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#5

MAY 1994

Herald of Holiness

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



A FAMILY FINANCIAL PRIMER

SECRET COURAGE FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

WHAT CANCER VICTIMS WISH YOU KNEW

Watch for the Checkered Flag

JOHN C. BOWLING



John C. Bowling is president of Olivet Nazarene University.

AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, a green flag will drop at the Indianapolis Speedway signaling the start of the world's most celebrated race. Thirty-three gleaming, turbocharged autos will shoot out of the fourth turn and roar past the starting line at over 200 miles per hour. What a sight!

On the pace lap and the first few racing laps, every car looks great and runs strong. However, people who follow "Indy" every year understand that the goal is not just to start well but to finish well.

Give the race a little time and, as in past years, a toll will start to be taken. Engine failure, tire problems, and a host of other calamities will befall car after car until perhaps as many as half of the cars that start the race will fail to finish it.

It's hard to overemphasize the importance of finishing well. Trophies rarely get handed to those who cross the starting line of a race. The prize and the money go only to those who cross the finish line.

We place strong emphasis within the life of the Church concerning the necessity of starting well. Sermons are often concluded with appeals to

"Make a decision for Christ."

"Be born again spiritually."

"Be converted."

The initial decision for Christ is vital, but the Bible also teaches us the importance of faithfulness over the span of life. There is a quality and a dimension of faith that cannot be acquired or developed overnight. The philosopher Nietzsche was correct when he said: "The essential thing in heaven and earth is that there should be long obedience in the same direction. Thereby results something which makes life worth living."

The call of Christ upon our lives is for us to "take up our cross daily [which is to say, "every day"] and follow him."

What does it take to finish the race?

First, we must commit ourselves to run in such a way as to get the prize. That is Paul's phrase from 1 Corinthians 9:24, "Run in such a way as to get the prize" (NIV).

Every racer knows what it means to run in such a way as to get the prize:

1. No one wins who does not enter. One might be the best race-car driver the world has ever seen, but he will not win unless he races. Everything else flows from that point of entering.

2. Each driver must stay on course. The race is a 500-mile race, but that does not mean that a driver can drive from Indianapolis to Louisville and back and expect to win the prize. It is not a race of 500 miles in any direction. It is not 500 miles in a straight line. It is a race over a prescribed course, and if one does not stay on course, one cannot win the race.

3. The drivers also know that they must follow the rules of the race. One cannot suddenly decide to go the op-

posite direction on the oval track, or perhaps stop in the middle of turn three to stretch his legs or check the oil. These things will lead to disqualification (or worse). The rules are not there to hamper the race but to enhance it.

Paul says to us, "Run [the race] in such a way as to get the prize." Enter the race, stay on course, obey the rules, and . . .

4. Watch for the checkered flag. You run better when you keep the goal always before you. That's why the writer to the Hebrews says to us: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus" (12:1d-2a, NIV).

Fix your eyes on Jesus, that's how to win the race. The call is to stay on course lap after lap and keep our attention on Jesus. In the Book of Philippians Paul puts it like this: "I press on toward the goal to win the

The prize and the money go only to those who cross the finish line.

prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (3:14, NIV).

The race is not to the swift, nor to the strong, but to the faithful. May each of us keep our eyes on Jesus, stay on course, and not give up, for someday we will come out of the fourth turn and look down the track, and there before us will be our checkered flag that says: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

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Whispering Campaign

WESLEY D. TRACY



ABOUT ONCE A DECADE in a writer's life it all comes together and you simply can't type fast enough to keep up with the creative flow. Both content and passion move together, and the first draft is frighteningly excellent.

On the other hand, writer's block can clamp its icy claws around your heart. That produces an experience of prickly dread. The deadline, like an express train, is roaring down upon you and you can't move—or at least you can't write. That's about where I am right now.

At this moment everything else in the May issue is ready except the editorial. Maybe I should just skip it this month and put in a full-page cartoon.

It's not that I haven't tried. I started three times. Once I thought I would write on God's grace. With my ragged treatment, the topic died. I tried to write on how a warm word of Christian witness can help others, but the words were as uninspired as the writer. I even dug out the famous sermon by C. R. Angell called "Baskets of Silver." Your pastor probably preached it years ago. It is based on Angell's translation of

Proverbs 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in baskets of silver." The claws of writer's block gripped me harder. I mean, when a classic like "Baskets of Silver" seems stale perhaps something more than your computer has crashed.

Next I tried the priesthood of all believers—you know how Christians should perform priestly services for one another. Three paragraphs into the piece I knew that the only place for that prose was the little green trash can on my computer screen.

I finally realized that my problem was that I had a really great story in search of an editorial to fit it. That doesn't work any better with editorials than it does with sermons.

The only prudent course seems to proceed to tell you the story without editorializing or sermonizing. The story comes from *Homiletics*, April—June 1994, page 25. Editor Leonard Sweet cites its source as "The Drama of God," Trinity Church, Boston, as told by Spencer M. Rice.

Mary Ann Bird wrote a short story titled "The Whisper Test." It is a true story from her own life.

"I grew up knowing I was different, and I hated it. I was born with a cleft palate, and when I started to school, my classmates made it clear to me how I must look to others: a little girl with a misshapen lip, crooked nose, lopsided teeth, and garbled speech.

"When schoolmates would ask,

'What happened to your lip?' I'd tell them that I'd fallen and cut it on a piece of glass. Somehow it seemed more acceptable to have suffered an accident than to have been born different. I was convinced that no one outside my family could love me.

"There was, however, a teacher in the second grade that we all adored—Mrs. Leonard by name. She was short, round, happy—a sparkling lady. Annually, we would be given a hearing test. I was virtually deaf in one of my ears; but when I had taken the test in past years, I had discovered that if I did not press my hand as tightly upon my ears as I was instructed to do, I could pass the test.

"Mrs. Leonard gave the test to everyone in the class, and finally it was my turn. I knew from past years that as we stood against the door

Those seven words changed my life.

and covered one ear, the teacher sitting at her desk would whisper something and we would have to repeat it back—things like 'The sky is blue' or 'Do you have new shoes?' I waited for those words that God must have put into her mouth, those seven words that changed my life. Mrs. Leonard said, in her whisper, 'I wish you were my little girl.'"



PROFILE



NAME:

Rob L. Staples

NTS:

A.B., 1951, Trevecca Nazarene College;
B.D., 1954, Nazarene Theological
Seminary; Th.D., 1963, Pacific School
of Religion

CURRENT MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT:

Professor of Theology, Nazarene
Theological Seminary

PREVIOUS MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS:

Professor of Religion, Southern
Nazarene University; pastored on
the Northern California District

ON MINISTRY:

The sense that God was calling me to
Christian ministry came when I was
16. At first I understood it as a call to
pastor only, but under the tutelage of
Dr. William Greathouse at Trevecca,
and later in courses at NTS, I came to
see that my gifts were pointing me to-
ward a ministry of teaching theology.
After 8 years in the full-time pastorate
(which I value highly as part of my
preparation for teaching future preach-
ers), the doors opened for me to teach.
I have now spent 31 years in that min-
istry, the last 18 at NTS. Obviously, I
am greatly in debt to NTS for giving
me both a solid education and a fulfill-
ing place of service to the Kingdom.

*To invest in the lives of those called into
ministry in the Church of the Nazarene,
please contact: Ron Galloway, 1700 E.
Meyer Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64131
(816-333-6254; FAX: 816-333-6271).*

NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

May's 10-Point Quiz

- The number of murders *per capita* in Little Rock, Ark., compared to the New York City murder rate is:
A. 83% less B. the same C. 12% more
- According to *Harpers* magazine, the number of still-unpaid parking tickets given to former Soviet Embassy employees is:
A. 963 C. 19,063
B. 9,063 D. 50,693
- The number of golf courses, worldwide, maintained by the U.S. Pentagon is:
A. 234 B. 134 C. 34
- The number of ABC television stations that still refuse to air *NYPD Blue* is:
A. 15 B. 44 C. 26
- The percentage increase in street-gang membership since 1989 is:
A. 29% B. 390% C. 2900%
- In 1984, 11 percent of U.S. households had a VCR. What is the percentage for 1994?
A. 50% C. 30%
B. 75% D. 18%
- In 1984 in the U.S., 3.7 million women gave birth to babies. How many U.S. women are expected to experience a real Mother's Day by giving birth in 1994?
A. 2.6 million C. 3.7 million
B. 4 million D. 6.2 million
- According to the *Politically Correct Dictionary and Handbook*, the sensitive way to tell an employee that he or she is fired is to tell the worker
A. to "hit the bricks"
B. that he or she has become "involuntarily leisured"
C. to "clean out your desk"
D. "don't call us, we'll call you"
- The name of the former pastor of Marble Collegiate Church, N.Y., and author of the book, *The Power of Positive Thinking*, who died on Christmas Eve last, is:
A. Vernon Hatley C. Rex Humbarb
B. John Claypool D. Norman Vincent Peale
- The government of which of these countries has recently make it illegal to teach Christianity outside the walls of a church?
A. San Salvador C. Mongolia
B. Uganda D. New Zealand

Answers:

1-B, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B, 5-C, 6-B, 7-B, 8-B, 9-D, 10-C

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

by Donald D. Owens

Almost in a rising crescendo, American society is moving toward a pronounced secularism. This fact has made our society a very troubled one. Conflicting priorities and competing interests are diminishing at "warp speed" many of the traditional values of Western civilization and its Judeo-Christian perspective.

It would be ideal if the church could appear to be a seamless web as it confronts society. However, we are fearful that there is some confusion amid a loss of a sense of mission. The Board of General Superintendents is deeply concerned that there be no confusion about the mission of our movement and how to share in the values on which the vitality of the church has stood across the years. It is almost axiomatic that a movement or an institution must articulate its mission statement over and over again in order to preserve the basic integrity. Fragmentation and pluralism only leads to a loss in the knowledge of *who* we are, *whose* we are, and *what* we are about. Therefore, it seems important to return again to a mission statement agreed upon by the Board of General Superintendents, which dramatizes the shared purpose and objectives of the Church of the Nazarene. In articulating these we would do well to ask ourselves:

1. Is there a mission statement that is clearly articulated and understood by the entire Nazarene community? Is this mission statement owned by the entire movement?

2. Have we marshaled the resources, personnel, finances, and ministries necessary to accomplish the stated purpose? This pertains to local churches, districts, the general church, and educational institutions.

3. Are we accomplishing the goals that

have been predetermined by the stated purpose and mission for the church? The accountability of numbers is only one facet of this evaluation, but an important one. There are other instruments of evaluation that may be used.

4. Are we making plans to provide the resources necessary to continue to accomplish the objectives? It would appear to be a part of wisdom that every program, every ministry throughout the entire church be governed and evaluated on this

Who are we?

Whose are we?

What are we about?

premise. We do not have the time or the resources to do otherwise. What are the statements of purpose and objectives for the Church of the Nazarene?

I. MISSION

"The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to respond to the Great Commission of Christ to 'go and make disciples of all nations'" (Matthew 28:19, NIV).

This is the target to be obtained. "To make disciples" encompasses the entire spectrum of church ministries from holiness evangelism to holiness higher education.

II. KEY OBJECTIVE

"The key objective of the Church of the Nazarene is to advance God's kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures." In each ordination service the passages from the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* articulate this objective very clearly. For instance, in 401.2 of the 1993-97 *Manual* it reads,

"The minister of the gospel in the Church of the Nazarene must have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and be sanctified wholly by the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The minister must have a deep sense of the fact that souls for whom Christ died are perishing, and that he or she is called of God to proclaim or make known to them the glad tidings of salvation."

"We believe that every agency of the Church must justify its existence and activities by direct relationship to this central purpose" preserving and propagating of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures and understood by the Church of the Nazarene and articulated in the *Manual* of the church.

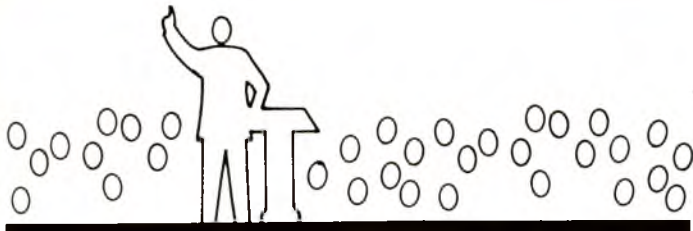
III. CRITICAL OBJECTIVES

"The critical objectives of the Church of the Nazarene are holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament church together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature" (*Manual*, paragraph 25).

Within the parameters of these objectives, each leader at all levels of the church must individually spell out the specific critical objectives of one's assignment. As we move toward the end of the century, we do well to return to the water holes that have nourished us and given us focus across the years.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV).





ABBOTT, DAN: Myrtle Point, OR, May 1-4

APPLEBY, ROBERT AND MARQUITA (MUSTARD SEED MINISTRIES): Moriarty, NM, June 26; South Fork, CO, 30—July 3*

THE ARMSTRONGS—LEON AND LINDA: Cumberland MD (First), May 3-8; Barton, MD (Moscow), 10-15; Columbus, OH (Wilson Avenue), 17-22; Charlottesville, VA (First), 24-29; Buckingham, VA, 31—June 5; Statesville, NC, 6-12*; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1*

BAGGETT, DALLAS W.: Birmingham, AL (Huffman), May 6-8; Brunswick, GA (First), 15-22; Leighton, AL (Nitrate City), 27-29; Madison, AL (First), June 5; Birmingham, AL, 10-12 and 17-19*

BAKER, RICHARD C.: Woodstown, NJ, May 4-8; McConnellsville, 10-15; Vanderbilt, PA, 17-22; St. Marys, WV, 31—June 5

BALLARD, DON K.: Millington, TN, May 8 and June 18

BELZER, DAVE AND BARBARA: Horton, KS, May 3-8; Cache, OK (Komah Memorial), 10-15; Davenport, OK, 17-22; Walters, OK (Emerson First Indian), 24-29

BENDER, TIM—THE TIM BENDER FAMILY: Needmore, PA, June 3-12*

BENSON, MICHAEL W.: Hermitage, TN, May 1-4; Pea Ridge, AR, 8-11; Missouri District Lay Retreat, 13-15 A; Florissant, MO (St. Louis Trinity), 15 P; Prescott, AZ, 26-29; Shawnee, KS, June 10-12; Tennessee District Family Camp, 13-19; East Tennessee District Youth Camp, 20-24; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1*

BOCK, DON: Bainbridge, OH, May 4-8*; Jackson Center, OH, 11-15

BOQUIST, DOUG AND DEBBIE: Holt, MI, May 7-11; Beaverton, MI, 14-18; Vanclve, KY, 21-25*; Mount Pleasant, MI (Faith), Prom Alternative, 27; West Virginia South District Children's Retreat, June 10-12; Dayton, OH (Vandalia), 14-16; Lowell, MI, 17-19; Vicksburg, MI (Chapman Memorial), 20-24; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 3

BROWN, MARK A.: Marion, IN (Lincoln Boulevard), May 3-8; Manassas, VA, 11-15; Hopewell, VA, 17-22; State College, PA (Bethel), 24-29

BROWN, ROGER N.: Bloomington, IN (Zion), June 1-5

BUDD, JAY B.: Grafton, WV (Parkview), May 10-15

BURKHALTER, PAT AND DONNA: Indianapolis, IN (Meridian Street), May 3-8; Belleville, IL (First), 11-15; Cairo, GA, 18-22; Eufaula, OK, 25-29; Borger, TX (First), June 1-5; Conway, AR (Liberty), 7-12; Crockett, TX, 15-29

CANFIELD, DAVE—EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES: China Grove, NC, June 9-19*

CHAMBERS, LEON: Pine Mountain, GA, June 16-26*

CHANEY, REEFORD AND BARBARA: Salem, VA, Faith Promise, June 26

CLAY, D. E.: St. Johns, MI, May 5-8; Lake Side, OH, Retreat, 10-12; Fredericktown, OH, Faith Promise, 13-15; New Lothrop, MI, 18-22

COBB, BILL AND TERRI: Searcy, AR, May 4-8; Desoto, TX (First), 11-15; Garland, TX, 18-22 A; Northwest Oklahoma District Camp Meeting, 22 P, 25; Fayetteville, NC, June 1-5; Missouri District Camp Meeting, 27—July 3

COFFMAN, JOHN C.—COFFMAN FAMILY MINISTRIES: Massillon, OH (First), May 20-22; Orrville, OH, June 5*; Beckley, WV (First), Kids Crusade, 13-19; Jackson, OH, Kids Crusade, 20-26

COESON, KEN AND PATTI'S MINISTRIES: Wrangle, AK, May 1*

COVINGTON, NATHAN: Denison, TX (First), May 11-15; Topeka, KS (Oakland), 18-22; Laurel, MS (First), 25-29; Troup, TX (Martins Chapel), June 1-5; Fithian, IL, 22-26; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1*

DELL, JIMMY: Winchester, IN, May 5-8; Loveland, CO, 10-15; Brush, CO (First), 22-26; Sedona, AZ (Village of Oak Creek), June 5-8 A; Colorado Springs, CO (Central), 8 P-12; Missouri District Camp Meeting, 27—July 3

DENNISON, MARVIN E.: Sharon Springs, KS, May 3-8*; Maryville, MO, 17-22; Johnson, KS (Bethel), 31—June 5; Centerville, IA, 7-12*; Harrisonburg, VA (Dayton), 14-19; Strong, ME, 21-26; Mechanic Falls, ME, 28—July 3

DESKINS, GROVER C.: Berkeley Springs, WV, May 10-15

DICKINSON, PAUL R.: Kingsley, MI, May 15 A; Bayne City, MI, 15 P*; Colorado Springs, CO (Security), 29

DOCTORIAN, SAMUEL: Indonesia, May 1-29; Brazil, June 1-20; Wray, CO, 22-28

DOOLITTLE, KEVIN AND KAREN: Hyde Park, VT, May 1-15; Bristol, PA, 18-22; Philadelphia District Camp, 29; Baltimore, MD (Parkview), June 6-12; Pylesville, MD (Fawn Grove), 15-19; Petersburg, PA, 20-26; Wadsworth, OH, 30—July 10*

DOROUGH, WILLIAM M.: Marshall, TX (First), May 3-8; Abilene, TX (Trinity), 10-15; Jeffersonville, IN (First), June 2-5

DUNMIRE, RALPH AND JOANN: Charleston, WV (South Hills), May 12-15; Antioch, TN (Nashville Cherokee Hills), 17-22; Clayton, AL, June 9-19*

DUTTON, BARRY AND TAVIA: Bingham, ME, May 17-22; Brunswick, ME (East Harpswell), June 7-12; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28-30*

ELLINGSON, LEE: Nashville, TN (Radnor), May 1; Houston, TX (Broadway), 8-11; New Iberia, LA, 20-22; London, England, 25—June 5; Andalusia, AL (New Providence), 8-12; North Florida District Camp, 13-19; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28-30*

FADER, WES AND MARY: Clinton, OK, May 4-8; Drumright, OK, 10-15; Seaford, DE, 22-26; North Haledon, NJ (High Mountain), June 1-5; CANADA, Montreal (First), 9-12; CANADA, Franklin Centre, 15-19; Philadelphia District Senior Adult Retreat, 24-26

FAULL, A. RAY—MANNA MINISTRIES: Panama, OK, May 24-29

FREY, DON—THE FREY FAMILY MINISTRIES: Camden, TN, May 1-5; Mount Vernon, IN (First), 8 A; Huntington, IN, 8 P; Dunkirk, IN, 11-15; South Gate, MI, 29*; Savannah, TN, 30-31 and June 1-5; Lexington, AL (Marys Chapel), 6-12; Pleasant Grove, AL (First), 13-17; Sylacauga, AL (First), 20-26; Berne, IN (Union Chapel), 27—July 3

GESSNER, DON AND SHIRL: Indianapolis, IN (Westbrook), May 4-8; Chillicothe, OH, 11-15*; Carey, OH, 17-22; Salem, IL (Grace), June 1-5; Crown Point, IN (South Lake), 8-12; Hanover, PA, 21-26*; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1*

HAINES, GARY: Wooster, OH, May 5-8; Tilton, IL (Danville Southside), 14-18; Clinton, IL (First), 19-22; Medford, OR (Southwest), 28—June 1; Coquette, OR, 2-5; Edmond, OK (Waterloo), 11-15; Enid, OK (First), 16-19; Gahanna, OH (Columbus Northland), 25-29

HUGHES, JAMES R.: Harrisburg, PA (Bethany), May 1-4; Cape May Court House, NJ, 6*; Fairview Village, 7; Lenhartsville, PA, 8*; Hudson Falls, NY (Cornerstone), 15-18; Frackville, PA, 22*; Pleasantville, NJ, June 12 A; Elmer,

NJ, 12 P*; Langhorne, PA, 14*; Elmer, NJ, 18*; Marlton, NJ, 19*; Penns Grove, NJ, 26*

HUGHES, RICHARD AND PENNIE—PENNIE NICKLES WORLD MINISTRIES: Huxton, CO (Clarksville Buffalo Grass), May 3; Cozad, NE, 4; Atlantic, IA, 5; Rochester, MN, 6-8; Winona, MN, 11; Cedar Falls, IA, 12; Monticello, IA, 13; Waterloo, IA, 15 A; Newton, IA, 15 P; Harrisonville, MO, 22; Santa Fe, NM, June 5; Moriarty, NM, 6 P; Gallup, NM (First), 12-17; Farmington, NM, 19 A; Aztec, NM, 19 P; Salt Lake City, UT (City Central), 22-26

JONES, TERRY AND LAQUITA: Elkhart, IN (Northside), May 11-15

JORDAN, JOSEPH R.: Bedford, IN (Davis Memorial), May 3-8; Independence, KY (Florence Community), 10-15; New Marshfield, OH, 17-22; Columbus, OH, June 1-5*

JUNEMAN, JOHN AND TRINA: Caruthersville, MO, May 4-8; Miami, OK, 11-15; Fenton, MO, 18-22; Sullivan, MO, 25-29; St. Clair, MO (Parkway), June 1-5; Gardendale, AL, 7-12; New Baltimore, MI (Anchor Bay), 13-18; Alabama North District Youth Camp, 20-24; Missouri District, 17—July 3

