

“Holding fast the Faithful Word . . .”



The *Word and Work*



“Holding forth the Word of Life.”

May - June, 2008

In The Beginning Of ...

**Word and
Work**

Kentucky/Indiana Christian Fellowship Week

July 28-31, 2008

Theme: Every Member A Minister

Day Sessions: Portland Church of Christ, 2500 Portland Ave., Louisville

Nights: Sellersburg, IN, Church of Christ, 211 S. New Albany St.

Monday Night, July 28

6:50-7:20 Concert by Woodland Bible Camp Singers

7:30 Examples of Individual Ministries Sonny Childs

Tues. July 29 Day Sessions: Identifying My Ability to Minister

8:45 Prayer Time

9:20 Many Gifts, One God Moto Nomura

10:20 Many Parts, One Body Jim Gillaspie

11:20 Exposition #1 of 1st Peter Paul Kitzmiller

1:15 The Gift of Healing Edward Fudge

7:30 "Ordinary" Gifts of the Spirit Edward Fudge

Wed. July 30 Day Sessions: Improving My Ability to Minister

8:45 Prayer Time

9:20 Strengthening Your Spiritual Gift(s) Scott Reeder

10:20 The Gift of Prophecy Edward Fudge

11:20 Exposition #2 of 1st Peter Paul Kitzmiller

1:15 Questions and Answers Edward Fudge

7:30 Securing Our Calling and Election Nick Marsh

Thursday, July 31 Day Sessions: Implementing My Ministry

8:45 Prayer Time

9:20 Personal Ministry Choices Sonny Childs

10:20 The Individual's Ministry Companions Paul Denny

11:20 Exposition #3 of 1st Peter Paul Kitzmiller

1:15 Little Noticed Ministries Dale Offutt

7:30 The Most Excellent Way Julius Hovan

Nursery facilities for babies/ toddlers are available at both churches. Classes held nightly 8:00-8:45 for children/youth: grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-12.

Richard (Hoss) Ridgeway will teach grades 6-12.

There will be an offering for the Fellowship Week's expenses on Tues. night, and a Missions offering Wed. night. Make all checks to Ky/Ind Cn. Fellowship. For housing call Bud Ridgeway, 502.499.0724, or Clint Dorman, 812.246. 2600.

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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Praise God for 100 Years—

In the Beginning of Word and Work

Part 3 (Conclusion)

Alex V. Wilson

In earlier issues during this centennial year, we have surveyed the history of W&W's first seventy-nine years (1908-1986). That covers the founder, David Lipscomb Watson; also editors Stanford Chambers, R.H. Boll, E.L. Jorgenson and J.R. Clark (jointly), Gordon Linscott, and W. Robert Heid.

1986 till Now

A few months after assuming editorship, the present writer introduced the practice of having a major theme most months. Articles on various non-theme subjects are included too, but there are usually several articles on some main topic. Occasionally articles presented not only differing but conflicting views of the theme--to stimulate thought and enable us to better understand "the other side." For the freedom of each disciple to study God's Word for himself and reach his own conclusions is important. (See Romans 14, for example.)

For instance, we have run various viewpoints about the significance of current events in the world at large and among churches. Also diverse beliefs have been presented at different times concerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as the roles of women. In the area of prophecy the present editor holds the "classic premill" view rather than the dispensational beliefs most W&W readers hold, but we try to present a spectrum of views and a balanced presentation. In March 2003 we ran a fine article, "Why I Read *Revelation*," by a Bible teacher whom we knew is a-millennial (Matt Proctor, now president of Ozark Christian College.) We all have much to learn from other members of God's family, and from other views regarding the meaning of His word.

Some of the monthly (now bi-monthly) themes or emphases have been: God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Creation and evolution. The 10 Commandments. "Be holy as I am holy." O.T. prophets. Christ -- prophet, priest and king. The Magnificence of Jesus. (That phrase by itself thrills my heart.) Grace, faith and works. Church—God's great big family. A survey of church history through the centuries. Great Commission or great *omission*? The Bible--you can *trust* it, *understand* it,

teach it. Pray! The Kingdom of God--past, present, future. Women are not 2nd-class citizens in God's kingdom. Jesus is coming again--work and be ready. Satan is alive, promoting evils and errors. Persecution, past and present. Trust the Lord even when life falls apart. We need to be *forgiven*; we need to be *forgiving*. Love is "the greatest thing in the world." And some W&Ws have centered on some book of the Bible, such as Genesis, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the O.T. prophets, Revelation. Wow—don't you wish you could go back and read or re-read them all?

Since too often Christians neglect the O.T. scriptures, we have tried to give them frequent coverage too, as seen in the preceding sentences and this issue as well.

Ladies, Poems, Parables and the Great Commission

Sometimes it seems that our sisters in God's family are not sufficiently recognized for their many contributions. Dr. Dale Jorgenson correctly observes: "The 'staff' at W&W has tended to consist of dedicated and generous Christian women who have been willing to commit many hours of service in the repetitive tasks of preparing the magazine for mail, updating mailing lists, and manning the office. They are all heroic servants of Christ and have earned our sincere thanks and prayers." They include Ethel Boyer Sevege, Edith and Mildred Lale, Louise Wells, Jane Heid and Sherry Heid Jansen, and other unsung heroes.

Speaking of women, poems by sisters such as Annie Johnson Flint, Amy Carmichael, and Fanny Crosby have often graced our pages. Such "sermons"-in-verse (by men too, of course) have often been a blessing. For the Lord has put a song in our heart, including rhyme and rhythm. In our preceding installment we also mentioned at least seven women who have written many helpful articles during the century.

I recently heard an insightful statement: "*Thou shalt not'* might reach the head, but it takes '*Once upon a time'* to reach the heart." That's true (though overstated, as such general statements usually are). God's Word, especially Jesus' parables, verifies it. Thus from time to time W&W has included fiction, parables in modern dress, and dramatizations of Bible stories (such as Ezekiel's sermon at Portland Church). Such approaches can help us, especially long-time students of Scripture who are very familiar with most of it, to break out of staleness or even apathy.

In 1996 we asked Dennis L. Allen to become missionary editor, and be in charge of the theme-articles for three issues yearly. This was a blessing,

and we regretted it when in mid-2007 he could not continue due to health and family needs.

Observations from a Longtime Reader (and Writer too)

To conclude this review of W&W's history, we quote a few more excerpts from the letter of appreciation sent by Dr. Dale Jorgenson. (He wrote after our June '07 issue raised questions about how long the magazine might be able to continue.)

The "News and Notes" section of the magazine has concentrated principally on news of the churches within the premillennial circle, though with an occasional reference to religious or political news from wider horizons.

Interestingly, however, the "Missions" section has included a growing number of reports from people who are members of Churches of Christ but who are working under mission boards of other agencies. The willingness of many ministers, missionaries, and church members to participate in the wider effort to bring Christ to the world...has possibly helped diminish at least partially the perceived need for a *separate* Church of Christ magazine to keep us together.... Perhaps we are approaching a time soon when we can again internalize the words of Barton Stone and his colleagues at Cane Ridge as they wrote the *Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery*: "We will that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the Body of Christ at large." But as with Stone, such a move would result in a net spiritual loss without vigilance over those Christian doctrines which have been taught faithfully by this circle of Christians—including the emphasis on the grace of God in Christ Jesus, baptism for the remission of sins, and the joyous expectation of Jesus' Coming at any moment.

"This is not your father's *Word and Work*." The creative ways Brother Wilson has managed to include such interesting items as "Lessons from the Farm" [by Bob Yarbrough] and practical living hints by Joyce Broyles, reprints from the fathers of the journal and, most of all, continued courage in tackling real theological and biblical teaching issues, all in the light of contemporary developments in the world and in the church, have blessed all of us. [End of quote.]

Reader friends, please read the next article as it discusses the future.

What about the *Future* of W&W?

(All readers, please note the following)

First, another quick look back, to get some historic context. Several years ago I read that W&W was the 5th oldest Stone-Campbell Movement magazine still continuing. (Notice those last two words. Many were started earlier, but later ceased publication.) I know that *The Gospel Advocate* (1855) and *Christian Standard* (1866) are the two oldest in this category. But I have forgotten the 3rd and 4th, and do not know if they still continue or not.

The Lord has sustained this ministry for a century now. But *what lies ahead* for it? As Tennyson wrote, "It rests with God." In recent decades the great majority of our subscribers have been older folks. A friend of mine says he's now a "younger senior citizen." I'm sure that being a junior senior has advantages over being a senior senior, but the Lord is with us *all* to the *end*, however feeble we may grow. Then too, the Trumpet may sound very soon. Even so come, Lord Jesus!

