is a different animal than to plant a church-planting church. In fact, I'm convinced that the skill sets we learned in ministry training will actually insure that things don't reproduce.

In our growth culture we've learned to focus on individual conversions, while a reproduction model focuses on group conversions.

We've started on believer's turf. But in order to reproduce, we must start on unbeliever's turf. If we want group conversions of family members, co-workers, neighbors and friends, those people are not going to come to a stranger's house or into the strange setting of a church. They will come to turf where they are always involved.

In our culture we teach Scripture for information. With the reproductive model it is taught for application, so that people are watching the power of God.

We've begun by finding Christians. But if you want a really powerful church start, find people of peace. Bar the Christians; don't let them in. They mess things up in the early stages.

We've begun in facilities. This takes money and expertise, which are not readily available. If you begin in homes or front porches or yards or parks, there are always more of them.

We've tended to start with celebration in a large group. For reproduction you start with a small group. Very few people actually have the ability and gifts to do a large group well. It takes more expertise, more preparation, more everything. A lot of people can facilitate small groups. They were already doing it in their own natural network before they were saved.

We build programs and buildings. To reproduce, you build leaders.

Leadership is also different. Traditionally we import professional clergy. But what we need for reproduction is to have indigenous and convert-emerging clergy. Where are the future pastors for this setting? They are in the streets, they are beating their wives, they are ripping off their employers.

Also, the leader tends to see himself as the leader for all the participants. In a reproducing church, the leader is the equipper for the emerging leaders. That is how they see themselves, and that is how they stay focused.

We are used to funding the church starter. But for churches that will start other churches, you need to have bi-vocational church starters. If we are going to see the cities reached, it is going to be with bi-vocational people. Otherwise, it takes too long to actually fund.

In my own experience, every time we got ready to plant a church we felt like we couldn't afford to lose those people, their tithes and all that. But every time we did, we actually didn't skip a beat. God supplied. I found the most powerful thing is that connection with another church who cares.

In fact, in every church that I see planting churches, I find that some of their own issues begin to dissolve. I don't know what it is. They are giving themselves away. I am convinced you cannot out-give God. The more you give, the more God does.

VOICES From The FIELDS

Shulam Suffers Persecution In Israel

Joseph Shulam, a Messianic Jew and World Radio speaker in Jerusalem, has come under persecution from the Orthodox Jews in the city. Twice in the last twelve months his dwelling has been the target of an attempt to burn it down with Molotov Cocktails (bottles filled with gasoline with a rag fuse). Shulam reported on Sunday March 21, 1999.

"This A.M. at 03:45 I heard three strong "bangs"--I awakened from sleep. I walked to the living room. On the window I saw fire. As I got closer to the fire--I saw that it was a molotov cocktail. The bottle did not break--I opened the window and took the burning bottle to the sink and drowned it in a pot full of water. I called the police--they came in five minutes. Our home was fire-bombed! In the last few weeks there have been fire-bombs thrown at a few Christian and Messianic Jewish locations. A home of a Jewish believer was burned in Migdal, near the Sea of Galilee. Last week the Baptist Book Store on Narkis Street in Jerusalem was fire-bombed and damaged. Now it was our turn! Praise the Lord that no serious damage took place. The only damage was on the window and my nerves. But, with God's help we will continue to be strong and continue to stand fast by His Word. God loves Israel and the Jewish people and He wants them to be saved."

In his July 2000 report, he tells of another attempt to destroy the church building.

"June ended for us in Jerusalem with an attempted arson of our building and with the theft of our Torah Scroll. Now the Torah Scroll that we had was written in Krakow, Poland, in the year 1941; Just before the Germans invaded Poland, the Rabbi of the Krakow Old synagogue finished checking a Scroll that was written by one of the local scribes. The Rabbi checked it and stamped it Kosher with the stamp of the local synagogue in Krakow, Poland. Just a short time later the majority of the large Jewish community of Krakow was burned in the crematoriums of Auschwitz, Birkenau, and Bergen Belzen."

"This scroll of the five books of Moses was purchased by our congregation in Jerusalem in 1983 from the money of Ahuva Ben-Maier who dedicated the scroll to her deceased husband, Emmanuel Moshe Ben-Maier."

"The persons who broke into our building on the night of June 26th came to burn our building down. They saw that we have a Torah scroll and their Orthodox Jewish conscience struck them. Burning a

Torah Scroll is a very big sin. These religious criminals wanted to take out the Torah scroll before they poured the five large Coke bottles of gas on the bag of rags and cotton-wool that they brought with them and then set the whole thing on fire. In our Torah cabinet there was only one Torah scroll, but there were two Torah scroll covers and the bandits imagined that we have two Torah Scrolls and took the time to take both supposed Torah Scrolls out of the small hole in the window that they broke. When the alarm system sounded, they knew that their time was limited and it was up before they had the opportunity to set the fire."

Shulam continued his report telling how the local news media covered the break-in and attempted arson. They covered the attack fairly well and it is hoped that the pressure from the media will make it more difficult for such attacks to continue.