KEENE, EARL E.: Oregon Pacific District Assembly, May 18-21; Salem, OR (South), 22; Tulare, CA (Wayside), June 2-5; Crescent City, CA, 19-24; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 27-30*

LAWSON, WAYNE T.: Alaska, May 1-31 and June 10-30

LAXSON, KIP—OUTREACH EVANGELISM: Columbus, OH, May 4-8; Grand Prairie, TX (First), 11-15; Sreator, IL, 18-22; Bloomington, IL (Fairway Knolls), 25-29; Mississippi District Camp, June 6-12; Dallas District Camp, 14-19; Illinois District Camp, 21-26; Iowa District Camp, 27—July 3

LEONARD, J. C.: Martinsville, IN (Trinity), May 10-15

LOMAN, LANE: Irondale, OH, May 1-4; Bloomsburg, PA, 8-11; Charleston, WV (Elk River), 15-18; Thomasville, NC, 22-25; Lawrenceburg, TN (Grace), 26-29; Bowling Green, KY (Grace), June 5-8; Douglas, GA, 9-19*; Clay City, IN, 20-26*

MACEACHERN, WARREN A.: Atlasburg, PA, May 3-8; West Sunbury, PA (Claytonia), 22-25; Butler, PA, 27-29

MANLEY, STEPHEN—CROSS STYLE PROCLAMATION: Winter Haven, FL (First), May 4-8; Brandon, FL (First), 11-15; Lancaster, OH, 18-22*; Olathe, KS, SoloCon Midwest, 27-30; Brainerd, MN, June 8-12; New Baltimore, MI (Anchor Bay), 13-19; Oklahoma City, OK (Lakeview Park), 22-26; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1*

MANN, THURL AND MARY KAY: Iberia, MO, May 4-8; Seymour, IN (First), 11-15; Waynesburg, PA, 18-22; Montpelier, OH, 25-29; Lansing, MI (Waverly), June 1-5

MCMAHAN, WILLIAM T.: Cincinnati, OH, June 2-5*; Douglas, GA, 9-19*

MCMAHON, MICK AND HELEN: Elmira, NY (Calvary), May 4-8; Gratton, WV (Blueview), 11-15; Bunola, PA, 17-22; Arona, PA, June 4; Clarksburg, WV, 8-12; Clearfield, PA, 22-26

MEREDITH, DWIGHT AND NORMA JEAN: Wichita, KS (Trinity), May 17-22

MILLS, CARLTON—SECOND TOUCH EVANGELISM MINISTRIES: Lynn, IN, May 4-8; Hermitage, PA (Gentle Shepherd), 10-15; St. Louis, MI, 17-22; Waterloo, MI (Pontiac First), 24-29; Bedford, PA, June 1-5; Ashland, KY (First), 12; Morenci, MI, 15-19

MONK, JIM: Lemmon Valley, NV (Calvary), May 8-11; Rushville, IN, 15-18; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1*

MORRIS FAMILY MINISTRIES: Charleston, WV (Southeast), June 6-12; Seth, WV, 13-19; Man, WV, 20-26

MOSS, UDELL AND DORIS—FAMILY MINISTRIES: Waukegan, IL (First), May 3-8; Benzonia, MI (Benzie), 11-15; Omaha, NE (First), 18-22; Bonham, TX, 25-29

OYLER, CALVIN AND VIRGINIA: Tabor, IA (Weaver Memorial), May 3-8

PETTIT, ELAINE C.: St. Joseph, MI, May 1-3; Grand Haven, MI, 4-5; Kalamazoo, MI, 6*; Grand Haven, MI, 7-8; Greenville, OH, 11-15; Jackson Center, OH, 18-22; Bellevue, OH, 25-29; Kalamazoo, MI, Good News Train, June 4, 11, 18, 25; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 18

PIERCE, CHONDA—SECOND ROW PIANO SIDE: Nashville, TN, May 6*, Richardsonville, VA, 27-28*; Nashville, TN, 29-30*

PRICE, ROSS E.: Rock Springs, WY, May 1-8

REED, SHERMAN: Jasonville, IN, May 3-8*; Ponca City, OK (First), 10-15; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1

RICHARDS, LARRY AND PHYLLIS: Edinburg, IN, May 3-8; Plymouth, MI, 22; New Castle, IN (Southside), June 5

RICKEY, HOWARD L.: Bloomington, IN (Eastside), May 1-4; Nashville, IN (Parkview), 8-11; Bicknell, IN, 15-18; Wisconsin District Sunday School Banquet, 20-21

ROSE, WAYNE: Memphis, TN (Beclair), May 3-8; Wichita, KS (Trinity), 17-22; Heavener, OK, 25-29; Cherrylvale, KS, June 1-5; Stark, KS, 21-26

RUNYAN, DAVID: Collinsville, IL (First), May 4-8; Pryor, OK, 13-15; Russia, IL, 16-31; Northeastern Indiana District Camp Meeting, June 19-26; Romania, 27—July 4

SMITH, DUANE: Beardstown, IL, May 3-8; Marseilles, IL, 10-15; Fort Recovery, OH, 17-22; Williamsburg, IN, 24-29; Shelby, NC (New Bethel), June 15-19; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1*

STREET, DAVID A.: Iowa District Children's Camp, June 26—July 2

STRICKLAND, DICK: Winamac, IN, May 4-8; New Smyrna Beach, FL, 11-15; Columbus, OH, 22-25; Southeast Oklahoma District Camp, 31—June 5; University Park, IA, 13-19*

TAYLOR, CLIFF—FAMILY EVANGELIST: Hood River, OR, Vacation Bible School, June 12-17; Redding, CA, 20-24*

TAYLOR, ROBERT: Oxford, PA, May 4-8; Hobart, IN (First), 11-15; St. Louis, MO (South County), 18-23; Dublin, GA (First), 25-29; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1*

TSO, ALVIN C.: Navajo Mountain, AZ, June 10-12*; Sanders, AZ (Newlands), 21-25

ULMET, BILL: Greenwood, SC (Community), May 7-11; Charlotte, NC (Plaza), 22-25

WALKER, LAWRENCE AND LAVONA: Knox, IN, May 11-15; Rutland, OH, June 7-12*; Mount Pleasant, MI, 19-26; Hendersonville, NC, 30—July 3

WELLS, LINARD: Columbus, IN (First), May 3-8; Louisville, KY (Southside), 10-15; West Memphis, AR, 17-22; Marshall, IL, 24-29; Blossom, TX, 31—June 5; New Albany, IN, 7-12*; Jeffersonville, IN (First), 14-19; Evansville, IN (Grace), 26-28; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28—July 1*

WETNIGHT, RICK: Abernathy, TX (First), May 3; Charleston, IN, 17-22; Delta, PA, June 21-26

WHEELER, CHUCK AND WILLY—FAMILY MINISTRIES: Berwick, ME, May 4-8; Waldoboro, ME (North), 10-15; New Castle, PA, 20-22*; Greenville, PA, 24-29

WILLIS, KERRY W.: Harkers Island, NC, June 12-19; Morehead City, NC (Crystal Coast), 24-26

WILSON, DAVE AND SANDRA: Frankfort, IN (First), May 22-29; Hawesville, KY, 31—June 5; Louisville, KY (NACIE), 28-30*

WOMACK, PAUL W.: Canton, IL (Eastside), May 4-8; Stafford, KS, 11-15; Annapolis, MD, 18-22; Cantrville, IL (First), 25-29; Fremont, IA, June 1-5; Williamsport, PA, 8-12

WRIGHT, E. GUY AND LIL: Rock Hill, SC (Oakdale), May 3-8; Chester, SC, 10-15; Lancaster, SC, 25-29; Jacksonville, NC (Faith), June 1-5; Kanapolis, NC, 9-19*

*Denotes Non-Nazarene Church

When Life Hands You Scraps

C. ELLEN WATTS



C. Ellen Watts is a freelance writer living in Nampa, Idaho.

BIRTHDAYS TEND TO ACCENT REALITY. Having caught up with the national speed limit, although I may yet hit the sidewalk (one way or another) wearing in-line skates, I know now that I will never dangle from the end of a bungee cord. At 40, I thought about all the books I would never have time to read and became more selective.

Disappointments that greatly affect a life, however, deal not with fun and pastimes, but with goals and dreams. A career missed, a job lost, the untimely death of a companion—the list goes on. Sadly, there are those who journey from crib to crypt without ever having realized a single goal or dream.

Many end up as cranks or cynics. Some, like Mae, fill the voids left by disappointment with good.

Born prematurely, Mae missed a lot of school because of illness. When poor eyesight kept her from reading the books she loved, she spent hours watching her mother's needle flash in and out of a patchwork quilt.

Even after she got glasses, Mae couldn't attend high school when the rest of her class went because at that time she lived in the country and

there was no school bus and no place for her to stay in town.

So Mae taught a sibling to read, learned to sew a nine-patch and made wee covers for her sister's doll.

Mae found a way to finish high school, got a job, and was saving to go to business college when she first heard the good news of Jesus Christ. Knowing Him, Mae says, has enabled her to piece a life of contentment from the scraps of broken dreams.

Mae got sick, missed out on college, and married Cyd. Cyd quit going to church with her, and his mother moved in with them. Since one could easily "do" for three, and Cyd was used to his mother's soggy biscuits, Mae vacated the kitchen. She embroidered fabric with wild roses and quilted it into a bedspread.

Mae took their children to church and told them about God. Most chose to live good lives—minus Christ—like their father.

Cyd's mother died, the children married, and Mae voiced her desire to travel. Cyd said no. So Mae stuck pins in a world map, prayed for missionaries, and appliquéd crib quilts for the grandbabies.

As they matured, she took them to Sunday School and taught them to pray, and recycled old denims into crazy-quilt coverlets for their dorm rooms. Not one followed God.

Cyd retired. Unaware that illness would erase both his reason and memory, Mae got out her typewriter and began writing from a heart filled with long-stored layers of inspirational words.

The clatter annoyed Cyd. So Mae stored her last dream away with the

typewriter. The adult Sunday School class grew spiritually and in numbers because of her helpful insights and heartwarming stories. When she was not busy teaching or preparing a lesson, she made quilts for loved ones.

Last year, when the lady in charge of the local quilt show said they'd have to cancel if they didn't get more entries, Mae carried in some of her quilts to help fill the empty spaces. She didn't know she'd entered a contest until they said she'd won first place and took her picture for the newspaper.

Later on, Mae draped her prize-winning quilt over the back of the sofa and pinned the blue ribbon against it.

Cyd never even noticed.

Mae folded the quilt with its em-

What if you had to journey from crib to crypt with every dream deferred to dry up like a raisin in the sun?

broided wild roses and put it away. Then she sewed two more blocks for the quilt she'd begun for her grandson's new bride. Then, pressing on toward the more lasting prize, she studied her Sunday School lesson for the next day.

Now that bungee jumping is off my list, maybe I can find time to design and market a sweatshirt and make it available for others to try her philosophy on for size: When life hands you scraps, make quilts.



THE QUESTION BOX

CONDUCTED BY WESLEY D. TRACY, *Editor*

Q. Does Acts 4:12 mean that people who have never heard of Jesus Christ cannot really know God?

A. In the verse you cite, Peter says to the rulers and elders of Jerusalem, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved" (NRSV). Surely Peter did not mean that all the Old Testament saints did not know God or were in fact lost. The Bible clearly tells us that persons like Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and David knew God. The Bible also tells us about pagans (persons not among the Yahweh worshipers) who knew God. For example, Melchizedek of Genesis 14 was a priest of El Elyon (God Most High), and this godly man blessed Abraham and received tithes from him. Again, Jethro was a priest of Midian whom Moses met in the desert (Exodus 18). He already believed in God, and when he heard the wonderful things that Yahweh had done for Israel, he was convinced that He was the greatest of all gods.

A similar situation is seen in the New Testament in the case of Cornelius. Luke described him as devout and God-fearing before he heard the gospel. Paul seems to have regarded his Athens crowd as believers in a certain sense, in a way that could be fulfilled in Christ. This is in harmony with what Paul told the listeners at Lystra, "In the past, he [God] let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony" (Acts 14:16-17, NIV). And that testimony, that revelation of God, even to those who have not heard of Christ, is, according to Romans 1, of sufficient quality that God will judge those who go against this light.

How does God reveal himself to those who have never heard the gospel? According to Acts 14:17, God reveals himself through nature, through providing for human needs, and through positive experiences like joy in the human heart.

Speaking more theologically, we say that God has given to us all through prevenient grace the ability to recognize and choose God and good. Another dimension of this is that God has built into all His children His own image. That image of God works for good in human beings.

This raises the question: "Can persons of non-Christian religions be saved?" This is a much discussed issue right now. The best published treatment on this subject that I know of is *A Wideness in God's Mercy*, by evangelical theologian Clark Pinnock (Zondervan, 1992).

He identifies three groups who respond to this question. First there are the *pluralists*. They teach that all religions are ways God uses to bring people to Him. Thus, one religion is about as good as another. Many Roman Catholics and Protestant liberals have adopted this stance, carrying syncretism to its logical but disastrous

end. They seem to be blissfully unaware that Satan and the demonic forces often work in the area of false religions.

Pinnock calls another group the *restrictivists*. This group, mostly conservative Protestants, seems to believe that God only works through institutional Christianity. There is no salvation outside the Church. Pagans, even good pagans, cannot know God.

The third group, Pinnock calls *inclusivists*. This group believes that God works through many avenues to reach His people. Certainly He works through the Church, but also through prevenient grace, the divine image in humankind, as well as that which is noble and right in religions and cultures. They know what the Japanese Christian theologian Uchimera meant when he said, "God was in Japan before the missionaries came." He meant that there were righteous persons in Japan who had not yet heard the gospel who knew God in the same way that Melchizedek, Jethro, and Cornelius knew God. "What the law requires is written on their hearts, to which their own conscience bears witness" (Romans 2:15, NRSV).

According to Pinnock, the inclusivists do not "fall prey to rosy-eyed optimism about other religions as if they are ways to salvation" (181). They respect persons of other faiths but hold Christ as God's ultimate revelation. The final judgment of each life is up to God, who, according to Romans 2, will base His judgment upon the light the individual had.

Does this undermine the missionary work of the church? Not at all. We have Christ's command to cross every ocean, climb every mountain, ford every stream, and track down the last person on earth and tell him about Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20). The fact that God is working on the other end through many ways, as the *inclusivists* believe, should motivate us even more. The most embarrassing thing that could happen to you or me at the Judgment would be to hear Jesus say, "I was working on My end, but you never showed up!"

Q. Our church has a meeting at a nursing home on Wednesdays. The attendance is added to our Sunday School count. Is this proper?

A. The work of the Sunday School is no longer limited to Sundays. If the Wednesday meeting is a Bible study or a teaching/learning session based on curriculum approved by your local Curriculum Committee, then it is proper to count those people among those to whom your Sunday School ministers.

The views expressed in the responses in this column are those of the editor and do not constitute official policy by or for the Church of the Nazarene. The editor is not able to send replies to questions not selected for publication. Address Herald of Holiness, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT— TO LIVE AND TO DIE

by Joyce Williams

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come . . .” James, the man who once thought that his brother, Jesus, had lost His mind, was praying and waiting in the Upper Room.

As he waited, his thoughts and prayers probably had a bittersweet tone. Memories that were happy and sad must have run through his heart like a river. Soul-searching tides of solemn reflection and deep regret ebbed and flowed as he turned the eyes of his heart toward God.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to grow up in a family in which one of your arm-wrestling brothers was the Son of God—or claimed to be? Coping with sibling rivalry takes on a new meaning in a family like that. And what of parental favoritism? Could Mary and Joseph really love each child equally?

James’ sore knees ached from days of kneeling, yet he continued to pray and to remember. His ruminations included those years at home with Jesus and the family in Nazareth. The aroma of freshly hewn wood from the adjacent carpenter’s shop constantly permeated the air. Perhaps he could almost hear again the pounding of their childish feet as Jesus, the three other brothers, and their sisters ran in and out. The normal squeals and cries of children pierced the air. It was an ordinary scene. There was a lovingly disciplined atmosphere cushioned with constant caring concern.

James may have reflected on that trip to the Temple in Jerusalem when Jesus was 12. Perhaps James and the other children enjoyed the festivities of Passover. Maybe he hadn’t realized that Jesus was spending most of His

time in the Temple questioning the teachers. James probably remembered his mixed feeling about Jesus’ mysterious absence. Had his “perfect Brother” finally messed up? Would He be punished? Yet he was concerned about Jesus’ welfare. What a surprise and relief it must have been to finally find Him in the Temple after three days of frantic searching! As he knelt in the Upper Room, James more fully understood some of the astonishing things Jesus may have shared with him on that trek back to Nazareth.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED
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James watched Jesus grow wiser, taller, and in favor with God and man. While prostrated in prayer, James may have been thinking about those evenings around that old wooden dinner table that Joseph had so lovingly carved, sanded, and planed for the family. He may have pondered anew the meaning of many discussions that must have lasted well into the night.

Apparently, Joseph died while the brothers were fairly young, and James recalled working closely with Jesus as they most likely ran the carpentry business together. How fascinating it had been to share with Jesus while

they fashioned wood into furniture for the family and goods to sell. What incredible conversations they must have had!

As they grew older, the brothers and sisters left home, married, and had families of their own. But Jesus remained in the shop, unpretentiously carving and shaping wooden objects. His hands had long been calloused and toughened by the hard work at the carpenter’s bench. And James thought of the fortunate Nazarenes who still had a table or chair that had been fashioned by Jesus’ own hands.

Shifting carefully from one sore knee to another, he remembered that day when they were walking and cousin John designated Jesus the Son of God. How puzzled James had been. And Jesus began to gather a group of men around Him. He recalled the time when the family and the disciples went to Cana for that memorable wedding feast. He could still almost taste that delectable wine—the best he’d ever had!

As he knelt there in the Upper Room, James reviewed those reports of Jesus’ ministry that had filtered back to him in Nazareth. How astonishing it was to hear about the miracles, the multitudes, the calming of storms, the purging of the Temple, and the healings.

And how could James ever forget the time that he and the other members of the family went out to take Jesus away as He preached. They thought that He had gone off the deep end, maybe He had lost His mind. Cannot too much prayer, too much fasting, make you do strange things?

Regretfully, James shook his head as he remembered his own disbelief. We read that just six months prior to

THE HOLY SPIRIT, LIKE A RUSHING MIGHTY WIND, FELL IN BLESSING UPON THE BELIEVERS AS THEY PRAYED.



the Crucifixion, before the Feast of Tabernacles, James was still not a believer. "For even his own brothers did not believe in him" (John 7:5, RSV).

Oh, that week of Jesus' passion! He'd heard accounts of the joyous entry into Jerusalem and the other events. But he had not participated. James may have recalled trying to dissuade his mother from going to Jerusalem with Jesus because of the danger. Mary seems to have been the only family member who was at the foot of the Cross when Jesus was dying. James knew that it was to John that Jesus gave the assignment to take care of His mother. How James must have regretted his absence when his Brother most needed him.

As James prayed in that upstairs room, he had to recall the deep sorrow he felt when word came that his Brother was dead. Did he finally rush to Jerusalem to comfort his mother? How the family must have grieved that Friday night and Saturday. But on Sunday reports began to come to them that, as He had said, Jesus had risen—He was alive again!

And then the risen Christ had paid a personal call on James himself (1 Corinthians 15:7). How quickly the confused and doubting James became a believer. Later, when James wrote his Epistle, which we find in the New Testament, he began, "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ . . ."

What memories of spending time with the resurrected Savior! Then there was the privilege of being with Him on that mountain when He ascended into heaven. Afterward, they obediently returned to Jerusalem and waited in that second story room, united together, praying and supplicating.

We read in Acts 1:14 that they "with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with . . . Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers" (RSV).

When Pentecost fully came, James was ready. As the Holy Spirit, "a rushing mighty wind," swept in upon them, filling the entire house, they saw the tongues of fire separate and set upon each one. Can't you see Mary and James and the other brothers as they celebrated, shouting, "He has come as Jesus promised—the Comforter has come!" James' tearful face, with grateful hands uplifted, was aglow with the fullness of the Spirit's infilling. The observers had never seen such rejoicing.

MAY 22 IS PENTECOST SUNDAY.

In the power of the Spirit, James went on to serve the church in Jerusalem for 30 years. He presided over the Jerusalem Council, whose decisions pointed to the direction the Christian Church must go, then and now.

And he prayed, how he prayed. He led no marches, carried no banners, he just prayed for the salvation of Israel. James the Just prayed so often and so long that his knees became calloused, "like camel's knees."

Thirty years after that first Pentecost, James still lived in the power of the Spirit. The Passover/Pentecost season was upon them. The chief priests

and rulers had watched the Pentecost crowds of Christians grow from year to year. Lest the Christian movement get out of hand, they decided to ask the peace-loving prayer warrior, James, to make a speech at the peak of the festivities. He was to calm the crowd and quiet the celebrating Christians.

James was escorted to the "pinnacle of the temple," a 30-foot-high pulpit above the thousands who packed the courtyard below. And three historians record that, rather than taming the Christians, James "cried out with a loud voice," proclaiming Jesus as the crucified and risen Savior, and the King who would return from the right hand of God to judge the world.

The program committee was incensed. "Ho, ho," they cried out, according to Eusebius, "even the Just one has gone astray." They threw him out of the pulpit onto the cobblestones below. They began to stone him. Finally, one attacker took a "fullers stick" and clubbed James to death. As they were murdering James, the brother of our Lord, a Rechabite priest tried to stop them, "Stop, the Just one is praying for you." Sure enough, the last statement of James was his Brother's prayer, uttered in the power of the Spirit, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

In the power of the Spirit James lived.

In the power of the Spirit James died.

Do you suppose that on this Pentecost the Holy Spirit would give believers today the power to live and the power to die?

A FAMILY FINANCIAL



MRC

by Bill Clair

Most of us spend more time getting a haircut than on planning our financial future. There is nothing wrong with looking good, but looks won't pay the rent or for our child's braces. If we are going to reach the dreams most of us have for the future, we must consistently

devote time to establishing the right financial goals.