But till He does return, time passes, and so do people, movements, ministries and magazines. *If* God grants continuing strength and wisdom to the editor and staff, we hope to finish out *this year* 2008. That's three more 2-month issues after this one, or maybe two 3-month issues. And we are not at all sure that even those options may be fulfilled. So it seems clear that this year will be W&W's last as a magazine—unless our Lord works miraculously to heal the editor's leaky memory, strengthen his body, and raise up younger office workers.

(Attention: be sure to read the next section too, about another possibility – online.)

It rests with GOD. His word and His work do not rise and fall with *Word and Work*, though our goals have always been to be true to Scripture and to urge us all—"To the work!" He is the One who is great, excellent, majestic, high and holy, near and lowly, and ever-caring. What delight it is to know Him, commune with Him, serve Him, share Him with others, and look forward to eternity with Him! HE is the Beginning and the End, the speaker of the Word and the doer of the Work.

No Need to Renew Your Subscription!

If your subscription is running out or has already done so recently, we plan to send you the remaining issues (or issue) anyway, Lord willing. Due to our almost certain ending very soon, you no longer need to pay to renew your subscription! This is possible due to some faithful, generous donors He has raised up in the past year since the postal crisis for magazines seemed to threaten our shutdown in mid-2007.

What about Word and Work on the WEB?

Maybe, just maybe, after we cease the printed/mailed-out magazine, we might be able to put some more materials on the W&W website which our printer, George Fulda, set up over a year ago. It's at www.wordandwork.org (If you are not a user of the worldwide web, probably your grandchildren can reach it for you!) We mentioned it in our July '07 editorial, but I have lacked time to add to the site since then. Yet George has put some *News & Notes* updates there several times. (Bennie Hill might say, "Well, that's all that really matters!") And you can still read articles which have been there from the start. One is by Brother Boll on "Grace—to the Worst and the Best." Also there are five early articles from our series on the Sermon on the Mount. The website has some other features from other sources too.

Bottom line: *Maybe* the Lord has a surprise up His sleeve. It just *may* be possible that when our print version ends, W&W will live on in a new form. Recently three writers showed interest in continuing to send articles to the magazine (two of them had not done so for a while). Will they do it if we go online? Other questions arise: Who will publish, edit or co-edit the online "magazine"? Who will write for it? How often will it appear? What about costs? In fact, how does an online magazine *work*? (I don't have a clue at this point. But we have consulted a few people who do.) The answers to those questions: I don't know, but it rests with God. Stay tuned and we'll see. The main need would be for someone to become website editor. If you have any suggestions, please let us know as soon as possible.

We know you will pray for God's direction and glory in these matters.

Stanford Chambers, Triple Threat

Alex V. Wilson

(Concluded from preceding issue)

After preaching the Gospel and establishing new churches for eight years in Indiana—supporting his family by teaching in public schools—Stanford Chambers moved south. Public school work was not to his liking because of the lack of freedom in Bible teaching. He later explained,

"Word came of the need of a teacher in the Christian High School, conducted by the Seventh and Camp Streets congregation, New Orleans, La. I was interested in knowing of a day school in which the Word of God was being daily taught to every pupil. I had decided to go to Florida, but go by New Orleans enroute to Florida. Landing in New Orleans December 2, 1907, I found the school in dire need of a teacher. One of the staff was unable to continue longer. There were classes that had had no teacher the whole day. What could I do but come to the rescue? Thus I got tied up, and didn't see Florida for sixteen years!"
(The Exhorter, Dec. 1965)

The Seventh and Camp Streets Church was burdened not only to teach young people about the Lord, but also to plant new churches in other places. And those were the two great loves of Stanford Chambers! So for the next fifteen years they labored together, seeking to fulfill those two great visions God had given them.

The New Orleans church felt very isolated, for hardly any likeminded churches existed within hundreds of miles. Formerly there had been one over sixty miles north, and another small one 150 miles west, but both had died out.

"The city itself was (and is) a vast mission field. The whole Gulf region likewise. . . . Could Seventh and Camp Streets church enlist the needed cooperation of brethren and churches of other states to evangelize this vast Gulf region? There was the felt need of a publication issuing from New Orleans, and so the Christian Word and Work made its first appearance in March, 1908." (ibid.)

Our preceding issues told more about the origin and history of this magazine, so we shall not cover that ground again. But its main purpose for coming into existence was to challenge believers to arise and work together in cooperation, so that Christ might be known and strong Bible-

believing churches formed. May that vision continue, and by God's power be fulfilled.

A Pioneer for the Gospel

During those years, besides his school-teaching Brother Chambers held numerous gospel meetings—in tents, schoolhouses, homes—anywhere that people would gather. My sources of information are sketchy here (some articles are missing.) W. J. Johnson was already engaged in such evangelism, and they often worked together. Soon Brother Chambers met A. K. Ramsey, helped convert him to Christ, and then introduced him to the joys of preaching. Brother Ramsey afterwards founded a number of churches himself—as did his son Richard in later years. Sidney Mayeux was brought out of the superstitions and dead traditions of Roman Catholicism by Brother Chambers' ministry. In later years he led many from darkness to the Light of the world, Jesus. Someone mentioned to me that brother Chambers strongly influenced Ivy Istre and the churches around Jennings and Crowley, but I lack specific information on that.

We wonder how many congregations Brother Chambers helped to establish in all, in Indiana and Louisiana and elsewhere. At least 10, probably 15, possibly 20 or more. And he planted many of them—maybe most!—during his vacation times from school-teaching! We mention this not to glorify him, but to point out how badly we need church-planters today. Yes, times have changed and we must adapt methods to our current circumstances. Many tactics that were effective formerly will not be successful today—though some will in some places. Yet it is still true that evangelists (primarily meaning church-planters) are one of Christ's main gifts to the church (Eph. 4:11-13). So we should pray to the Lord to raise up a number of such evangelists among us now. (All believers should be witnesses, but not all are gifted as evangelists.) Then we should recognize them, send them out and support them in every way possible.

Labels, Divisions and Closed Doors

Around 1915 and following, some leaders in Churches of Christ became upset over the interpretation of Biblical prophecy. From 1930 onward the problem intensified. A few men with great influence began to oppose the view that after Christ's return He and his people will reign on earth for 1000 years. Veering away from the freedom of belief and expression that J. A. Harding and David Lipscomb had emphasized, they strongly opposed not only the doctrines related to premillennialism, but the

people who taught them. That included R.H. Boll, E.L. Jorgenson, H.L. Olmstead . . . and Stanford Chambers.

In the paper he later edited, *Truth Advance*, Aug./Sept. 1945, Brother Chambers gives some background to his beliefs about prophecy.

I cannot recollect who first called my attention to the Revelation passage concerning "the thousand years." Perhaps no one did. I began as soon as I came to Christ to read His Testament through. Before ever being called a preacher I remember making use of this passage in trying to save a "good, moral man" who was boasting that in the resurrection he would "stand up as tall as the rest." I turned to Rev. 20:5 and showed him that unless he repented he would not stand up with true children of God at all, that "the rest of the dead lived not till the thousand years should be finished." Thus read the Bible to me at that early age. Not long after a preacher declared that the millennium was already on. Evidence, the peace sentiment, the settling of labor disputes and other problems by arbitration, etc. I could not agree. Not long after came another proclaiming that Satan was bound already. That to me was NEWS. I wished to know when. He said at Pentecost. I cited 1 Pet. 5:8 as stating a fact long after Pentecost. I recall these occurrences as proof that I was "premillennial" while yet a boy, though never having heard such a term for it, which is true of many.

In earlier times various preachers and members of Restoration Movement churches had differed among themselves over prophecy without rancor or divisiveness. Well-known leaders like J. A. Harding, Moses Lard, Barton Stone and others believed in premillennialism. But neither they nor those who disagreed with them dreamed of drawing lines of disfellowship because of these views. But attitudes later changed in many places. Labels were applied and churches were split. An editor of one of the magazines wrote Brother Chambers, "If you don't give up that -ism, we'll see to it that you'll be wanting a place to preach." But the threat failed to achieve its aim, and the prediction never came to pass. Though many doors were closed against him due to his beliefs, many other doors of opportunity were open for him. And he was able to say, "I am glad to feel that I have been used of the Lord to prevent division, and to *heal* division, and have never to my knowledge *caused* division. On the other hand I have never knowingly shirked declaring 'the whole counsel of God.'"

