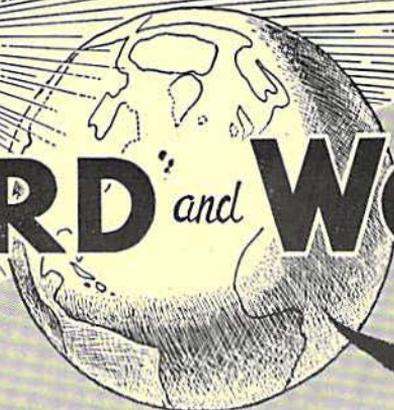


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The Editor is a guidance counselor at a junior high school in Louisville.



Talking Things Over

G. R. L.

We're back home again, after a 3000-mile drive and visits with Christians in four cities. I return with one common concern ringing in my ears: Our children! Kids on dope, running away from home, beyond parental control, getting married too early (and soon divorced). These are "nice" kids, from "good" homes, with "Christian" parents. It would appear that the majority of such families experience problems of some severity.

In contrast, I met a couple who had reared more than 20 foster children—besides their own two—and had no such problems. "When we were first married," he told me, "we got down on our knees before the Lord and asked for His help. We have continued to do that." Now, 41 years later, they have not yet had a quarrel. This brother does a good deal of counseling with families in trouble. He describes his approach like this: "When they come to me, I tell them from the outset that I use the Bible; it tells me what God says about their marriage and about their children. And my method gets results."

Just a few days before we left on our trip, I picked up a copy of *Christian Living in the Home* by Jay Adams (paper, \$2.50; cloth, \$3.95).^{oo} He, too, takes the Bible approach to family counseling, and he claims to be equally effective as the other brother. The book is a kind of do-it-yourself guide for families that need help and don't have a counselor to turn to; it is also intended for the pastor or other Christian worker who may not be experienced in family counseling.

The way Adams uses the scriptures in counseling is illustrated by his treatment of Eph. 5:22-6:9. He notes that the order here is the same as in Col. 3:18-4:1. First, Paul speaks of the husband-wife relationship, then of parents and children, and finally of employer and employee. Adams observes that the order indicates the husband-wife relationship to be most fundamental and therefore first in order of priority. Next in importance are the children. Havoc has been worked in many homes by the reversal of God's order, put-

^{oo} May be ordered through WORD & WORK. Please send 25c extra for shipping costs.

ting the children first. Probably even more disastrous results have followed getting the job in first place, instead of where it belongs. The marriage, the children, the job—just getting priorities arranged in God's order can do a great deal toward solving family problems. Don't expect the kids to turn out right if other things are out of joint.

But even if things are out of joint, there's still hope. Jesus Christ came into the world to destroy the works of the devil. He Himself is the antidote for sin. So if the life-style of a family has been sinful—contrary to the word of God, that is—repentance will make things right with God, besides bringing some immediate changes to the distressed family. However, when the hurting begins to let up, many families are ready to stop the treatment. They want a Band-Aid where surgery is needed. "Let us follow on to know the Lord" (Hos. 6:3) is the word. The real need is not just relief from a distressing situation. The need is to "follow on;" to yield to the Lord our troubling problem—and then go on and give Him control of the entire life.

From the practical point of view, this means that we've got to take seriously the idea that the Bible is a guide-book to every aspect of daily life—"that the man of God may be *complete, thoroughly furnished* unto every good work." Surely, maintaining right relationships within the family is foremost among good works. Let us confidently turn to God's word for the answers to the problems that beset us.

"Death is very near . . . Jesus is Nearer!"

Shirley Collins, Liberia

A routine welding job in the carpenter shop on our Bahn station ended up in disaster. Near disaster, I should say, because God Himself intervened with a miracle.

Our Pilot, Bob McCauley, was welding the back of a pick-up truck. We don't know what happened but suddenly he could not get free of the welding iron. He jumped off the truck, yanked his helmet off, and with all the strength he could muster finally struggled free. He leaned against the shop door for support but fell flat on his face, gasping for breath. My 15-year-old son, Stephen, saw him and ran for help. But what could anyone of us do for Bob? He was in deep shock. We covered him with blankets and began to pray.

For an hour and a half we held on to the Lord for Bob's life. All of us were terribly shaken. I had never before experienced any-

thing like this; I had never interceded for anyone's life. "Unless God touches me," gasped Bob, "I am going to die. Call my boys." "Boys, live for Jesus," he said when they came.

"Yes, Daddy, I will," teen-aged Tony cried. Bob's pulse was getting weaker and it seemed he was going. I sent Stephen running to the Bible School campus to call the students to come join us in prayer. Passers-by stopped on their way to town. One of them, a Muslim to whom we had been witnessing, pulled out his beads and began to say his prayers. But Bob suddenly got worse. The Bible school men picked him up and carried him into his house. Perhaps if we turned on a fan he could breathe easier, we thought. Hospital was out of the question; it was 40 miles away over rough roads and there was no way for a plane run—Bob is the pilot. We ran to start the generator for electricity but could find no Diesel fuel so I jumped into my car and headed for town to buy some. I knew I had to hurry for Bob looked awful, just like a corpse.

"My heart is getting so heavy. If I could just raise my hands to praise the Lord I'll be alright," Bob said. "Lord, let me live a little longer to win more souls to you," he prayed. "Stand me on my feet. I want to stand and praise the Lord." The men lifted him to his feet. "I have no feeling in my left foot. Pray for me." We prayed and he said, "It's coming! It's coming. But I can't see." We continued to pray and soon his eyes were focusing. "Bob, don't exert yourself," we admonished him. "It's too hard on your heart."

"I'm not lying down there. I'm going to live for Jesus!" he replied. By that time we were shouting HALLELUJAH ourselves.

We put Bob to bed to rest and went back to our bungalows. Fifteen minutes later young Tony was at our door asking to borrow a chair. Their family was having supper at the Davies' house and they were short a chair. "Dad is over there eating supper," Tony proudly announced.

"What? Is he out of bed?" I exclaimed. We rushed over to the Davies'. There he was, big as life, sitting there as though nothing had happened. "I feel great!" Bob remarked with a grin. And he was telling the truth, for that evening he accompanied the Bible school men to the prayer meeting in town. The students didn't take it as calmly as we missionaries, however. They sang, danced, waved palm branches, and cried, "Aabi zuo! Aabi zuo! Thank God! Thank God!" After the prayer service, the entire church came up the hill to the mission singing and praising God. We joined them in praise to God for this miracle we had seen with our own eyes.

The devil was surely trying to snuff out Bob McCauley's life and stop the vital ministry through him that God is so richly blessing. But God overruled. I can still hear Bob's words to his wife at one point. "Death is very near, Pat," he had said. "Jesus is nearer, Bob," she replied.

—In *Worldwide Thrust*



Nehemiah -- A Builder for God

Dennis L. Allen

The book of Nehemiah which recounts his great work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem is more than just history. One can hardly escape the conviction that here is a great object lesson illustrating spiritual truths and principles which are basic to all true service for God. Nehemiah was a great leader and the qualities he exhibited are no different from those needed today.

THE SITUATION

The restored Jewish remnant had returned to Jerusalem more than ninety years earlier under Zerubbabel. The temple had been rebuilt. About 60 years later Ezra had come with a small company, but he found that because of intermarriage, conditions were at a low ebb. This he had corrected but things were still in a sad state.

THE REPORT

At this point, about twelve years after Ezra, Nehemiah, serving as cup bearer to the king, receives a fresh report from Jerusalem. The remnant are in great affliction and reproach. The walls are broken down and the gates burned. (Walls and gates are not needed now by cities, but then they were of utmost importance. Without them, they were always subject to attack and plunder by the treacherous people around them.)

THE BURDEN

Nehemiah's response was immediate. He wept, he fasted, he prayed. Was he the only one who knew? Of course not. Besides that, he was far away. He was securely fixed with a good job. A cup bearer was not merely a butler. It was a most honorable and confidential position. Why then was Nehemiah so concerned? Jerusalem was God's city which He had chosen.

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem
Let my right hand forget her skill.
Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,
If I remember thee not;
If I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." Psa. 137:5,6.

Nehemiah was one of the faithful remnant who could not forget. He was concerned for God's name. Beyond this Nehemiah believed

that God was going to do something. God does not give His servants a burden for nothing.

Actually in the presence of a Persian king one was never to appear sad, (Esther 4:2) so he had reason to be afraid when asked for an explanation. However, Nehemiah had a greater King than Artaxerxes whom he was really serving, and he shot up an S.O.S. prayer for help.