Before you feel too guilty about your financial planning (or lack of it), be encouraged by the thought that it probably isn't your fault. Most of us were not taught as children to be budget-minded. Hopefully, this article will not only help you prepare your children but also in-

form you about ways you can improve your financial future.

As Christians, we believe that all income is a gift from God, and we are accountable to Him for how we spend it. Therefore the first 10 percent should go to the local church in the form of tithe. Other church contributions, whether for missions, building construction, or Alabaster,

PRIMER

THE AMOUNT OF
MONEY IS NOT
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HOW WE
HANDLE IT IS!

are above and beyond the tithes. In this materialistic 20th century, it is easy to say that we should give 10 percent to the church, but with the social pressures to own more and more "things," it becomes extremely difficult to give God His share of our income. Ron Blue, in his book *Master Your Money* (© Thomas Nelson, 1991), does an excellent job of summarizing the four biblical principles of money management.

1. God owns it all. We are His hands to carry out His will for our resources.

2. We are in a growth process. God uses our possessions as a tool, a test, and a testimony to what He can do in our lives.

3. The amount of money is not important. How we handle it is!

4. Faith requires action. It takes a step of faith to trust God to use our money to benefit not only the Kingdom but also ourselves.

Beyond these basic principles, there are four steps that will help most of us get on the road to planning our financial future, according to the College for Financial Planning. These are:

1. Summarize your present position. Find out where you are now.

Social Security and You

A question that U.S. citizens nervously ask these days is: "Will Social Security be there when I retire?" The answer to that question affects financial planning, even for young families. If Social Security will meet most of our needs for retirement, then we can put most of our savings into a college fund for the children. The fact is that Social Security will not meet most of your financial needs in retirement. It was never intended to do so.

Today's senior citizens were taught that they needed a three-legged stool for proper support in old age: Social Security, a company or private pension, plus personal savings and investments. One leg has already been greatly weakened, Social Security. The second leg is also getting weaker as many companies do away with defined benefit pension

plans in favor of defined contribution plans. Further, many companies are reducing or dropping health care insurance for retirees. All this makes the leg of private savings and investment more important.

Notice how Social Security is becoming less and less of a good deal, especially for today's younger workers. A worker who began working in 1944 and every year made the maximum contribution by way of Social Security taxes until retirement in 1992 would have contributed \$36,881. Further, his or her employer would have matched that contribution, making the total amount contributed \$73,762. (A self-employed person would have made all the contributions himself.)

The 1992 retiree would receive an annual payment from Social Security of \$13,056. If the re-

tiree lives to be 80, he or she will have received a return on investment of about 6.5%. A taxpayer who retires at age 65 in the year 2011 having made the maximum contributions and living to age 80 will receive a return on investment of 1.78%. A person retiring in 2023 and living to age 80 will not even get his or her money back.* The maximum tax now is \$460 per month, or \$106 per week. Annual increases in the tax rate seem certain. Social Security tax has gone up for 20 consecutive years with no end in sight. One year it went up 29.3%. One prognosticator estimated that if present trends continue, a child born on New Year's Day 1994 would have to live to the ripe old age of 114 to get his money back from Social Security.

Therefore, in family financial planning, we must learn to expect less and less from Social Security. What makes Social Security an even worse deal is that President Clinton's tax bill makes up to 85% of Social Security payments subject to federal income tax. Thus, the federal government takes a double dip into the retirement income of many persons. Retirees paid income tax when they earned the money that they paid into the Social Security system, and part of that same money will be taxed again when it is paid out to the retiree in Social Security payments.

—Ted Simcox □

*Source: "Social Insecurity," *Worth* magazine, December/January 1994, 112-13.



2. Establish financial goals. Determine where you want to go.

3. Plan to increase your disposable income to obtain those goals.

4. Control your cash flow, review your goals and expenditures. Simply, determine how your money is being spent and whether you are spending it according to your plan.

Budget or Spending Plan

Space does not permit us to propose a detailed budget in this article. Numerous resources are available at your Christian bookstore by such authorities as Ron Blue, Larry Burkett, or others to help you set up a budget plan and strategy. Even if you have tried budgeting and failed, let me offer three strategies and suggest you try just one more time.

1. Keep it simple! A budget is only a road map to help you.

2. Don't make it complex. Most people go off the deep end in planning where every penny goes.

3. Make it your own plan. Don't use the percentages in the budget books as the only options. For example, if you are a family of four with two teenage boys, your food percentage is going to be much higher than a couple facing retirement. Conversely, the amount of money you allocate for savings as a young family probably will be substantially lower than that couple. The key is to personalize your budget to *your* family.

For those who have tried and given up on planning a budget many times, may I suggest an alternative budget system that I heard about from Don Spear, a financial planner in Dallas. He called it a method of molding your current spending habits into your financial goals.

■ 1. Write down everything you spend money on. Keep a piece of paper with you and each time you buy gas, pay the house payment, or write a check, record it in your personal spending log.

■ 2. Put it into a book by category each month. Take out that log and write down each category.

■ 3. Decide which areas need to

DRIPS Are Not for Drips

Should I invest in the stock market? You have to answer that one for yourself. But be aware that the stock market is still a hazardous place for a small investor. Some financial advisers say to stay away from the stock market until you have enough money in a savings account to cover your living expenses for at least three months. That is good advice.

If you decide that the stock market is the place for you, consider Dividend Reinvestment Plans (DRIP). This route is especially appropriate for small or inexperienced investors.

Hundreds of companies now have programs in which your dividends are reinvested in more shares without a sales or commission charge.

They also permit investors to make "voluntary contributions" regularly. These contributions added to your dividends help your account grow at a remarkable rate. One hopes for stock price growth as well as dividend growth.

The ordinary procedure is for the investor to buy a small number of shares of a stock through a discount broker, thus paying the minimum commission. When the stock certificate arrives, apply to join the DRIP. Thereafter you can make monthly or quarterly contributions of any amount within the plan's guidelines. A common range for contributions is \$25.00 to \$10,000 per quarter. Typically one does not have to contribute the same amount each time, nor does one have

to make any "voluntary contribution" every month or quarter.

Some companies even permit you to make your first purchase directly from the company itself. That way you pay no commission whatsoever when you buy. Some companies from whom you can buy directly are Exxon, Texaco, Johnson Controls, W. R. Grace, Kellogg, and ATMOS Energy. Most companies charge a very small fee when you sell.

Remember that just having a DRIP does not make a stock a good investment. Even a company that lets you buy directly from them without any sales charge may not be a good investment. We do not recommend buying or not buying

Get Rid of Your Debt

The following plan to pay off credit debt is taken from Ron Blue's book *Master Your Money*. It takes a decision and a commitment to want to get out of debt and discipline to stay on this plan until all your debts are paid off.

First of all, begin by making and numbering a list of your monthly credit debt. Starting with No. 1 on the list, each month, add an additional amount to the monthly payment. When it is paid off, add the extra money and the payment of No. 1 to payment No. 2 until you pay it off. Then add the extra money and the payments of No. 1 and No. 2 to payment No. 3 and pay it off, etc. You'll be amazed at how fast your debts will disappear! When you get done with all the credit debt, including your car payments, add what you were paying on all these debts to your house payment and look how much you'll save in interest.

Example:	Balance	Monthly Payment
1 Sears	\$600	\$30
2 Fred Schmid	\$800	\$25
3 MasterCard	\$1,000	\$50
4 Visa No. 1	\$1,500	\$70

5 Visa No. 2	\$1,800	\$90
6 Car	\$4,000	\$250
Total Payments:		\$515

Let's say you scraped together an extra \$70.00 per month to apply to credit debt. Adding that to No. 1 (Sears) you would be paying \$100 per month. This would pay it off in 6 months rather than 20 months (almost 2 years!). In the 7th month you would add the \$100 to No. 2 (Fred Schmid) and now pay \$125 per month. That one would be paid off in 5 months instead of 26 months (over 2 years!).

This is a simplistic example not considering interest, which would make the payoff a little longer, but not much. Just think, when you get done paying off the bills, you would have \$515 to add to your house payment or retirement.

Most of us are tempted to use the extra monthly payment after paying off a bill for more "things." But if we are obedient to God's Word to keep out of debt, the above plan will really help.

From *Master Your Money* by Ron Blue, copyright 1991 Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.

those stocks. Do not buy stocks until you have learned all you can about the history and prospects of the companies you are considering. Check them out at your local library in Standard and Poors, Dun and Bradstreet, or the Value Line Survey.

Many investors buy utility stocks through DRIPs. Utilities usually pay 4% to 8% dividends. Some pay more, but that's usually the sign of a sick company and an impending dividend cut and stock price slump. As long as interest rates on CDs and savings accounts are lower than utility dividends, their share prices remain strong.

Another thing that DRIP investors like about utility stocks is that the utility industry is the only business

that is permitted by law to always make a profit, good times or bad. That is to say, that no one is required to provide the public with gas, water, and electricity at a loss. That is not to say that a utility cannot be mismanaged or have a nuclear accident and lose money.

For those careful investors who want to invest in the stock market without having to accumulate and risk large sums of money all at once the DRIPs are useful.

Do not check your Christian conscience at the door when you enter the stock market. I changed my mind about one investment when I discovered that the bulk of that financial services company came from a string of finance companies collecting up to 36% interest

on small loans. I liked a certain gas utility until I found out that most of its customers were poor people in the heart of one of our largest cities. I did not need to make money at the direct expense of the urban poor. Another company that I bypassed made a lot of money under the protection of the government of a country famous for human rights abuses.

You cannot know all the problems with all companies, but you can avoid investing in ones that you know are blatantly sub-Christian in their practices. Of course, it is not just business executives who are evil. When the shareholders of one large beverage firm dis-



covered that the company had given \$10.4 million to the United Way and other charities, a group of stockholders sued the company for giving away profits that they wanted for themselves.

—Wade Loomis □

be corrected. Obviously, if you are spending \$100 a week at a local restaurant you might eat at home more and use the difference in another area.

■ 4. Review your goals and expenditures until you reach your desired results. At the end of each month, go back and determine where you want your money to be going. If your goal is to spend only \$25.00 per week eating out and you've gone down from \$75.00 to \$50.00, you are much closer to your goal. You have \$25.00 freed up to be spent elsewhere. The key is to constantly review and come closer to achieving your goals.

Savings and Investments

Many people say, "On my income, I can't save as much as my financial planner thinks I should." My response is, "That's OK, but save *something!*" If you can't save 10 percent, start with 1 percent and gradually increase it every three to six months until you are saving a

larger percentage of your income. When you see your savings grow and get the positive reinforcement of saving, it will become easier to save in the future.

If you have nothing saved, your first priority should be to save for an emergency fund. Everyone should have three to four months of take-home pay reserved for emergencies. Such funds should be readily accessible in a money market or pass-book savings. Our second priority in our savings strategy should be to put our money in long-term investments. I feel the best long-term savings tool is the mutual fund, a grouping of the stocks of 75 or 100 different companies into one account. Begin with a \$500 to \$1,000 investment and add \$50.00 to \$100 per month. Investing in mutual funds is an easy step to take. Go to your library and become informed on the different mutual funds available. Choose a mutual fund designed to align with your financial goals. Do you want to save money

for your child's college, your own retirement, or to help build churches in a third world country? The key factor in saving is to begin as soon as possible. A person who begins saving \$1,000 a year from age 20 to 30, then stops putting any more money into that savings plan will have more money at age 65 than someone who begins at age 30 and adds \$1,000 per year through age 65. The reason is simple, it is called, "compound interest." The person who starts at age 20, has \$10,000, plus interest at age 30. The interest alone will provide a higher amount at age 65 than annual payments of \$1,000 per year from age 30 to 65. That is why it is critical not only to start early but also to get the highest yield available. Mutual funds can average between 10 and 13 percent over the long haul.

Major Purchases

Probably the biggest purchase most of us will make in our lifetime is that of a home. With the tax bene-

Master Your Credit Cards



Credit card debt is choking the life out of family finance in North America. The total U.S. credit card tab is more than \$250 billion. Most American families need "plastic" surgery.

It is easy to tell people to cut up their credit cards. But with more and more of our financial dealings being handled by electronic transfer, it is unlikely that many people will do so. You must, therefore, master your MasterCard and get the victory over your Visa. Learn to think of your credit cards as convenience instruments. Pay off the credit card bills every month. Do not let interest accrue. People who purchase items and pay interest on credit card debt (or other kinds of installment plans) usually end up paying double for everything.

Here's how it works. Suppose that you charge \$2,000 a year on your credit card for 10 years for a total of \$20,000 charged. Faithfully you make the minimum payment each month. At the end of 10 years you will still be in debt \$20,000. And, you will

A credit card abstract

already have paid \$19,800 in interest!

Suppose that after 10 years you stop charging anything on your credit card. If you start paying off the



A credit card tree

debt at the rate of \$314 per month (without charging a single additional purchase) it will take you another 10 years to pay off the debt. At that point you will have paid \$37,515 in interest alone. If, on the other hand, you had

saved that money instead of paying it on interest, you would have approximately \$100,000 in the bank. (See Wilson Humber, *Dollars and Sense*, Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1993, 65-66.)

Consumer studies show that most people spend 25% to 35% more when shopping with plastic rather than cash.

If you are one of those persons, perhaps credit card mastery should become a personal spiritual discipline.

—B. L. Feltwenger

CREDIT CARD ART

People are discovering that credit card art has a therapeutic effect on the health of their family's finances. These artistic creations come from the credit cards of one family. They believe that these artworks are superior to what credit cards usually create—a mountain of debt!



A credit card sail boat



A credit card house



A credit card pet

fits it offers, it is much more beneficial to buy a home than to rent one. The federal government allows a deduction for the interest you pay on purchasing a new home. If you have a \$600 house payment and you are in the 20 percent tax bracket (15% federal, 5% state), you will realize a monthly savings of \$120. Your actual payment is only \$480. When you compare that to a \$500 rent payment each month, you are \$20.00 ahead monthly. Plus, you will also have the added benefit of equity accumulating in the home as you pay it off and it appreciates in value.

If you do not own your appliances, it is also more beneficial to purchase them, even if it means buying them on credit. With the money you would spend at the Laundromat, you could normally pay them off in one to two years. You have not only the savings of \$15.00 per week you were spending at the Laundromat but also the added convenience of doing the laundry in your own home.

Studies have shown it is far better to buy a three- or four-year-old car than a brand-new one. A new car depreciates the moment you drive it off the showroom floor. Although that is preferable financially, there are more reasons than financial ones involved in purchasing an automobile. If you prefer a new car, then by all means, buy one.

Insurance

We live in an age where insurance is not a luxury but rather a necessity. Our laws and lenders often require that we have insurance, but if we are careful, we can save money in this area. Check your deductible on your auto insurance with your agent and determine whether it is better to raise your deductible from \$100 or \$250 to possibly \$500, and see what you would save over a five- to six-year period. It might be less expensive to have a lower premium even if you have an accident. The deductible would be covered by the savings enjoyed through a lower premium. The same is true of your homeowner's insurance. Determine

whether you can save money by going to a higher deductible. If you rent your home, purchase renter's insurance. Many are not aware it exists. Such insurance costs very little, but it is crucial to insure you against the loss of your personal belongings in the event of a fire or other disaster.

One overlooked form of insurance is that of disability insurance. We are far more likely to be disabled before age 65 than we are to die, but very few of us have disability coverage to protect our families in the event that we become unable to work.

There are many forms of life insurance, and I would suggest that you check with your financial planner or life insurance professional to determine which is best for your needs. When you update your insurance, check any loans you may have on your home or car and determine whether you have credit or mortgage insurance. In some cases, it is much cheaper to add the amount of insurance for the home or auto loan to your life insurance coverage rather than buy it through the lending institution that financed your purchase.



Teaching Children to Budget

Most of us were not taught how to save or manage money as children. It is up to us to educate our children so that they don't make the same mistakes some of us have. A method I would suggest is the "Jar System." This is a simple program where you get four or five jars and mark the top, "tithe," or for young children, "Jesus," or whatever you want to use for giving to the church. Another could be marked Short-term Savings. Money in this jar would be for something they are going to buy soon, like candy or a coke. Another could be, Long-term Savings, for a special doll or trampoline. Still another could be designated, Fun Money, to use however they would like. Prepare as many jars as the children desire. Each time they receive money, you can help them determine which jar to put it in.

Eliminating Auto Debt

Automobile debt is one of the leading causes of consumer indebtedness. Is your car among the 70 percent of all the automobiles in our country that are financed? The average person keeps his car between 3 and 4 years. The average car lasts for 10 years. Here is how to escape the trap: First, decide in advance to keep your car for at least 6 years. Second, pay off your automobile loan. Third (and this is the key), continue paying the monthly car payment but *to yourself* into a special savings account. Then, when you are ready to replace your car, the saved cash plus the trade-in should be sufficient to buy your car without credit. It may not be a new car, but you should be able to purchase a good, low-mileage, well-maintained used car **FREE AND CLEAR OF ANY DEBT!** It is never easy to get out of debt, but the freedom is worth the struggle.

Example:

\$15,000	Value of present "Car A"
<u>15,000</u>	Owed at 12%, 5 years, \$333.67 monthly
- 0 -	Equity today

Payoff in 5 years; save \$333.67/monthly for 1 year =

\$ 4,000	Cash savings
<u>+ 6,000</u>	Resale val. present "Car A" (6 years old)
\$10,000	To purchase used "Car B" <u>for all cash</u>
\$10,000	2-year-old used "Car B" debt free
<u>- 0 -</u>	Owed
\$10,000	Equity

Save the \$222.44 monthly that would have gone to car payments for 4 years =

\$12,255	Cash savings
<u>+ 6,561</u>	Resale value of 6-year-old "Car B"
\$18,816	To purchase "Car C"

NOTE: Anything you can do to accelerate the payoff of the loan on "Car A" just improves your position that much sooner. □

Thanks to Howard Dayton of Crown Ministries for this idea.

You've Got a Friend

The beginning of the mass marketing of credit cards in the early 1950s prompted the need for a mechanism to help consumers learn how to use credit wisely. Out of this sprang a number of groups who provide financial assistance to consumers. Perhaps the best known of these is the not-for-profit Consumer Credit Counseling Service.

With 200 offices across the United States, CCCS is underwritten by the business community and creditors to provide money management education and assistance with financial planning to consumers. CCCS does not charge consumers for its services.

Jack Baker, manager of marketing and public relations for CCCS in Kansas City, said his company assists many who have gotten mired in debt to find a way out through the establishment of reduced payment programs with creditors. "We are here to teach people how to manage their money wisely and to help them if they run into trouble with their credit," Baker said.

CCCS will send consumers a free copy of their Money Management Planner for asking. After filling out the information about income and what they owe, consumers can set up an appointment with a trained counselor who will help them to develop a sound budget or repayment schedule.

"The creditors pay us based on the percentage of

money that we help to return to them," Baker added. "Right now we return about \$3 million per month [in the Kansas City area] to creditors, while helping individuals get out of debt and avoid bankruptcy. While people are on a plan, they don't get to use credit, so it teaches them how to live within their means."

But persons don't have to be in debt to use the services of CCCS. "We have people who come in who aren't in trouble," said Baker. "They just want to know how to establish a budget or learn how to save."

According to Baker, the typical CCCS client is between the ages of 25 and 44, has annual household income of \$60,000, and has a credit card debt of \$7,000.

To contact Consumer Credit Counseling Service, consult your local phone directory or phone 1-800-388-CCCS.

—Mark Graham □



Tony Stone Images

The Feeling Is Mutual

Author Bill Clair advises readers to invest in mutual funds. A lot of people agree. There are more than twice as many mutual funds as there are stocks listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Americans have poured not billions but trillions of dollars into these funds.

A mutual fund functions in this manner. A money management firm collects money from thousands of investors, large and small, private and corporate. Then, according to the rules agreed upon (and set by the SEC), the fund manager invests his clients' money in various places, seeking the best return for everyone.

No one is guaranteed a profit, the fund is not insured, and every investor contributes a prescribed fee for the fund manager's ser-

vices. There is real risk, but the return is usually higher than the rates paid by savings banks and credit unions. This is important, for if you are getting 3% from the bank and inflation is running at 4% and one-third of your gain goes for state and federal income taxes, you can see how your college education fund or retirement nest egg will erode over a period of years in terms of buying power.

Another reason for the popularity of mutual funds that even the small investor buys instant diversity. The person who, for example, puts all his or her investment money into the employer's stock can lose everything if that one company goes broke. But the capital of a mutual fund investor is spread around among a hundred different companies. If

As kids become older, they can use envelopes or savings accounts to manage their own money. Another idea to help them learn the value of money is to let them pay the difference between your intended purchase amount and their desired purchase amount. My daughters, Aubrey and Ashley, love to jump on the trampoline and wanted one for Christmas. We told them we probably would not be spending that much for a gift for them. However, if they wanted to help by putting some of the money they received toward the trampoline, then when they got their part of the money, they could get it. It is amazing how excited they became in saving toward the purchase. This does two things: (1) it helps them realize the importance of money and whether it is something they really want or just another passing whim; (2) more importantly, it does not make the parent the "bad guy." Rather than having to tell them no, you make them a partner in the process.

Another suggestion is to open a savings account for your children, so they can see their money accumulate. Some banks even offer Kid-die Accounts with clowns, balloons, and free popcorn on Saturday mornings to make it fun to save.

Miscellaneous

If you are the individual who pays the bills and knows the family financial situation, I strongly advise that you tell someone else where your business papers are located. It is helpful to make a cassette stating your insurance company and agent and the executor of your will. Those types of things seem so trivial when you are alive but save so much distress for those who care for your affairs when you are gone.

Jesus said much about money during His earthly ministry, probably because He knew that most persons will listen more closely if you talk about their pocketbooks. Despite such interest, many of us still haven't taken the time to develop a



budget or make plans for our financial future. But it is never too late. It doesn't take a lot of effort to get started, but we must take the first step.

If you need help, you may contact Consumer Credit Counseling Service (see "You've Got a Friend," p. 16), or similar agencies in your community.

There is a multitude of published resources, many of which may be found at your local Christian bookstore. A sampling of these include:

Blue, Ron. *Master Your Money*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991.

one, or five, of those companies goes broke, the individual investor will usually not suffer a serious loss.

If you plan to invest in mutual funds, consider these guidelines.