Joseph and his family live under difficult circumstances. But like their first century counterpart, Paul of Tarsus, they love their people more than they love peace and tranquility. In spite of almost constant harassment, they are determined to lead their people to Jesus, their hoped for Messiah. This family is to be admired for what they have had to endure for our Lord. They have had their car stolen, terrible threats made against them, but they refuse to quit or to become bitter.

We at World Radio have experienced a small bit of the difficulties they deal with everyday. We try to mail items to Joseph, but they are returned to us undelivered. We checked the address with Joseph, and he assured us that what we had on the package was the correct address. Someone in the Jewish post office simply does not want to be of any service to those who love their Messiah. We need to keep Joseph and his family in our prayers. We also need to keep modern Israel in our prayers. I can think of no greater loss than for them to reject the one who was promised to deliver them from all that the Law cannot.

World Radio needs a regular sponsor for Joseph's radio program. Please give prayerful consideration to this need. We must keep this brave and effective man on the air! -- *World Radio News*

Tom & Sharon Schreiner **August, 2000**
9209 Wildwood Lane, Louisville, KY 40272 502-933-4674
tschreiner@bigfoot.com

My wife and I are close to realizing our goal of being missionaries for Christ on the foreign mission field. Although you may not be well acquainted with me personally, you may remember my wife, Sharon, who herself grew up in Africa, as she is one of Robert and Joy Garrett's triplets. I married into this wonderful family 15 years ago. Perhaps it is partly due to their love and burden for Africa that drew our

eyes in that direction. Certainly, medical missions is a most effective tool for evangelism in Africa where the need for medical care is so desperate. Sharon and I have five children ranging in age from 13 to 3.

As a Pediatrician, I have long desired to use my medical skills on the field to advance the cause of the Gospel and to minister to God's people, who otherwise would have no medical care. We have received appointment to the African Inland Mission, which is an interdenominational group dating back to the late 1800's. They are fundamental in their beliefs and evangelical in outlook. We will be serving at Kapsowar Hospital which is in a mountain region of Kenya. While we had hoped to be working with an unreached people group, God closed doors to all of our attempts toward that end. We see this initial assignment as the stepping stone toward our eventual goal of being part of such an opportunity. Kapsowar will give me an opportunity to learn adult and missionary medicine. Since this is an established mission station, our family will have an easier time acclimating to African life.

We will go to Africa with the intent of continuing as long as the Lord enables us. But we can't do this on our own. Armies of faithful prayer warriors are needed to beseech our Lord on our behalf if we are to succeed against the enemy. In order to get to the field we will need to raise approximately \$5500 in monthly support and \$54,000 in outgoing expenses.

If your church or any individuals are interested in partnering with us in this ministry, we would love to hear from you. We will be willing to come and meet with you or make a presentation to your church as my practice allows. Please would you prayerfully consider partnering with us and be in prayer for us and with us that all will be done to the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Earl Mullins, Sr.
Goin' Fishing Ministries

October 2, 2000

We are glad that the Lord is using Paul and Virginia Kitzmiller in spreading the Gospel in Russia. They have been doing mission work there about three years now and the Lord has used them in a variety of ways. First, in the small city of Kineshma they taught English and Bible in the public schools for about a year and a half. (They are still making contacts with friends in that area.) Then last year He moved them to St. Petersburg where they are working with an already established church. Their goal for the church is to help them grow in the Lord and develop leaders so that in due time they will be part of a simple, New Testament Russian church with no need of foreign missionaries. How long will this take? No one knows. Paul and Virginia are willing to work there as long as it is the Lord's will for them and we

are thankful they have entered those doors. They left the luxury of living in America to suffer many hardships with those Slavic people for the cause of Christ. We need to hold them up however we can.

We at GFM learned just before their return to St. Petersburg this fall that they need an additional \$700.00 each month in order to accomplish their work. This has been being covered by mission fund reserves and by their personal funds, but these will soon be depleted. Trusting that you are interested in them and what they are doing, we are asking you to give serious consideration to helping them by supporting them in prayer and by supporting them financially. Perhaps you as an individual or your home church would want to give to their monthly income. If so, please send checks made out to Hamburg Church of Christ Russian Mission, 89231 Newberry Rd., Sellersburg IN 47172.

Robert & Joy Garrett Ruwa, Zimbabwe Sept. 2000

School of Biblical Studies comes to Zimbabwe! Spiritual highlights in August: Jerry Carmichael and Mike Abbot of the Louisville School of Biblical Studies made a short trip to Zimbabwe in August. It was a short two weeks but jam packed. They came in time for our annual Men's Camp Meeting, August 11, 12 here at Rockwood. We kept them busy with eight lessons each day. Jerry taught Bible Survey and Mike gave lessons on Leadership and Sermon Preparation. I counted 80 men in attendance. The lectures were received with enthusiastic interest and we also had good question and answer sessions.

The following week they held two Gospel Meetings each evening. Mike preached at the Mbare church Monday through Wednesday while Jerry preached at Glen Norah. Then they swapped pulpits for Thursday through Saturday. Attendance was good even though it is difficult and often dangerous for people to get out at night in many areas. The new Aeolus bus plus the old Toyota bus picked up people from various areas. Harare is a city of over a million people and very spread-out and we have eleven congregations within the metropolitan area. Attendance (combined) averaged about 350, although transportation troubles hindered two of the nights at Mbare. It was a time of good spiritual excitement and learning that was really enjoyed by all.