THE PLAN

Nehemiah evidently had had the faith to think the matter through beforehand, so he was ready with answers and specific requests when the king asked what he wanted. He could look ahead and see what the needs would be. When the King asked for the date of his return he was able to set him a time.

Nehemiah showed the same wisdom and foresight in dealing with the enemy.

1. He kept his own counsel till his survey was made and his plans were formulated. (They would have been only too glad to squelch the work before it got started.)

2. He could anticipate the actions of the enemy. Paul said regarding our great enemy, "We are not ignorant of his devices." The Devil has plenty of tricks and skill in using them, but apparently he lacks originality. By studying what he has done in the past we can know much about what he will do in the future. Too often we react to the aggressive opposition of the enemy rather than anticipate his moves and keep the initiative ourselves. Nehemiah kept ahead of his enemies.

When presented with the challenge, the people said, "Let us rise up and build." They would never have done so without a leader and a plan, and Nehemiah provided both. The plan was both simple and adequate. Each man was to build the portion before his own house. He would have a special interest in this portion's being well built and all the sections of the wall would go up simultaneously. The amazing rapidity with which the wall was completed shows the wisdom of the plan.

THE OBSTACLES

External

1. Ridicule. "They laughed us to scorn." 2:19; 4:2. "What are these feeble Jews doing . . . Even that which they are building, if a fox go up, he shall break down their stone wall." How feeble and puny the efforts of God's people look compared to the great programs and funded projects of men and governments! How many of God's servants have allowed themselves to be laughed and scorned out of doing a job God had given them to do? Nehemiah met the scorn by continuing to pray and build.

2. Force. Sneers were soon replaced by threats and plots. Ch. 4:8. Enemies joined themselves together to make common

cause against him. Now what did they do? They kept on praying and working. But they also watched and armed themselves. This is not to say that Christians are to arm themselves with physical weapons against their enemies today. We have other mighty weapons, and we must not shrink from using them.

3. Crafty Deceit. "Come, let us meet in the plain of Ono." Ch. 6:2. Response: "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down." A single track mind that keeps priorities straight can be a great advantage and protection. He simply ignored the ploy of the enemy.

4. Bluff. "It is reported that thou and the Jews think to rebel; for which cause thou art building the wall." Ch. 6:6. It will be too bad if this report gets back to the king. We'd better talk this over. What did Nehemiah say this time? "It's not true. You made the whole thing up." Again he prayed to God to strengthen his hands. Ch. 6:8,9.

5. Intrigue through bribery. "Let us meet together in the house of God . . . let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee." Ch. 6:10. This was the most subtle because it was from among his own people. Nehemiah's response: "Should such a man as I flee?" Nehemiah was saved from this trick simply by remembering who he was and whom he served. Some courses of action will automatically commend themselves as being unworthy if we remember these two things. "I discerned, and lo, God had not sent him." Ch. 6:12. Nehemiah was living so in touch with God that spiritual discernment was given to him.

6. Compromised Brethren. Tobiah had become a son-in-law to one of the influential leaders. As a result there had grown up a clique in Jerusalem who let their family ties with Tobiah override their moral and spiritual obligations. How often today in the church the unequal yoke complicates issues and makes Christians compromise their testimony.

Internal

1. Much Rubbish. Even at the beginning of the building Sanballat referred to the 'heaps of rubbish.' What a discouraging thing this was! "And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall." Ch. 4:10. With the constant threat of attack, it was enough to dishearten the most enthusiastic.

How true this is today! Before any solid spiritual work can be done there is so much rubbish that has to be removed. How many subtle forms it takes—traditions of men, worldly viewpoints ingrained in secular schools, through TV, etc. Sometimes the rubbish is in the things that have been brought into the church to hold the young people or to amuse the older until the church resembles more a social and entertainment center than the house of God. Sometimes it is modernism and the philosophies of men that constitutes the rubbish and hinders the building of the wall. Would

Christ find anything to overturn or drive out of His temple today?

And what of our individual spiritual lives? Why does the seed bear so little fruit? Is there rubbish that chokes the Word? Are there thoughts and imaginations that have never been brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ?

We are great on cleanliness and order in our person, our dress, and in our homes, but what of our inmost heart? The average American adult spends 4 hours a day watching TV. Of what he sees, how much would have to be classified as rubbish? Can you feed on rubbish and avoid being influenced by it? Nutritionists tell us we are what we eat. It is spiritually true as well.

2. Fear. "They shall not know, neither see, till we come into the midst of them and slay them and cause the work to cease." Ch. 4:11. Fear paralyzes men, so that they cannot work. With shame we must confess it has often paralyzed us. How did Nehemiah deal with this fear? 1) "Remember the Lord, who is great and terrible." 2) Keep before you the issues involved. Everything is at stake—your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, your houses. 3) Be armed and ready. "Take up the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil." 4) Cooperation. "In what place soever ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us; our God will fight for us." Ch. 4:20. How often a faithful brother is needlessly allowed to endure an onslaught of the enemy alone when others could have joined hands with him in the battle and won a great victory!

3. Greed. This hindrance from within was in danger of destroying the whole work. How disheartening for Nehemiah who had sacrificed much for this work to see it in danger of being wrecked by the selfish motives of some of his own brethren. Ch. 5. Again Nehemiah tackled the problem head-on. He confronted the usurers openly with what they were doing. He pointed out the shame of it. He appealed to his own example among them and called on them to make restoration. They did. The problem was solved. "And all the assembly said, Amen, and praised Jehovah." What an example for us today!

The Man

The aggressiveness of Nehemiah in dealing with problems is very refreshing. We may smile at some of his manifestations of godly indignation. A minister today who resorted to "smiting" or "plucking off the hair" would be considered most undignified and precipitous, but Nehemiah was dealing with sin and tolerance was not his method. Nehemiah was not a diplomat but he was genuine and straightforward.

What a contrast he is to many of us today! He *knew* what God wanted him to do and he went about it with all his heart. This singleness of purpose did not keep difficulties from arising, but he was never dismayed by them. Once started, the work was pressed on to the finish. In the whole project there was a strong

sense of urgency. They knew a half-built wall would offer no protection. Until the last stone was laid and the gates were hung there could be no relaxation.

THE WALL

Types can be taken to extremes, but we would be just as wrong to take these events as nothing more than history. The Bible is a revelation of God and of spiritual principles.

What does the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem represent? There can be many valid applications.

1. Some may see a picture of their own heart. In some lives walls of personal conviction and morality have been broken down and there are no defences against the attacks of the evil one. Rebuilding is desperately needed.

2. The walls of many homes are broken down—through the floods of filth brought in by TV, magazines, etc., through divorce, estrangement, neglect of children, breakdown of parental authority. A home without walls soon ceases to be a home.

3. The walls of the church are broken down through the inroads of modernism, compromise and worldliness.

But beyond this, what is the distinctive meaning of the wall? The New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 has a wall "great and high." Inside the wall everything is according to Christ. The city is the bride, the wife of the Lamb. The tree of life is there; the water of life proceeds from the throne of God and of the Lamb. "Without are the dogs . . . and everyone that loveth and maketh a lie." 22:14.

The *wall* is the separation. It defines the line between what is and what is not of God. Men may pile up much rubbish, but God always begins here in recovery—to clear away the rubbish and rebuild the wall that men may see the distinctive testimony of Jesus.

In our day we are all well aware that men are good rubbish makers. Spiritually speaking, what is rubbish? Rubbish is the result of man's hand upon the things of God—adapting, changing, making palatable to men. God, however, never builds His testimony upon rubbish or upon that which is a mixture. If we want to recognize the rubbish we must ask what is there in the church that is of man and does not really belong to Christ.

Nehemiah made the three month trip to Jerusalem because the broken down wall was a reproach. The name of the Lord is connected with the wall. "Thy walls shall be salvation." The broken down wall was a dishonor to the name of the Lord.

The testimony we give should be a glory to the Name of the Lord. As we work for God today in difficult circumstances we need to keep the example of Nehemiah before us. We also are building in troublous times and there are many adversaries. We must "remember the Lord who is great and terrible." "Our God will fight for us."