A New School in Louisville

In 1923 the Chambers family moved to Louisville, Kentucky. Members of the Portland Ave. Church had been praying and preparing to start a Christian school, and who was better equipped to lead it than Stanford Chambers? Portland Christian School began in September, 1924, with three teachers and 85 students. Before long it started growing, and added a full high school program. Along with regular academic subjects (taught from a Christian perspective), Bible classes and/or chapel services were held daily. Through the years many non-christian young people were converted, Christian students grew in faith and usefulness, and Christ-centered homes were established. Of course numbers of students failed to appreciate and appropriate the spiritual blessings offered to them. Yet a good number of church leaders, preachers and missionaries emerged too. Brother Chambers' wisdom, discipline, humor, teaching ability in many fields, ability to motivate, and faith in the Lord helped lead PCS through many trials. Financial crises were common, but he and the staff he attracted set a splendid example of sacrificial love and prayerfulness.

R. H. Boll was ministering at the Portland Ave. Church through all this time. In addition to his preaching, he taught five Bible classes weekly for adults (young people were welcome too) through much of the year. His rich teaching plus Brother Chambers' strong leadership at Portland Christian School and High School attracted many Christians who wanted to grow in the Lord and/or provide spiritual education for their children. People came from Indiana, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas and elsewhere to hear from these two giants in the faith. For some years Brother Chambers spearheaded some training classes in practical Christian service and leadership, in addition to the Bible classes of Brother Boll. From this training school Kentucky Bible College developed, which later became Southeastern Christian College and moved to Winchester, Kentucky. Years afterward, SCC closed its doors. But PCS/PCHS continues to this day, still maintaining the spirit and goals which it had from the beginning. Brother Chambers taught there and was its principal or president from 1924-37 and 1941-50.

A Life that was Long, Full and Fruitful

Reviewing his ministry we see that from 1899-1907 he preached in Indiana, and from 1908-1922 he lived in Louisiana, preaching plus teaching in a Christian school. In both states (and elsewhere) he planted a

number of new churches. Then from 1923-50 he was mostly at Portland Christian School in Kentucky. He also helped start and edit *Word and Work* (1908-15), and later published *Truth Advance*. In addition he wrote several small pamphlets; a commentary on the book of Revelation, entitled *Conquering and to Conquer*; and a 70-page book about baptism (still available @ \$1.50).

In an article he wrote in 1945 he reviewed his labors and rewards up to that time, as follows:

Labors in the Gospel extended to some sixteen states, baptisms uncounted. . . . Salary never hinted at, support never complained of, family bills and needs until now ever met. Hardships ever less than deserved, conscious weaknesses and failings enough to keep anyone humble, loved beyond deserts, debt of love ever increasing while time for paying ever swiftly shortens. Gratitude ever deepens with reflection on extended privilege of eating the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day since spring of 1900 (despite one brief sickness), the privilege of proclaiming our Lord's death in His own appointed, unique way for all time "until He come." Fruitage, not as much nor as good as heart has wished. Unfinished business much more than allotted time is equal to. (*Truth Advance*, Aug./Sept. 1945.)

After writing the above he lived for another 24 years! Though sometimes sick and increasingly feeble, he continued to write and sometimes preached. In 1968 his beloved wife went to be with the Lord, and the next year, at age 93, Stanford Chambers joined her there. Those of us who knew him rejoice in that privilege, and glorify God for making his life strong and radiant.

Another reprint, but as relevant as ever--

the BIG picture

Dennis L. Allen

(As the second sentence makes clear, this was written pre-2000, but just barely. It was Brother Allen's first article after becoming our missionary editor.)

We are living in difficult and yet challenging times. Just to be living in the closing years of the 20th century is momentous, but to realize that it is

also the end of the second millennium since the birth of Christ is almost overwhelming. Truly upon us "the ends of the ages are come." This realization should affect all of our thinking, our priorities, and our decisions.

Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." It is our purpose that the missionary editions of the Word and Work may be an instrument to help us see more clearly what God's program is for these days and how we can together enter into it.

We know so much more of what is going on in the world than we did in simpler times. The major newsworthy events (usually bad) of the whole world are immediately displayed on our TV screens. But the tragedies of the whole world are sometimes too much and can weigh us down and discourage us. How should we process this information? We don't want to become hardened. Some react by refusing to listen to the news. A lot of it is slanted anyway. On the other hand, if my brothers and sisters on the other side of the world are undergoing famine or persecution should I close my eyes and ears? If Christians don't pray and respond to those who are hurting, who will?

In today's world we can easily enlarge our borders and our usefulness. We need not be limited by our location. We can become a part of the ministries that are reaching out to the far corners of the earth. We may not be able to preach to the multitudes in China, but we can help support the gospel programs that are being beamed every day into the interior of that great country. These broadcasts through the years are one of the primary reasons for the amazing growth of the church in China. Even if you are not able to give you can uphold this ministry in prayer. God's heart takes in the whole world. As His children, should we not endeavor to see as He sees--to let our hearts be enlarged? When we begin to see the church worldwide our perspective changes. Our values and priorities will also change. We tend to think that the USA is the hub so far as the church of our Lord Jesus Christ is concerned--that the best leadership and strongest churches are here. That may no longer be true. The Gospel is having phenomenal growth in many areas of the world today. [We need to know] these developments, and also examine afresh God's missionary program for His church.

- In Iran, before Khomeini's revolution there were about 2,000 believers. Now after increased persecution there are more than 15,000.

[Remember, this was written nearly 10 years ago. Yet now, despite the war, many more have converted to Christ—via gospel programs on satellite t-v, for one thing.—avw]

• It is estimated that in AD 100 there were 360 non-Christians in the world for every true believer. Today the ratio is seven to one. That is, Bible-believing, Christ-committed disciples now make up 1/8 of earth's population. (Nominal Christians make up 1/3, but that doesn't mean much.)

These statistics gleaned from several sources point up the fact that as individuals we see only a very small part of what God is doing. Just as in Elijah's day there were 7,000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal, yet Elijah was unaware of the fact and thought he was standing alone. Our hands are strengthened and our hearts encouraged when we learn of what God is doing in the world today. It is true that the church is experiencing decline in England and on the Continent and in some areas of the U.S., but these facts show clearly that Christ is still building His church.

INSIDE OUT People

Richard Sharp

I've had the opportunity to travel all over the world and visit all kinds of churches. I've preached in churches that are so lively everything seemed to be moving and in churches where nothing seemed to be moving. I've preached in churches that are cathedrals and in others that are mud huts. But whatever the style of worship, whatever the size of the building, there is a common characteristic of most churches -- they are inward-looking. You know why? They are made up of people who are inward-looking.

Let me ask you--is yours an inward-looking church? Second question: Are you an inward-looking person?

I heard a statement a few years ago that hit me between the eyes. It left me staggering, and I hope I never recover. **"We will never turn the world upside down until we turn the church inside out."**

Interesting. That phrase "turn the world upside down," is found in Acts 17:6 (KJV, ASV, RSV). It's the statement some non-Christians made about a small missionary band of believers. These followers of Jesus had no budgets or buildings, no colleges or conferences, yet the locals said these people "have turned the world upside down."

Do you know why that was said about them? I believe it was because they were inside-out people. They were not caught up with themselves but with Jesus. They were not into maintenance but into mission. They were not living in their comfort zone, but living in the combat zone. We need churches today that can have the same said of them. May we look outward not inward. May we seek to turn the world upside down. Where does that start? It starts with you and me saying, "Lord, turn me inside out."

--From **Indeed**, published by Operation Mobilization

VOICES from the FIELDS

Robert Garrett

April 30, 2008

Arrived back in Zimbabwe April 9 and have been back three weeks now. It was hard to leave Joy behind but she is in good hands as we have two daughters in Louisville.

It has become almost impossible to transact business in the normal manner. Much business seems to be operated on what is euphemistically called the "parallel market." The official rate for the US \$ against the Zim \$ is something like 1 US to 300,000 Zim. But a loaf of bread -- if you can find it -- would set you back 80 million because the prices in the shops often seem to reflect the "parallel rate" which may be something like 150 million to one, and rising. In two shops I visited, a wholesaler and a supermarket, the shelves in both were more than half empty. Everything had been removed from about half of the floor area and the shelves in the section that was being used were only half full.

We need cement for our various building projects. Although Zimbabwe has three cement factories, it is extremely rare to find it in the normal retailers. If it is found at all it will be in the "parallel" market at an inflated price. Little has been done on the three church buildings under construction during my absence, mainly due to the lack of cement. The brethren managed to get 6 bags last week and Michael went out to Mhondoro on Monday to finish that project. It is about 50 miles from here. He should complete the brickwork before the end of next week.