They also brought us an overhead projector, contributed by one of Jerry's classes, which will be very helpful, and some study books for distribution.

Boy's Bunker: The roof is on, the plumbing is mostly done, and the cement floor is close to half done. The bathrooms must be plas-

tered and painted but the rest of the rooms will be left rough brick. The electrical wiring and hanging a few doors is still to be done.

Fuel Shortage: Diesel especially has often been in very short supply the past few months. (All my vehicles are diesel.) People spend hours in line waiting to get gas or diesel. Many a service station which used to proudly proclaim itself as being open "24 hours" is closed at night and open during the day only to sell soft drinks! Politically economically this country appears to be sinking into a quagmire.

Goromonzi Dedication: August 27 was a grand day. A "Big Sunday" to thank our Lord for the church building at Goromonzi. This was a real highlight and milestone in the progress and maturity of the churches here. A solid brick building with a seating capacity of over 200 was built completely by the local churches without any help from abroad.

Silk Road 2000 Festival

In July more than 18,000 Christians from Chechnya, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kurdistan, Uzbekistan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, and the Ukraine gathered in Almtay, Kazakhstan to celebrate their faith at the Silk Road 2000 Festival. Norm Nelson of Orange, California based Life at Its Best radio ministry was one of the few Westerners to participate in the festival. Korean Christians who organized the festival have sent many workers into the area. Koreans have adopted the region because they have a special ability to learn its various languages. The Korean language belongs to the Turkic family of languages. "In typical Korean fashion, they look at [their linguistic ability] as a mandate from God to evangelize the region," Nelson said. It is a miracle that the event took place in such a heavily Muslim region. Islam dominates central Asia, and Kazakhstan is nearly 50 per cent Muslim.

THE STRUGGLES OF NORTH KOREA'S CHRISTIANS

Deep within the towering beauty of North Korea's ice-encrusted mountains lies a dark and deadly secret.

This is a place where summers filled with sparkling waterfalls and an Eden of flowers transform into an iron winterscape where human life struggles to survive.

This is the place where, according to brave and isolated Christian voices, our brothers and sisters are being kept without proper food and shelter...all because they call upon the name of the Lord Jesus and not the deceased Great Leader Kim Il Sung.

Some who have been able to escape North Korea claim that some 2,300 Christian congregations, with more than 300,000 members, have disappeared since 1953. They maintain that if you are caught with a Bible, you are shot--several hundred believers lose their lives this way each year. Praying or organizing a meeting lands you in labor camp.

Under influence of this pressure, people are obviously not open about their faith. It is therefore very difficult to know exactly how many North Korean Christians there are. Christian sources tell us that an underground church of at least 500,000 believers does flourish in the northern areas, but is strictly organized around family lines.

The house churches meet in secret; sometimes up to 80 people coming together in caves in rural areas. From the beginning, Christian basics are also taught to the children. As they grow, the young adults try to find Christian partners, even if this means a social sacrifice.

Firing Squads

Open Doors has confirmed that in a recent six-month period, more than 20 Christians have been killed in public by firing squad on criminal charges, with an unknown number of additional executions. All of them are recent converts, and most became Christians inside China, where they had fled the famine, and were eager to share the Gospel.

For example, last October two brothers were shot to death at Chungjin prison. They had been well trained and actively ministered in North Korea. After they were arrested, they were so terribly tortured that they revealed the names of Christians involved in the ministry. However, they never denied the Lord Jesus when martyred. Thank God our coworker heard this and could warn the brothers and sisters involved.

In December, two ladies were publicly executed in Haesan city on charges of illegal smuggling. In reality they were very faithful Christians and ministered actively.

During the same month, two other Christians were shot in public in Hambuk province. One of them had all his teeth broken by North Korean officers because he boldly witnessed and preached the Gospel to the end as he was dragged to the place of execution.

And these heartrending testimonies are only the tip of the iceberg.

Starvation Continues

Whether they are Christian or not, the citizens of North Korea are suffering greatly, with many people starving. According to an unconfirmed source, a North Korean doctor acknowledged that in Hamkyong province alone 5,000 people died every day in hospitals, homes, streets and railway stations.

Across the country, an estimated 3-5 million people are starving. Because of this state of emergency, people are very open to the Gospel, since they have no hope otherwise.

As a result of the famine, great numbers of people try to flee to China. One estimate puts the number of North Korean refugees currently in China at close to 80,000. When they are caught by the Chinese authorities, who will not grant them official "refugee" status, they are heavily fined and sent back to North Korea.

There they are interrogated, and if they show any indication of Christian influence, they are condemned to labor camps or a death sentence.

Korean-Chinese Christians have taken care of many North Korean refugees, despite the risk of heavy fines and imprisonment. A large number of refugees have become Christians as a result.

But the results can still be heartbreaking. Said one Chinese believer, "We tried to shelter five families last year, but they were all sent back from our small town, and we heard they all died in a labor camp."

Please continue to pray for the believers in North Korea and for the whole population--as they struggle under the icy grip of the world's last stronghold of communist idolatry.