► 1. Set a goal. Know your objective. Are you investing for your child's future college education? A new house? A secure retirement? Your answer to such questions will help you decide whether to invest in income funds, growth funds, balanced funds, etc.

► 2. Select a variety of funds rather than putting all your resources into one. You can invest in general funds (wide diversity); government securities funds (very safe); aggressive growth funds (higher risk, sometimes higher returns); international funds (foreign investments); precious metals

funds (gold, silver, platinum); utility funds (gas, electric, water, public utilities); or bond funds (good for income).

► 3. Notice investors should choose funds that have been in existence for several years while racking up a good growth record.

► 4. Before investing be sure to read the fund's prospectus. Learn the fund's objectives, its track record, its management, and perhaps most important, its fee structure. Some funds charge as much as 5% commission when you buy (front load). Others charge no commission when you buy, but charge 5% when you sell (back load). Some charge neither, but all funds will charge a management fee each year. About 1% is com-

mon. Financial magazines often list mutual funds by type and objective along with commission rates and phone numbers one can call to get a prospectus.

► 5. Invest a small amount and add to it regularly rather than putting a huge amount into a fund all at once. Making contributions month after month, year after year, is the key to successful mutual fund investing.

► 6. Be sure that the funds you buy automatically reinvest your dividends in more shares.

► 7. Check out the kinds of investments that a fund makes. For example, if a fund you are considering invests heavily in distilleries

and tobacco companies you will want to put your money elsewhere.

► 8. Invest for the long term. Don't get excited and sell your shares just because their value drops during ordinary market fluctuations. On the other hand, don't hold a loser too long. If your fund consistently fails to produce returns similar to what other funds of the same type produce, it is time to put your assets elsewhere.

—Diana Bellsmere □

The Financial "No-no" List

A lot of people want your money. And they will do almost anything legal and otherwise to get their hands in your pocket. Don't learn your financial lessons the hard way. The following warnings may help.

- ▶ 1. Never make an investment just because the venture is run by Nazarenes (or other born-again believers). A person may be a good Christian but a poor businessman. A conversion experience does not bestow good business sense. A person's state of grace and his state of financial acumen have nothing to do with each other.
- ▶ 2. Do not invest in any financial arrangement that you do not understand.
- ▶ 3. Do not buy anything you see promoted on an "infomercial." I refer to the more than 200 half-hour radio and television commercial programs in which some self-acclaimed money guru promises to make you a millionaire. All you have to do is send \$398 for his course on real estate, mail order strategies, or cash flow system. Many of these programs masquerade as legitimate financial talk shows. One huckster is now under indictment for deceptive use of an infomercial to sell commodities. According to *Your Money*, in a recent year 91% of his clients lost all or nearly all of their money. Currently a real estate guru who telecasts his infomercial from Hawaii is under indictment for "deceptively representing numerous features" of his get rich quick scheme. When it comes to infomercials, just say "No."
- ▶ 4. Never buy gold, silver, or platinum from a friendly but strange voice on the phone. If you do, he will call back next week to tell you that your investment has already increased by 13%. "And," he will say, "we are expecting the biggest jump yet in gold prices in two or three days. I just didn't want you to miss out. Do you think you could scrape up another \$3,000. . . ."



Tony Stone Images

You end up with a slip of paper and within a few weeks the company not only doesn't answer its phone but has disappeared.

- ▶ 5. Never give your credit card number to any telephone caller who claims to be qualifying you for eligibility for a prize or a special offer.
- ▶ 6. Don't blindly trust a stock broker. Remember, his mission in life is to generate commissions. Besides, he is often required to try to sell you whatever his company has declared to be the "product of the day." He is graded on his ability to move the "product of the day," usually something the parent company has recently bought. If they can get several thousand clients to buy the same product, the demand will send the price up and the parent company cashes in.
- ▶ 7. Don't buy any security on the basis of a "hot tip" from a stranger—or from anyone else.
- ▶ 8. Don't forget to pay tithes on your capital gains when you sell a stock or one of your CDs matures.

—Shelby Naughton □

Humber, Wilson J. *Dollars and Sense: Making the Most of What You Have*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1993.

Moore, Gary. *The Thoughtful Christian's Guide to Investing*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Weising, Gwen. *Finding Dollars for Family Fun: Creating Happy Memories on a Budget*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1993.

Beyond these, there are several money manager and budgeting software programs available for personal computers. Among these are: *WealthBuilder* by Reality Technologies; *BottomLine* by end•if; *Managing Your Money* by MECA; *Money* by Microsoft; *Rich and Retired* by DataTech; and *Quicken* by Intuit.

Bill Clair is business administrator at College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe, Kans. Prior to this, he was a certified financial planner.

HH

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE SERVING IN THE MILITARY? DON'T LET YOUR SERVICEMEMBER "FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS."



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Making Sure Your Gifts to the Church Are Tax Deductible

We are fortunate to live in a country where income tax deductions are granted for gifts made to the church. Of course, we don't give to the Lord because of a deduction. We give because we love Him who first loved us. However, the tax deductibility of contributions makes them even more fulfilling.

The problem is, not all gifts are tax deductible as one may think. Recent changes in tax laws require churches to evaluate their contribution record keeping system. The Planned Giving office of the Church of the Nazarene specializes in these important matters. We are pleased to offer the following guidelines about the tax deductibility of gifts to the Lord's work:

1. Contributions of cash and/or property are deductible only to those who itemize on their tax return. If you utilize the standard deduction, there is no additional deduction for gifts to the church.

2. Beginning with the 1994 tax year, churches must provide itemized receipts for all cash gifts in excess of \$250. The receipt must state that the donor received no benefit from the gift except intangible religious benefits. Pastors are being mailed detailed information about the best way to handle these matters. Be sure your church provides an itemized receipt so your 1994 gifts will be tax deductible.

3. Gifts of cash are deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. If you cannot utilize the entire deduction in the year of the gift, the deduction may be carried forward for up to five additional years. For example, if you give \$10,000 to the church this year, but your adjusted gross income is only \$15,000, you can deduct \$7,500 (50% of the \$15,000 adjusted gross income) rather than the full \$10,000. The \$2,500 of unutilized deduction may be carried over to the next year, keeping in mind the five-year rule.

4. Gifts of appreciated assets such as stock or real estate are deductible up to 30% of adjusted gross income with the ability to carry over any excess deduction for five additional years.

5. Although cash is the asset most often given to the church, there are decided advantages in giving long-term appreciated assets. For example, if you

transfer title to stock worth \$5,000 that you purchased 10 years ago for \$2,000, you could receive a tax deduction for the full \$5,000. You do not pay capital gains tax on the security's increase in value. In this example, if you sold the security, you could owe as much as \$840 in capital gains tax on the \$3,000 increase in value. By giving the stock to the church, that \$840 tax is avoided.

6. If you have stock or real estate that have decreased in value since you purchased them, generally you are better off to sell them first, take the capital loss on your taxes, and then give the cash to the Lord's work. In this way you will be able to benefit from the capital loss as well as from the charitable income tax deduction.

7. Gifts to church organizations as an avenue of passing cash to individuals is normally not tax deductible. If, for instance, a needy family is identified in the church and persons are encouraged to give money to aid them, those gifts are not tax deductible since they are giving money for a specific individual. Instead, this money should be earmarked for a benevolent fund from which cash could be distributed by a church committee to the family in question or other needy families. The Internal Revenue Service does not allow persons giving money and receiving a charitable deduction for the same to designate the recipient of the gift. The exception is gifts for missionaries, evangelists, etc., for whom the money is really being given for their religious work (i.e., deputation offerings).

8. Selling an asset to a church for less than its fair market value is considered a "bargain sale" by the IRS, and tax consequences are inherent. Call us for specific guidance regarding this matter.

9. If you give an asset other than cash to a church and that asset is valued at over \$500, certain types of tax forms must be filed. If the value of the asset exceeds \$5,000, a certified appraisal must be secured, as well. Feel free to contact us for help with these kinds of gifts.

It is certainly more blessed to give than to receive. It is further blessed to give while receiving a tax deduction for the gift. Be sure, however, that your gifts qualify for deduction. Noncash gifts pose unique challenges and offer unique rewards. Please feel free to call the Planned Giving office toll-free (1-800-544-8413) for information and clarification. We stand ready to assist you and your advisers in accomplishing your charitable dreams.

—D. Martin Butler, *Director*
Planned Giving, Church of the Nazarene

How Complete Is Your “Whatever”?

MORRIS A. WEIGELT



Morris A. Weigelt teaches New Testament and spiritual formation at Nazarene Theological Seminary.

COLOSSIANS 3:17 grabbed my attention while reading a book on the nature of the spiritual life for the ordinary person. The book pointed out that Jesus did not seek to foster spiritual life among the persons dedicated to religious patterns for the sake of leadership. Instead He turned to ordinary persons—whom Mark records “heard him gladly.”

The author, Susan Muto, was discussing the ways in which spirituality affects every aspect of life. By way of contrast, she cited persons who are only one-hour-a-Sunday Christians (*Pathways to Spiritual Living*).

The word in Colossians 3:17 that seized my attention is “whatever.” To be a Christian from the inner core all the way to the outer core calls for an all-inclusive “whatever.”

The verse actually reads: “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*

Paul wrote this from prison. Paul even included prison in the “whatever” of his walk with the Lord. Brother Lawrence, the monk, considered washing the pots and pans a part of his service to the Lord. A friend called to tell me that he understood

the care for his small children as an expression of his spirituality.

So I began musing about the kinds of things that need to be included in an all-inclusive “whatever” in order to be Christian to the heart and core.

Are the minipatterns of our lives included in the “whatever”? Are the macropatterns of our lives included?

How can I bring all of the words that flow so easily from my mouth within my relationship to the Father? How do my facial expressions and body language reflect my primary dedication to the glory of God?

And what about relationships, business, work, and church activities? Are they clearly included in the “whatever” of Colossians 3:17?

Disruptions and frustrations must be brought under the umbrella of the “whatever” of life. Even tragedy and misfortune and failure and reverses must be included. It is an exquisite joy to meet persons who respond to the misfortunes of life out of a deep submission to the perfect will of God!

Several years ago I spent some time in a monastic setting. The rhythm of labor and rest—of doing and being—was clearly under their “whatever.” The rhythms of daily living were submitted to the Lord. The rhythm of giving and receiving; the rhythm of listening and speaking; to learn to trust in every situation—all must be included in that comprehensive relationship with God.

Recently I have talked frequently with a lifelong friend who has cancerous tumors invading his heart and lungs. Although the medical diagnosis is quite dismal, he radiates a sense of peace and strength. His physical

dilemma is under the “whatever” of Colossians 3:17.

The heart of spiritual formation, according to Robert Mulholland, is to be conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others. Such conformity will enable us to follow the instruction of Moses: “Whatever your lips utter you must diligently perform, just as you have freely vowed to the Lord your God with your own mouth” (Deuteronomy 23:23). The coordination of life and lips will be complete. We will then “walk the talk.” The Lord will be able to use us for the sake of others—thus fulfilling the second half of Mulholland’s definition.

The coordination of life and lip—the careful placement of every aspect of life within the “whatever”—is an apt description of the holy life. The result is an integrity so deep that it rests upon the solid foundation of God; an integrity that will not compromise; an integrity from which love may flow to the most destitute; an integrity that separates itself from anything that contaminates or perverts; an integrity that reflects the holy God for whose glory you live!

Coordination of life and lip is an important part of the holy life.

Our Lord made a promise to His disciples: “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (John 15:7). Only the person whose “whatevers” are totally given to the Lord may pray in that pattern!

So make your “whatever” all-inclusive and as Colossians 3:17 counsels.

*Scripture references in this article are from the *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*.

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An Unforgettable

by Verla J.

My first awareness of the transforming power of God's love was revealed to me in a two-room country schoolhouse at the age of five. The Great Depression was not yet upon us, but for the poor hill people of our rural Ozark Mountain region, the depression was an everyday fact of life. Part of the deprivation of our small community was not even having a church building to worship in come Sunday morning. This was why the simple hill folk gathered in the schoolhouse to worship God. It was a nondenominational community service, and most of the time there wasn't even a preacher there unless some itinerant minister was holding a "protracted meeting." This did not hinder neighbors and friends from gathering together, however. Following Sunday School, there would be singing, testimonies, and prayer. The personal testimonies gave the people courage and faith to face the austerity of the coming week. Besides, it was a time for fellowship and gathering together. Often, a pot-luck dinner would be held in the schoolhouse yard.

As I remember so vividly, it was a hot, humid Sunday morning. The windows were open to get a cross breeze. During most of the singing and testifying, I had been immersed in my own reflections. A large horsefly was buzzing around a team of horses hitched to a wagon right outside the window. The horsefly was trying to bite the horses' heads, and the horses were trying to switch it away with their tails. This went on all the while one lady was relating the trials and suffering she had endured during the past week. I wondered how any one human could have so much trouble!

Following the testimonies, the song leader asked Aunt Tillie Spencer to lead in prayer. I dutifully turned around and knelt down with my face buried on the school desk seat, as did the rest of the congregation. I had been instructed often enough not to look around, for that was displeasing to God. I had already started to yawn, even before I heard Aunt Tillie's first words. It was hard to stay awake as the drone of Aunt Tillie's somewhat plaintive, tired voice filled my ears. I had known Aunt Tillie Spencer as long as I could remember. She was a nice old lady who had faced life's hardships

with faith and courage. Her husband had died, leaving her with a large family of children to feed and clothe. It wasn't easy for a man to eek out a decent living from the thin layer of soil that covered the rough, rocky hillsides, but for a woman it was worse. Even now, I would not dare to guess how old Aunt Tillie was. She could have been 60 or she could have been 80. Her face was lined with deep furrows and the life of toil and care had left its mark indelibly upon her face and body. The summer sun had tanned her crinkled, dry skin to a leathery bronze. Her hair was a mixture of black and gray and pulled back into a tight bun on the top of her head. Her black print cotton dress with high neck and long sleeves gave an overall picture of drabness.

Aunt Tillie began her prayer by asking the Lord to bless the congregation, to supply food, and to replenish our dry land by sending rain. Although only a child, I was so familiar with this type of prayer that I anticipated what she would say next. I kept hearing the horsefly buzzing around outside the window, and I sure wished that I could look, but I didn't dare!

And then, something strange happened that brought my head up quickly. Her voice changed, and I thought someone else had started to pray before Aunt Tillie was finished. I just could not resist looking around to see who it was. This voice was vibrant and filled with love and expectancy. It sounded like a much younger person who was excited over what she was doing. I didn't remember anyone who

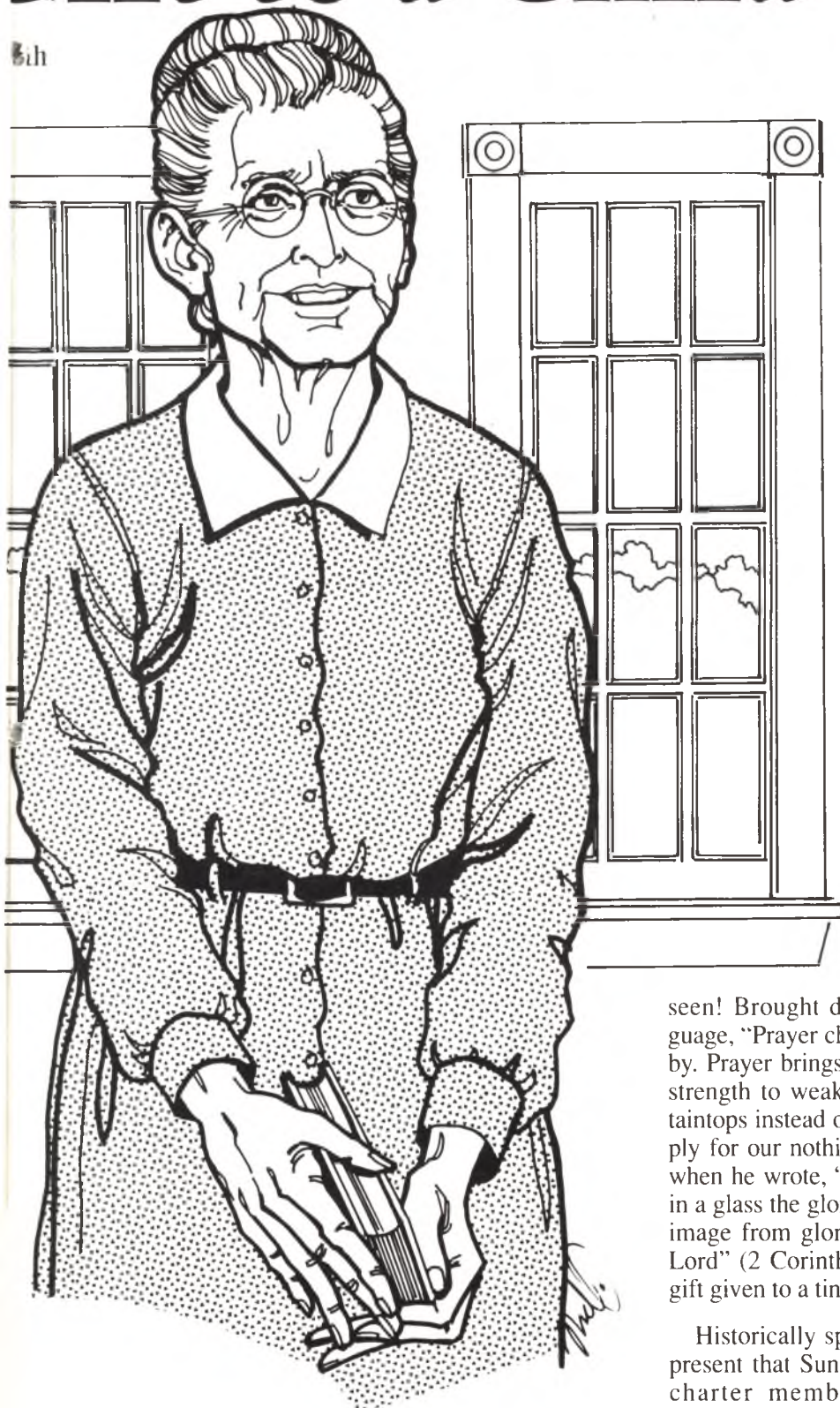
prayed like this! Hoping no one would see me looking, I stared at Aunt Tillie. She was still praying! But it wasn't the Aunt Tillie that I was accustomed to. I was utterly confused! She had on the same dress that Aunt Tillie had on, and she was kneeling at the same spot. Something sure was

strange, and I did not know what to make of it. The woman praying didn't have a tired, defeated look on her face. She looked almost young. She was gazing upward, as if she could see Jesus, and joy radiated all over her shining face. It looked almost like the pictures of the Christ child we had in our Sunday School book. In fact, she looked just like Mama sometimes looked when she would say she loved me and was proud of me.

I thought the light might be the sun shining on her

SHE LOOKED REAL HAPPY,
AND SHE WASN'T OLD
AND TIRED ANYMORE.

Gift to a Child



face, but this didn't make sense either. It was almost high noon and the sun was straight up in the sky. I only knew for sure that she looked real happy, and she wasn't old and tired anymore. The best I could describe what I saw was to say Aunt Tillie looked just like I felt on the rare occasions I got to go into town during strawberry time and buy an ice cream cone at the drugstore.

Mystical and *ecstatic* were not words that I had ever heard. I sure wished that I could ask Mama or my Sunday School teacher so that they could explain it to me, but that was impossible. They would not take kindly to the revelation that I had been peeking.

Over 65 years have passed since that hot, summer day so long ago, when a small girl was given a visual revelation of the power of God's amazing grace. It has formed me and enriched my entire life, and I have been eternally grateful. Even in years when I grew world-weary and doubt was about to give way to despair, one thing I could never doubt: There is a God and He has the power to transform human lives! I knew what I had

seen! Brought down to its most basic and simple language, "Prayer changes things." It is a truism worth living by. Prayer brings light into darkness, healing to sickness, strength to weakness, hope drives away despair, mountaintops instead of deep valleys, and God's plenteous supply for our nothingness. Perhaps this is what Paul meant when he wrote, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18). I thank Him for the special gift given to a tiny child so long ago!

Historically speaking, many of the same congregation present that Sunday morning over 60 years ago became charter members of the Banner Church of the Nazarene—the first Nazarene church to be founded in that rural area of southwest Missouri in the early 1930s.

Foundations of the Faith in Philippians

Spiritual Friendship

ROGER L. HAHN



Roger L. Hahn teaches New Testament at Southern Nazarene University.

*But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon in order that my soul may be encouraged by knowing the matters concerning you. For I have no one of the same spirit who genuinely will care for the matters concerning you (Philippians 2:19-20).**

WHILE A STUDENT AT SEMINARY, I enjoyed a rich friendship with one of my classmates. Gene and I discovered that we shared so many interests. Our tastes in entertainment (watching football on TV) were almost identical. Our attitudes toward the church, ministry, faculty, and learning were so parallel that we found it almost uncanny. We worshiped together, drove school buses for the same company, ordered books together, and were greatly enriched by finding someone who seemed to “mirror” our very hearts. The experience of that friendship helped me understand Paul’s description of Timothy in Philippians 2:19-20.

Paul used three words unique to the Greek New Testament in these verses. Each word paints a picture of the close friendship that he and Timothy enjoyed. In Philippians 2:20 the apostle states that he has “no one of the same spirit” as Timothy. Most mod-

ern versions paraphrase the Greek sentence to say that Paul “had no one like Timothy.” But the Greek word that Paul used combines the roots meaning “equal” (*iso*) and “soul” (*psyche*). Paul literally describes Timothy as being an “equal soul.” Given the biblical meaning of soul as “life” or “self” the apostle has made an amazing statement of the psychological unity he felt with Timothy. Their heartbeat for ministry was the same. Concern for the Philippians was a central life passion for both men. They were kindred spirits and like-minded in their pursuit of Christian service.

In verse 19 Paul states that he will send Timothy to the Philippians to bring back news of how they were doing. The purpose of sending Timothy is to “encourage” Paul. Again, modern versions use a variety of expressions to translate the unique word that Paul penned. That he “be cheered” or “be gladdened” are the most common translations. But the Greek word combines the roots meaning “good” (*eu*) and “soul” (*psyche*) in a verb form. Paul was convinced that Timothy’s communication to and from the Philippians would bring “good” to his own “soul” or “life.”