The congregations seem to be doing well and growing, and the brethren have continued with the youth Bible camps in spite of the financial difficulties. April 13-20 has been Senior Camp, with almost 80

campers. The building at Bulawayo has been delayed because of lack of water. The municipal dams had been badly affected by the drought last year.

Moto & Yoriko Nomura

Japan

See *News & Notes* for a report on their honorable trip to Pepperdine University in April. And see the Nomuras *Themselves in Louisville in late July!!* Bro. Moto will be one of the speakers at the Ky./Ind. Christian Fellowship Week in Louisville/ Sellersburg. He will also report on their ministries in Japan as well as South Korea before. They also will visit some churches in that area July 27 & Aug. 3 (contact J.R. Satterfield), and then in La. (contact Duane Jolibois).

Michiya & Tomoko Nakahara
April, 2008

Shizuoka City, Japan

We hold our summer camp about 1 hour away from here, where children can enjoy both rivers and the mountains. Our prayer is that these children will see, feel and sense God's love by being surrounded in His amazing creation. As our congregation is getting older, we do not have separate camp for the adults, but several do enjoy attending the children's camp. Pray with us that God will provide enough adults who can help us serve at the children's camp which will be held in July, 2008.

As for our family, we enjoyed having Kazuma and Lynn home for spring break. This break marks the end of their school year. Kazuma just began his 8th grade, and Lynn is now in 5th grade.

Please continue to pray for the opportunity to witness to our neighbors. As has been mentioned in the past, we now have the Buddhist New Age Temple that is practically next to us drawing much attention. Pray with us that people will hunger for the truth, and that God will use me and our church to be the instrument to share God's love.

Thank you for praying for my health. I had another physical in January, and the report was better than last year. Although I am not at a point that I can travel by air, the doctors definitely saw some progress and healing in my bones. Praise God! I anticipate that I will be able to come next year (summer, 09) to see all of you! I continue to teach for Osaka Bible Seminary via web cam. I am teaching mainly Old Testament (Joshua through I & II Kings; Job through Song of Solomon; and Genesis through Deuteronomy). Pray also for these seminary students who are studying to be the future spiritual leaders in Japan that they will continue

to love God's Word and Christ will use each and every one of these students to do His work some day. We have so few people who feel called to go to seminary in the first place that I feel very honored to be able to be a part of this ministry. Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support. We pray for the soon return of Jesus Christ. [To get their full newsletters contact Bob Yarbrough, 19930 County Road 324, Terrell, Texas 75160]

Dan Wilson
April, 2008

Assoc. of Christian Schools Internat.

I came across a notebook of all of my trips to Russia and was surprised to discover that this trip to Vladimir was my 30th time in the Great Motherland! I figured that over the last 12 years I have spent about 2½ of them in Russia. They have been good and bad, frustrating, fascinating, adventuresome, joyful, wearing and a whole list of other adjectives. It has been my joy to be a small part of God's big work in that gigantic land.

Of all of the trips to Vladimir with teams from Peoria Christian School over the last 12 years, this was one of the best. It was a great group of students and chaperones, a teachable bunch with a heart to reach out to the Russian kids, that made it so enjoyable. We had the opportunity to spend 2 days in one school and 5 in another. Both are public schools, and because of Russian laws we were not able to share our faith explicitly during the school day, but we were able to hold some after-school clubs at both schools.

At one we had over 60 students in grades 7-11 attend our clubs, where we played games, had small group discussions and taught them some worship songs. The following weekend we held an overnight retreat, and although we asked for a limit of 22 Russian students, 32 showed up. There we were able to go deeper. The Monday following the retreat we were able to fellowship with some young people from Calvary Chapel and had three of our Russian student friends go with us. One of them, a young man named Yegor, showed some real interest in the Gospel. We were able to plant a lot of seeds.

During our fellowship time at Calvary Chapel, a 28-year-old guy named Dima led several worship songs. At the end he said, "I wanted to tell you that I became a Christian because of the Peoria Christian School exchange program." Ten years ago he was one of the Russian students that went to Peoria in the fall and hosted us in the spring. It took a couple of years before those seeds took root and he gave his life to Christ, but

now 10 years later, he has a wife and two kids, and faithfully leads worship each week. Please pray that the seeds we were able to plant this year will also take root in many hearts.

For now our mission teams schedule remains busy. Two teams leave tomorrow, one for Hungary. [This Hungary team was from Portland Christian School in Louisville.]

Updates on our Brothers and Sisters in the Philippines

Alex Wilson

Much good work for Christ is being done in the Philippines, despite horrible economic and political conditions and other trials. Pray for them, and praise God too.

In Manila, Central Bible college (now classified by the government as a seminary) has produced good fruit and continues to do so. We recently got letters from several students we taught there decades ago.

Joseph was a missionary to tribes-people for years, and now helps prepare believers from China go as missionaries to other countries. They come from the mainland, get training in the Philippines, then go out to serve in other lands—many of them closed to Western missionaries.

Linda has spearheaded a major Bible-distribution and correspondence-course movement for decades. Zeny has worked mainly with children--in the Philippines, Mediterranean lands, the U.S. and elsewhere.

Herman travels widely to mentor ministers in training church-workers and leaders. Ahmor serves with her husband; they are missionaries to England.

David has excelled as CBS leader and teacher for years, plus preaching, plus training evangelists and shepherds for a number of young churches. Virgilio also teaches, and shepherds a church which spreads the gospel and began a school for children too.

And all of the above studied at CBS *before 1983*, when we returned here. And others too could be mentioned from that era, plus of course many *since* then. And others there who did not attend CBS work long and hard in the churches—teaching, leading, giving of their finances, etc. The

Chinese congregation in Manila, though small, has sacrificed much for the Lord. And Filipinos around that country and other lands, have also been used by God to carry out His will.

A number of our readers get T. Y. Clark's newsletters re: work in Mindanao, the southernmost main island. Recently we received from Cyrus Gesulga, a leader among churches in that region, the well-planned program for their 26th annual lectureship and youth fellowship, May 19-24. Its theme was "Strengthening Christian Unity."

We urge you to pray regularly for all our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. And in view of the ever-widening poverty, consider whether the Lord would lead you to help financially too. Love gifts may be sent through Church of Christ Worldwide, P.O. Box 84542, Lexington KY 40555. If you have questions, feel free to contact us.

BETTER THAN SALVATION . . .

Gordon R. Linscott, 1963 W&W

Yes, there is a blessing that is even better than being saved. It is the companionship of the One that saved you! Many--maybe most--Christians expect too little from God. "If I can just make it to heaven, I'll be satisfied," we hear. And so the whole of life is a drudgery, doing the things that just have to be done. God has higher ground for you, higher privileges, higher joys.

Moses enjoyed this privilege. To the Israelites God said, "Return ye to your tents." To Moses: "But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee . . ." (Deut. 5:30,31). The Psalmist had discovered the joy of this personal relationship with God: "I love Jehovah . . ." (Psa. 116:1). For him, praying was not mechanical or impersonal; it was not just a crank you turn to work a machine. It was a personal conversation with God. What a privilege that is! And to think that God has time for us or wants us!

More than our service, more than our worship, He wants us. It is not that He does not want our service or our worship, but it is not the highest or the best until He has us.

The Crazy place where they HOPE!

The Ten Boom family were devoted Christians, and their home was always an open house for anyone in need. During World War II, the Ten Boom home became a hiding place for fugitives and anyone pursued by the Nazis. But on February 28, 1944, a neighbor betrayed the family. Nazi secret police set a trap and waited throughout the day arresting everyone who came to the house.

Corrie and Betsie spent ten months in three different prisons, the last being the infamous Ravensbruck concentration camp located near Berlin, Germany. Life in the camp was almost unbearable, but Corrie and Betsie spent their time sharing Jesus' love with their fellow prisoners. Many women became Christians in that terrible place because of Corrie and Betsie's witness to them. The saying in the camp was, "That's Barracks 28—the crazy place where they hope."

Betsie died in Ravensbruck, but Corrie survived. The pertinent question would seem to be, what were they hoping for? If they were hoping to be released alive from Ravensbruck, then Corrie's hopes were well placed and Betsie's were dashed. If their hope was in Jesus Christ, whose faithfulness was sure no matter what happened, both women's hopes were met. [--from a church bulletin]

Defeating My Giants

Joyce Broyles

In I Samuel 17, there is an interesting story. The Jews were being threatened by the army from Philistia, a country bordering the Mediterranean Sea and Israel. The two armies were on opposite hills. King Saul had a tent near them. Then came the unusual threat. "Send one man to fight our man. If he wins, we'll be your slaves. If our man wins, you'll be our slaves."