-- Open Doors *Newsbrief*

CHINESE COUPLE'S DILEMMA: SELL THEIR SON OR STARVE

Mr. and Mrs. Liu are peasants in the rural Anhui province of China. Too poor to make a home out of bricks, they live in a wood-and-mud shed containing two rooms with straw floors. They farm some thin fingers of land that stubbornly yield millet beans and turnips, though rarely enough to feed them fully. In a good year, they take some seed to the nearest market town, a day's walk away, and exchange it for some tea leaves and oats.

Two years ago, when their son was born, they extravagantly bought some pork. It was the first time in 10 years Mr. Liu had tasted meat and only the third time for his young wife.

But that seemed like a long time ago. All through last year, their biggest treat was to stir some tea leaves into boiling water and drink its wonderful flavor twice a week--after sniffing the aroma for 10 minutes before sipping.

One day the husband placed all the beans they owned into a jar and said to his wife, "We must eat only three beans a day, and give seven to the boy. If God does not send us any food, we must sell him."

Children for Sale

His wife blanched at the terrifying prospect of selling their son. She knew men combed the countryside offering vast sums of money to buy sons from poor families and give them to rich city people. But she saw how listless the child had become, and simply said, "It may be the best chance we can give him. We don't want him to die with us."

Other families in the area were in the same position. One family had sold their three-year-old girl for 5000 yuan (about \$600) in the summer. It was more money than they could make in five years.

The Lius are Christians. Only one other family in the area are believers, and they meet at the Lius' twice a month for fellowship. No one could read much, so they have no Bible.

They shared their plight with their friends, who listened in sadness. "We thought God had given us a gift of a child, but how can He if the child is going to die like us? We think it is a good idea to sell him. Perhaps if times get better, we can have another child."

One day last fall, a man visited their house. He took a long look at the boy and said he would pay them 10,000 yuan for him. But Mr. Liu

was shrewd. He knew if girls sold for 5,000 yuan, boys must be worth far more than twice as much. He haggled and eventually the man, in a bad temper said, "All right, I will return this way in two weeks' time with 30,000 yuan. Have the boy ready." He stomped out.

The Lius searched each other's faces, seeing a mixture of excitement and horror. After all, it was the answer to all their problems. On the other hand, what kind of home would their boy end up in? Would he be loved? Would he be raised a Christian?

Eventually the wife said, "We must pray about this."

Realizing the Price

Everything changed the next day when Mr. Liu was working in the fields. Three of his neighbors approached him. "We hear you are selling your son for 30,000 yuan," said one. "My wife said your Jesus God can't be very good if he can't save you from the disgrace of selling your own son."

Mr. Liu hurried home and told his wife. At once they realized that if they sold their son, their witness was ruined. No one in the area would take Jesus seriously from that point on. Their story would be told far and wide and passed on to future generations. The Gospel would never flourish on this part of China's soil.

A terrible choice lay before them. They could choose to keep their son and starve, yet honor Jesus, or they could sell their son, live handsomely, but make Jesus a mockery. Along with the other Christian couple, they began to pray long and hard, sometimes through the night.

After two weeks, the man returned. He counted out the money in front of their eyes--a massive bundle of dirty notes. Mr. Liu picked them up, held them in his hand, and squeezed them wonderingly. Then he stiffened and gave them back saying, "We have decided not to sell our son."

The man looked incredulous. "Why on earth not? You are going to starve. It is a very sensible thing to do. You might survive to have another son, you know."

But Mr. Liu said, "It not about our survival any more; it's about Jesus. We will not dishonor His name, but trust Him to provide. We have decided to make this soil safe for Him."

The man turned away muttering that they were crazy. As they picked out their ration of beans for the day, they wondered if they

were. Had hunger made them fools? Would Jesus be honored if they all died anyhow? Doubts came flooding back, and if the man had returned, they probably would have taken the money.

But the next day, two of their neighbors came to see them again. In complete silence, they handed over 200 yuan in grubby notes. Mr. and Mrs. Liu gasped, "Where did you get this, and why are you giving it to us?"

One neighbor explained, "The man who came to buy your son stayed with a local family last night. He told us what happened, and when he left, we found this money. We think he left it for the host. But we have decided to give it to you." The other neighbor added, in words that made their hearts burst with joy, "You see, we respect what you did."

The Lius are safe for the year. But more important, both know that the cause of Jesus Christ is safe for another year in rural Anhui. As Mr. Liu put it, "This soil, this land and all who live on it, are safe for the Gospel, and the kingdom will surely grow here in the future."

Which Road Will You Travel On?

K. P. Yohannan

We live in a culture where, unless we consciously and deliberately seek to swim against the current, we will hardly make it as follower of Christ...at least, not of the Christ of the New Testament, who said, "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27).

We Always Look for a Soft Cushion

The church at large has adapted to the trends of the culture. Frequently the Christian message is presented in a way that it mainly caters to people's needs and their desire for an easier, better life. Man and his comfort have become the main focus, and God is obligated to meet his expectations. It has created a generation of Christians who know little or nothing of sacrifice, suffering and self-denial for the sake of Jesus. We have become conditioned to always seek for a soft cushion, at least a thin one, if we are asked to sit on a hard bench.