The Greatest Story Yet Untold

Alex V. Wilson

The end of the *age* and the "ends" of the *earth* are closely related to each other. In the great commission our Lord told the apostles to be His witnesses to the end of the earth and He would be with them to the end of the age (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:18-20 RSV). Not many days earlier He had told them, "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"—the end of the age (Matt. 24:14, 3). The far corners of the globe must be reached with the gospel's joyful sound before history as we now know it will close. What, then, are we waiting for? To the work! Our Leader still says, "You go preach to the ends of the earth, and then I will bring the end of the age by coming again with power and great glory."

Is the end near? Is the gospel being proclaimed to all the world? Are we succeeding or failing to fulfill the great commission? Is our task nearly accomplished, or not?

It might be dangerous to answer those questions! If we paint a *dark* picture regarding world missions by telling of colossal needs, Christians might become so disheartened that they will give up all efforts. "What's the use? If after twenty centuries we are still so far from the goal, then we'll never make it. No sense in even trying." On the other hand, if we paint a *bright* picture of missions by telling of tremendous successes in making Christ known, many Christians might continue in their complacency. "I didn't know things were progressing so well. No need for me to get involved."

"Well," you remark, "what's the *truth*? Don't worry about reactions, just give us the real picture. Is it dark, or bright?"

The answer is, Both. Tremendous advances are being made, and yet staggering needs remain.

Solemn Facts

1. "It is soberly estimated that one-third of the world's living people have never heard the Christian message *in any form*," writes missionary leader Warren Webster. One-third! A billion people! And of course many who *have* heard something about Christianity

have never had the true gospel made clear and plain to them. They have only heard a caricature of the truth.

2. Over one-half of the world's population lives in Asia (that's no misprint!). Yet fewer than 10 per cent of Asia's people call themselves Christians of *any* kind. In other words, even including all the members of Roman Catholicism and of modernist churches and of the various cults within Christianity, the total number of "Christians" in Asia equals less than 10 per cent of its population. In fact, the usual figure given is only 3 per cent, but there may be more Christians in Red China and other Communist lands than we know, plus the fact that a number of isolated peoples can hear the gospel by means of radio. Yet the unreached millions in Asia represent probably the greatest challenge in missions today.

3. There are still over one thousand languages in the world into which no part of the Bible has been translated. Even in some lands where Scripture has been translated into the language of the people, fewer than 5 per cent of them possess a Bible or have access to one. In other countries, like India and Pakistan, even if every person owned a Bible, 80 per cent of the people could not read it: they are illiterate. Thus Bible-translation, Bible-distribution, and teaching of literacy are enormous needs.

4. There are still hundreds of unevangelized primitive tribes. Their condition may be illustrated by this question which was asked by a tribesman in the Philippines after he heard about Christ: "That's a wonderful story. When was it that Jesus died—last year?" How should he know? He has never heard that the world is round, or that men have walked on the moon. He has no knowledge of Nixon or Mao or the pope; of electricity or books or schools. Abraham, Moses, David, Peter, Paul—who are they? Redemption, holiness, church, resurrection—what are they? "When did Jesus die—last year?"

5. Ever hear of these churches? The church in Ephesus; in Colossae; in Derbe and Lystra; in Troas; in Sardis . . . Philadelphia . . . Smyrna . . . Laodicea. These and other churches existed in apostolic times in what is now the land of Turkey. Today the Turks are fanatical followers of Mohammed. In that country of thirty million people, there are now fewer than fifty Turks who are known to be born-again Christians.

And what, then, about us? What shall we say to these things? One-third of the world's people have never heard the gospel of Christ. Is it still possible, in the words of a slogan from the 1800s, to "evangelize the world to a finish, and bring back the King"? Yes, it is, by God's grace. He is moving in various ways to make His Son known to the ends of the earth. May He find you and me faithful, usable weapons in His hand.

(To be concluded)

PROPHECY

Nations United -- Against Israel

Daniel Fuchs

"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle" (Zech. 14:2). Once more Israel was attacked by her surrounding enemies. Without warning on the Day of Atonement, when the synagogues of Israel were jammed with worshippers, Egypt and Syria attacked. Shortly afterward Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan welded the circle around Israel. For a while it seemed as if all nations were gathered against Jerusalem thus setting the stage for the possible fulfillment of the prophecy of Zechariah. Thank God it was not "all nations." In the midst of "Watergate" our nation demonstrated that a vestige of statesmanship still exists in Washington. This time it was all nations but one in the Security Council of the United Nations.

The Arab attack was well-timed. Not only was the thrust on the Day of Atonement, but in the autumn when the countries of Europe and North America were getting ready for a long, cold winter. The result is that we are having oil diplomacy at its "slimiest!" I am convinced that the threat of oil and gas rationing is breaking our resistance to the pressure by the Arab world.

PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE OF ISRAEL'S 4th WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Is there any prophetic significance to this 4th war of Israel's independence? We need to be very careful as we analyze these events, and always remember that "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Rev. 19:10). We must realize that the purpose in our analysis of events is not merely to scratch a "curiosity itch" about the future; our interest in prophecy is commanded by the Lord:

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28).

Things are happening so rapidly that we are convinced that our Lord's return is nigh.

While Israel's wars are significant, I believe the greatest indications about these prophetic truths are to be found in the people of Israel and not in the acts of her enemies. Let us observe some simple but obvious "people facts."

1. The people of Israel are back in the land.

2. Four wars have been fought to drive Israel "into the Sea." Israel is not in the sea; she is in the land and when the events of Zechariah 12 and 14 take place Israel will still be in the land. "I will gather all nations against Jerusalem."

3. Jerusalem is divided into East Jerusalem and West Jerusalem; Old Jerusalem and New Jerusalem; Israel Jerusalem and Arab Jerusalem. Zechariah 14:2 tells of a divided Jerusalem, "half of the

city shall go forth into captivity and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city."

4. The Jewish people are also divided religiously. The great majority are agnostic. Generally, they are not atheists; they merely state they don't know, which is exactly what agnostic means. On the other hand, there is a vocal growing minority of Orthodox Jews who believe the Old Testament Scriptures as these Scriptures are interpreted by the rabbis. Whereas the agnostics don't know; the rabbis frequently give the impression that they know everything. They state that there is absolutely nothing in the Old Testament that refers to the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Both groups, the agnostics and the Orthodox, avidly study the Old Testament. The agnostics study it for clues about archaeology (the national pastime of Israel) and for clues to sources of water supply. Even agnostic Jews readily admit "the Bible has a remarkable historical memory." The Orthodox Jews believe and constantly study the Old Testament Scriptures.

6. The people of Israel are also studying the New Testament! Even the school children in Israel are studying the New Testament. They teach it in the schools because they feel that by so doing they are inoculating the children against the "missionary virus." They seek to show from the New Testament that the Lord Jesus Christ could not possibly be Israel's Messiah. (A few years ago a school teacher in Tel Aviv, who could not get copies of the New Testament from the Department of Education, almost lost his job because he got them from missionaries! Now both the Old and New Testaments are published in Israel.)

7. For the first time in its history the people of Israel know that there are Jewish people who are loyal Israelites but who also believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is Israel's Messiah. They cannot be called traitors since many of them are fighting in Israel's armed forces. Israelis finally realize that a Jewish person does not become a Gentile when he believes in Jesus.

With these "people facts" in mind we can begin to see the significance of current events in the light of prophecy.

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations (Zech. 14:2,3).

ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY WILL BE FULFILLED

A generation ago it was not possible for all the nations of the world to unite on any single project. Even today the world is divided. The United Nations are sterile. The only time they have been united has been against Israel. In 1967 the troops of the United Nations conveniently withdrew so that Egypt could attack Israel. The troops of the United Nations are again on the field, and perhaps they won't withdraw the next time—they may spearhead the attack! This is just surmise, but one thing is certain: There will be a time

when all nations will attack Jerusalem, and the divided city will be taken. It is at this time that "the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations."

Earlier Zechariah wrote giving other details:

Behold I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all people round about, when they shall be in the siege against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people (Zechariah 12:2, 3).

This is the siege of Jerusalem, a prelude to Armageddon. In verses 4-9 Zechariah describes the battle itself

Then note especially verses 9 and 10 of chapter 12:

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications.

Let us momentarily revert to the "people facts" I listed. The inhabitants of Jerusalem will consist of Jews, both agnostic and Orthodox. The agnostics "don't know" and—they have to be shown, but they have been studying the Bible, both the Old Testament and New. Maybe they will have a demonstration and will be shown! The Orthodox just don't believe that there is anything in the Old Testament about the Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps they, too, will have a visible demonstration.