Sounds good, yes? Only one man gets hurt that way. Saves lives. Only thing, the soldier from the Philistine army was nine and a half feet tall, with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. He wore bronze armor that weighed 125 pounds. His spearhead weighed fifteen pounds. He had a sword strapped to his back and another soldier walked in front of him carrying his shield. And his name was Goliath.

Back in the hills lived a man named Jesse. He had eight sons, and three of them were in the Jewish army. The youngest son at home was named David. He was a teenager, and he took care of the sheep. One day, Jesse gave David a sack of grain, ten loaves of bread, and ten chunks of cheese and told him to go check on the armies and bring back something to show how his brothers were doing.

When David arrived, he gave the food to the man in charge and then he heard Goliath in the valley, shouting curses and insults at the Israelite army. He asked what was going on and a soldier told him about the contest. King Saul had offered a reward to the one who could win. He could have his daughter for a wife, which would make him a prince, and he would never have to pay taxes again!

David's oldest brother heard him asking questions and told him to get out of the way because he was probably just there to see the fighting. David asked, "Can't I ask a question?"

When David heard Goliath cursing God, he became upset. He asked, "Who does this guy think he is, insulting our God?" Then David said someone ought to go get the giant because they would have God on their side, so they'd be sure to win. The soldiers heard him and ran to tell King Saul.

Saul asked to see David, and when he did, he said to David, "You're just a boy, so what can you do?" David told him that as a shepherd, he had fought lions with sticks to get them away from his sheep, and he had even wrestled a bear and grabbed its throat and tore open its jaws! He said God gave him the strength he needed and God would help him kill Goliath.

Saul put his armor on David, but David told him he couldn't even move with it on, so he took it off. Then he picked up his shepherd's staff and five stones, and took his slingshot with him.

When David got out in the valley and Goliath saw him, he began to curse again. He asked, "What do you think I am, a dog? You come here to fight me with a stick? I'll kill you and feed you to the birds and wild beasts."

David shouted back, "You have a sword and a spear, but I have the power of God. You've insulted Him, so I'll cut off your head and feed you and your army to the birds and beasts. Then everyone will know God always wins his battles."

Then David wound up and threw the stone. It embedded in Goliath's forehead, cracked his skull, and Goliath fell face down. David ran up to him, took Goliath's sword off his back, and cut off his head. The Philistine army ran, but the Jews followed, killed them, and robbed them.

David kept Goliath's weapons. King Saul took David to his palace, and David never went back to being a shepherd.

What does that story have to do with me today? I face a giant of some kind every day. It may be drugs, peer pressure, family problems, relationships with friends, work, poor health, loneliness, whatever. How do I chop the head off my giant?

1. I realize who the enemy is. I am fighting whatever defies God's name. That is the enemy territory. What is at stake? The name of God. So, I must realize that it is the devil, Satan, who is attacking me. He is trying to get me to curse or defile the name of God. David realized that it was not him that Goliath was attacking, but it was the name of God.

2. I remember past victories. God has already helped me defeat some giants and given me victory in the past. I remember that David said to King Saul, "If the lion and bear have been destroyed, what is this giant?" I remember the past. Victory is certain in the Lord. The Bible says to be steadfast, unmovable. I know that it is worth it.

3. I resist fear. I must resist the temptation to be afraid. If I can be determined to resist accusations and jeers or mockery or having people make fun of me, then I can resist the temptation to be intimidated. With God and me, I have a majority. David was not being cocky when he said he could beat Goliath. He was just confident. Why? Because God says that "I am with you wherever you go." That is good news for me.

4. I run toward the battle. Once I have realized that it is the devil fighting against the name of God, and I remember that God gives me victory, and I have resisted the temptation to be afraid, then I must run toward the battle.

Paul told the Ephesians that Christians have armor: a belt of truth, a breastplate of right living, shoes that tell the good news, a shield of faith, a helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. But look! There is nothing for my back. There is no room for retreat. If I run away, I have lost the battle.

I John 4:4 tells me that "Greater is Jesus in me than the enemy in the world." So, with God on my side, I will win. I can defeat any giant that comes my way.

When I run toward my battle, I must fight my giant with love like Jesus had. That means loving everyone and helping everyone that I can. That will show that I belong to Jesus.

When I have a problem, I think of those four R's: Realize, Remember, Resist, and Run toward the giant with God. He defeats all my giants and gives me the victory each time.

Do we seek to give or get?

Substance and Accident: The Distinction between Worship and Entertainment

Nick Boone

Most people understand that there is a difference between worship and entertainment. We realize that going to the movies is not the same as going to church. However, some would argue (and I have heard members of the church argue this) that it is impossible to separate the notions of worship and entertainment. Such would argue that there is no clear line of demarcation in these two concepts. The two are so closely intertwined that it is impossible to untangle them. For instance, one might say that if a preacher isn't good at delivering messages, if he can't keep his audience's attention because he's so dry and boring, he won't be preaching for that church very long—it's not good for worship. Similarly, if the song leader doesn't have a good voice, if he's not pleasant to hear, then he won't be song leading very much longer because it is not good for worship. My purpose in this essay is to argue for a way to understand worship in such a way that we can say it is categorically different from entertainment. Though worship and entertainment can co-exist, they do not necessarily have to go together, and they can, in fact, exist separately from one another.

To understand the distinct natures of worship and entertainment, we must know something about what worship means in the biblical sense of the word. In the Bible, five words are often translated into the English word worship. Two words, *shachac* and *abad*, are used in the Old Testament, and three words, *proskyneo*, *leitourgia* and *latreia*, are used in

the New Testament. The Hebrew word, *shachac* essentially corresponds to the Greek word *proskyneo*. They both basically mean “to bow down.” Worship, in these terms, is an act of **giving honor to God through reverence and humility**. The Hebrew word *abad* refers to service rendered in the Temple of God. The New Testament equivalents are *leitourgia* and *latreia*—both words involve **rendering service to God**.*

What is the point of all this Hebrew and Greek? Simply to show that worship, in the biblical sense of the term, involves giving, not getting. This concept of worship as giving to God rather than receiving good things from God or from the church seems contrary to much of our everyday talk about church and worship services. How many times have we heard (or have heard ourselves say), “I didn’t get anything out of the worship today,” or, “I really enjoyed the worship today.” It may not be all together invalid to state whether or not you enjoyed or didn’t enjoy elements of the worship service, but it is important to recognize that worship has nothing to do with what you may or may not have gained from it. What matters is what you have or have not given.

The difference, then, between worship and entertainment is obvious. Entertainment is all about getting. We watch a movie to get something out of it, usually pleasure or diversion or amusement of some sort. We never go to any place of entertainment to give anything. It’s always primarily about what we can get out of the experience. Now, in church services worship and entertainment are sometimes confused because we are so often entertained by many aspects of church worship. The singing is often wonderful, and the sermons are often worth missing the NFL pre-game shows on just their entertainment value alone. The services interest us, they make us think, and they inspire us so much that we might even be willing to pay money for them occasionally—if we had to. And, of course, I believe it is vital that church leaders such as preachers and song leaders work hard at their given crafts so that they can perform in such a way as to gain and keep people’s attention during the worship service. Augustine taught the same idea over 1500 years ago when he asked, rhetorically, why Christians should have to endure dull, tedious lessons to hear the truth of God’s Word while the pagans make lies more palatable to their audiences through entertaining speeches.** In short, it is important for church leaders to make their lessons as interesting as possible for the church, but everyone must realize that one’s worship has nothing to do with how much one enjoyed the service, or even how much one might have learned from the service because worship is about giving, not about gaining.

To make the distinction between worship and entertainment abundantly clear, it is necessary to make the philosophical distinction between substance and accident (a distinction made by philosophers at least since the time of Aristotle). In order to understand the nature of a thing, one must discern whether certain elements of the experience of the thing are substantive, or essential, to it, or whether they are accidental, or non-essential, to it. For instance, take the desk at which I am sitting now. As I examine this desk, I notice its shape, material, and dimensions. I can see that it is rectangular (shape); I can feel that it is made of wood (material); and I can also see that it is about four feet wide and two feet long (dimensions). These are some of the aspects of the desk that make up its substantive, or essential, nature. Change any of these things and you have a different kind of desk, or maybe you don't have a desk at all. But other aspects of the desk are accidental, or non-essential to its nature. For instance, I can examine the desk and feel that its surface is cool to the touch. It has been sitting in a room that hasn't been heated in months. I might come back at another time, however, and touch the desk and notice that its surface is warm to the touch because the sunlight from the window above it has heated it up. But the warmth or the coolness of the desk does nothing to change the desk's essential nature. Whether warm or cool it is still the same desk. Also, to extend this analysis, I might find the look or style of the desk pedestrian, boring, or even ugly. Another might find the desk to be novel, interesting, or beautiful. One may describe the desk as beautiful or ugly, but neither of these kinds of descriptions deals with the essentials of the desk. These are accidents of our experience of the desk.