Even in the work of God, we avoid difficult tasks and we question anything that demands physical and emotional discomfort or spiritual battles.

Shall I Not Drink the Cup?

This is in sharp contrast to Jesus, who rebuked Peter for counseling Him not to go to Jerusalem to suffer and die, and later for trying to rescue Him with his sword when the mob came to arrest Him in Gethsemane. Commanding Peter to put his sword away, Jesus said, "The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11).

Jesus was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world and He came to suffer and die for our sins. Knowing His purpose and submitting to the Father's will, He chose the hard road, the one that led to Calvary.

Christ set an example for those who followed Him then, and for all who want to follow Him now. He said, "where I am, there shall also my servant be" (John 12:26).

The Choice Is Left to Us

God asks us to do hard things that are contrary to the counsel of those who advise us to take the soft and easy way. For example, Jesus said, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26) .

However you want to interpret these words, it simply means that there is a choice left before us. We have to make a decision between the hard road on which God asks us to go, or the easy road everyone else travels.

For Noah, preaching 120 years without results meant choosing the hard road year after year.

Nehemiah, building the wall of Jerusalem, faced constant harassment by enemies from within and without. The easy road would have been to quit, go back to Persia and live at the king's palace in peace. But he chose the hard road because he was not seeking his own, but the things of God.

And that's exactly what it will take for us to survive in the long run as followers of Christ.

Lord, Deliver Us ...

We cannot honestly, authentically, reasonably and deliberately serve our Lord without our willingness to accept difficulties and inconveniences--the hard road.

--Send, October 2000

TESTIMONY: THE PRAYER OF A 10-YEAR OLD AFRICAN GIRL

Dr. Helen Roseveare, the famous British missionary doctor in Zaire, whose autobiography "*Give Me This Mountain*" is well worth reading, wrote about an event during her time in Africa: "One evening, I was helping a mother give birth in the maternity ward. Despite our best efforts, she died, leaving us with a tiny premature baby and a crying two-year-old girl. It would be hard to keep the baby alive, because we had neither electricity nor incubator, and the nights were often drafty and cool, even though we were on the equator. An assistant fetched our last hot water bottle to keep the baby warm, but soon came back in desperation, because it had burst. 'OK', I told her, 'hold the baby as close to the fire as you can, and keep it out of drafts.'

The following day, I had a prayer time with the orphans. I told them about the newly-born baby, the two-year-old orphan and the broken hot water bottle. During the prayer time, Ruth, a ten-year-old with the typical brutal directness of African children, prayed 'Please God, send us a hot water bottle. Tomorrow will be too late, God, because the baby will be dead by then, so please send it this afternoon.' I took a deep breath because of the prayer's directness, then heard her continue: 'And while you're at it, would you please send a doll for the little girl, so that she knows that you really love her?' To be honest, I could not believe that God would do that. Oh yes, God can do everything. I knew that, theoretically--it's written in the Bible. But there are limits, aren't there? I hadn't received any parcels from home for four years. And if anyone sent a parcel, why would they send a hot water bottle to tropical Africa?

Late in the afternoon, I heard that a car had come. By the time I arrived in my apartment, it had already left--but there was a large parcel on the veranda! I could feel tears welling up inside, and called the orphans so that we could open it together. Apart from clothes, bandages and sultanas, the parcel contained--I could hardly believe my eyes!--a new rubber hot water bottle! I cried. I had not dared to ask God for it, but Ruth had! She had been sitting in the first row, and ran forward, shouting 'If God sent the hot water bottle, he must have sent the doll too!' She dug to the bottom of the parcel and pulled out a beautiful small doll. Her eyes shone. She had not doubted for a moment. She looked up and asked 'Can we go to the little girl and give her the doll, so that she knows Jesus loves her?' The parcel had been on the way for five months, sent by a Sunday School class. The teacher had been so obedient to God that she even sent a hot water bottle to the equator. One of the girls had given a doll, five months before a 10-year-old African girl would pray 'God, we need it this afternoon'. The words in the Bible are true: 'Before they call, I will answer them.' (Isaiah 65:24)."

Frontiers of Grace for Churches of Christ

(Conclusion)

Gary Pearson

(We apologize that last month we cut off the last page of this article--avw)

To live by grace is to live an honest life before God. Freed from the need to be good enough to be saved, we no longer have any reason to whitewash our sinfulness. We can be authentic in our relationship with God and in our relationship with our brethren, confessing our struggles against sin. This connection is found in 1 John 1:5-10. Almost in the same breath as he declares the continual cleansing from sin available in Christ's blood, John advises us to confess our sins and receive that cleansing. The pretending is over. We can be honest now.