As Jerusalem is surrounded by all nations, God will send upon the Jewish people "the spirit of grace and of supplications." "And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced" (Zech. 12:10). At that time "shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. AND HIS FEET SHALL STAND IN THAT DAY UPON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, which is before Jerusalem on the east" (Zech. 14:3,4).

No longer will they be agnostic. They will see Him. No longer will they say that the Old Testament does not refer to the Lord Jesus Christ. Their eyes will be opened and as they look on Him whom they have pierced, they will recognize Him and know Him.

Yes, last year Egypt and Syria attacked Israel on the Day of Atonement. There is a Day of Atonement in Israel's future. Then shall they "look upon me whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for him as one mourneth for his son."

On Israel's Great Day of Atonement, the 53rd chapter of Isaiah will be her penitential prayer,

He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquity, the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed (Is. 53:6).

Israel's Day of Atonement will be followed by the Feast of Tabernacles. Thank God that we have the "sure word of prophecy."

—Used by permission

HOME FROM ROMANIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The trip to Romania is now past, and we who went want to thank all of you for supporting us in prayer. Many times in Romania, when we began to be discouraged we thought about the people back home who were praying for us, and the Lord renewed our strength. Thank you.

Many of you already know how our God, the God of the impossible, showed us His will for us was to go ahead with the project by having us to be chosen from 1700 other tapes when our music was all religious and far from professional, and our tape was sent a couple of weeks after the deadline. Most of you do not know, however, that each person who went had to pay \$600.00. None of the students had the money to spare, and they had to risk losing their summer jobs because they could not work until the second week in June, but we believed the Lord was sending us, so it was up to Him to provide the way. We did not want to solicit funds, because we feel that it is a reproach on the Lord for His children to go out begging. We felt sure that we could raise the money if we sent out a plea, but that is the way many secular choirs raised the money, and we didn't want anyone to say we did it by our own efforts. Our decision was to tell our people we were going, but not to tell anyone we needed money unless he specifically asked. We simply trusted God to provide the means to accomplish the mission of His making, and praise God, He did just that. All the money that was needed came in—as it was needed. The \$300 to pay our way to New York and back was wired to us on the very day we were leaving!!

Some may question the wisdom of spending so much money for this trip when S.C.C. is in debt, and the money could have been put to use in the churches here. The apostles asked the same question when Mary anointed Jesus' feet. Our only answer is, when God says to go, no cost is too great. At the Union Thanksgiving Service last year and at quite a few churches, the choir sang songs stressing the great commission. One of the songs ended with the words, "Here am I, O Lord, send me." We wanted that message to go out to the churches, and we sang the words with our hearts. We believe God answered that prayer by sending us as a group to Romania. Oh, that all of us in Christ's body would continually pray that prayer. What a reproach it is that there are still 1000 languages that have no portion of God's word, and millions have never heard the blessed news of salvation. Christ said, "Go!"

Many people have also questioned what we would be able to do in a strange country with a strange language. We asked

the same question, and spent much time on our knees before God seeking the answer. We prayed much before we left and met morning and night each day while we were gone to pray for the leading of the Spirit every step of the way, and God again showed His great love and power by opening doors in our path in every city. We could never have located so many English-speaking people with hungry hearts as God put us in contact with. We sang only religious music, and—although our guide would not translate the message—the men were allowed until the last two concerts to explain the meaning in English, and there were always some who understood, as English is taught in all the schools. We also had two songs in Romanian which we were teaching to the audiences. We were asked to stop teaching them, but were still allowed to sing them. After the concerts,, many people came up to us to talk and to exchange addresses.

Our itinerary was planned giving us little time for outreach, but after a few days we began to use our tours as opportunities to witness. We even drafted our unbelieving guide to interpret on one occasion. At other times—mostly in the evenings we were left free, and we used the time to go out talking to people in the streets and passing out scripture verses in Romanian which we copied by hand from a Romanian Bible. We believe the Lord led us and used us to feed many hearts. We were not able to talk to most of them for more than an hour, some for only a few minutes, but we are trusting God to continue to bring fruit from the seeds sown. We know of at least seven who accepted the Lord. We had the opportunity to baptize one in a hotel bathtub, and to put him and one other in contact with the church in their town. God led us to three congregations of believers, although we had no contact with those under extreme persecution, for such contact would have been dangerous to them.

We cannot even begin to tell all of the rich experiences the Lord gave us, and we know that the Lord of the harvest will continue to work there. In closing let us share with you the question asked of us by the minister of the last congregation we visited: "Is the church in America still falling away, or has there been a return to the faith?" Oh, brothers and sisters, *they*, in the midst of all their trouble and persecution, are praying for *us*!! Do we have enough love to pray for them?

Yours in His service,
The S.C.C. Light Brigade



Questions Asked of Us

Carl Kitzmiller

Why is gambling considered such a sin when there is no mention of it in the Bible?

It is true, of course, that gambling is not specifically listed in any New Testament passage giving a list of works of the flesh (e.g., 1 Cor. 6:1-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-6; Rev. 21:8; 22:15). We must not assume, however, that the only sins are those listed by name in these and similar passages. Notice that Gal. 5:21 has a significant phrase, "and such like," which includes much that is not specifically named. Then, in addition to the named sins, the Bible deals in principles intended to guide our conduct. It is on the basis of scriptural principles that many things in life must be examined and rejected by the child of God.

There are several mentions in the Bible of the casting of lots. We need to realize that this, though often an accompaniment of gambling, is not always to be regarded as such. In fact, under the law the casting of lots was used to select the scape goat (Lev. 16:7-8), to divide the promised land (Num. 34:13; 36:2; etc.), to detect a guilty culprit (Jos. 7:16-21), to choose Saul as King (1 Sam. 10:17-24), and to establish the orders of the priests and temple offices (1 Chron. 24:5, 31; 25:8). In the New Testament it was used to select Matthias (Acts 1:23-26). Proverbs 16:33 indicates the thing which can remove the casting of lots from the realm of mere chance or ordinary gambling—the activity of the Lord. In these cases it was not a mere chance selection, but a process whereby God's will or choice was made known. Note in the selection of Matthias the prayer and the concern for God's choice. The soldiers at the foot of the cross cast lots (Jn. 19:23-24), more nearly in the sense of gambling, for it is not likely they were seeking any guidance from God. Even this, however, may have been merely a process of selection so that rather than destroy the seamless tunic by dividing it into four parts one man might benefit from it. Such chance selections need not fall into the same class with gambling (I don't suppose the flip of a coin to see which football team kicks off is regarded by most persons as gambling.)

Gambling is wrong for several reasons, a chief one being its parasitic nature. It lives on the losses and miseries of others. The gambler likes to confuse the issues by saying that the business man gambles when he decides to open a new store, the farmer gambles

when he plants his crops, the stock buyer when he purchases stock, or the passenger when he boards an airliner or gets into a car. These do take chances, but not all chance taking is gambling. These use the best wisdom they have, and their gain from their endeavors does not make a victim of others. Gambling serves no constructive purpose in society. It is not even good entertainment, for it soon ceases to be entertainment and becomes a consuming passion that leaves misery in its pathway. Many things may be known by the fruit they bear, and the fruit that goes with gambling is such as to tell us of its nature. The professional gambler may claim that his skill has largely removed the element of chance for him and that he is just another business man. He is a business man who lives on the losses and miseries of others and offers nothing of consequence in return, however.

Gambling is oftentimes a crime, and therefore a sin. Most governments realize the vile nature of gambling and place some restraints on it. This does not mean that our only concern need be for what is legal, but it shows that even the secular powers recognize something of the evil involved. Whenever gambling is legalized, experience has shown that a criminal element is often in control or trying very hard to get control. We know that the earnings of organized gambling are used to support crime. It is no exaggeration to say that gambling generally keeps bad company, has bad fruit in the area where it exists, and brings bad results in the lives of those who get involved with it. Moreover, its practice surely tends to destroy the influence and example of the Christian before the world, for gambling is not even in the world's code for a good Christian.