Confidence that his good friend had conveyed his very soul to the Philippians would actually restore his soul in the discouraging circumstances of his imprisonment. Emotional health could be renewed by such a ministry from Timothy.

The third unique word that Paul uses appears in verse 20 and is usually translated as “genuine” or “genuinely.” The Greek word literally meant “legitimate” and was frequently used

in the ancient world to identify a child as being of legitimate birth. Paul uses the adjective form of the word in 1 Timothy 1:2 to describe Timothy as his “genuine child in the faith.” Paul can have confidence in Timothy as his “equal soul” because Timothy is his genuine and authentic spiritual child.

Paul’s close friendship with Timothy is not often viewed as of great theological significance. However, it is important that we not think of the apostle as a solitary and lonely person with whom we could never identify. God provided a rich friendship by which both Timothy and Paul were nurtured and encouraged in their commitment to Christ. The Christian life is not lonely. It may not be popular, but neither is it lonely. God has “equal souled” people for us if we will patiently seek them. They can restore our souls if we will let them.

For further study: (1) Read 2 Timothy 1:2-14 as a further description of Paul’s expectations of Timothy. List the things Paul says that re-

Given the demands of the Christian journey, every believer could use an “equal soul.”

flect the nature of the genuine friendship they shared. What is a Christian friend’s chief concern? (2) Study Proverbs 12:26; 16:28; 17:9, 17; 18:24; 19:4, 7; and 27:6 and 10. What are the important characteristics of friendship according to the Proverbs? (3) Ask God to direct in being a genuine friend to someone this year. What will you give of yourself to that friend?

*Scripture quotations are the author’s own translation

Sociologists Explore Ministerial Preparation

"Ministerial Preparation" was the topic explored at the 13th annual meeting of the Association of Nazarene Sociologists of Religion (ANSR). The group met in Kansas City Feb. 3-5.

The keynote speaker was anthropologist Tex Sample of St. Paul School of Theology. Sample has studied the reli-



Tex Sample addresses the 1994 ANSR meeting.

gion of blue-collar America for decades and has published such books as *U.S. Lifestyles and Mainline Churches*, *Blue-Collar Religion*, and *Ministry in an Oral World: Uncle Remus, Will Rogers, and Minnie Pearl*.

Sample's research (along with the work of others) classifies the 180 million U.S. adults into three groups: the "cultural left" (33 million); the "cultural middle" (70 million); and the "cultural right" (77 million).

Ken Crow, MidAmerica Nazarene College, picked up Sample's categories and proceeded to show that many, if not most, of the people served by the Church of the Nazarene are in the "cultural right" segment of the population. Their characteristics include, according to Crow, commitment to "traditional values in the areas of family, community, faith, and country." They also tend to have lower educational and income levels than the U.S. average.

Crow added that there are Nazarenes in all population groups, but those who are charged with preparing ministers for the U.S. have to keep in mind that they will be serving people on the "cultural right."

A problem appears with the observa-

tion made by social scientists that a high level of education tends to move a student with "cultural right" roots into the "cultural middle" or the "cultural left." This tends to occur in various fields of study and not just in theological education. How then should we train or educate those called to ministry? One school of thought is to offer a bare-bones, basic education that doesn't produce a cultural shift in the student and send him or her right back to the "cultural right" group to minister. Others, including Sample, favor the preparation of "trilingual" ministers who can identify with and minister to persons in all the major cultural groups in the population.

Wilbur Brannon, Pastoral Ministries director for the Church Growth Division, which sponsors ANSR, made a presentation that connected the work of the ANSR group with the ministerial competencies developed by the Breckenridge III conferees in 1992.

Presentations were also made by Russ Bredholt, Phyllis Perkins, Rich Houseal, and Dale Jones.

Worship will be the topic of the 1995 ANSR conference.

Canadian Nazarene College to Return to Calgary

After more than 33 years in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canadian Nazarene College will be returning to its original home in Calgary, Alberta, according to Robert Collier, chairman, CNC Board of Governors. The Board of Governors voted Mar. 10 to move the college to Calgary where it was founded nearly 75 years ago.

"After prayerful consideration and debate, the board concluded that a move to Calgary would better enable the Canadian church to minister to people who choose to attend a Nazarene college," Collier said.

A primary consideration for making the move is the availability of local Nazarene churches for ministry training, according to Riley Coulter, CNC president. While there are 36 churches within a 200-mile radius of Calgary, only 3 churches and a mission are located in Winnipeg. The additional churches will allow students to receive practi-

cal ministry training both as laity and clergy.

"Our primary mission as a theological college is to train people for ministry," Coulter said. "Alberta is an area of strength for the Church of the Nazarene in Canada."

The move is expected to take place in the summer of 1995, Coulter said. CNC's campus has been valued at \$4.5 million, and Coulter is negotiating with several groups interested in purchasing the property. The college does not currently have property in Calgary.

CNC was founded in Calgary in 1921 with J. B. Chapman as its first president. The campus was moved to Red Deer, Alberta, in 1927. It was then moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1960. According to Coulter, that move was made as an effort to unify the Church of the Nazarene in Canada.

"CNC has been at the core of a national education strategy and a national identity as a church," Coulter said. "While in Winnipeg, we were able to serve as a unifying force for the Church of the Nazarene in our country."

The administration building at Canadian Nazarene College in Winnipeg.



New Child Sponsorship Program Begins

The Maetang Tribal Children's Home, a Nazarene hostel for hill tribe children in Northern Thailand, recently became the fifth child sponsorship program facilitated by Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, according to Steve Weber, international coordinator. The program has been set up to allow sponsors to provide financial support on a monthly basis and to share a personal relationship with their sponsored child.

Established in 1984 by Nazarene missionary Samuel Yangmi, the Children's Home is located adjacent to government schools in the Maetang Province of Thailand. Children living in the home are given the opportunity to acquire a quality education and receive the care necessary for their mental,

physical, social, and spiritual development, Weber said.

In addition to addressing the special needs of hill tribe children, the Children's Home also plays a critical role in the denomination's mission efforts, according to Mark Peters, Child Sponsorship program coordinator. "The home creates a natural avenue of ministry for the Church of the Nazarene," Peters said. "Children who become Christians during their stay in the home are eager to share their faith with their families."

For more information about the Maetang Tribal Children's Home program, contact NCM at 816-333-7000, or write: 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.



A group of poor hill tribe children in the Maetang Province of Northern Thailand. The new Maetang Tribal Children's Home will offer a home and necessary care for these and other children.

Orlando Nazarenes Direct Relief Shipment

Heart to Heart Orlando, a Nazarene-led relief organization, sent 10 tons of medical supplies and medicines to Kiev, Ukraine, Feb. 14, according to J. V. Morsch, local coordinator. The Valentine's Day shipment left the port of Miami with a large banner attached proclaiming "To Kiev With Love."

The shipment was a follow-up to 70 tons of medical supplies that were flown to St. Petersburg, Russia, in October 1993. The October airlift was sponsored by Heart to Heart and the American Academy of Family Physicians, who were holding their annual meeting in Orlando. The shipment included medicines and supplies that

had been received since October.

The Church of the Nazarene in Russia was involved in distributing the medicines, Morsch said. Most of the supplies were delivered to Alexander Pristupyuk, a Nazarene doctor in Kiev. Pristupyuk directs the Central Endocrinology Dispensary in the Ukrainian city.

In addition to Heart to Heart, two Orlando Nazarene churches, Central and Emmanuel, participated in collecting and shipping the medicines and medical supplies. Morsch, former superintendent of the Central Florida District, serves as associate pastor at Central Church.

NTS Announces "Excellence in Ministry" Initiative

Nazarene Theological Seminary has announced a new initiative aimed at making the resources of the seminary accessible to both clergy and lay leaders throughout North America. Described as a "seminary without walls," by NTS President Gordon Wetmore, the program will feature continuing education training covering various topics.

"Training and equipping ministers for quality ministry is a lifelong undertaking and a priority commitment at NTS," Wetmore said. "We intend to make the resources of the seminary accessible for the continuing personal and professional development of our ministers, both lay and clergy."

The new "Excellence in Ministry" program will be directed by David Grosse, director of continuing education at NTS. Grosse recently retired as chief of the USAF Chaplain Resource and Training Board.

The new programs will be offered in cooperation with other educational entities of the church and the Church Growth Division, Grosse said. The personalized programs will be presented in strategic locations throughout North America.

"The pursuit of excellence in ministry has never been more important," Grosse said. "NTS wants to make excellence in ministry an accessible and present reality for all."

APNTS Dedicates Media Center

Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary celebrated its 10th anniversary Jan. 14, according to John Nielson, APNTS president. E. LeBron Fairbanks, president of Mount Vernon Nazarene College, served as the special speaker for the convocation service. Fairbanks served six years as president of APNTS, prior to his election as president of MVNC nearly five years ago.

A highlight of the anniversary celebration was the dedication of a new media center named in honor of Fairbanks. During his presidency, Fairbanks dreamed of a radio facility that would serve both the students of APNTS and the Asia-Pacific Region, Nielson said.

The Fairbanks Media Center houses a teaching resource library, a seminar room, and the new Asia-Pacific Regional Communications Center. The communications center is a video and radio studio under the direction of the regional office.

"While additional funds are needed to complete renovations to the facility, most of the work has been done and the facilities are now functional," said Nielson.

The Fairbanks Media Center was built as a joint project of APNTS, the Asia-Pacific Regional office, and World Mission Radio.

ANU Appoints Chief Officer



Martha John has accepted the position of vice-chancellor of Africa Nazarene University in Nairobi, Kenya, according to Stephen Nease, education commissioner. In that position, she will serve as chief executive officer of the university.

John currently serves as dean of the School of Education and Human Services at Marymount University in Washington, D.C. Prior to this, she served as professor and chairperson of the Division of Education and Psychology at MidAmerica Nazarene College.

A graduate of Eastern Nazarene College, John received the Ed.D. degree from Stanford University. In 1992, she was honored with the Marcus and Alba Bles Endowment Chair in Education at Marymount University.

Gresham Inducted into Bethany Hall of Fame



Loren P. Gresham, president of Southern Nazarene University, was recently inducted into the City of Bethany, Okla., Hall of Fame at the Bethany Chamber of Commerce's annual awards banquet.

A member of the Bethany community for 26 years, Gresham has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Bethany Community Bank. Prior to his election as president four years ago, Gresham served as a coach, professor, and administrator at the university.

Larry Shaw, Bethany Chamber of Commerce secretary, cited Gresham for "bringing special attention to the University and the City of Bethany" and for his "active involvement in the development of young people in preparing them for service to their community and their country."

Butler/Barnard Are Part of Changes at ENC



Butler

D. Martin Butler, 43, has been appointed vice president for institutional advancement at Eastern Nazarene College, according to Kent Hill, ENC president. Butler will begin his new assignment July 1.

Butler currently serves as director of Planned Giving for the Church of the Nazarene. Prior to this, he served as chief fiscal officer for Nazarene Theological Seminary. He also served as local arrangements coordinator for the 1989 General Assembly in Indianapolis.

"Dr. Butler is a recognized expert in church financial planning," said Hill. "He will bring to this new assignment the latest technologies and information related to assisting individuals and families in their estate planning needs."

Butler will supervise a staff of 20 professionals assigned to ENC's insti-

tutional advancement offices. He will oversee the areas of enrollment services, publicity and publications, financial aid, alumni relations, and development.

A graduate of Southern Nazarene University and Mount Vernon Nazarene College, Butler also holds degrees from Nazarene Theological Seminary and the University of Missouri, Kansas City.



Barnard

Butler will succeed Tom Barnard, who has served in the position since 1990. Barnard has accepted the appointment to serve as vice president for church relations at ENC. In the new position, Barnard will take a major leadership role in linking the resources of the college to the needs of laypersons and pastors from the 630 churches on the Eastern educational region, according to Hill.

Students Fast for Hurricane Victims

Hundreds of Nazarene college students participated in a special fast on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 16. The fast was held to benefit victims of Hurricane Gert, which struck the impoverished Huasteca area of Mexico last fall.

As a part of the fast, students from each of the Nazarene colleges in the U.S. and Canada fasted one meal and set aside the money for that meal to assist the hurricane victims. The money will be used to assist some of the more than 200,000 people (including more than 400 Nazarene families) affected by the hurricane.

In 1991, seven Nazarene colleges sent students to this area of Mexico as a part of C.A.U.S.E. (College and Uni-

versity Students Sharing Experiences), sponsored jointly by Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and Work and Witness.

The fast is an annual event sponsored by the Nazarene Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) in memory of Kurt Finkbeiner. Finkbeiner was student body president at Northwest Nazarene College and cochairman of the 1989-90 NSLC. He was killed in a 1990 swimming accident the night before his graduation.

In 1993, the NSLC fast raised more than \$4,300 to assist refugees and children in Somalia. In previous years, money has been raised for Middle East refugees and children in Mozambique.

Garsee Joins Faculty at NBC



Jarrell W. Garsee, 63, has resigned from the pastorate of Anaheim, Calif., First Church to serve as professor of pastoral care at Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs, according to Jerry Lambert, NBC president.

Garsee had served as senior pastor at

Anaheim since July 1989. Prior to this, he was campus pastor at Southern Nazarene University for three years. Before this, he was senior pastor at Boise, Idaho, First Church for 10 years.

Garsee is a graduate of Southern Nazarene University and Nazarene Theological Seminary with a Ph.D. in psychology from Ohio State University.

Cyclone Devastates New Nazarene Field

Cyclone Geralda battered Madagascar with winds in excess of 200 miles per hour in early February, according to Steve Weber, international coordinator of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. Madagascar is the 109th world area in which the Church of the Nazarene is ministering.

At least 95 percent of all buildings were severely damaged or destroyed by the storm, according to Weber. More than 50,000 people were left homeless

in the port city of Tamatave alone.

Peter K. Walker, Africa Southeast field director, and NCM have assessed the situation and are in the process of responding to the need.

Individuals and churches wishing to respond to the needs of cyclone victims should send checks earmarked "Madagascar Cyclone" to: General Treasurer, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131. All gifts are an approved 10 percent special.

Best Is New Director of Towel and Basin



David M. Best has been elected as the new executive director of Towel and Basin, a resourcing group committed to helping individuals and organizations develop lifestyles that honor God through service to others. The action was taken by the Board of Directors of Towel and Basin.

Towel and Basin was envisioned by Best and the late Cecil R. Paul several years ago. Through the years, it has provided interns to ministries, helped to launch a community-based family cen-

ter in the inner city, and sponsored relief efforts overseas. Towel and Basin also provides consulting, networking, and training resources.

Best will continue to serve the general church as coordinator of the Center for Urban Strategy Development, a resource center for urban pastors based in New York City and sponsored by the Church Growth Division.

Best served as pastor of the Manhattan, N.Y., Church of the Nazarene and director of The Lamb's Center since 1988. Prior to this, he was director of compassionate ministries for the Los Angeles Thrust to the City.

Miller Resigns as Adult Editor



Steve Miller, editor of *Illustrated Bible Life*, the *Dialog Series*, and *Adult Leaflet*, has resigned to pursue a career in freelance writing and editing, according to Randy Cloud, Adult Ministries director.

Miller had served as curriculum editor for Adult Ministries since 1983. Under his leadership, *Illustrated Bible Life* won four awards from the Evangel-

ical Press Association. As editor of the *Dialog Series*, he edited 21 books and leader's guides. He also served as editor of the *New Life Primer*, a one-year curriculum for newcomers to the church.

"I've had an enviable assignment," Miller wrote in his resignation letter. "I have been allowed to take tough theological and practical questions to some of the sharpest minds in the Wesleyan movement. For these opportunities, I am deeply grateful."

Felder Accepts New Assignment



Tom Felder, associate editor of the Nazarene News Service, has accepted the position of Vacation Bible School editor, according to Miriam Hall, Children's Ministries director. Felder began his new assignment Apr. 4.

Felder had served in the Nazarene News office since September 1989. Prior to this, he served as a graphic artist for Publications International.

"Tom has proven himself to be a fine reporter with a broad understanding of the denomination," said Mark Graham, editor of the Nazarene News Service. "I know he will be a valuable member of the Children's Ministries team."

A graduate of Trevecca Nazarene College, Felder served as pastor of Manchester, Ga., First Church of the Nazarene. He also served as associate pastor of Covington, Ga., First Church. He was ordained in 1986 by the Georgia District.



The Lillenas Music and Drama Conference featured two evening concerts in addition to the workshops and general sessions. These concerts featured Jeremiah People (pictured above) and Babbie Mason (pictured below).

Lillenas Presents Music and Drama Conference

A record number of more than 900 persons attended the Lillenas Music and Drama Conference in the Kansas City area Feb. 3-5, according to Harlan Moore, Lillenas director. The music conference was held at Olathe, Kans., College Church, while the drama conference was held at Kansas City First Church.

The conference featured a variety of workshops for persons working in both music and drama ministry. Additionally, Lillenas presented two evening concerts for conference participants and the general public. The Feb. 3 concert featured pianist Teresa Wilhelmi and a musical drama presentation by Jeremiah People, Babbie Mason and the drama team of Custer and Hoose were featured in the Feb. 4 concert.

"It was a very positive conference," Moore said. "Everyone sensed that this was a ministry and not just a sales pitch. We had great times of worship and open sharing, in addition to the workshops."

The annual conference attracted persons from more than 35 states in the U.S. and Canada, Moore said. More than half of the participants were from denominations other than the Church of the Nazarene.



General Board Takes Action to Streamline Operations

The 1994 session of the General Board took a significant step toward streamlining operations at Nazarene Headquarters by dissolving the Finance Division and placing the responsibilities of that division under the two general officers.

Acting on recommendations by a previous General Board and a special ad hoc Bylaw Committee, the General Board took action to dissolve the Finance Division and create the positions of Headquarters operations officer (HOO) and Headquarters financial officer (HFO).

General Secretary Jack Stone will serve as the HOO. An HFO is expected to be elected by February 1995.

Donald D. Owens, responsible general superintendent for finance, will serve as acting director of the Finance Division until a general treasurer/Headquarters financial officer is elected. Owens will serve in place of D. Moody Gunter, who stepped out as director of the Finance Division to accept an appointment to serve as superintendent

of the North Florida District. Gunter will continue to serve as director of the General Church Loan Fund for several months.

According to the changes approved by the General Board, the HOO will serve as the on-site operations administrator for Headquarters. In that position, Stone will be authorized to convene meetings of senior administrators, to facilitate function, communication, and decisions within established policy guidelines and/or at the direction of the Board of General Superintendents. Under these provisions, the HOO will continue to have oversight of the functions of the general secretary's office such as the General Board, General Assembly, records, statistics, archives, personnel services, and business services.

The HFO will serve as the on-site financial officer in a supporting role to the HOO. The HFO will be responsible for such finance functions as: financial record keeping, corporate risk management, Pensions and Benefits, Planned

Giving, Stewardship Services, and the General Church Loan Fund. The HFO also will provide oversight to buildings and facilities.

Navy Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

The U.S. Navy is looking for qualified men and women to serve as active duty chaplains, according to Curt Bowers, Chaplaincy Ministries director. The navy is seeking to fulfill their "end strength" requirements before Sept. 30.

To qualify, one must be ordained, a seminary graduate or have 90 semester hours in courses related to religion, and be no more than 35 years old. The navy can waive the age requirement (up to age 40) for persons who have had prior military service.

Interested persons should contact Bowers in the Chaplaincy Ministries office at 1-800-233-8962.

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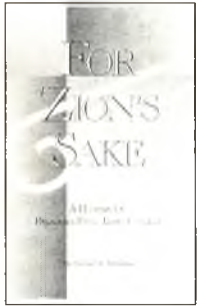
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WORDS & MUSIC

Reviews of recently released books and music

For Zion's Sake: A History of Pasadena/Point Loma College

(San Diego, Calif.: Point Loma Press, 1992). \$25.00



Ron Kirkemo's history of the institution now known as Point Loma Nazarene College is an outstanding model for how to write the history of an evangelical college. Social, intellectual, and religious history is skillfully blended with the story of the school's governance. The book is not simply a record of what happened but an account of why things happened. Kirkemo, chair of the Department of History and Political Science, ferrets out data and interprets it according to the best canons of historical scholarship.

Pasadena College was started by friends of Phineas Bresee, the primary founder of the Church of the Nazarene, who became the school's first president. Bresee was followed by a succession of memorable presidents, including H. Orton Wiley, O. J. Nease, Russell V. DeLong, and Shelburne Brown. The vignettes of these remarkable figures, alone, are worth the price of the book.

Theological development is a key part of Pasadena College's intellectual history. A. M. Hills, Wiley, Olive Winchester, Ross Price, William McCumber, and Reuben Welch are among the significant names associated with the Department of Religion. Currents and cross-currents among the religion faculty, which Kirkemo analyzes, represent broader theological movements in Nazarene life. Changes in science education at Pasadena are another barometer of larger intellectual changes in Nazarene education. The author explores the personal beliefs of Pasadena College's science educators to demonstrate his thesis. Sociology, another area of intellectual history treated in the book, is placed within America's cultural context.

The development of the student body is a major theme. Kirkemo shows how it changed in response to wars, shifting social mores within culture and the Church of the Nazarene, and relocation from Pasadena to San Diego in 1973. The book also deals with the faculty as a body. Faculty time and again made the largest financial sacrifices of any sector of the college (the first year faculty were paid their salaries in full was 1943!) to ensure the college's survival—a fact that should still evoke our gratitude.

To an extent that no other history of a Nazarene college has yet done, this one speaks beyond its particularities to universals in Nazarene higher education. —Stan Ingersol
To order contact: Point Loma Bookstore, 3900 Loma Land Dr., San Diego, CA 92106.

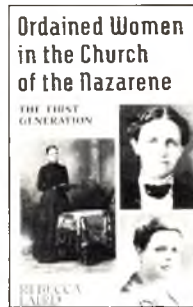
Ordained Women in the Church of the Nazarene

by Rebecca Laird (Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1993). HH083-411-4526 \$9.95

Today, much controversy arises from the topic of women being active as ministers in the church. However, in the earlier days of our church, the woman's ministry not only

passed unquestioned but was encouraged.