To live by grace is to realize that progress in the Christian life comes only in cooperation with the Holy Spirit living in us. As we more and more surrender our lives to God, the Spirit produces more and more of his fruit in our lives--fruit characterized in Galatians 5:22 as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Romans 8:13 teaches that it is by the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the body. So not only is our salvation due to God's grace but so is our sanctification--our progress in the Christian life. In the words of Philippians 2:13, it is God who "is at work within us both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

To live by grace is to live each day in reliance upon God and his power. It is to learn as Paul learned in 2 Corinthians 12:9 that no matter what we encounter in life, God's grace is sufficient to see us through. Like Paul, we can boast even in our weaknesses because it is in our weaknesses that God's power is most evident. Our sufficiency for every situation comes from God. Our trust is in God and in His power and sovereignty. The spirit of living by grace is expressed well in a story told by Kline Roberts. He writes:

I remember in the last days of my mother's life, I used to carry her up and down the stairs of our home. She was badly arthritic and couldn't negotiate the stairs herself. As I would carry her up and down the stairs, she would grab the bannister and hold on so that we couldn't move. I would say, "Mom, let go. We can't move." And she would always say the same thing, "I'm afraid you will drop me."...Then she would let go for a little while and we would start to move, and then she would grab the bannister again. One day as we were going through our little routine I thought to myself: "What a perfect analogy...God has us in his arms and is saying, 'Come on, let go,' and we are saying to him, 'No, I am afraid you will drop me.' You know, what if it isn't true? What if I dreamed this up? And He is saying, 'Let go. Ride the winds of the Spirit. If you really let go, you will be fine. If only you make the surrender of faith, really believe in me.'" (*Clergy Journal*, August 1988)

May God help us to let go and go wherever his amazing grace takes us.

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PREDESTINATION AND FREEDOM

Dennis Kaufman

Question: What do you believe about predestination? Some passages of Scripture seem to indicate that God has a master plan that we all fit into, while others lead me to believe we are free to accept or reject God as we so choose?

Answer: This question would probably be more appropriate for a doctrinal column, but since this deep theological issue has many implications for counseling I will try to address it briefly here.

Scholars have grappled for centuries with the seeming contradiction between God's sovereignty and human freedom. The best illustration I have ever heard to bring harmony to this debate involves seeing our planet like a giant cruise ship. God is certainly steering us toward a definite destination. Because it is His world, He will most assuredly guide the world toward the destiny He has in mind. However, the people on the ship are totally free within the given confines to choose and be responsible. There may be rare exceptions where God overrides the will of man for a larger purpose, but generally we fully direct our own personal destinies. If you stop to think about it logically, our freedom is the only basis for the accountability God will require of us. If there is no freedom, judgment would be unfair and unjust.

Counseling, by its very nature, is a field that believes people have the freedom to change. The Spirit of God is always luring us toward the best possible choices, but the Bible clearly teaches that we can choose poorer options (which is the essence of the definition of sin). I personally believe that the only thing that limits our freedom is the accumulating effect of our past choices, which tends to make present behavior more predictable.

This heavy emphasis upon freedom also gives us a better handle on the sticky problem of evil/suffering. In the world. If you picture God as controlling everything that happens, it is difficult to explain the incredible amounts of radical suffering during history and in the present. This would cast considerable doubt upon the goodness of God. However, if you recognize that God has turned people loose to behave as they choose, the vast majority of tragedy in the world is easily traced back to the accumulating history of Adam's race—a legacy of movement away from the Creator. We cannot know what human freedom looks like from God's perspective. He is all-powerful and all-knowing. But, what matters here is our personal perspective. We must act upon what we know, and the bottom line is clear. God calls us to use our lives to glorify Him, and love others as ourselves. If we use our freedom in those ways, we will have made our calling and election sure! (See 2 Pet. 1:3-11.)

—Reprinted by permission from *Southeast Outlook*.

Worn Spots in the Carpet

Joyce Broyles

Years ago my husband and I hosted a young Japanese exchange student named Taeko Shibazake. Besides a bubbling personality, Taeko had many talents in music, art, and other areas. She could draw, make origami figures, sing well, and play piano beautifully. We showed her off every time we had company because we were so proud of her; however, she was very modest about her gifts.

Taeko had taken piano lessons for eleven years and although she had no instructor while she lived with us, she continued to practice diligently every afternoon for at least an hour. Very soon after she arrived, the carpet near the piano pedals was flattened where her foot worked.

Some time after Taeko left, the carpet pile began to rise slowly back to normal. Still, each time I see that piano, I remember Taeko's devotion. She loved playing that piano, so practice was not work for her. She relished her time on those keys.

When we are doing something we enjoy, it is never work. When we are with someone in whose company we bask, it is not unpleasant for us. That principle suggests that there should be two worn spots beside my bed where my knees would fit.

While very young, I knelt with my family in a prayer circle after the Bible reading was over each night. Those are pleasant memories now, although I did not appreciate them at the time.

Through the years, our old bungalow shifted with the winds of storms and hurricanes until the inside doors would not shut properly. As I grew older and stayed up late doing homework at the dining room table, through the crack in the door I could see Mom and Dad kneeling and praying. I knew they were praying for me and it made me feel secure. I knew they were devoted to God.

Taeko's daily practice kept the carpet pile flattened. To her, practice was joy. My parents' daily prayer life kept their knees aching. To them, prayer was a joy. It was the glue that held our family together through the years.

Remembering is good, just as studying history is good, if we can learn a lesson from it. I enjoy remembering my parents and I learned much from them. I enjoy being with my own children and grandchild-

dren now and I spend as much time as I can with them. That is neither considered unpleasant nor work.