Some will say, "Oh, I have nothing to do with anything of consequence, but what's wrong with a little bet which couldn't involve any serious loss—matching pennies to see who buys coffee today, or a little bet on the ball game, or a dollar raffle ticket? It is obvious that as long as the restrictions hold, such could not inflict any large financial injuries. One serious danger, however, is that we tend to keep moving the limits. Gambling can be an obsession. Many started with pennies. Like with alcohol, abstinence is often times safer. It is never good for us to play with fire when there is no need for doing so. Some other principles are also involved as well. We have mentioned the Christian's influence and testimony. Far more than some like to admit, petty gambling can often destroy or hinder that. Again, we may be able to afford the small loss, but in some things it is the small bet multiplied by the hundreds on which crime thrives. And let us not forget that while we might "afford" the small bet, Christians are stewards of all the goods God gives and gambling is hardly consistent with that. I believe the Christian should shun the very appearance of evil by avoiding what may seem to be only petty gambling.

Where do we draw the line? What about races, contests, and such like? These should not be confused with gambling, even

though not all win. Some quality or skill is generally sought and is being tested, so the outcome is not mere fate. The participants gain a prize. These are not supported and maintained by preying on others, but as a rule serve a worthwhile purpose. We do not say all races, contests, etc., are good or are worthy of the Christian's participation, but the objection will likely be in some area other than simply, "It's a gamble."

Finally, what about the familiar advertising games of chance, drawings, etc.? You sign a slip or send in an entry, with the possibility of winning a prize. In our own country this is pretty rigidly regulated by the government so that the gambling principle is largely removed. Generally there is no direct cost of any sort, no loss suffered if you do not win, and the fund or gift has not been supplied by the entrants. No doubt there is a certain appeal in these things to man's fleshly desire to get something for very little (which is also at the heart of gambling), and we could create an evil out of it. My own rule of thumb has been that such contests and drawings must cost me nothing, have no strings attached, and require of me no purchases I would not make anyway. I do not see that these are necessarily wrong if they do not lead us into any wrong commitments.

We repeat, the great evil of gambling is that it makes one a parasite, the winner preying on the loser, giving nothing but gaining his "good" at the expense and misery of others.

How may we know what Jesus would do in a given circumstance?

To be committed to doing what Jesus would do in any given circumstance is a noble thing, but this question touches on one of the problems. We know, of course, that Jesus would do right, that He would act in conformity with God's word, and that He would be motivated by love. Using these and other general principles, it is not too difficult to determine the course Jesus would likely follow in some of the more simple matters of life. But not all of our circumstances are simple. Sometimes the issues get complex and so do the answers.

We must study the word of God and prayerfully rely upon the Holy Spirit to open God's word for us and to give us understanding. We must have hearts set on doing His will. We must live in close fellowship with Him. All of this will help wonderfully, but even then it may not allow us to be dogmatic about some of the more complex matters.

Likely a word of warning is in order. There are those who think they know what the Lord would do in any given circumstance and who talk about the Lord (or the Holy Spirit) telling them this or that, but who are largely following their own hunches, feelings, and values. We need to be careful that we seek guidance from the Lord and are not merely following the voice of our own heart.

7110 Bruton Road, Dallas, Texas 75217

Louisville Christian Fellowship Week

August 12th to 16th, 1974

THEME: THE FAMILY—GOD'S BASIC UNIT "Set thy house in order" Is. 38:1.

NOTE: Workshops directed to Senior High and older.

MONDAY

Ken Lawyer, Chairman

EVENING SESSIONS

- 7:00—7:30 Congregational Singing
- 7:30—8:00 Maple Manor, Children's Division
- 8:00—9:00 Jesus and People —Leroy Garrett

TUESDAY:

Bruce Chowning, Chairman

DAY SESSIONS

- 9:00—10:15 Bible Exposition —Ernest Lyon (Colossians)
- 10:30—11:30 Power of Prayer —Eugene Pound
- 11:30—12:00 Prayer Time —Jack Blaes, Leader
- 12:00— 1:15 Lunch Time
- 1:30— 3:00 Workshop for Youth —Bob Ross, Director
Subject: Biblical Evaluation of Modern Courtship and Pre-marital Relations
"Field Opportunities" —Earl Mullins, Director

EVENING SESSIONS

- 7:00—8:00 Youth Conference —Antoine Valdetero, Speaker (Exposition, 2 Tim.)
- 8:00—9:00 "Strengthening the Family Unit" —Vaughn Reeves, Speaker

WEDNESDAY:

Kenneth Stockdell, Chairman

DAY SESSIONS

- 9:00—10:15 Bible Exposition —Ernest Lyon (Colossians)
- 10:30—11:30 Bring Up a Child —Ben Rake, Jr.
- 11:30—12:00 Prayer Time —Jack Blaes, Leader
- 12:00— 1:15 Lunch Time
- 1:30— 3:00 Workshop for Youth —Vaughn Reeves, Director
Subject: Discipline and Authority
"Field Opportunities" —Earl Mullins, Director

EVENING SESSIONS

- 7:00—8:00 Youth Conference —Antoine Valdetero, Speaker (Exposition, 2 Tim.)
- 8:00—9:00 Missions "Lift up your eyes and look"—Jn. 4:35a —J. Miller Forcade

THURSDAY:

Alvin Price, Chairman

DAY SESSIONS

- 9:00—10:15 Bible Exposition —Ernest Lyon (Colossians)
- 10:30—11:30 Principles of Christian Growth —Paul Knecht
- 11:30—12:00 Prayer Time —Jack Blaes, Leader
- 12:00— 1:15 Lunch Time
- 1:30— 3:00 Workshop for Youth —David Schreiner and Mike Sanders, Directors
Subject: Motivation in Youth Activities
"Field Opportunities" —Earl Mullins, Director

EVENING SESSIONS

- 7:00-8:00 Youth Conference —Antoine Valdetero, Speaker (Exposition, 2 Tim.)
8:00-9:00 "The Biblical View of Intimate Personal Relationships" —Paul Clark

FRIDAY:

Carl Vogt Wilson, Chairman

DAY SESSIONS

- 9:00-10:15 Bible Exposition —Ernest Lyon (Colossians)
10:30-11:30 "Practical Christianity in the Home" —J. J. Samples, Speaker
11:30-12:00 Prayer Time —Jack Blaes, Leader
12:00- 1:15 Lunch Time
1:30- 3:00 Workshop for Youth —Don Finto, Director
Subject: Guiltiness in Bible Understanding
"Field Opportunities" —Earl Mullins, Director

EVENING SESSIONS

- 7:00-8:00 Youth Conference —Antoine Valdetero, Speaker (Exposition, 2 Tim.)
8:00-9:00 Family Worship —Don Finto, Speaker

Evangelical Dilemma

William MacDonald

There is a curious problem today in the evangelical world—one that poses sobering questions for the church and for the individual believer. The problem in brief is this: a great army of personal soulwinners has been mobilized to reach the populace for Christ. They are earnest, zealous, enthusiastic and persuasive.

To their credit it must be said that they are on the job. And it is one of the phenomena of our times that they rack up an astounding number of conversions. Everything so far seems to be on the plus side.

But the problem is this. The conversions do not stick. The fruit does not remain. Six months later there is nothing to be seen for all the aggressive evangelism. The capsule technique of soulwinning has produced stillbirths.

What lies at the back of all this malpractice in bringing souls to the birth? Strangely enough, it begins with the valid determination to preach the pure gospel of the grace of God. We want to keep the message simple—uncluttered by any suggestion that man can ever earn or deserve eternal life. Justification is by faith alone, apart from the deeds of the Law. Therefore, the message is "only believe."

From there we reduce the message to a concise formula. For instance, the evangelistic process is cut down to a few basic questions and answers:

"Do you believe you are a sinner?"

"Yes."

"Do you believe Christ died for sinners?"

"Yes."

"Will you receive Him as your Savior?"

"Yes."

Then you are saved!"

"I am?"

"Yes, the Bible says you are saved."

At first blush the method and the message seem above criticism. But on closer study we are forced to have second thoughts and to conclude that we have oversimplified the gospel.

The first fatal flaw is the missing emphasis on repentance. There can be no true conversion without conviction of sin. It is one thing to agree that I am a sinner; it is quite another thing to experience the convincing ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life. Unless I have a Spirit-wrought consciousness of my utterly lost condition, I can never exercise saving faith.

It is useless to tell unconvicted sinners to believe on Jesus—that message is only for those who know they are lost. We sugarcoat the gospel when we deemphasize man's fallen condition. With that kind of a watered-down message, people receive the Word with joy instead of with deep contrition. They do not have deep roots, and though they might endure for a while, they soon give up all profession when persecution or trouble comes (Matthew 13:21). We have forgotten that the message is repentance toward God as well as faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

A second omission is a missing emphasis on the Lordship of Christ. A light, jovial mental assent that Jesus is Savior misses the point. Jesus is first Lord, then Savior. The New Testament always places His Lordship before His Saviorhood. Do we present the full implications of His Lordship to people? He always did.