The same distinction should be applied to church worship. It is possible to distinguish between worship and entertainment. Worship's substantive nature primarily involves giving honor and/or service to God. Entertainment's substantive nature involves getting something interesting for oneself. Now, in the case of church worship, these twain can meet. One can both give and get in worship. I can give God honor by listening to his Word preached in a sermon, and I can also gain a lot from the sermon, even be entertained by it. The same can be said for singing and other aspects of worship services. However, entertainment is purely accidental to the nature of worship. I may not enjoy anything about the service and worship God by honoring him with my heart through listening to his word and singing and praying. Whether or not we enjoy worship has nothing to do with whether or not we have indeed pleased God with our worship.

Apply this lesson on worship to your attitude towards church. If you are in a position of leadership and have a hand in determining what happens during the worship service, do you think about how to create an environment in which people can most easily give praise and honor and service to God? Or do you think about catering to people's desires for interesting/fun events or lessons? If you find yourself looking for a church at which to worship, do you make your decision based on which church allows you to honor God most with your service, or by which church offers the most or can give you the most in terms of teaching or entertainment or whatever else? Also, before considering preachers or song leaders, first consider your own attitude toward the worship service. Worship primarily involves *you*, not them. What have you *given* to God in worship?

* Being no Hebrew or Greek scholar myself, I used a number of sources, including some Greek students at Harding University, as well as internet sources—all of which corroborated. I especially recommend Lee Campbell's article "What is Worship?" which can be found at www.xenos.org/essays/worship.htm

** This statement comes from Augustine's *De Doctrina Christiana*.

Pay Attention!

Janis Preston Spicer

You know, my Uncle Alex thought he was going to get an article from me two weeks ago. I had it all ready to go. I thought it was probably just about the best thing I've ever written and I couldn't wait to send it off to him to see what he thought about it.

But then the computer crashed. Now, I know all about software. I can make most programs do somersaults if that's what I want them to do. But I know nothing about hardware. When the computer crashes, I am a lost ball in tall weeds. So there I was, at midnight on Saturday night, the bulletins only half-done, the newsletter trying to print, and my fabulous article stuck in there somewhere. I did the only thing I knew to do - I just kept on rebooting that computer until finally, FINALLY, the bulletins were done. I spent the rest of the night standing at the copier, feeding the newsletter through. I got exactly one hour of sleep for the entire night. And my wonderful article was still stuck inside the computer.

Sunday was Mother's Day and my brother came down to visit. He knows a lot about hardware and I had him cornered during the drive to lunch, so we hashed out what might be wrong with the computer. The next day, I sent Uncle Alex an e-mail from work – "We are experiencing technical difficulties. Please stand by." I went home that night and set into doing everything my brother had told me to do. All of which had absolutely no effect whatsoever. And still, my beautiful article was stuck inside the computer.

By now, I was getting frantic. Uncle Alex was waiting. There was only one thing left to do. I would have to call in the big guns – I needed the official IT person from work. She was nearly as flummoxed as the rest of us, but she did offer a few more suggestions. And she told me that, if all else failed, I could bring the computer to her and she would at least try to extract my fabulous article from the innards of the computer.

As it turned out, we didn't have to go that far. When I tried her very first suggestion, the computer purred into life and never once offered to crash again. At last, I could get my article out of the computer, onto a disc, into the e-mail at work, and off to Uncle Alex. When he called to inquire as to my progress, I was thrilled to report that he would have it in his hands within the next day or two. I warned him about its length and assured him that I understood that it might be too long for this next issue. I knew that I was extremely late in getting this outstanding piece of work to him. But I was certain that the wait would be worth it once he read it. It was, after all, probably the best thing I had ever written.

I popped it up on screen last night so that I could read it just one more time before I sent it off to Uncle Alex. I do that a lot. That last read-through affords me the opportunity to fix a piece of bad grammar or tweak an unruly sentence or whatever else I might have missed the first time through. But this time it sounded nearly as good as I originally thought it did. There was only this one paragraph that needed just a little bit of work

....

And that's when there was a beep from the computer and suddenly I was looking at nothing but a blank screen. The computer didn't ask me if I wanted to save the changes. It didn't ask me if I wanted to overwrite the file. It didn't ask me a blooming thing. It just said "beep" and whisked my article away. I experienced a moment of complete shock. If you deal with computers, you know what I'm talking about. That moment when the computer suddenly develops a mind of its own and you have absolutely no

idea what just happened. When my brain finally shifted back into gear, I thought, "Okay. You've only lost the changes to that one paragraph. Not the end of the world. You'll just have to do it again." So I directed the computer to re-open the file. And the computer said, "Beep." "What do you mean, 'beep'?" I said. That's right; I was now talking out loud to the computer. You've been there – you know what I mean. Panic had now set in. "I do not want to hear 'beep'. I want you to open the dad-gum file!" I shouted as I furiously pounded the keys. And the computer said, "Beep." Then it posted a little message to the screen. "The file you are attempting to open does not exist."

Of all the things I have ever wanted my computer to say, "the file you are attempting to open does not exist" is not one of them. But my computer has never lied to me before and it was not lying to me now. I looked. Very hard. For a very long time. And the file – with my beautiful well-written gorgeous article – no longer existed. It was gone. Let us now observe a moment of silence to mourn the premature passing of this marvelous article.

Shakespeare once wrote, "The first thing we do is, we kill all the lawyers." If he were alive today, I am quite sure he would feel the same way about computers.

You may be wondering why you are simply reading about this article instead of reading the article itself. Why, you may ask, didn't I just re-write the article? And I will admit that I did give that serious thought. It was, after all, possibly the greatest thing I have ever written. But then I remembered a joke my daddy used to tell. I can't remember the whole joke, but it had something to do with an old mule and a farmer who smacked him between the eyes with a two by four, and the punch line was: "Sometimes you just have to get his attention." Then I remembered something out of the 15th chapter of Proverbs, something about "pride" and "destruction" and "a way which seems right". You know, it could be that I have a lot in common with that old mule. And I don't suppose God would be averse to using a computer as a two by four if the occasion demanded it. Maybe that article wasn't as wonderful as I thought. Maybe that computer is not the bane of my existence, after all. Maybe, just maybe, that was God, reaching down from His throne, smacking me on the top of the head and saying, "Pay attention, girl! I am trying to teach you a lesson here!"

How do you "trap" a mouse? You attract its attention, arouse its desire, draw it close, and ZAP!....

A Sermon which Resembled a MOUSETRAP

by AMOS, and Alex Wilson

It's the year 760 B.C. A stranger appears in Bethel, the religious center of the powerful, prosperous, and very religious land of Israel. Dressed in farmer's overalls, he mounts an outdoor speaker's stand in the public park and begins an oration.

People pause, puzzled, as he bellows,

**"The LORD roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds dry up,
and the top of Carmel withers." (Amos 1:2)**

Elihu and Jabal, two men of Israel, watch, and start to converse:

Elihu: "Who is that country bumpkin, anyway? And what does he mean, making God sound like a lion about to eat the prey he's caught?"

Jabal: "I dunno, but what's he mean saying God thunders from *Zion and Jerusalem*, in the kingdom of Judah? Does he think God lives down there but not in our religious centers here and at Dan? Our religious ceremonies and pageants are better than those of the Jews."

Elihu: "Yeah, what insolence for him to say that! And does he think God's gonna send a drought and wither our Mount Carmel? What kind of a God would do that?"

Jabal: "That speaker must be some kind of a nutty, old-fashioned Fundamentalist. I heard some crackpot once say that God warned through Moses, the father of our country, in the book of Dotterunomy, or whatever, that if we forsook God's Covenant by disobedience, God would send punishments like drought and diseases. [Deut. 28:15-24] But I don't believe in an intolerant God like that.... Hey, what's that speaker saying now?"

**The Lord says, "The people of DAMASCUS have sinned again and again,
and I will not forget it. I will not leave her unpunished any more.
For they have threshed my people in Gilead as grain is threshed with**

iron rods.

So I will set fire to King Hazael's palace, destroying the strong fortress of Ben-hadad.

I will snap the bars that locked the gates of Damascus and kill her people as far away as the plain of Aven, and the people of Syria shall return to Kir as slaves." The Lord has spoken.