When I look at the carpet beside my bed, the cavities in the carpet that should fit my knees are not there. I am not spending enough time talking and listening to the One who loves me. My devotion is lacking.

Of course, praying can be done while standing, sitting, or even lying in bed. Whichever way we select, we cannot be close to God unless we have time to talk to Him. After all, it helps to talk to a good friend, and He is the best.

MISS LOIS

By Lois Campbell

Lois McRenolds was born in De Ridder, Louisiana, March 19, 1923. She had a number of physical problems that she struggled with as a child. She had a slow heart beat all her life and needed more rest than normal. She lived with my family while teaching at Portland Christian School. She was "Mac Mac" to our second generation.

Lois went through high school in De Ridder. She graduated from Harding College with special honors in math without letting her brother and sisters, who were also attending at the time, know. Lois received her M.A. from Abilene Christian but later confided that her high school graduation meant the most to her. She taught two years in public schools in Louisiana before coming to P.C.S. where she taught for 25 years.

Lois sent me several letters that I just haven't been able to throw away. They reveal so much about her as a person. I will share some quotes from her that are typical of her personality. For instance, while tutoring in public school, she cared for her sick sister after returning to Louisiana. These are some of the things she would write about; "It is 5:00am. I need to go to the kitchen and start our day." And recently she wrote, "I have just written down 9 things to do today. That, of course, doesn't include routine things. I want to write Mildred G. and the Ms." Lois loved to keep contact with all of her friends.

Lois had many interests not related to school. "She wrote, "Your mother would say that she would like to do something of a more permanent nature... Me too." Another quote of Lois's was, "May God help us to be busy about things that matter." And Lois would say, "Today it is my prayer that I will not grieve the Holy Spirit of God whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption. Eph. 4:30."

Lois did not give up easily on hard cases she encountered in life or in tutoring. She would call for more prayer and go on and on. A typical case for Lois was found in a letter I had received from her in October of 98, "put _____ back on your list for prayer. He came yesterday to get some help for his SAT test. He worked pretty well. When I told him when he was leaving that he did pretty well, he hugged me and said, 'we did awesome.' Well, it wasn't quite that good." Another good example of Lois's determination to make a difference came in a letter in 1999, "I want to tell you about _____ so that you can pray for him again... I had not seen him for a while but at my bedtime he called and said 'can I come over?' Of course he could. He said that his dad wanted him to come to me this summer for help for his ACT test. He only made 16, I think. He told me he wasn't feeling good about going to college because he was afraid he couldn't make it." Lois was kind and encouraging to that young man.

Lois had other interests in helping people outside of school and tutoring. For instance, she would go to the jailhouse and be encouraging to young men she knew who had broken the law. In another letter she wrote, "I had an hour's visit with _____ in the jail. He always seems glad to come down and talk with me. He says people don't think he will change when he gets out...but he says he will change." That man is now out of jail and has a job. Lois prayed for him too.

Lois was an early riser and loved to take long walks in the morning. After her death a brother-in-law, Bob, was in church working. A man approached him asking if the lady who recently died attended the church. Bob told him she did. The man stated that she was a good lady. Each morning she would pick up his newspaper and throw it on the porch. He is going to miss her too. It was her habit to do that for all of her neighbors.

Lois had time for me also. When I would take long trips to visit my family and friends she would ask for the detailed flight or travel plans. This year I went to Montana to help my sister who was sick. I was gone for six weeks. She prayed for me all the way. When I returned August 1st I called her and told her about the wonderful things I had done, and reported on the welfare of my family. It was good to catch up with an old friend. One week later she was gone.

[Miss Lois Campbell and her sister Mona Belle taught alongside of Lois McReynolds for many years. Only eternity will reveal how many lives they touched deeply for Christ.]

NEWS and NOTES

Edited by Bennie Hill

Ralph Ave. (Bill Smallwood)

We praise God for the growth of the church the last few months...but we must remember with growth comes more need for each of us to be involved. One of these days God may "Call" your "Name" to teach a class, be a Sunday School Superintendent, take care of the Lord's supper, etc. Will you pray that you will be ready to say: "Lord, here I am, your servant."

Borden (Mike Abbott) We praise the Lord for two baptisms this year and for the addition of four more deacons. We now have ten deacons serving the Lord at Borden. This past summer, we had a team of ten members go to a Russian youth camp in connection with Goin' Fishing Ministries. This was our second year at the same camp. Last year's team did an excellent job in giving a Christian witness which opened up doors for this year's team. Sonny Childs will be holding a family workshop and worship for us on November 2-5.

Woodland Bible Camp. The camp has applied for the grant from the Lilly Foundation. They have committed 14 million dollars to Christian camps in Indiana. Woodland's proposal is for \$188,000.00 to cover two improvement projects. First is money renovation and expansion of the Mess Hall. This will in-

clude central air, insulating walls, adding interior walls, and a new roof. The addition would include a camp office and youth lounge and activity room. The second project is for a water spray and play area. Please pray for the continued work at Woodland Bible Camp and help encourage future campers.