A third defect in our message is our tendency to keep the terms of discipleship hidden until a decision has been made for Jesus. Our Lord never did this. The message He preached included the cross as well as the crown. "He never hid His scars to win disciples." He revealed the worst along with the best, then told His listeners to count the cost. We popularize the message and promise fun.

The result of all this is that we have people believing without knowing what they believe. In many cases they have no doctrinal basis for their decision. They do not know the implications of commitment to Christ. They have never experienced the mysterious, miraculous work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration.

And of course we have others who are talked into a profession because of the slick salesmanship techniques of the soulwinner. Or some who want to please the affable, personable young man with the winning smile. And some who only want to get rid of this religious interloper who has intruded on their privacy. Satan laughs when these conversions are triumphantly announced on earth.

I would like to raise several questions that might lead us to some changes in our strategy of evangelism.

First of all, can we generally expect people to make an intelligent commitment to Christ the first time they hear the gospel? Certainly there is the exceptional case where a person has already been prepared by the Holy Spirit. But generally speaking, the process involves sowing the seed, watering it, then sometime later reaping the harvest. In our mania for instant conversion, we have forgotten that conception, gestation and birth do not occur on the same day.

A second question: can a capsule presentation of the gospel really do justice to so great a message? As one who has written several gospel tracts, I confess to a certain sense of misgiving in even attempting to condense the Good News into four small pages. Would we not be wiser to give people the full presentation as it is found in the Gospels or in the New Testament?

Third, is all this pressure for decisions really scriptural? Where in the New Testament were people ever pressured into making a profession? We justify our practice by saying that if only one out of ten is genuine, it is worth it. But what about the other nine—disillusioned, bitter, perhaps deceived en route to hell by a false profession?

And I must ask this: is all this boasting about conversions really accurate? You've met the man who solemnly tells you of ten people he contacted that day and all of them were saved. A young doctor testified that every time he goes to a new city, he looks in the phone book for people with his last name. Then he calls them one by one and leads them through the four steps to salvation. Amazingly enough, every one of them opens the door of his heart to Jesus. I do not want to doubt the honesty of people like this, but am I wrong in thinking that they are extremely naive? Where are all those people who are saved? They cannot be found.

What it all means is that we should seriously reexamine our streamlined, capsule evangelism. We should be willing to spend time teaching the gospel, laying a solid doctrinal foundation for faith to rest on. We should stress the necessity of repentance—a complete about-face with regard to sin. We should stress the full implications of the Lordship of Christ and conditions of discipleship. We should explain what belief really involves. We should be willing to wait for the Holy Spirit to produce genuine conviction of sin. Then we should be ready to lead the person to saving faith in Christ.

If we do this, we shall have less astronomical figures of so-called conversions but more genuine cases of spiritual rebirth.

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Missionary Messenger

"Greater things for God"

Dennis and Betty Allen

Hong Kong

June 17.

We had a near miss from a typhoon last week, but its area was so large that even being on the edge subjected us to very strong winds for three days. This is the typhoon season and already another one is churning north of Luzon.

The children begin final exams this week, but school is not out until July 15. Then comes Keswick, a week at a cabin on Lantau, and the Chinese summer camp, so three weeks of the short vacation period are already taken up.

The visit of the Wilsons was a real blessing, but the time was too short. Just about a week after they left we had a most enjoyable visit with Alacia LeDoux, Mac's daughter. She was on her way home after finishing Jr. College in the States. She was staying in the flat of our missionary friends who are in the States for the summer. She had come a couple of days earlier and we didn't even know she was here—just knew a "woman" was over there. Betty called to see how she was getting along. When she said she was going to Saigon, Betty asked if she knew Mac LeDoux. She said, "Why, that's my father!" so you can imagine how surprised and pleased we were. The girls especially enjoyed her. We sang for a long time one night. She had several meals with us and we helped her do some sightseeing.

Saturday night we had a call from Daddy and Mother Knecht—a 50th anniversary gift to them from a friend. It lifted everyone's spirits.

The constant noise of piledrivers every day is quite wearing, and there's not much prospect of relief for several months as there is a large area being prepared for several new blocks of flats (20-story) right next to us. Noise is often a problem in Hong Kong. You'd think we would be used to it by now.

Brother Kwok's son and daughter have been coming quite regularly on Sunday evening. Recently I've been having some real good discussions with them. They are asking questions and giving voice to the things that trouble them. They are interested but with their background they really don't believe yet. The son says he finds it hard to know whether the Bible is true or not. They also brought up the problem of why do the wicked often times seem to prosper while people who try to do right often have a hard time. I'm real glad to have opportunity to deal with these problems because the Bible does have answers and they might attend a long time and yet not find help for their specific problems in the regular services.

Greetings in Jesus. Thank you for your letters and for love, prayers, and faithfulness at all times.

We are now having plenty of rain, everything is beautiful and green, but very cold and with lots of flu about, which is quite common for this time of the year.

Our family that went over to the States is coming back tomorrow, and starting another congregation. It will be wonderful to see them again.

We are having another family going over in September of this year, and if God wills, after a few years they will come back, full of the work for the Lord, and start up another work somewhere.

So God is still blessing us here, and since I wrote you last, another young girl has been baptized, praise the Lord!

I must tell you some wonderful news! I am married again, to a Mr. Alan Stewart-Brown, a brother in Christ; and in the church of Christ.

We had prayed very much about this, and all the way we could see the guiding hands of God. He is a man a bit older than myself, but a very faithful child of God.

So now we can be working together in the Lord's vineyard, as my late husband and self used to do; to put Jesus first in everything.

The bank manager here in Belleville asked me to inform you of my change of name: J. R. Stewart-Brown and also the change of my banking number. When writing to donors, I will tell them about my change of name. They have been so very faithful through these many years. May God richly bless you and them, for I know your labours will not be in vain in His service.

Donald and Delores Harris,

Salisbury, Rhodesia

June 3.

We received your last report dated the 30th of April, 1974. We thank you for all of your good reports and continue to pray for you and the work there. We have made some improvement in the Home since we last wrote to you. We have the office in the storeroom behind the garage. This was to make room for two more boys to come into the Home, which now makes us with nineteen children.

Perhaps ones there may realize the need for another home to be built on our adjacent property. We plan to write soon about this matter.

Thank you for your great interest and your corresponding with us each month, for it does encourage us in this way.

May the Lord bless and keep you all.

Ernest Lyon is a professor of music at the University of Louisville and minister of the Highland Church of Christ.



Viewing the News

DEUTERONOMY 21:1-9 speaks of the guiltiness that shall come upon a people when there are murders not brought to justice. Just think of the blood-guiltiness of this land as you read of the abortions (over a million) and unsolved murders over the country.

IF IT WAS WRONG for the Arabs to try to force a change in policy in this country by the "oil embargo," why do I find no protests against the U.S.A. and the U.N. trying to force a change in policy in Rhodesia by sanctions, another economic force?

THE NATIONAL Layman's Digest for May 1, 1974, contained a long informative article on "Capitalism Under Attack by Liberal Clergy." The president of the NCC, for example, said, "There is no longer any way of justifying individual private wealth. There is no justification for foundations to have millions to give away while others can't pay the month's rent. Our national religion has been based on the profit motive—that the person most faithful would be blessed with the biggest profits. To me, that is blasphemy." One should note that except for those foundations (which I personally would like to see fold up!) organizations like the NCC would have quit their work long ago. The article quoted several other liberal clergymen.

THE SAME ISSUE of the National Laymen's Digest revealed that the Kansas Civil Service Board ruled that the State Industrial Reformatory had to reinstate its chief psychologist, Robert J. Williams, who admitted he was a practicing witch.

THE PRESBYTERIANS have been

meeting in Louisville lately, with both the northern and southern branches having conventions here. The withdrawal of about 250 conservative churches from the southern branch to form the National Presbyterian Church has hastened the day when the two groups will unite their organizations.

IT IS AMAZING how a trip through Russia under government guidance can make a church leader feel he is an expert on Russia. The president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board recently made such a trip and pontificated, when he came back, that Russians "unhesitatingly declare they have more religious freedom now than they had under the czars when the Orthodox Church was the Soviet Union's official religion." Maybe we should remind him that it was not the Soviet Union then, and since the Czars were overthrown in 1917, few Russians remember those days!