In *Ordained Women in the Church of the Nazarene*, Rebecca Laird looks at the history of women in the Holiness Movement. She focuses on 12 amazing women and brings them—their dreams, their goals, their ministries—to life for our enlightenment and encouragement.



This is a great book for those interested in the topic of women in ministry, for those who are studying our church roots, and for those who simply want to enjoy some fascinating reading.

—Jeanette Gardner

A Woman's Place?

by C. S. Cowles (Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1993). HH083-411-464X \$11.95

Sexism runs rampant in the church as women are kept in their place. But is the place they've been assigned truly the place God intended?

C. S. Cowles takes a look at the role of women in the church today as well as their role in the church historically.

He takes us through women's ministries in Old Testament and New Testament times. Cowles takes an in-depth look at Paul's writings, teaching us true meanings behind the apostle's words. Cowles moves into the way women have helped form the church as we know it today and helps us take a look at what the future for women in the church should be.

This book is outstanding reading—not just for the ministerial student but for any layman. Cowles' style is concise and simple and very readable for all. Excellent material!

—Jeanette Gardner

Holy Women of Russia: The Lives of Five Orthodox Women Offer Spiritual Guidance for Today

by Brenda Meehan (Harper San Francisco, 1993), hardback. HH006-065-4724 \$17.00

The word pictures in Brenda Meehan's book are painted from the perspective of 19th-century Russia. Her pen has rediscovered for us the forgotten women of Orthodox spirituality. The five she has chosen as holy women offer us inspiring, empowering models for individual and collective spirituality.

The widow Tuchkova, hermit Anastasiia, peasant Natrona Maumova, the aristocratic Aleksandra Shmakova, and the abbess Taisiia were carved and birthed out of a culture that saw closely the necessity of combined monastic solitude with a community of women who were willing to become focused on the common concerns of intimacy with God and service to others.

They were rich and poor, young, middle-aged, and old. You will discover as you become acquainted with these



women, how much of their lives and spiritual journeys were molded and shaped out of the depths of sorrow, out of the depths of frustration with a society that had lost its moorings. It was out of sorrow and struggle that they began to hear the call to a deeper relationship with God, out of which service would develop.

As they began to open their homes and lives to the weary-souled of society, they worked out their individual responses to God's jarring call.

In opening your life to the study and reflection of these holy women, you will discover your life deepened and challenged by their example. You will come to see the virtue of the holy life embodied in each of them, you will see their darker sides redeemed, and catch a glimpse of the uniqueness of community life.

This book is essential reading for those who have a genuine interest in the people of Russia. It is necessary reading for anyone who, in obedience to the call of God, chooses to work with the Russian people.

—Alden E. Sproull

Walk On

by Bruce Carroll, Word, Produced by Brown Bannister & Tom Hemby.

HHTA-1502 Cassette \$10.98

HHDC-160X CD \$14.98

I have been listening to Bruce Carroll for several years, but only one song at a time. Until now I had never listened to an entire album. That was not only a mistake but a loss of opportunity to be ministered to in a significant way.

Bruce has a very easy sound to listen to. But this is not "easy listening music." Bruce's sound can best be described as "young country," because it definitely has the country in-

strumentation of steel guitar, mandolin, dobro, and rhythm guitar. Vocally there are strong country overtones, as well. Yet, there are the sounds of contemporary music typified by a strong rhythmic bed, occasional lead guitar lines, and a masterful mix of contemporary instruments.



The album also has a pleasant blend of both upbeat tunes and ballads. The opening and title cut, "Walk On," bears an incredible resemblance to the music of James Taylor. Also present in spots are the unmistakable voices of Kelly Willard and Ricky Skaggs lending their support on background vocals.

Lyrically this is a meaty release that seems to be pretty typical of the Bruce Carroll tunes I've heard in the past. On my initial listen the words to the chorus of "Answer to Prayer" jumped off the disk and really hit home with me. "Like a light in the darkness, A song in the night, Just the right words at just the right time, Tomorrow, today, you may be someone's answer to prayer." The second verse goes on to say, "The very moment we are willing to say, 'Here I am' We step out of our happenstance world into His perfect plan."

There are also songs that deal with issues like men facing middle age, teenage pregnancy, despair, suicide, and there's even a love song.

All in all, this is an excellent album that deserves serious listening. Give it a spin!

—Mark Cork

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Secret Courage for Single Mothers

by Sandra Picklesimer Aldrich

My daughter, Holly, was in the third grade when she came home one day in tears. One of the room mothers had handed out printed directions to a special event and said, "Take these home to your families."

Then she'd glanced at Holly and said, "Sorry. I mean *to your moms*."

In our kitchen, I put my arms around my eight-year-old as I fought the sadness that still enveloped me four months after my husband's death. "Holly, we are still a family," I said. "We're just a family of *three* now."

She leaned against me in relief. That was a turning point for both of us.

The school-day incident helped me realize that if we were going to survive as a family, my children needed special strength. And because my children were so young, the only way they could develop it was by watching me.

But how could I raise two children to be healthy adults without their father? How could I teach my 10-year-old son, Jay, to be a man?

I worried and prayed a lot in those first years after becoming a single mom. I kept us all in church and trusted that those couple of hours each week would provide Jay with glimpses of what Christian manhood was like.

Nine years have passed since his dad's death, and Jay has grown up with a mother, a sister, and a neutered cat. But today he is a healthy, manly young man.

Leaning on the Lord

In those early days of my singlehood, I couldn't look ahead to where we are now. While thinking—and worrying—about my single-parent-

ing role, I looked to the examples of strong women.

I wanted to be like Anna of Luke 2:26—the one who had served in the Temple for most of her adult life. But, unlike Anna, I couldn't withdraw from the world—economics and my children wouldn't let me.

I thought, too, of Molly Pitcher, the woman who carried water to wounded and dying men during the Revolutionary War. Her real name was Molly Ludwig Hays, but her chosen responsibility gave her the nickname that stuck ever after.

During one particularly fierce battle, she saw her husband fall beside the cannon he was firing. She ran to his side, not to cradle him in her arms, but to take his place and fire the cannon.

SOLO PARENTING CAN BE SCARY AT TIMES, BUT WITH THE LORD'S HELP IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE—AS THIS VETERAN SINGLE MOM HAS LEARNED.

I wanted to be that type of woman! But I learned early that my strength alone couldn't conquer all situations.

My great-grandmother Mintie Farley often related her early memories of the craziness surrounding the War Between the States. She remembered that all the men in their little settlement went off to war, leaving their wives and children alone on the Kentucky hillside farms.

Renegade soldiers stole everything they could, including the family's lone milk cow. Then one late afternoon men stormed into the yard, demanding the last of their food. Her mother started to argue, but the leader merely pointed his pistol at her head and said it would be a shame to have to kill her in front of the children. She gave the soldiers the food.

Over the years, the story was retold so much and became so real to me that I could have reported the color of the renegade leader's hair. As I'd express my indignation, an older relative would usually say, "Honey, there are some things in life that all you can do with 'em is bear 'em."

But I wanted to do more than "bear" single parenting: I wanted to be victorious. So, I often turned to the Bible for encouragement, rereading the Old Testament accounts of women such as Deborah, Ruth, and Esther who also faced impossible situations and won—with God's help. Soon I was personalizing everything I read in the Scriptures.

One of my favorite miracles is in John 11—the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Mary and Martha of Bethany sent word that their brother, Lazarus, was very ill.

Jesus waited two more days before setting out. By the time He arrived in Bethany, His friend had died. After a tearful greeting from the sisters, Jesus went to the grave and told the men standing nearby to roll away the stone.

Then He said in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43, NIV).

I'm fascinated that Jesus had to say, "Lazarus, come out!" I'm convinced that, since He is Life, every grave would have given up its dead if He had shouted a mere "Come out!"

When Lazarus emerged from the tomb, he was still bound in the grave-



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clothes. Jesus then said to those standing nearby—surely with their mouths hanging open—“Take off the grave clothes and let him go” (v. 44, NIV).

What? The One who raised a man from the dead was asking mere humans to roll away stones and untie graveclothes?

Yes, because He wanted to make a visual point: *Do what you can and leave the outcome with the Lord.*

After You've Prayed

Even now I'm relieved at the implication here for single mothers: The Lord will give us the strength to juggle all our responsibilities. But we have to do what we can—and not give up.

It's like the old adage says, “Pray as though everything depends on God, and work as though everything depends on you.”

So, here are a few things I learned early in my singlehood that have helped me take care of those things the Lord expects me to handle:

❖ **Hold fast to Scripture.** More than once I've reminded the Lord of His promises to be my husband (Isaiah 54:5), my children's father (Psalm 68:5), and to meet all our needs (Philippians 4:19)—especially as we faced some new crisis. Of course, He hadn't forgotten, and I was actually reminding myself that I wasn't alone. But it was amazing how quickly such verses would provide the clear thinking that I needed in the situation, allowing me to see His solution.

❖ **Maintain family routine.** Having a set time for meals, homework, chores, and after-dinner Scripture reading provided structure and calmness to our intense schedules. Even now the three of us enjoy rereading requests from our prayer notebook and remembering what the Lord has brought us through.

❖ **Don't expect others to appreciate your challenge.** If we're going to hurt every time someone treats our situation lightly, we're going to be

hurting a lot. Of course, single parenting is difficult. And naturally, we'd love to have an earthly pat on the back occasionally. But longing for that praise takes energy that is better used in tending to the duties at hand.

Besides, other folk don't always realize the situation anyway. I learned that more than 20 years ago when a relative and I drove to Kentucky to take my grandparents, Papa and Mama Farley, and my Aunt Adah to Michigan.

An all-day drive was ahead of us, so my grandmother had an enormous lunch perched next to her on the front seat. On top of the picnic hamper she balanced a bunch of bananas, then settled her cane comfortably against her thigh, ready to begin the trip.

In the late 1960s, Interstate 75 wasn't complete yet, and numerous detours forced us to wind around the Southern hills on dangerously curving stretches of asphalt. Topping one more hill, we discovered a rock slide covering the road.

The relative hastily set the gearshift and got out of the car. Then, just as he climbed onto a boulder to survey the situation, the car began to roll backward.

I was in the backseat wedged between Aunt Adah and Papa, but it was up to me to reach the brake. In that instant, I threw myself over the seat, knocking the lunch to the floor as I scrambled to stomp on the pedal.

When I got the car stopped, it was already several feet beyond the asphalt. And beyond that was a 500-foot drop into the ravine below.

With the car safely braked, I released my breath and then looked at Mama Farley. Surely she had some praise for my quick action that had saved the four of us from severe injury—if not death.

But she merely glanced at me as she picked up the scattered lunch. Then she muttered, “You smashed the bananas.”

So much for my need for appreciation.

❖ **Find ways to help others.** At holidays, we three have served Salvation Army dinners to street people.

visited hospitals, delivered food and clothing to folk in need, and opened our home to other single-parent families. But each time, we've received more blessings than we've given.

❖ **Don't waste energy fantasizing about what might have been.** The Christmas before Jay left for college, the three of us attended an energetic musical with the traditional plot of a family gathering for the holiday.

The show was usually given as part of a dinner package, so even our matinee audience was seated at large round tables. In the final moments before the curtain went up, waitresses hurried between the tables, delivering soft drinks.

As the show started, I was delighted by the high energy of the performers. Then, during one particularly tender holiday song, I started to cry, feeling very much alone—even though Jay and Holly were sitting on either side of me.

Just then the man across the table pulled his arm back toward his wife. My tears increased as I realized he was going to put his arm around her and give her shoulders a little squeeze.

How fortunate his wife is, and how wonderful of him to do that. My thoughts were moving faster than the man's arm.

At last, with his arm all the way back, he reached for his soft drink—instead of his wife!

I laughed aloud as another of life's realities brought me back to earth.

❖ **Find new ways to have fun.** For those of us who are creatures of habit, this can be a major hurdle. But I discovered that continuing the old patterns emphasized the absence of the missing parent. Thus, we switched pizza restaurants for our occasional Friday night out and even bought a membership at a nearby historical village for Sunday afternoon strolls. At both places, we were free from poignant—and sometimes painful—memories.

Those tiny risks quickly opened the way for others, including garbage-bag tobogganing on country hills. I even started carrying a box of oversized, sturdy bags in the trunk for impromptu romps. Even a walk in the woods became an adventure. And looking back now, we realize that our favorite memories are the unplanned events—trips to the cider mills or country fairs—rather than the trips we overplanned for weeks.

❖ **Keep a merry heart.** One year, when my children and I lived an hour north of New York City, we ventured down to Broadway to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade with

friends—and countless others. It was an incredible day of seeing floats and giant balloons that had long been part of our holiday, but only through TV. The best part of the occasion for me, though, was meeting a subway elevator operator.

For long hours each day he's trapped in that box under the city streets, breathing air that's thick with dirt and fumes. I wouldn't have blamed him if he'd been grumpy as we boarded his elevator. But he greeted us cheerfully and asked where we were from.

When he had delivered us to our requested level, he wished us well, asked us to come back again, and added a cheerful, "I luv ya."

Later as we were waiting for the subway train on the lower level, we could hear him singing as he strolled in front of the elevator, waiting for his next batch of passengers. Rather than allow himself to be bitter about his lot in life, he chose to bring freshness and joy to those who shared his day, even for those few moments.

So rather than fretting about our struggles, let's become like that subway singer and give others reason to smile at our memory. With the Lord's help, we can do exactly that.

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H

Know When to Lighten Up

Part of good parenting is letting our children experience the consequences of their actions. But sometimes a little forgiveness accomplishes even more.

One morning when Holly was in the seventh grade, I opened the refrigerator to get my lunch for work and discovered she had forgotten hers. I know the parenting experts would have recommended that I ignore her brown bag. But was it fair to treat her with tough love the first time she failed?

I stood in front of the refrigerator for a long time, arguing with myself. Finally I decided that if this became a habit, we'd deal

with it then. Besides, I was going to suffer more than she would if I left her lunch in the refrigerator.

I arrived at school just a few minutes before her first class began. She and several of her friends were still by their lockers, combing their hair and chatting about the day's plans. Holly turned just as I approached. The look of surprise and pleasure on her face made the trip worth it. She thanked me profusely for bringing her lunch, reminding me she'd made egg salad and had been disappointed to discover she'd left it home.

Our long-standing custom has been to hug good-

bye, but after I handed her the lunch and heard one more *thank you*, I stood there awkwardly for a moment. I wanted that hug, but I didn't want to embarrass her in front of her friends.

Finally I said, "Well, I've got to head for work. Who wants a hug before I go?"

Kristi hopped up from the floor, "I do!"

I gave her a motherly bear hug, while Holly stood by, red-faced and saying, "Mom!"

Then Jessica said, "Me too." One by one, I gave her five friends a squeeze to send them into the day.

Finally only Holly was left. I hugged her and hurried out the door.

That night, as we cleared the table after dinner, she again thanked me for having taken her lunch to school. I said I hoped I hadn't embarrassed her with all of the hugs.

She shook her head. "You did at first because you're always doing weird things. But later, two of my friends said you're pretty neat. I just agreed with them."

I gave her another hug right then. □



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Make This Year's Vacation Count

by Kenneth L. Gibble

Europeans get four weeks of vacation; in Australia people get a month plus extra vacation pay; but here in the U.S.A. most of us get only two weeks off." Or so says the television commercial of a leading airline company. The point of the ad is that you ought to make the most of your limited vacation time by *flying* where you want to go. Using their airline, of course!

If you are like me, no matter how many days of vacation you have (never enough it seems), you look forward to vacation as a chance to take a break from the normal round of activities and obligations. But then what happens? Plans often become too ambitious and end up depleting the budget and everyone's patience. A vacation that you hoped would renew body, mind, and spirit renews nothing but exhaustion.



Dave Kirkwood

What can you do to prevent this? Here are some goals to consider that can help make your next vacation live up to your anticipation of it.

Relaxation

Many of us spend much of our vacation time driving to exotic places, packing three days' worth of sites into single outings, and spending what it took the rest of the year to save. Why? Maybe because we feel guilty if we aren't busy. We have become so good at the workaholic lifestyle that we've forgotten how to enjoy times of relaxation.

We forget the wisdom of the ancient Hebrews who said that after six days of creating the universe, God rested. If the Creator needed time to recover from work, how much more you and I need it.

Keep this principle in mind when planning your vacation. Don't fill up every minute with scheduled activity. Leave significant time for simply goofing off, for stretching out to snooze, for lingering over a sunset, or taking the "scenic route."

Adventure

Dulled minds and spirits thirst for rejuvenation. Many

people look forward to vacation as a chance to see the new, the different, the exotic, maybe even to visit faraway places with strange-sounding names. Build adventure into vacation by inviting the unexpected into your well-laid plans.

I heard a radio interview with a travel expert who said that the best way to experience Paris is to "get lost." Throw away your map, he recommended. Just start walking. You'll soon find yourself at a sidewalk café asking for directions. You'll enjoy the charm of the surroundings as well as the conversation with people you would otherwise never have met.

The same adventurous spirit that helps you "get lost" can apply to other situations. You say you've always wanted to water-ski? Get out there and give it a try! Do things you haven't done before.

Learning

The same travel expert who recommended getting lost in Paris had something to say about traveling with an open mind. He said he always wanted to come back from his travels a changed man. If his encounter with places and people didn't challenge his prejudices, didn't give him a new perspective on things, then what, he wondered, was the point of it?

True, not every vacation includes travel to far-off places. But even a trip to a neighboring state or city will enable you to meet people with customs, traditions, and opinions different from your own. The freedom available to you in such surroundings is freedom from captivity to your own biases.

It's also a good time to learn some things yourself. This kind of learning usually happens when you spend some time in solitude. Time spent alone during your vacation will help you take a fresh look at your life, your goals, and your relationships.

Worship

Granted, this one won't appear on most people's lists of what they want from a vacation—but it should. Vacation time offers a unique opportunity for experiencing the presence of God.

Remember that one of the primary elements of worship is wonder. The holiness of God is a divine mystery that fills the worshiper with awe. As I have peered down into the depths of the Grand Canyon, watched huge waves breaking on a New Jersey beach, seen a golden eagle soaring below me as I stood on a Rocky Mountain peak, I have understood how the Psalmist was inspired to write

THE NATURAL WORLD CONSTANTLY
POINTS TO ITS CREATOR. BE ALERT
FOR MOMENTS OF AWE AND WONDER.

in Psalm 8:1, RSV: "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!"

Many vacations include time spent out of doors, where the natural world constantly points to its Creator. Be alert for moments of awe and wonder as you see and hear the wondrous variety and beauty of creation. They provide a unique kind of worship experience.



Gail Denham

Service

What does service have to do with vacations? Service involves work, and work is one of the things we want to take a vacation from, right?

Well, yes and no. Yes, service does imply work; but, no, not the kind of work many of us need a break from. In fact, spending part of your vacation time in service to others can be one of the most refreshing, personally renewing things you can do. I remember talking with a friend who had just come back from a week as a volunteer at a camp for mentally retarded children. Carl was as excited as I had ever seen him. Yes, the week had been demanding; a man of middle age, Carl was tired, he was glad to be home. But what a personal reward the week had been for him! The kids loved him. He had earned the title of “designated hugger.” Carl’s face lit up when he described what had happened that week.

There are almost unlimited opportunities for service during vacations. Young people can volunteer time at local playgrounds. Summer camping programs of all kinds are always in need of people with time to give. Church organizations sponsor work projects, domestic and abroad.

Incorporating all five ingredients—relaxation, adventure, learning, worship, and service—into one vacation will not always be possible. But most of us can do a better job of blending these ingredients into a wholesome mix that can provide both physical and spiritual refreshment. Doing so will allow vacation time to be “freedom” time—freedom from the routine of work and freedom for renewal of the whole person.

H

Give Your Family Vacation a Spiritual Dimension

Vacation is the time we try to get away from it all. Often we not only “get away” from time clocks and alarm clocks but also get away from the routines of the devotional life. Sunburned faces, mosquito-bitten ankles, and scraped knees are not the only painful marks of a summer vacation. Sometimes we get home spiritually starved.

Here are 10 ways to give your summer family vacation a Christian focus.

► **1. Take Bibles,** maybe one for every family member who can read. Don’t depend on the Gideons alone.

► **2. Plan family devotions.** If not every day, at least regularly. Don’t play it by ear hoping that you find time for family worship—plan.

► **3. Be sure that each member of the family packs a devotional book** for use in private quiet times or during highway hours.

► **4. Take along cassette tapes of Christian music,** or Christian books on tape. These can be used during long drives on a car trip.

► **5. Pray before every meal—even if the meal is trail mix and spring water.**

► **6. Use inspirational vistas** such as a lakeside sunset, mountain grandeur, a rainbow, a meadow of wildflowers, or a nature walk, to speak and think about God the Creator.

► **7. Attend church.** The Sabbath is still holy, even if you are on vacation. Most of the time you can find a Christian church to attend. Go, even if casual clothes are all you packed.

When you can’t attend a worship service, create your own.

► **8. Ahead of time select a Bible verse** for each vacation day. Help each other memorize it. It could be used as a table grace at each meal, or during family worship.

► **9. Build service into your vacation.** Spend part of your vacation in a volunteer project. It could be a church project, or it could be your family’s private effort to help a neighbor paint a garage, clear brush, or plant a flower garden. If you will look, dozens of service projects will suggest themselves. Be sure your family members know that this is a Christian service project.

► **10. Send postcards.** Take your address book

with you. Arrange for family members to send several postcards. They will want to send cards to their close friends, but be sure that the family mailing list includes people who seldom get any personal mail. A note that tells them that someone is thinking of them can mean so much.

When the vacation is over and you have returned home, send notes of appreciation to the people who helped make your vacation a good time. Museum guides, motel maids, the tourist information clerk, the lodge manager, the tennis coach, the pastor of the church you attended—all these may get on your list. Try to say something Christian in every note.

—Eli Thorne □

WHAT CANCER VICTIMS WISH YOU KNEW

by Christine Bigley

Photos by Cliff Irwin

Adapted from chapters 1 and 2 of Cancer: A Christian Guide to Coping and Caring by Christine Bigley, a new book from Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City.