Elihu: "HEY, listen to that! This guy might be okay after all--he really denounced those cruel Syrian kings up North."

Jabal: "Yeah, says those brutes are gonna go into exile. Let's stay and hear the rest of this speech, just to check the guy out."

The Lord says, "GAZA has sinned again and again, and I will not forget it. I will not leave her unpunished any more. For she sent my people into exile, selling them as slaves in Edom. So I will set fire to the walls of Gaza, and all her forts shall be destroyed.

I will kill the people of Ashdod and destroy Ekron and the king of Ashkelon;

all Philistines left will perish." The Lord has spoken.

Elihu: "We did misjudge this fella! I like his views. So God's gonna wipe out all those Philistine dudes--well, it's about time they got their due."

Jabal: "Shush, I can't hear what he's saying now."

The Lord says, "The people of TYRE have sinned again and again, and I will not forget it. I will not leave them unpunished any more.

For they broke their treaty with their brother, Israel; they attacked and conquered him, and led him into slavery to Edom. So I will set fire to the walls of Tyre, and it will burn down all his forts and palaces."

Elihu: "Hooray--I hope this guy's an accurate forecaster! The people of Tyre have been mad at us ever since Israel got to be as prosperous as those folks have been for a long time. They're always stuck-up because their commercial fleet is number one."

Jabal: "Yeah. Keep up your good work, Mr. Preacher, whoever-you-are. Sock it to them!"

The Lord says, "EDOM has sinned again and again, and I will not forget it. I will not leave him unpunished any more.

For he chased his brother, Israel; with the sword; he was pitiless in unrelenting anger.

So I will set fire to Teman, and it will burn down all the forts of Bozrah."

Elihu: "This is getting better and better. I hate Edomites worse'n almost anybody, those kidnapping slave-traders!"

Jabal: "Yeah, and to think they're related to us: They descended from Esau while we descended from his brother Jacob."

The Lord says, "The people of AMMOM have sinned again and again, and I will not forget it. I will not leave them unpunished any more. For in their wars...to enlarge their borders they committed cruel crimes,

ripping open pregnant women with their swords.

So I will...burn down their forts and palaces....

And their king and his princes will go into exile together."

The Lord says, "The people of MOAB have sinned again and again, and I will not forget it. I will not leave them unpunished any more. For they desecrated the tombs of the kings of Edom, with no respect for the dead.

Now in return I will send fire upon Moab, and it will destroy all the palaces in Kerioth....

And I will destroy their king and slay all the leaders under him." The Lord has spoken.

Elihu: "I like this visiting orator more and more, despite his southern accent. The Ammonites and Moabites are our relatives too, but I can't stand those people."

Jabal: "Me neither. They're scum, even if they are distant cousins or something. They both sprang from Lot's daughters, and Lot was Abraham's nephew. But for centuries they've taken every chance they could to fight us and try to overthrow us. HEY, what's the preacher saying now?"

The Lord says, "The people of JUDAH have sinned again and again, and I will not forget it. I will not leave them unpunished any more.

For they have rejected the laws of God, refusing to obey him.

They have hardened their hearts and sinned as their fathers did.

So I will destroy Judah with fire and burn down all Jerusalem's palaces and forts."

Elihu: "Man, I'm glad to hear that. I overheard some guy in the audience say he thought this speaker came up here from Judah. But that must've just been a false rumor, 'cuz he sure blistered those Jews. I wonder who he's gonna blister next?"

The Lord says, "The people of ISRAEL have sinned again and again, and I will not forget it. I will not leave them unpunished any more.

For they have perverted justice by accepting bribes,

and sold into slavery the poor who can't repay their debts; they trade them for a pair of shoes.

They trample the poor in the dust and kick aside the meek.
And a man and his father defile the same temple-girl, corrupting my holy name.

At their religious feasts in my own Temple they offer sacrifices of wine they purchased with stolen money. Yet think of all I did for them! I cleared the land of the Amorites before them....

And I brought you out from Egypt and led you through the desert forty years, to possess the land of the Amorites. And I chose your sons to be...prophets.

But you silenced my prophets, telling them, 'Shut up!' Therefore....your swiftest warriors will stumble in flight. The strong will all be weak, and the great ones can no longer save themselves.

The most courageous of your mighty men will drop their weapons and run for their lives."

The Lord God has spoken.

Elihu: "HEY, STOP THAT SCUM! Somebody oughtta grab him, the blankity-blank meddler! Why are they just arguing with him instead of calling the Police? Who does he think he is, anyway, saying all that rot about us Israelites?"

Jabal: "Yeah, and lookit how big a crowd that bozo attracted by all those fakey statements he made earlier attacking other nations. I bet he planned all those denunciations just to attract our attention and win our sympathy. I wonder when he's gonna preach again, the bum. They oughtta jail him, but if they don't -- I'd like to hear him once more."
[Remember the MOUSETRAP analogy? Think about it.]

QUESTIONS & LESSONS from Amos 1:2-2:16

1. What do you think of Amos' strategy? Why did he do it?
 - a) To grab attention and arouse interest.
 - b) At the end, to show that the Lord is an impartial judge of *all, most especially* His privileged people.
2. What lessons might Preachers and Teachers learn from Amos' preaching?

"Amos must have put in hours of study before he went preaching in Bethel. He took the trouble to become well-informed about world history and current affairs, so that he was able to capture and hold his audience's attention by deft allusions to surrounding nations. How his hearers must have loved it, until it came too close to home for comfort!" (J. A. Motyer, *The Day of the Lion*, p. 9)

Years ago I heard a preacher begin his sermon by strongly denouncing the glaring and terrible errors of Marxism, socialism, pro-abortionists, "modernism," Roman Catholicism, Mormonism, and Jehovah's Witnesses. ("Right on!") Then, Amos-like, he turned his guns on *us* and *our* failures--hypocrisy, arrogant sectarianism, apathy, etc. Ouch! Those Amoses know how to hurt a fellow -- just where we need it.

3. In the above article we quoted *The Living Bible* because of its more conversational style. But what Amos literally said, in the expression he used eight times, was not, "The Lord says, 'The people of ____ have sinned again and again, and I will not forget it. I will not leave them unpunished any more.'" Instead He said, "*For three sins of ____ and for four, I will not turn back my wrath.*" Ponder the following insights on that pregnant statement:

"In His longsuffering, God had waited again and again, looking for some evidence of repentance before finally dealing in wrath; but there was none. In three transgressions they had filled up the cup of their wickedness. In the fourth it had overflowed, and declared that all further testing was useless" (H.A. Ironside, *Notes on the Minor Prophets*).

"The first time they had done the evil, God had *rebuked*. The second time, He had *threatened*. The third time, He had *menaced with uplifted hand*. Now, at the fourth time, He *smites!*" (J. Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book*). Where might the U.S.A. be in that process? Even Thomas Jefferson said, "I tremble for my country when I think that God is just."

4. God is Sovereign Judge of all the nations, watching and examining them (*us!*), plus choosing and thus foreknowing the times and manner of their (*our!*) rise and fall.

< PRACTICAL HOLINESS >

Holy People Confess their Sins

“I confess, O God-- that often I let my mind wander down unclean and forbidden ways; that often I deceive myself as to where my plain duty lies; that often, by concealing my real motives, I pretend to be better than I am; that often my honesty is only a matter of policy; that often my affection for my friends is only a refined form of caring for myself; that often my sparing of my enemy is due to nothing more than cowardice; that often I do good deeds only that they may be seen of men, and shun evil ones only because I fear they may be found out.

O holy One, let the fire of Thy love enter my heart, and burn up all this coil of meanness and hypocrisy, and make my heart as the heart of a little child.” --John Baillie, *A Diary of Private Prayer*

Resolute Habitual Obedience because God Works in You

“The Bible stresses the necessary exertions of self-discipline and spiritual warfare [if we are to be holy]. That means battling to say ‘no’ when world, flesh and devil urge you to say ‘yes,’ and to say ‘yes’ when weariness, deadness and unbelief prompt you to say ‘no’....

“In Scripture ‘yielding’ and ‘abiding’ are matters, not of mystical passivity, but of resolute habitual obedience, in which you pray as hard as you work and work as hard as you pray, because you know that God works in you to make you will and do His pleasure as revealed in His Word.” --J. I. Packer

* * *

Though it Remains, Don’t let it Reign

Romans 6:12 NIV says, ***Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.*** Matthew Henry comments on this verse, “Though sin may remain as an outlaw, yet let it not reign as a king. Let it not make laws so that we should obey it. Though we may be sometimes overtaken and overcome by it, yet let us never be obedient to it.”

* * *

What Do You EXPECT?