THE UNITED CHURCH of Christ and other "liberal" church organizations continue to put pressure on banks and industries to quit doing business with the conservative governments of Rhodesia and South Africa, but they say nothing about the accelerating business being done with slave governments in Russia and Red China. About the only pleasure that a sensible person could get if we get taken over would be to see the rude awakening those blind leaders of the blind would have when the God-hating governments began to rule over us.

I HAVE RECEIVED an inquiry about the "Communist Rules for Revolution" that reputedly were discovered at Dusseldorf, Germany, in May of 1919. There is considerable doubt

about the authenticity of the "Rules," but they do describe some of the things the Communists have worked for—corrupting the young, getting control of means of publicity, destroying the people's faith in their leaders ("Watergate"), preaching democracy but seizing power when possible, encouraging government extravagance, fomenting strikes and civil disorders, breaking down the old moral virtues, and causing the registration of all firearms. That is how they have worked, regardless of the authenticity of the document involved.

A SAD DAY for this country occurred recently when our President abolished the list of subversive organizations. In spite of Attorney General Saxbe's statement that "It is now very apparent it (the list) no longer serves any useful purpose," it has been a help in identifying communists and communist sympathizers. It is also obvious, however, that few Americans have paid much attention to the list. One of our major cities, for example, now has an elected mayor that once was secretary of the Communist Party in his state! And several judges in the city have extensive communist records.

I HAVE BEEN sent a copy of an article published in the Southwest which states that a bill before Congress would prohibit an individual, pastor or church attempting to operate without sanction of the National Council of Churches, stating that such a person or group would be considered detrimental to the mental health of the community. I had not heard of the bill, though I know that several Congressmen have entertained such ideas. Maybe we will get to be martyrs yet! Don't say it can't be done because it is unconstitutional. Our constitution has little influence today.

YOU PROBABLY don't see the "Review of the News" magazine. It is published by some members of the John Birch Society to try to give "the other side of the news." I am not, have never been, and do not want to be, a member of that society, but they keep up with much in the news that I can't find in the mass media. Here are a few samples from recent issues: Patrick Murphy of the Police Foundation has proposed no one be al-

lowed to have a handgun except the military, police officers, and "very few others" and according to Gun Week, he "proposed that the domestic manufacture, assembly and sale of handguns not acceptable for hunting should be banned totally," by federal law, of course . . . 13 million people in the U.S. now get food stamps, costing about \$3 billion a year. Prediction, as food costs rise, is that the total will go to 60 million, costing \$10 billion a year . . . 1/4 of the world's cattle live in India—where eating them is forbidden . . . The USSR continues to increase its military strength at an unprecedented rate. History tells us that no nation has ever done this when not threatened by neighbors unless they are planning a large scale aggression . . . One of the federal spending programs, according to Congressman John B. Conlan of Arizona, was that for \$121,000 for a survey to find out why so many people say "ain't" . . . A couple in England, according to a news story, were told they could get a loan to buy a house if the wife were to be sterilized so she wouldn't have to stop work to bear children! . . . A Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., has ruled that a Christian radio station cannot ask an applicant for a job if he is a Christian! . . . Nurse Isabel Jansen of Antigo, Wisconsin, discovered a correlation between fluoridation and heart attacks in her town and has now researched it nationwide with the help of a statistician, having her original findings corroborated . . . A woman who runs a house of prostitution (legal in her county) in Nevada is running for the State Assembly . . . Social Security tax this year will be \$823.85 if you earn \$14,000—that is a 100 per cent increase since 1970 . . . A new "religion" founded in penitentiaries in Georgia and California is called the Church of the New Song (CONS). It dictates the food its members require: porterhouse steaks and Harvey's Bristol Cream sherry. Members are suing prison officials to provide such food in the name of religious freedom! . . . The latest estimate on the cost of changing to the metric system in the U.S.A. is \$100 billion.

A FUNNY THING has occurred in the light of the mass media crying for full revelation of Watergate tapes

and other such things. CBS News has filed suit in Federal District Court to force the Vanderbilt University Television News Archive to destroy its tapes of CBS evening news programs! I wonder what they are ashamed of.

DO YOU AGREE? The National Education Association commented on a bill before congress with these words: "As between the parent and the school official, the latter has the more fundamental right to determine whether the child should be subject

to programs of behavior alteration and value modification." Do you agree that a school official has the right to change your child by such techniques as intensely personal interrogation or shock techniques?

PLEASE KEEP sending your clippings, even though I am behind in using some of them. I will publish all I can possibly get in and need a reservoir of news. Send them to

Ernest E. Lyon, 2629 Valletta Road, Louisville, Ky. 40205.



"My Mamma"

J. H. McCaleb

"I'm conscious of my limitations. It is fair to say that nobody but my Mamma ever thought I'd get as far as I have." These words fell from the lips of President Lyndon B. Johnson, according to a newspaper quotation.

Most men of any accomplishment at all will agree heartily with the sentiment expressed in the latter part of this statement. The influence of a good and chaste mother is an abiding strength. Just to live a life of integrity and with reverence for God is in itself a great accomplishment. In most cases the mother has contributed a great deal of the encouragement. When all members of the family have a common goal, there is power for good indeed.

Turning the picture around, we have another story. What of the many delinquencies today, both juvenile and adult? What part did the parents play in these failures? No doubt, there are many situations in which the mother and father are blameless; however, one cannot escape the conclusion that early environmental influences have much to do with molding a child's character. The most direct influence at that time is the parents.

We cannot change the past, but we can control the present. As adults we have the responsibility of leading the way now. If we are disinterested in the study of God's Word, there is a good chance that children will follow the same ultimate way of life. Moral decay follows a dulling of the inward spirit. What will the children say when they speak of "My Mamma"?

The Worship of Satan

By D. M. Pantton

An extraordinary record of our Lord's encounter with Satan puts beyond all challenge that Satan is a reality. Our Lord *names* him, not the writer of the Gospel; Jesus speaks to him exactly as he does to Peter, or James or John; Satan is as real, as personal, as visible as our Lord Himself. All temptation is so skilful, so astute, so strategic, that it becomes manifest that behind the temptation there must be a tempter; so Matthew (4:3) says,—“The Tempter came, and said unto him;” because temptation is one of his supreme functions, temptation is personally planned and superintended, with all his subsidiary hosts under him. So able, so supreme is he in all such work that into his hands *alone* is committed the temptation of the Son of God.

The Empire of the World

Now the central temptation of the three is the empire of the world. “The devil *taketh* him”—the word ‘taketh’ is the same as that indicating the bodily rapture of the saints; it is what Spiritualists know and experience, as ‘spirit levitation,’ the ‘reaping’ by an angel—“unto an exceeding high mountain, and *showeth* him”—not in a map, or by geographical tables, but by television—“all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;” the writer Luke (4:5) adding, “in a *moment* of time”—not in successive pageants, but in one overwhelming picture; from vast China in the east to an America in the west not yet discovered for fourteen centuries, from Iceland in the north to burning Africa in the south.

All Authority

Now on this television of the empire of the world Satan finds his temptation. “To thee will I give all this *authority*”—this imperial jurisdiction—“and the *glory* of them”—the world's applause and profit and pleasure; “for it hath been delivered unto me”—whether by God's delegation, or by man's sin Satan does not say; “and to whomsoever I will I will give it.” Jesus Himself calls him “the *prince* of this world” (John 12:31); but most remarkably Satan's words unconsciously admit the world is not his by *inherent* right. ‘Delivered’ to him he can ‘deliver’ it to another, as he does to Antichrist. Thus our Lord, who had come to establish His glorious rule over all the earth, is offered it *without Calvary*.

Worship

But now the condition of the offer, in its unparalleled horror is laid down. “All these things will I give thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.” We need to realize what is actually not far from us at this moment. That it is actual worship which Satan demanded is clear from our Lord's reply:—“Thou shalt *worship* the Lord thy God.” Satan's power over the world is to end at last in a worship almost incredible. “And the *whole world worshipped the Dragon*” (Rev. 13:4). Paul names Satan as “the *god* of this world” (2 Cor.

4:4). It is most significant how world dictators who have sought world-empires by yielding to Satan's temptation, have met their doom. Alexander, who mourned that "there were no more worlds to conquer," died of drunkenness ;Julius Caesar, who founded the Roman Empire that ruled over the whole known world, was stabbed dead by a friend; Napoleon died an exile in St. Helena; Hitler committed suicide; and Mussolini was hanged.