They don't know how to say it politely, but there are a few things cancer victims wish you knew. You come along with your well-meaning words and actions that bruise and wound. The victim may say nothing, but often he or she would like to enroll you in a remedial sensitivity class.

For ages, people have reacted to the word cancer as if it were a death sentence. In spite of progress made in di-

agnosis and treatment, people still react with dread and horror.

"I'm not dead yet."

Mary had undergone surgery for cancer of the colon. Prior to the surgery, she had radiation to shrink the size of the tumor, making surgery easier and giving a better chance for a "cure." One member of her church said to her, "We will sure miss your smile." Mary answered with a thank you but inside she thought, "I'm not dead yet." The person meant well, but the words hurt Mary just the same.

Mary's story is just one example of how church people need to be sensitized and educated in how to relate to cancer victims.



The cancer support group at Topeka First Church of the Nazarene (standing, l. to r.): Ada Irwin, Ruth Jones, Maryeva Rumsey, Christine Bigley; (sitting, l. to r.): Donavene Smith, Marie Trimble, Esther McMackin, Audrey Miller.

There is a time to let the cancer victim know how much you will miss him or her. Usually this comes at the point when everybody knows and admits that medical treatments are not working. When a person is first diagnosed, everyday activities go on as usual. The person has a hard time accepting the diagnosis. Just one day before the test results came back, life was lurching along as usual with alarm clocks, tuna casseroles, telephone sales pitches, and obnoxious left turners in traffic—all the things that make us feel jangled and normal. Then the dreaded diagnosis. They can't handle it—and the last thing they need is to hear someone blurt out a message of doom as if they had al-

ready drawn their last breath.

Bob lies very ill in his hospital bed, the aggressive chemotherapy treatment zapping his strength. His wife is at his bedside when the callers from the church come to the door of the room. They motion for her and whisper when she draws near, "How is Bob doing today?" Hesitating a little and looking back at Bob, she answers, "He is pretty weak from the chemotherapy, but he would appreciate your going over, shaking his hand, and asking him how he is doing."

Unbeknownst to the well-meaning callers, the victim needs to have some control over his own situation. The ill person takes in more than you think, and some get paranoid when the family members are called aside for a whispering conference.

Rona, a teenager with leukemia, stated, "Sometimes I feel like the doctors aren't being honest with me when they take my parents outside of the room to talk."

"Just be with me."

The ministry of presence has a powerful effect even if you can't think of anything to say. Family or friends can quietly sit in the room just to be there. Repeatedly, sick persons tell me how comforting it is to wake up and see a familiar face near at hand. Pull up those memories of childhood. Remember when you were ill and you wanted your mother right there with you? She gave you the medicine, soothed your forehead, and you drifted off to sleep. You awakened to the normal clanging noises, brother and sister fighting, and saw your mother and father in their usual places. You felt secure, you were being cared for.

You don't have to learn any magic words, you don't have to be a priest or a theologian. Even if you can't think of anything to say with your voice, "just being there" says a lot. When a friend gets cancer, a lot of church people don't know what to do or say—so they just don't do or say anything. That's an awful way to treat a friend.

"Let me express my feelings, however irrational."

Amy Harwell writes of the emotional roller coaster on which a cancer

victim rides. She states that these feelings are not always based on rational facts so that attempts to answer, even with great promises from the Bible, can feel like an affront to the ill person. "It is a tall order," says Harwell (in *When Your Friend Gets Cancer*, Harold Shaw Pub., 31-32), for a friend to hang in there and allow the

**THREE OUT OF EVERY FOUR
NORTH AMERICAN FAMILIES
WILL BE HIT BY CANCER.**

person to ride the roller coaster to the finish. She adds that finally an adjustment to reality takes over and the person "lives until he dies."

Listening is very important. The person who is talking hears his or her own words and makes adjustments accordingly. To allow the person this opportunity is a great gift (and hard to do when we think we know the answers).

Jane had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, which had already spread to other body organs. At 35 years of age, with three little children and a husband who aspired to climb the corporate ladder, Jane felt overwhelmed. Mrs. Dear came to visit her, represent-

**MANY CHRISTIANS DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN A
FRIEND GETS CANCER—
SO THEY DON'T DO ANYTHING.**

ing the congregation. After a few comments about the weather and other pleasantries, Jane started to express some of her feelings.

Jane: I feel so heavy, so depressed. I'm only 35 and have this awful disease (trailing off).

Mrs. Dear (Although she wanted to say that Jane should not feel that

way, she remembered what was said in the lay ministry class and silently waited for Jane to continue.)

Jane: I won't be able to take care of my family, to see Jim succeed, and the children grow up (cries).

Mrs. Dear (Reaches for Jane's hand, gets tears in her own eyes, and nods her head.)

Jane (regaining some composure): I always thought that was the task for a Christian woman, like it says in Proverbs, you know the chapter always read on Mother's Day?

Mrs. Dear (Nodding her head yes and looking at Jane.)

Jane: Somehow I feel like a failure even though I know it sounds crazy. Maybe I am paying for sins before becoming a Christian, or maybe I've had some secret sin my conscious mind won't face or (trails off).

Mrs. Dear: I can't picture that, but how do you plan to sort it all out?

Jane (reflectively): I think I can talk to God like I am talking to you. (Pause) God says the Holy Spirit is within us to reveal things to us when we ask. (Pause) Thanks for coming and listening. I feel like I am on my way to finding peace with God.

Mrs. Dear did not say much out loud, but she said quite a lot with her mouth shut. She said that it was all right to own your feelings and to express them to God as well as to others.

"It hurts when you won't touch me."

A lot of people have a fear of cancer being contagious and that they could "catch" it. One church was required to either sell the parsonage or have it fumigated. The wives of the two previous pastors had been diagnosed with and died of the same type of cancer after living in the house.

An older woman was hospitalized in the terminal stages of cancer. Her daughter-in-law came to the hospital nearly every day to visit. When she came home, her husband made her shower and change clothes out on the back porch. Only then could she enter

What does a cancer support group do?

They meet to learn from each other and from the films and literature available . . .



they tell their stories . . .



sometimes a supportive hug is in order . . .



they enjoy refreshments . . .



and, they always pray for each other.



the house and interact with him and the boys. This man feared catching cancer so much that he could not visit his own mother. After her death, he would not allow any of her possessions to be brought into his house.

One man complained, "My wife won't kiss me anymore. She thinks cancer is catching." According to the National Institutes of Health, the fear of cancer being contagious is widespread. Many people do not say this out loud but let their actions do the speaking. Some spouses avoid sexual contact under the guise of not wanting to hurt the victim. Many cancer victims fear that their mate is unfaithful but do not say it aloud.

Fear of contagion is destructive; it infects every area of a relationship. Even though the fear is unfounded, it is hard to help the frightened person. In the meantime, the ill person is cut off and may feel like quitting the struggle to get well. If loved ones and friends keep them at a distance, why try? Touch is important for adults as well as children, but we tend to give up tender exchanges as childish stuff. Jesus knew touch was important. He even touched lepers (Mark 1:41).

"I really want you to pray with me."

Prayer can be the most comforting act and the hardest act to perform when one is seriously ill. Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit prompts us to pray and directs petitions. He also "intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words" when we "do not know how to pray as we ought" (Romans 8:26-27, RSV). The victims, in their anxiety over the illness, feel guilty about not praying appropriately. You are needed to remind them of this work of the Holy Spirit. You also help when you pray out loud with them.*

"Don't forget your sense of humor."

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22). Modern studies are validating that laughter releases positive healing forces in the body. A short item on the bulletin board of the cancer unit indicated that you need 15 laughs a day to stay healthy. At the end it said, "Go ahead

and laugh, it's good for you."

The humor does not have to pertain to the disease, but it may. If you and your sick friend are used to sharing funny stories about life in general, now is no time to stop.

One of the best things that the local church can do for cancer victims and

ALMOST EVERY CHURCH CAN AND SHOULD PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP.

their friends and family members is to provide cancer support groups. Not the kind that requires medical doctors and clinical psychologists, but the kind that can be run by caring laymen and pastors. With a little prayer and planning, almost every church can provide unforgettable care for cancer victims.

Studies show that many cancer victims feel that the church abandons them when they hear the cancer verdict. They know the church prays for them, but beyond that, it seems that the church doesn't know how to help. Almost every church needs to and can provide—for persons in and outside the friendly confines of church membership—redemptive ministry to cancer victims.

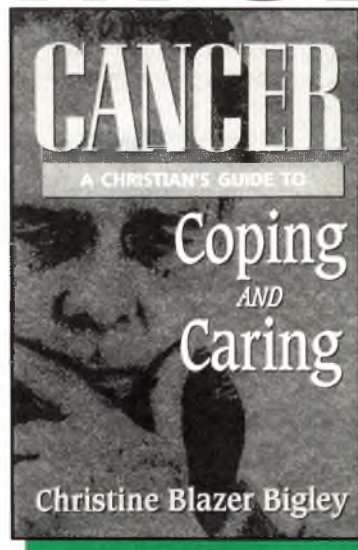
But aren't there cancer support groups provided by community service organizations? Sometimes such groups do exist. But they have one drawback. Most community service agencies are forbidden to talk about the Christian faith. Churches, on the other hand, can use all the resources of the Christian faith. And that's what cancer victims need most.

Dr. Christine Bigley is a registered nurse and has served as a teacher of nursing. She is an ordained minister, a graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary (M.Div. and D.Min.), and has served nine years as a hospital chaplain.

*In the book, Dr. Bigley provides model or sample prayers for assurance of salvation, concern for family, encouragement, and financial needs.

HH

CANCER



CANCER: A CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE TO COPING AND CARING

BY CHRISTINE BLAZER BIGLEY

Eighty-three million Americans now living will get cancer. Three out of four families will be affected by the disease. Here is a guide for coping and caring that brings together resources of the Christian faith and practical knowledge about living with cancer. Written for both individuals and churches that desire to effectively understand and minister to the victims and families of cancer. HH083-411-4860 \$6.95

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Close to Home

News About Nazarenes

BY TOM FELDER



The children of Nashville Bethel Church collected more than 620 pairs of socks for a foot clinic in New York City.

SOCK IT TO THEM . . . The children of Bethel Church of the Nazarene in Nashville, Tenn., collected more than 620 pairs of new, white socks for the homeless during a recent minimeissions project, according to **Greg Nash**, children's pastor. They surpassed their goal of 500 pairs of socks.

Using the theme, "Sock It to Them with Love," the

children collected the socks for homeless persons served by The Lamb's in New York City. The socks were shipped to a foot clinic operated by the Nazarene compassionate ministry.

Homeless people come to the clinic to have their feet treated in medicated baths. They are then given a pair of clean, white socks which helps in the healing process.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE . . .

Sue Pyles, a member of Iron-ton, Ohio, First Church of the Nazarene, was recognized recently for 45 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School.

Pyles serves as adult min-

istries director at her church, according to Curtis Sellers, senior pastor. A school-teacher, she is a member of the Ohio Education Association and the National Education Association. She also serves as vice president of her local parent-teacher organization and charter president of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary sorority for women educators.



John C. Bowling (right). Olivet Nazarene University president, is interviewed by Jerry Rice on "Among Friends," on WCFC-TV in Chicago.

ON THE AIR . . . John C. Bowling, president of Olivet Nazarene University, appeared on the premiere episode of "Among Friends," on WCFC-TV, Chicago. Bowling was interviewed by station president Jerry Rose on the subject of choosing a Christian college.

Bowling talked about the many factors that make an education at a Christian college or university a wise decision. He also discussed the benefits of attending ONU.

"Promise," ONU's public relations group, also appeared on the hour-long program.

COMMUNITY LEADER . . .

Robert F. Henderson, a member of Orleans, Ind., Church of the Nazarene, was recently elected president of the Orleans Chamber of Commerce. Henderson works as an editor and writer for the Orleans *Progress Examiner*.

Henderson is very involved in the life of his church, according to **Tim Van Hoose**, pastor. He serves as Sunday School superintendent and in a vari-

ety of other capacities.

Henderson also is involved in community affairs. He has served as chairman of the city's annual Dogwood Festival and currently serves on the board of directors for the annual event. He has been recognized numerous times for his volunteer efforts in the community, Van Hoose said.



Send news about Nazarenes to:
Close to Home,
6401 The Paseo,
Kansas City, MO 64131.

Yuba City, Calif., First Church dedicated a new \$1.2 million facility Apr. 17. The facility includes a 450-seat worship center, classrooms, and office space. The structure, an original contemporary design of Nazarene architect Rick Conklin, features a 65-foot high cross that can be seen for miles.



Deaths



ROY M. WEBSTER, 80, of Rogers, Ark., died Feb. 23. Mr. Webster was the founder of House of Webster. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; sons, Harold

and Dale; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

REV. JOHN PATTEE, 90, of Pasadena, Calif., died Jan. 2. Rev. Pattee served as a Nazarene missionary for 35 years, including 13 years in China and 22 years in the Philippines. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lillian, in 1986.

REV. CHONG S. KIM, 76, of Castro Valley, Calif., died Jan. 24. Rev. Kim was one of the earliest Nazarene leaders in Korea. He served as superintendent of the Korean District from 1961 to 1973, prior to the creation of a second district. He moved to the U.S. in 1974, where he served as pastor of the Chicago, Ill., Korean Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors: wife, Jung Ja; three children, Seung Ta, Yoohwa, and Eunhwa; and four grandchildren.

REV. ROBERT BENJAMIN, 57, pastor of Miller Memorial Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., Jan. 21. Survivors: wife, Vilma; sons, Robert, Jr., Dave; daughters, Dianne, Dale, Camile; 15 grandchildren.

LLOYD H. BROWNING, 81, Okmulgee, Okla., Jan. 28. Survivors: wife, Wilma; son, James; daughter, Betty; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

ETHEL CLOUD, 93, Higgins, Tex., Jan. 8. Survivors: daughters, Rose Ellen Stroman, Lois Thrasher, Eunice Tichner, Alice Jernigan, Grace Zweischer, Hope Cox; sons, Donald, Dennis; 32 grandchildren; 60 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; 2 sisters; 3 brothers.

ARCHIE LEE COWART, 54, Vicksburg, Miss., Feb. 8. Survivors: wife, Faye; daughters, Connie Smallwood, Cheri Howell; two grandchildren; parents, Frank and Stella Cowart; two brothers; one sister.

REV. GEORGE A. DEVORE, 88, pastor for 40 years, St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 2. Survivors: wife, Myrtle; daughter, Marlene (Mrs. Ray) Richardson; son, Glen; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one brother.

REV. HARRISON W. DIEHL, 79, Jackson Township, Pa., Feb. 7. Survivors: son, David; daughter, Trudy (Mrs. Gary) Vandiver; two sisters; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

MERVYN L. GOINS, 60, former chaplain at Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Okla., Mar. 8. Survivors: wife, Joy; daughters, Debra, Brenda, three grandchildren.

NETTIE BAILEY GRAHAM, 80, Lewisburg, Tenn., Mar. 4. Survivors: husband, Joe; sons, Loyd, Mike, Mark; six grandsons; one granddaughter.

MADLYN LUNN HANCE, 78, Bethany, Okla., Mar. 9. Survivors: husband, Ray; son, Ray; daughters, Karen, Donna; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother.

LOU ANN (SWARTZ) HARVEY, Lansing, Mich., Feb. 7. Survivors: husband, Rev. Dale; three brothers; two sisters

ROBERT J. HOWARD, 51, Quincy,

Mass., Feb. 10. Survivors: wife, Lois; sons, Robert, Steven.

EDWARD M. HOWERTER, 88, AND **ZELDA C. HOWERTER**, 84, Rock Falls, Ill., Nov. 24 and Jan. 27, respectively. Survivors: daughters, Betty Hollis, Avis Blankenship; sons, Rolland, Roger; 15 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

PAUL W. KING, 67, Wilmington, Del., Feb. 26. Survivors: wife, Carol; sons, Paige, David, James; daughter, Kristie Laidler; 1 sister; 1 brother; 10 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

REV. BILL W. LEWIS, 67, pastor, Corydon, Ind., Dec. 26. Survivors: wife, Agnes; son, William Michael; daughters, Judy Rohlf, Kayleen Robertson; eight grandchildren.

LLOYD G. MITTEN, 87, Bourbonnais, Ill., retired teacher at Olivet Nazarene University, Feb. 24. Survivors: wife, Thelma; daughter, Mary Mercer; sons, Donald, Peter, Bruce, Julian; 11 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren.

NAOMI RUTH (KING) PARSONS, 69, Apollo Beach, Fla., Feb. 17. Survivors: sister, Florence Ferguson; brothers, Harvey, Paul.

GRACE ROLAND, 88, Waterloo, Ind., Feb. 20. Survivors: daughters, Betty Cather, Joy Cornelius; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

LESLIE SAWYER, 88, Backus, Minn., Jan. 12. Survivors: wife, Gladys; daughters, Charlene S., Mariam Blackburn, Bonnie Yungner; son, William; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

VERDA HICKMAN SELBY, 90, Lancaster, Ohio, Feb. 14. Survivors: daughters, Doris Watson, Mary Pedigo, Rilla Cain, Joy Shaw; sons, Austin, Oro, Bob, Don; stepchildren, Lorraine Nally, Charles Selby; 1 sister; 25 grandchildren; 54 great-grandchildren; 14 great-great-grandchildren.

PALMA SILVERNAIL, 77, Kokomo, Ind., Feb. 4. Survivors: Rev. Alfred; sons, David, Paul; daughter, Palma Elaine (Mrs. Roger) Robinson; one brother; one sister; three grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren.

ALBERTA H. SKITT, 90, Santa Cruz, Calif., Mar. 1. Survivors: 1 son; 2 daughters; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

MARY V. SNODGRASS, South Charleston, W.Va., Feb. 9. Survivors: husband, Elmer; daughter, Ella Lipscomb; son, Roy; eight grandchildren; one great-granddaughter.

R. FLETCHER TINK, 78, Watertown, N.Y., Feb. 12. Survivors: wife, Vernita; sons, Fletcher, Ian, Wesley; daughter, Bonnie; six grandchildren.

BILLY JOE WINTON, 71, Chelsea, Okla., Feb. 19. Survivors: wife, Wanda; stepsons, Kenneth Gadberry, Darrell Gadberry, Tyrone Gadberry; daughters, Debra Sue Borgstrom, Janna Kay Couch; 2 brothers; 1 sister; 21 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

MARIE TOY WELLS, 81, Louisville, Ky., Jan. 30. Survivors: husband, Rev. L. E. Wells; one daughter; two sons.

Births

to **STEVE AND CHARIDY BELL**, Minot AFB, N.Dak., a girl, Krista Ann, Aug. 4

to **AL AND ROBIN BENNETT**, Uniontown, Ohio, a girl, Morgan Danae, Sept. 16

to **RICK AND LENITA (EBY) COPPLE**, Noel, Mo., a boy, Jeremy Lee, Dec. 21

to **PAT AND ALLISON CUNNINGHAM**, Minot AFB, N.Dak., a boy, James Nolen, Sept. 23

to **DAVID AND VICKI (BELZER) EGGER**, Portland, Oreg., a boy, Aaron Christian, July 12

to **JERRY AND ROBYN (KIRBY) GINTER**, Norristown, Pa., a girl, Anna Katherine, Jan. 26

to **JEFF AND PATTI (FAUST) HARDING**, Olathe, Kans., a boy, Jeffrey Kiel, Dec. 20

to **NATE AND ELIZABETH (MICHAEL) HARDING**, Olathe, Kans., a boy, Riley Michael, Jan. 7

to **KEVIN AND HOLLY HOBBS**, Lowell, Mich., a boy, Benjamin Zion, Mar. 9

to **DAVE AND ROSE MOHLER**, Minot AFB, N.Dak., a girl, Ceiliah Rose, Sept. 22

to **RANDY AND PAM (BELZER) NEW-COMB**, San Francisco, Calif., a girl, Zoï Nicole, June 19

to **PAUL AND LISA SAGER**, Kenton, Ohio, a boy, Daniel Ethan, Oct. 24

to **MATTHEW AND MELISSA SLEEMAN**, Sunfield, Mich., a girl, Dallas Austin, Feb. 8

to **DAVID AND JENNEL (BROSHEARS) VOLKER**, Belleville, Ill., a boy, Jonathan Robert, Feb. 8

to **JOHN AND BECKY (BOADWAY) WESTON**, Grand Prairie, Tex., a girl, Natalie Nicole, Dec. 20

to **CHARLES AND MELANIE (WRIGHT) YOURDON**, Overland Park, Kans., a boy, Caleb Baxter, Mar. 3

Anniversaries

Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Ogden, Escondido, Calif., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Dec. 16. Dr. Ogden pastored a number of Nazarene churches and was district superintendent of the Nebraska District. The Ogdens have 5 children, 8 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

FOR THE RECORD Moving Ministers

RONALD L. BAKER, from Orangeburg (S.C.) Memorial, to Lebanon, Ind.

JOSEPH D. BARSTOW, to pastor, Custer City, Okla.

LARRY D. BENJAMIN, from Heppner, Oreg., to Wheatland, Wyo.

HAROLD F. BERRIAN, from student, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., to pastor, Dalton, Mass.

TIM BROWN, from Granbury, Tex., to Forest City, N.C.

CARROLL I. EDGE, to pastor, Pleasant Garden, N.C.

RONALD E. ELLINGTON, to pastor, Roswell (N.Mex.) First

DOUGLAS A. FISH, from Seneca Falls, N.Y., to Philadelphia (Pa.) First

RICK GARMON, from Ankeny, Iowa, to Auburn, Ind.

DWIGHT GLASCO, from Ropesville, Tex., to Pleasant Hill, Ark.

FRANK A. HOCKING, from Beaver, Okla., to Brownfield, Tex.

STEVEN HOLLEY, from Burlington (N.C.) First, to Chattanooga Valley, Ga.

F. GARTH HYDE, from Colorado Springs (Colo.) Indian Heights, to Los Angeles (Calif.) Westchester

PHILLIP R. KELLERMAN, to pastor, Bloomington (Ind.) Broadview

WALTER E. KING, from Centerville, Iowa, to Montrose, Iowa

CYRIL McKAY, from Mount Pleasant, Iowa, to Muscatine, Iowa

DONALD MEINER, from Lomax, Ill., to Gaston, Ind.