Fierce Mideast Fighting! So what else is new? It's gone on between the descendants of Ishmael and Isaac for generations. And there's all the more reason now to "*pray for the Peace of Jerusalem*" (Ps. 122:6) Since Jesus IS coming again we need to be prepared for His return at any moment. (Mark 13:32-33). We need to be busy working for Christ. (Matt. 25:14-30). We need to be faithful in sharing the Gospel (1 Thess. 2:19)

Now with the Lord John "Bud" Keeton went home to heaven on Oct. 15, at age 85. For many years he was an active member at the Camp Taylor church in Louisville (now Ky.Ave.church). Later he preached at the 18th Street church & also the Sylvania church--both in the Louisville area.

On the Move...at LaGrange. Framework on the new building has been erected, awaiting installation of the roof and siding.

Challenge at Cherry St. "Let's meet early before Sunday School for fellowship." They did and increased attendance.

From a "Silent Preacher" in Lexington: "You like Ice-Cream? Come, try our Sundays!"

Crowley (Bro.Val) "Our fall meeting is now history. The Lord used Bro. Sonny Childs to bring to us five very fine messages from the book of Philippians. Each message was rooted in the statement of 2:5 'Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus.' All who heard him saw evidence of much study being put into these sermons. Bro. Childs is a gifted young man."

Election Day (Nov. 6) is our opportunity of electing a man to the highest office in our land for another four years. This should be a matter of prayer for every Christian. May God give to us men of truthfulness and character to lead our nation.

Annual Thanksgiving Service for the Kentuckiana area is being planned for Thursday November 23rd at the Atherton High School Auditorium. The service will be from 10:00- 11:00 a.m. with special guest speaker, Bro. Earl Mullins Sr. The Portland Christian High School Chorus will sing.

The School of Biblical Studies...considers calling a half-time Director, and also whether to stay

at their present location or relocate in the future. A questionnaire will be sent to supporting congregations with hopes of getting feed-back on the School of Biblical Studies. Input is very important as God's will is being sought for the direction and continued effectiveness of our school. Please make this a matter of prayer and respond with your comments, suggestions, and desires. Spring Semester (2001) begins the week of January 2nd.

Classes being offered include:

(Subject to change.)

Creationism, Earl Mullins, Sr., Mon. 9-12

N.T. Survey, Jerry Carmichael, Mon. 1-4

Cn Education, Joyce Zimpelmann, Mon. 1-4

Biblical Ethics, Bennie Hill, Mon. 6:30-9:30

Preacher's Life & Work, Mike Abbott, Tue.12:30-3:30

Computer Basics, Ramona Marsh, Tue. 4-6

John & Heather Kernan's Ministries in So. Africa. Some of us remember John Kernan whose grandmother was a long-time member at Portland Ave. church in Louisville. John was blessed by Bro. Boll's teaching too. He became a missionary to Africa. Now actively retired in South Africa, he still edits a paper, The Bible & the News. It deals with matters of current event, moral & religious issues--

from a Christian viewpoint, & prophecy.

Here are excerpts from an item in the Mar. 5 *Christian Standard* magazine about John & his wife Heather.

John and Heather Kernan ...retired from full-time mission work in South Africa at the end of 1999. They plan to continue living in East London and carrying on a slower-paced program of preaching, literature evangelism, and Heather's food distribution program. John went to Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1950, where he established a congregation at Barham Green and was instrumental in starting the National Council on Alcoholism. In 1952, he married Heather Jameson from Edinburgh, Scotland. They lived in Salisbury (now Harare) where

they organized the first International Christian Literature Exhibition.

The Kernans went to Cape Town, South Africa in 1958 to work with Max Randall at the Polo Road Church of Christ and to establish a Christian literature center. In order to work more closely with the Xhosa congregations, John and Heather moved to East London in 1961. They were able to expand their literature evangelism with publications in a number of South African languages. Heather started her program of providing nutritious food parcels to indigent widows. They are both on the local committee of the Bible Society of South Africa. The Kernans live at 11 Jasmay Place, Nahoon Valley, 5241 East London, South Africa.

READ and G-R-O-W!

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|---|--------|
| 1. A New Creation , by Dennis Allen. For new converts. | \$2.50 |
| 2. Baptism , by Stanford Chambers | 4.00 |
| 3. Christ's Teaching on Prayer , by R. H. Boll
An urgent subject for those seeking revival. | 5.00 |
| 4. Galatians , by R. H. Boll
An important epistle on grace, and the Holy Spirit | 4.50 |
| 5. Glory of the Imperfect , Florence Olmstead Collins
Valuable/humorous anecdotes from H. L. Olmstead's family. | 9.00 |
| 6. Hebrews , by R.H. Boll. Rich doctrinal & practical lessons | 12.00 |
| 7. The Kingdom of God , by R. H. Boll
A thorough study of one of Scripture's main themes. | 12.00 |
| 8. Our Heritage of Freedom , by Carl Ketcherside & Leroy
Garrett Insights from "piecemakers who became peacemakers!") | 12.00 |
| 9. R. H. Boll, Controversy & Accomplishment , by Tom
Bradshaw. The life and teachings of a preacher and editor who
stood for God's grace, Christ's return and Christian freedom. | 12.00 |
| 10. Romans , R. H. Boll at his best--on the Good News of full
salvation. | 10.00 |
| 11. H. L. Olmstead Sermons Discerning insights. | 7.00 |

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