A Prayer to Satan

The worship of Satan is already here. Here is a prayer actually offered by Professor W. Chancy in San Jose, California, before he commenced a debate with a Christian opponent. "O Devil prince of demons, in the Christian Hell: O thou monarch of the bottomless pit, thou king of scorpions, having stings in their tails,—I beseech thee to hear my prayer, bless thy servant in his labors before thee. Fill his mouth with words of wisdom; enable him to defend thee from the false charges made against thy sulphurous majesty, and triumph by truth and logic over his opponent, so that this audience may realize that thou art a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering devil." That Satan would actually have given the kingdoms of the world to Christ for an act of worship is proved by the fact that he will give them—probably not many years from now—to Antichrist. An attractive and well educated girl named Laura Phillips, in Omaha, Neb., fell to the lowest life. She committed suicide, and a note was found on her pillow written in her own blood:—"I, Laura Phillips, hereby sell my soul to the Devil, in consideration of which he agrees to give me wealth, beauty, and the power to overcome my enemies." In Southern California, there are sects openly dedicated to the worship of Satan.

Scriptures

Our Lord's method of countering Satan is of extraordinary significance, and can never be exaggerated: it is our model for all time. He never reasons with Satan; He makes no appeal, no argument, no discussion: He uses only the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; throughout He *quotes Scripture alone*. "He answered and said, it is written." In every attack, Jesus responded by one defence alone—holy Scripture. This is of immense significance to us: any line of conduct which is forbidden by a single word of God—in this case, "Him *only* shalt thou serve"—comes from Hell; and in every instance Satan is completely defeated.

Worship of God

So our Lord counters the worship of Satan with the worship of God. "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written, *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve*:" that is, for no pretext whatever, for no object, however ideal, for no purpose however golden—even such as our Lord reigning over the world—must any man swerve from absolute devotion to God, and to God alone. What light Christ's words cast on world politics! Our Lord assumes that Satan's statement is correct—that he *has world power* in his grasp, and can delegate it to any man of

his choice: it assumes—what Satan asserts—that the world-powers can now be held only by Satanic cooperation: it assumes, therefore that without some sort of wrong compromise, some deviation from the service of God, world-power is impossible. It is a prohibition of using worldly means to attain Divine ends—the powers of politics, the power of science, the powers of wealth, the power of the atomic bomb. Their use will produce the Kingdom that is coming: “There was given unto him authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation; and *all that dwell on the earth shall worship him*” (Rev. 13:7). As we worship both God the Father and God the Son, so Satan (whose wisdom always lies in the imitation of God) contrives that the world worships both the Dragon and the Man of Sin. Man’s duty is not to reform the world, but to serve God; and in obeying God he will co-operate in the only reformation the world will ever know—the glorious reign of our Lord.

The Son of God

In the first interview, Satan—who never knew that his words would be reported all down the ages—made a slip such as the keenest intellects so often make, “And the tempter came and said unto him, If thou art the Son of God, *command* that these stones become bread” (Matt. 4:3): not pray, or ask, or conjure, but *command*. He knew who Christ was, for the demons said, —“I know thee, who thou art” (Mark 1:24): here he acknowledges that ‘the Son of God’ is the Creator, who at any moment can turn stones into bread, for He *made* both stones and bread: for “without him was not anything made, that hath been made” (John 1:3). The whole devil-world betrayed themselves for ever. “Demons also came out from many, crying out and saying, Thou art the son of God. And rebuking them, He suffered them not to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ” (Luke 4:41). Satan offers Christ the whole world for a single act of homage; but by this very act he unconsciously betrays his complete knowledge of who Christ was, and voices the testimony of all Hell that He is the Son of God. —In *The Truth*

BROTHER WILLARD HART

The month of May saw the home-going of one of the faithful members of the Portland Avenue congregation in Louisville. Brother Willard Hart departed to be with his beloved Lord, which we do firmly believe to be very far better than to linger in this vale of tears.

Brother Hart, who was born in Crayson County, Kentucky in 1895, had been a member of Portland for fifty years. He first worshipped at the Campbell Street Church of Christ in Louisville. Later he transferred to Portland to sit under the ministry of the late Brother R. H. Boll. He and sister Irene had reared a fine family of one son and three daughters: their four families survive him, although the son pre-deceased his father.

Faithfulness was the key word of brother Hart’s life. He was faithful in his secular employment, serving the Louisville Transit Co. as a bus-driver for 41 years, until retirement. He and sister Hart were among the “old dependables” at brother Boll’s Friday night classes for years. They set an example to the rest of us by unflinching attendance at the Sunday School and worship services. This couple managed to perform inconspicuously countless acts of loving Christian service to God’s needy children.

We shall miss our brother Willard, but —likely—not for long! Maranatha!

NEWS AND NOTES

"They rehearsed all that God had done with them . . ."

East Jefferson Street Church, Louisville: I want to express my appreciation to the brethren for the prayers in my behalf during my illness. The Lord continues to bless and I give Him the glory and praise. We're also thankful for an increase in interest and attendance, and for responses to the gospel during May. A brother and sister came forward with a desire for a closer walk with the Lord. Another man made a decision for Christ, made the good confession, and was baptized. Our hearts were made to rejoice as we witnessed this happy occasion. —James L. Wilson

Buechel Church of Christ, Louisville: The Fisherville Church of Christ is without a minister. The congregation is located 7 miles from Jeffersontown, a suburb of Louisville. It is a rural congregation of 100 active people. The congregation has a very nice three bedroom brick manse for the minister and his family.

They are interested in a man who will come full time with the intention of working with the congregation on a permanent basis; someone who is willing to put down some roots.

I have just completed a revival effort at the Fisherville Church and it looks to me as though there are some really fine prospects in the community.

Are you interested? All inquiries and correspondence should be directed to Mr. George Tapp, 5703 Thurman Road, Fisherville, Ky. 40023 or Mr. Charles Miller, Star Route, Fisherville, Kentucky 40023. —Michael T. Sanders

Portland Ave. Church of Christ, Louisville: Our VBS was very good. The nine different teachers for the adult class each had a good message on some favorite chapter of the Bible. On the last night the children's classes gave a program that showed they had gotten something from the lessons. They had good teachers.

Three were baptized at Portland on July 7: Coye Ann Campbell, and and Doug and Nancy McElwain. On

following Lord's day two sons of Bro. and Sister Lee House, Mike and Earl, were buried with their Lord in baptism. This makes the House family complete in the Lord. They drive a good distance and are a blessing to the church at Portland.

Highland Church, Louisville, Ky.: Two visiting preachers spoke on June 30: Burnet Magruder in the morning and Jim Wilson at the evening service.

According to the dates given, the Holy Land tourists under Bro. Hall C. Crowder should be home again by now. We have had no report of the trip as yet.

Cramer & Hanover Church, Lexington, Ky.: Sept. 29—Oct. 6 is the time set for our revival meeting here with Bro. Alvin Price as the speaker. Now is the time to prepare for this effort with much prayer.

South Louisville Church of Christ: Six women attended the Tues. A.M. prayer group this past week. Feel free to come and bring the children, as the nursery will be open. 10:00 A.M.

The Friday morning prayer group is still meeting in strength and steadfastness. Each of us should remember these men and lift up this group through our prayers at home if unable to meet this early schedule.

Gallatin Church of Christ, Gallatin, Tenn.: Our summer gospel meeting begins August 5, with Bro. Antoine Valdetero as evangelist. We should pray for all aspects of this effort.

Buechel Church of Christ, Kentucky: Roger Ward became a Christian this past week and made his profession yesterday morning as a direct result of his experience at Echo Valley camp. Thank the Lord for Roger and his decision.

Sellersburg, Ind. Church: Four new brothers and sisters to our happy family here in Sellersburg were all baptized into Christ this past week. We are thrilled to welcome these young brothers and sisters as new servants of the King.

OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

By Mrs. Paul J. Knecht

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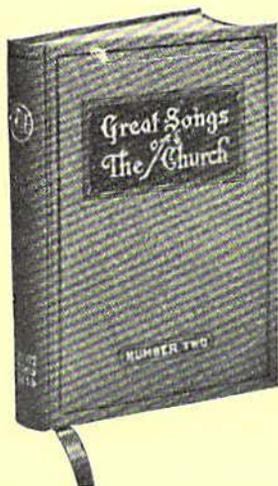
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