1 John 5:4 NIV says, *Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.* Based on that verse, especially its first sentence, Charles Finney remarks, "He who does not habitually overcome the world is not born of God. I do not mean that a true Christian may not sometimes be overcome by sin; but I do affirm that overcoming the world is the general rule, and falling into sin is only the exception. Many people expect just the opposite. Far from expecting to overcome the world, as the apostle here teaches, they talk calmly of going on in sin all the rest of their earthly lives!"

* * *

Glorious Possibilities!

In Phil. 4:13 NAS, Paul writes: *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

Regarding this great statement of faith, Handley Moule challenges us: "It is possible for those who depend on the power of the Lord to lead a life in which His promises are found to be true. It is possible to cast all our care upon Him daily and to enjoy deep peace in doing so. It is possible to have the thoughts and imaginations of our hearts purified through faith. It is possible to see the will of God in everything and to receive it not with sighing but with singing. It is possible that the things which formerly upset all our resolutions to be patient or pure or humble furnish today an opportunity to make sin powerless. These things are divine possibilities and because they are His work, the true experience of them will always cause us to bow lower at His feet and to learn to thirst and long for more. We cannot possibly be satisfied with anything less than to walk with God - - each day, each hour, each moment -- in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit."

[Note the great truths set forth in the above quotes from Bailey, Packer, Henry, Finney and Moule. None of these teachers were from our background, but they had deep insights into God's Word—though I do not agree 100% with any one of them. 2 lessons for us: When reading Christian books, don't limit yourself to authors from your own church. On the other hand, use discernment when reading *any* author. And let's humbly seek insights from the Author himself when we read the Bible too.]

NEWS and NOTES

Edited by Bennie Hill, Bhill40482@aol.com

Edith Lale celebrated her 103rd birthday on March 10. What a blessing it is to have her in our Sunday Bible School and worship service each Sunday morning. Congratulations, Edith. –bulletin of Highland Community Church. [Sister Edith and her sister Mildred were the dedicated office workers for W&W magazine for decades.]

Maple Manor Senior Citizens Home, Sellersburg, IN: Ray Naugle retires; Steve Cunningham succeeds him. After nearly 17 years as director there, March 31st was Ray's last day at Maple Manor as administrator. They did their best to surprise him with a luncheon and almost succeeded.... It was a very nice event and rather emotional (as you can imagine) for Ray--and for Steve Cunningham, the new administrator [whom Ray mentored during the past year]. Ray leaves knowing that Steve is aware that MM is a ministry and will oversee it with that in mind. And Steve can be assured that Ray will be available for any questions that arise or help that he may need. Please pray for Steve as the transition is made and for Ray as he steps down. Also pray for the empty beds (11) to be filled by those who need the care administered at MM. There have never before been so many empty at the same time. And Praise God that Steve is now licensed. –from emails sent by Sandra Naugle

Thank God for the good and faithful service of Ray (and his predecessors) at Maple Manor through the years. And of course for those who lead and have led its children's home division too. The latter is now called KingsField Children's Home. For decades the two divisions were one ministry, but growth and required specialization required its becoming two. Keep them in your prayers.

Borden, Ind. Church of Christ hosts VOM speaker During our focus-on-missions month in April, Robert Brock from *The Voice of the Martyrs* shared with us about the overcoming faith of our persecuted family worldwide. Through the years he has traveled to various places in the Muslim world. VOM also sent Bob to communist countries in Asia, where he met with ministers of the underground churches and witnessed God's faithfulness to His people despite years of oppression. And he has ministered in many other lands, including Sudan, Burma, Thailand and India. –Scott Reeder

Victor Knowles, Peace on Earth Ministries/ One Body magazine wrote: Heartiest congratulations to *Word and Work* upon reaching the marvelous milestone of 100 years of continuous publication! I am sure that your founder had no idea in 1908 that it would still be sounding forth the message of Christ 100 years later!

Thank you so much for carrying on the loving legacy of R. H. Boll, the harmony heart of E. L. Jorgenson, and the missionary mindset of Don Carlos Janes. You and *Word and Work* bring a needed leaven of kindness and sincerity to the brotherhood at large. [Bro. Knowles, who spoke at the Louisville Fellowship Week last year, will also speak at the Sr.-Citizens week of Woodland Bible Camp, Ind. this Sept.]

Some Woodland Bible Camp weeks still to come (see website for details):

Young Junior Day Camp - July 19
(Renee Wiggington)

Music Week - July 20-28 - (James Embree & Paul Denny)

Senior Citizen's Week - Sept. 8-12
(Dick & Janell Lewis, J.R. & Pie Satterfield)

Homecoming & Annual Meeting -
Sept. 13

Oakgrove Church of Christ (Louisiana) hosted this year's Louisiana Crusade for Christ during the month of March. It was a very powerful meeting with each speaker being assigned a piece of the "whole armor of God" described in Ephesians 6. The theme dealt with "The Real War" and each speaker presented his part in the power of the Holy Spirit. Everyone came away refreshed, strengthened in the Lord, and feeling better equipped for our spiritual battle against the Devil. Many thanks to the supporting congregations for providing two meals daily and overnight housing.

Kentucky/Indiana Christian Fellowship: July 28-31 has been set aside for this wonderful time of Bible teaching and Christian fellowship. The theme for the week is: "Every Member a Minister." Since we have increased the amount given to speakers for preparing, presenting messages and rising fuel costs for traveling, there will be a "fellowship offering" on Tues. evening of the fellowship in addition to the usual missionary offering on Wed.

Keep An Eye Open On Israel As of March 18,2008 - The Temple Institute has announced the production of 120 sets of Linen Garments for priests is presently underway. For the first time in 1,938 years the linen garments of the lay priests are being produced in preparation for the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple. The last priestly garments to have been worn were those worn by the priests who were martyred by the Roman legions who brutally invaded and destroyed the Holy Temple on the ninth day of the month of AV, in the year 70 AD. It behooves us to continue to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalms 122:6).

Joy Garrett Medical Report We want to personally thank each of you who have given toward this much needed expense but especially thank our God for touching many hearts in what has been an overwhelming response. The gifts went beyond the original request. May God bless each of you as you have been used by God to bless the Garrett family. --Church of Christ Worldwide Staff

Parksville (KY) Frank Preston reports: On April 18-20 Don McGee held a prophecy meeting at the Parksville Christian Church (a church of Christ). The meeting was very successful. One person changed membership, two accepted the Lord and were baptized and two rededicated their lives to Him. The Lord really blessed our meeting.

The Parksville Church will also host a Fellowship wide youth rally on July 19th. All churches are invited. We will provide housing for those who need it. Registration starts at 8:00 am. Classes for ages 8-18. We will wind up around 4:00 pm.

Pauline Lawyer, Vernon's widow, went home to be with our Lord at 7:30 a.m. May 1 in Tell City, IN. We are thankful that this dear woman came into our lives and the help that she was to Vernon and the blessing that she was to the Lawyer family. We were blessed to have known and loved her. She will be dearly missed.

Moto Nomura and his wife Yoriko were one of the highlights of the Pepperdine Lectures. They received a Christian Service plaque at the 11:00 a.m. lecture. They then stepped away from the podium and sang "Jesus Loves Me," in Japanese. There was not a dry eye in the house.

Moto later wrote (adapted): "Many times in this old stubborn Buddhist mountainous rural community on Sundays we two alone

worship Him around His Meal Table, thus 6,000 people singing songs of praises while offering thanksgiving unto Him is beyond our experience as well as comprehension! I had presented in a class my assigned topic--a slide show of work in Korean slums. The greatest shock was that later on we were invited to come to the front of the auditorium, without knowing what for. They asked us to come up onto the platform to receive an award!

"We were amazed, perplexed and embarrassed. Actually we are not worthy of such an 'over evaluation,' but we thank God. Slowly we have come to understand His grace and provision, for which we are eternally grateful."

Two Great Events for Senior Citizens at Woodland Bible Campgrounds (Dugger/ Linton, Ind.) in Sept. (1) **Sr.-Citizens camp week**, Mon. Sept. 8 till noon on Fri. Sept. 12. (2) **KBC/SCC Reunion** for all alumni, staff and friends: 3 P.M. Fri. Sept. 12 till 9 a.m. Sat. Sept. 13.

Notice that this reunion will directly follow the camp session. So make plans now and come the entire time if you can. (50 KBC/SCC alumni attended that camp-week last year!) For more info contact Dick / Janell Lewis at 423-477-3707; or J.R / Pie Satterfield at 812-949-1959 or at piejrs@insightbb.com They have eagerly/bravely volunteered to direct both events.

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