GARRETT MILLS, from district superintendent, Eastern Kentucky, to pastor, Seymour, Ind.

SCOTT W. OLSON, to pastor, Wiscasset, Maine

GERALD PARKER, from pastor, Auburn, Ind., to district-assigned, Northeastern Indiana

RICK A. PEARSON, from associate, Carrollton, Tex., to associate, Oskaloosa, Iowa

LOUIS PFLEGER, from Crawford, Nebr., to LeMars, Iowa

EDWARD T. RECKNER, from St. Petersburg, Pa., to Martinsburg, W.Va.

KIM L. RICHARDSON, from Framingham, Mass., to Beverly, Mass.

KEITH C. ROSS, from Odon, Ind., to Zion, Ind.

GEORGE "ED" STONER, from Lake Charles, La., to Clarence, Mo.

JOHN S. TADER, from Hickory Hills, Ill., to Jefferson City, Mo.

WILLIAM ULMET, from pastor, Rock Hill (S.C.) West Main, to evangelism

Recommendations

The following have been recommended by their respective district superintendents:

Richard J. Comer, evangelist/song evangelist, 311 S. Fourth St., Boonville, IN 47665, by M. V. Scutt, Southwest Indiana District

Paul R. Dickinson, evangelist/song evangelist, 611 Cadillac Shores, No. 101, Cadillac, MI 49601, by C. Neil Strait, Michigan District

Ken Pace, song evangelist, P.O. Box 655, Nashville, IN 47448, by M. V. Scutt, Southwest Indiana District

B. G. WIGGS, evangelist, 808 Phillips Ln., Seymour, IN 47274, Southwest Indiana District

Announcements

ELKHART (IND.) CHURCH will celebrate its 75th anniversary July 1-3. Former pastors, members, and friends are invited to attend or send greetings. For more information, write 2601 Benham Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517, or phone 219-293-1545.

SPRINGFIELD (ILL.) FIRST CHURCH will celebrate its 75th anniversary June 5. Dinner will follow the morning service. All former pastors, members, and friends are invited. For more information, write the church at 5200 S. 6th St. Rd., Springfield, IL 62703, or phone 217-529-6771.

BARBERTON (OHIO) FIRST CHURCH will celebrate its 70th anniversary Aug. 26-28. For information or a list of activities, contact the church at 216-825-9353 or 825-7010.

GREENSBORO (IND.) CHURCH will celebrate its 70th anniversary June 14-19 with services at 7 P.M. each evening and 9:30 A.M. and 3 P.M. Sunday. A fellowship meal will follow Sunday's morning worship service. All former pastors, members, and friends are invited. For more information,

write the church at P.O. Box 65, Greensboro, IN 47344, or phone 317-987-7248.

COLUMBIA (S.C.) FIRST CHURCH will celebrate its 60th anniversary May 29. Former members, pastors, and friends are invited. For more information, contact the church at 3120 Kay St., Columbia, SC 29210, or phone 803-772-2461.

SAN LUIS OBISPO (CALIF.) CHURCH will celebrate its 65th anniversary July 3. A barbecue dinner will be served following the morning service. All former pastors, members, and friends are invited to attend or send greetings. For more information, write the church at 3396 Johnson Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, or phone 805-543-3192.

FRANCISCO CHURCH (OAKLAND CITY, IND.) will celebrate its 65th anniversary June 19. For more information, phone 812-749-4292 or 753-5014.

HARRISON (ARK.) CHURCH will celebrate its 50th anniversary Aug. 27-28 beginning with a 4 P.M. barbeque and 7 P.M. celebration service Saturday and concluding with the 10 A.M. Sunday service. All former pastors, members, and friends are invited. For more information, contact the church at 217 E. South, Harrison, AR 72601.

TULY ROAD CHURCH (HAMILTON, OHIO) will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 26. A fellowship meal will follow the morning service. All former pastors, members, and friends are invited. For more information, contact the church at 1815 Tuly Rd.,

Hamilton, OH 45011, or phone 513-863-5573.

Moving Missionaries

CARNEY, REV. KENNETH and RUTH, Dominican Republic, Furlough Address: c/o Aaron Taylor, RR 1, Box 364, Grindstone Rd., Dickson, TN 37055

CHESSON, MISS MAREE, Papua New Guinea, Field Address: P.O. Box 456, Mt. Hagen, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

CORNETT, REV. LARRY and ELAINE, Kenya, Furlough Address: 1508 Dugger Dr., Nashville, TN 37206

CUNNINGHAM, DR. FLOYD, APNTS., Philippines, Field Address: Ortigas Avenue Extension, Kaytikling, Taytay, 1901 Rizal, PHILIPPINES

DREWS, MR. BOB, Africa Outreach Ministries, Field Address: c/o Africa Regional Office, P.O. Box 44, 1710 Florida, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GOULD, MISS BRENDA, Côte d'Ivoire, Furlough Address: 4295 Sidway, Columbus, OH 43227

HAYSE, REV. DAVID and SHELLY, Ukraine, Stateside Address: P.O. Box 361, Nashville, IN 47448

HURST, REV. GEORGE and MARGARET, Africa South Field East, Field Address: P.O. Box 106, 1710 Florida, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MOORE, REV. GARY and LaVONNA, Kenya, Stateside Address: 305A Bordeaux Ct. Chico, CA 95926

MILLER, MR. GEORGE and NANCY, Papua New Guinea, Field Address: P.O. Box 456, Mt. Hagen, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NIELSON, DR. JOHN and JANICE, APNTS., Philippines, Furlough Address: 8815 Eastern Ave., Kansas City, MO 64138

PATE, MISS JUANITA, Africa Nazarene Theological College, Stateside Address: 221 S. Small, Apt. 2N, Kankakee, IL 60901

PERKINS, REV. DOUG and ELAINE, Mozambique, Field Address: c/o Rev. Ken Walker, P.O. Box 1460, Manzini, SWAZILAND

SPRUNGER, REV. JOHN and ROSE, Swaziland, Field Address: P.O. Box 1460, Manzini, SWAZILAND

SYVRET, MISS ELLEN, Papua New Guinea, Field Address: P.O. Box 456, Mt. Hagen, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

THRASHER, MR. MARVIN and PATTI, Papua New Guinea, Field Address: P.O. Box 456, Mt. Hagen, WHP, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WATSON, MISS JAN, Papua New Guinea, Field Address: P.O. Box 456, Mt. Hagen, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS EMERITUS:

George Coulter, 9310 Canterbury, Leawood, KS 66206; V. H. Lewis, 1406 Cambridge, Olathe, KS 66062; Orville W. Jenkins, 2309 W. 103rd St., Leawood, KS 66206; William M. Greathouse, 1179 Rosewood Tr., Mount Juliet, TN 37122; Eugene L. Stowe, 5555 S. Emporia Cir., Englewood, CO 80111-3635; Raymond W. Hurn, 7810 W. 118th, Overland Park, KS 66210.

Notice

Vital Statistics are printed as soon as possible after they are received. When submitting information, please observe the following guidelines:

DEATHS: Please provide name, age, hometown, date of death, and the names of survivors and their relationship to the deceased.

BIRTHS: Please provide parents' names, hometown, name of child, sex of child, and date of birth.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please submit church announcements at least three months prior to the issue you want the notice to be printed in.

Please include your name and phone number when submitting information for Vital Statistics to:

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January 6-8, 1995
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*Sponsored by the Church Growth Division, Nazarene Theological Seminary,
and the Center for Lay Ministry*

Seattle Pacific University Selects President

E. Arthur "Woody" Self, 44, has been elected president of Seattle Pacific University, according to V. O. McDole, chairman, board of trustees.

A graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, Self moves to the position from Malone College in Canton, Ohio, where he has served as

president for the past five years. From 1975 to 1983, he served in various faculty positions at Northwest Nazarene College, Lansing Community College, and Spring Arbor College.

Seattle Pacific University is affiliated with the Free Methodist Church.

Conference for Evangelists Scheduled

The Church of the Nazarene is joining with nearly 40 other denominations to sponsor NACIE '94, the North American Conference for Itinerant Evangelists. The conference, cosponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, will be held June 28 to July 1, in Louisville, Ky.

"I believe this is a crucial time in the history of North America and the world to do the work of an evangelist," Graham said. "NACIE '94 is a unique conference designed to equip, encourage, and strengthen us for that task."


The conference will bring together full-time preaching itinerant evangelists, preparation personnel, and seminary and Bible school students who plan to enter the evangelistic ministry.

Nazarene evangelist Chuck Millhuff will conduct a workshop on "The Evangelist's Ministry in a Single Church Setting." Other workshops will focus on such topics as preparation for an evangelistic event, prayer, publicity, friendship outreach, street preaching, and financial management.

Billy Graham will speak in one of the plenary sessions.

"This will be one of the most significant conferences of its type ever held on American soil," said Bill Sullivan, Church Growth division director and member of the NACIE '94 executive committee.

For more information about the conference, contact Evangelism Ministries at 1-800-821-2154.



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NAE Holds Annual Convention in Dallas

The 52nd annual convention of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) was held Mar. 6-8 in Dallas, Tex. The theme of the three-day gathering was "God's Truth Transforms." The convention included several plenary sessions, luncheons, and affiliate meetings.

Don Argue, president of North Central Bible College and outgoing president of the NAE, passed the gavel to the incoming president, David Rambo, during the closing banquet of the convention. Rambo is president of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Some of the NAE affiliates that met during the convention included: the Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies, World Relief, National Christian Education Commission, and the National Religious Broadcasters.

In related news, Billy A. Melvin has resigned as executive director of the NAE after 28 years in the association's top post. Melvin's resignation will be effective Mar. 31, 1995.

Under Melvin's leadership, the NAE has grown by 70 percent and currently represents some 50,000 local churches from 75 denominations. The broad network of evangelicals has become a major voice in the American religious scene and is the largest representation of evangelical denominations, churches, and Christian organizations in the country.

A search committee has been named to find a replacement for Melvin. Once elected, the new leader will assume office immediately following the association's 53rd annual convention Mar. 5-7, 1995.

Garage Sale!

JERRY AND LINDA COHAGAN



Jerry Cohagan is one half of the comedy/drama duo, *Hicks and Cohagan*. Lynda is a high school English teacher in Olathe, Kans.

THIS PAST SUMMER we held the obligatory GARAGE SALE! Here in the Midwest, the garage sale is a fascinating phenomenon. You spend a week cleaning out the basement, going through closets and cupboards, pulling out everything you no longer use or want, and instead of throwing it in the trash, you stick price tags on it, and people actually buy it! It's amazing.

Who would have guessed that someone would actually buy a set of 12 glasses inscribed with *Junior-Senior Banquet, 1985, Point Loma College*? Or that a lady would offer us a buck for a broken croquet ball? Or that some teenage girl would still buy a phone after we told her that the No. 3 sticks and the No. 0 didn't work at all. "That's OK. It's the perfect color for my room."

It was interesting to watch each other during the sale itself. Jerry became "Slick Sam the Slimy Salesman." Jerry would saunter around proffering advice on our customers' needs: "Hi there, sir! Watch a lot of TV, do you? Me too. And the best way to get in some exercise while watching is this little baby . . . that's

right, the Thighmaster! Have a seat and give her a squeeze." Or to the mother of four: "I have a feeling those boys would just love to have a Ping-Pong table, they could play doubles for hours. And a great baby-sitting tool too! Just lock 'em down in the basement with some Gatorade, and they won't come up until they're 18."

Lynda, on the other hand, was the righteous moralist, subconsciously not wanting to sell a thing: "You might want to find some sleepers a little bigger. Those only fit my kids for six weeks." Or, "You know, we had to actually take this Ping-Pong table apart to get it through our door." Or, "Did you see that the Thighmaster is cracked on one side? Be careful, it pinches."

Chase and Tori enjoyed the event as well. Chase, who is now fascinated with pens, kept scribbling new price tags while Tori kept picking the prices off and sticking them on herself. At one point she was priced at a mere 50 cents. We had no serious inquiries.

And although there were plenty of laughs to be had as we went through our junk and passed it on to be someone else's junk for a nominal fee (we didn't purchase anything for a week without paying for it in quarters and dimes), there were also some bitter-sweet moments. We said good-bye to the infant stage of our kids as Jerry helped load the changing table and walker into someone else's van, as Lynda watched ladies pick over Onesies and socks so tiny that they'd only fit Chase's thumb now, as Mom and Dad watched a mother-to-be buy Tori's infant carseat. It seemed only

yesterday that we brought her home from the hospital in it.

In cleaning out the basement, Jerry accumulated a pretty good-sized box piled with old trophies—mainly from college speech tournaments—and a medal Lynda had received for finishing a 10K run. Knowing that no one was going to pay even a quarter for a box of someone else's trophies, Jerry toted them to the curb on trash day, tossing over his shoulder, "Let's throw them out. Our lives are over; we've got to make room for the kids." Lynda was taken aback. The statement seemed so casual and off-hand.

But as we packed away for safe-keeping more than one box of our new trophies: the dress Tori wore on her first day at church, Easter Sunday; the little suit Chase was baptized in; black patent leather shoes, size 0, Chase's first Sunday School "project"—a blue handprint on yellow construction paper, we realized that our lives are far from over. In fact, in many ways they are just beginning. They've just been dramatically rearranged. And the shape and size of our trophies, the measure of our accomplishments, the form of our memories will never be the same.

Garage sales prove the old adage

The shape and size of our trophies will never be the same.

that one man's junk is another man's treasure. But Jesus' words ring even truer: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Our treasure is now wrapped up in two children. And a first-place trophy in a speech tournament seems insignificant next to the first words spoken by an infant son. And a medal for a 10K run pales next to the first steps taken by a sister trying to keep up.

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Notes from an editor's journal
by Mark Graham, Managing Editor

Thanks, Mom!

I spent yesterday afternoon browsing through birthday cards for my dad. On the display, just across the aisle, were the Mother's Day cards. My heart grew sad. I reached out and touched a pretty one, opened it and read. Momma would have liked it and probably would have cried. We laid her to rest a few weeks ago, just days short of her 81st birthday. Death was kind—pneumonia. She died in her sleep.

You think you will be ready for the death of an elderly loved one, but I now realize that you are never prepared for the death of a parent—especially your mother.

My twin brother, Michael, wrote a tribute to her that was better than anything I could have said or written. I offer it this month as a tribute, not only to our mother, but to faithful Christian mothers everywhere.

Anyone who knew Nettie Graham knew she was an easy person to love, partly because she looked to others' needs before her own, and, also, because she was a person who, above all, loved God and loved people.

Being largely self-educated, she never seemed to be interested in politics, fashion, or societal correctness, nor did she strive to achieve fortune or fame. She was never pretentious. She seemed to know early-on what her role in life would be, and that was, simply, to be a wife and mother.

And what a wife and mother she was! She was the wife of our dad for almost 50 years, in a relationship that taught their children that love, decency, and godly living were the important things in life.

She was the old-fashioned kind of mother—who stayed up all night by her child's bedside when he was coughing or feverish—the kind who cooked like an Italian chef—the kind who prayed with her children each morning before they left for school.

On top of all this, she was creative—making quilts with seemingly odd color combinations that looked wonderful when

they were all put together.

But the thing she was best at was Love! She personified love, always giving, never asking in return. Hers was a simple life with a simple motto: Love God, love your neighbor, and treat others the way you would want to be treated.

My brother, Loyd, speaking about our mother, penned these words in a letter to me shortly before her death:

"She still plays the role of maturity for us. She is mature, but inside lives the wonder and kindness of a tender youth. We won't get another one. What we have now is likely beyond our reckoning."

That was Momma. An adult with the heart of a trusting child. And Loyd is right, we won't get another one, because God knew one was enough. One who gave her children the richest gift that anyone could ever hope for, but so few ever realize—the gift of unselfish, unconditional love.

Michael Graham

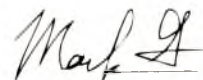
As I went through my mother's Bible, I found a note she had cut from a letter I sent her last year. It read:

I wish I could be with you on Mother's Day. You are the absolute best mother anyone could ever have. You taught us all to love God, to mind those in authority over us, and to treat people the way we want to be treated. Those are lessons that we are now trying to teach Joey. I hope they sink in.

Got to go for now. Hope you have a great Mother's Day. I love you! Mark.

Next to my closing, in Momma's handwriting, were the words: "I love you too, Mark."

May God bless all of you dear mothers—those of you whose kids are gone from the nest and those of you who currently have a houseful of young folks—for giving us ornerly, mischievous children the richest gift.



Smee Appointed to Caribbean Region

John Smee, 50, Mission Services director, has been appointed Caribbean regional director, according to General Superintendent James H. Diehl. Smee's election by the Board of General Superintendents was ratified in a mail ballot by the General Board.



Smee begins his new assignment immediately. He will continue to serve as Mission Services director until a replacement is found.

James Hudson served as Caribbean regional director until his retirement in February 1993 after more than 40 years of missionary service. Missionary Juan Vazquez Pla has served as interim coordinator of the region for the past year.

Smee has served as Mis-

sion Services director for the past 13 years. Prior to this, Smee and his wife, Mary Alice, served as missionaries in Jamaica. Smee also pastored in San Diego and Riverside, Calif.

Smee is a graduate of Point Loma Nazarene College and Nazarene Theological Seminary. He is a member of the board of directors of the Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies. He also serves as a member of the Kansas City International Relations Council.

The Smees have two children, Lauren and Greg. Mrs. Smee has served for several years as NWMS president for the Kansas City District and as a member of the General NWMS Council.

Henecke Called to Nashville First

Gary Allen Henecke, 51, has accepted the call to serve as senior pastor of Nashville, Tenn., First Church of the Nazarene. Henecke was elected by a congregational vote, Mar. 27. With 528 ballots cast, the vote was 501 yes and 27 no, according to Talmadge Johnson, Tennessee district superintendent.



Henecke moves to the post following 12 years as senior pastor of Portland, Oreg., First Church. Prior to this, he was director of the Department of Youth Ministries at Nazarene Headquarters from 1978 to 1981. Before this, he

pastored Oskaloosa, Iowa, First Church (1973-78) and North Hills Church of the Nazarene, Port Huron, Mich. (1969-73).

Henecke holds a B.A. from Olivet Nazarene University and an M.A. from Western Evangelical Seminary. Western Evangelical Seminary bestowed the doctor of divinity degree on him in 1992.

Henecke began his new assignment May 1.

He replaces Stan Toler, who resigned in January following two-and-a-half years at Nashville First Church.

Nazarene Church/Homes Damaged in Deadly Storm

No Nazarenes are known to have been killed or injured in the deadly storms that struck the Southeast, Sunday, Mar. 27, according to J. V. Morsch, Southeast regional director, Nazarene Disaster Response. Tornadoes touched down in Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas, killing more than 40 persons and causing millions of dollars in damage to buildings and property.

Most of the destruction occurred in the Piedmont, Ala., area where tornadoes destroyed a Methodist church, killing more than 20 persons. Services were in progress at Piedmont Church of the Nazarene when the tornado struck, but the building was not damaged, according to David Ingram,

pastor. However, the church parsonage suffered extensive damage.

In addition, the home of Ingram's son was demolished, while the homes of his sister-in-law and daughter-in-law were damaged. His daughter-in-law and her two children were at home during the storm. They hid under mattresses and escaped injury.

Starkville, Miss., Church of the Nazarene suffered damage to its building, according to L. Wayne Quinn, Mississippi district superintendent. Volunteers and donations from the community totaling \$10,000 should be sufficient to repair the damage and improve the structure, Quinn said.

SNU Lady Redskins Win National Championship

The Lady Redskins of Southern Nazarene University won the NAIA national basketball championship Mar. 22 in Jackson, Tenn. SNU beat David Lipscomb University of Nashville, 97-74, to capture its second national title in five years.

SNU entered the NAIA Women's Division I National Tournament as the top seed. It was the only undefeated team in the tournament and, with a record of 34-0, remains the only undefeated women's team in the nation.

Three SNU players were named to the NAIA All-Tournament team, including JoAnna Bailey, senior guard; Cherilyn Morris, junior guard; and Astou Ndiaye, freshman center. Bailey was named tournament most valuable player. Morris received

the tournament hustle award.

The Lady Redskins were welcomed home in Bethany, Okla., Mar. 23, with a police escort to the SNU campus, according to Bobby Martin, SNU athletic director. A victory celebration was held in Broadhurst Gymnasium. Local, civic, and university officials offered congratulations.

SNU is the second Nazarene women's basketball team to win a national championship this year. Mount Vernon Nazarene College won the National Christian College Athletic Association Women's National Tournament in Ann Arbor, Mich., Mar. 5. MVNC defeated MidAmerica Nazarene College 69-63 in the finals to capture the national title.

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The Legacy of the Lap

by V. Gilbert Beers

“I still have memories of Mom’s lap as a cathedral of sorts—a sanctuary, a refuge, a center of early childhood education.”



My mother’s lap wasn’t much to command the world’s attention. It was little more than a rumpled bit of homemade dress on a farm wife. Much of the time it carried the scents of the cow barn or the chicken house.

But I still have memories of Mom’s lap as a cathedral of sorts—a sanctuary, a refuge, a center of early childhood education. To a little boy like me, it was about the most important place in the world, because when I was there, I was the most important person in the world, at least to Mom.

Mom’s lap was wonderful because it was that special place where I absorbed the warmth of Mom’s presence and the power of her personhood. Since there was no preschool for me to attend, much of the fabric of my preschool education was woven on Mom’s lap.

Struggling to survive on a post-depression Illinois grain farm, we could not afford to buy children’s books. But my mother plopped her little boy on her lap and read from Longfellow, Lowell, Bryant, and a host of other great poets. I could have sat on the floor, or on a chair across the room, but it would not have been the same. Mom read to me as I sat on her lap.

On Mom’s lap my boyish tears were wiped away. My childhood hurts and disappointments melted away with her simple hugs. And on her lap I shared my joys and new discoveries with her.

My mother went to be with Jesus more than a decade ago. But she left behind the “legacy of the lap.” All five of our children spent untold hours on my lap and on the lap of my wife, Arlie. Our children are “lapping” their children—singing, reading, cuddling, and sharing the warmth of their presence and personhood. I’m confident that their children will continue the legacy. ■

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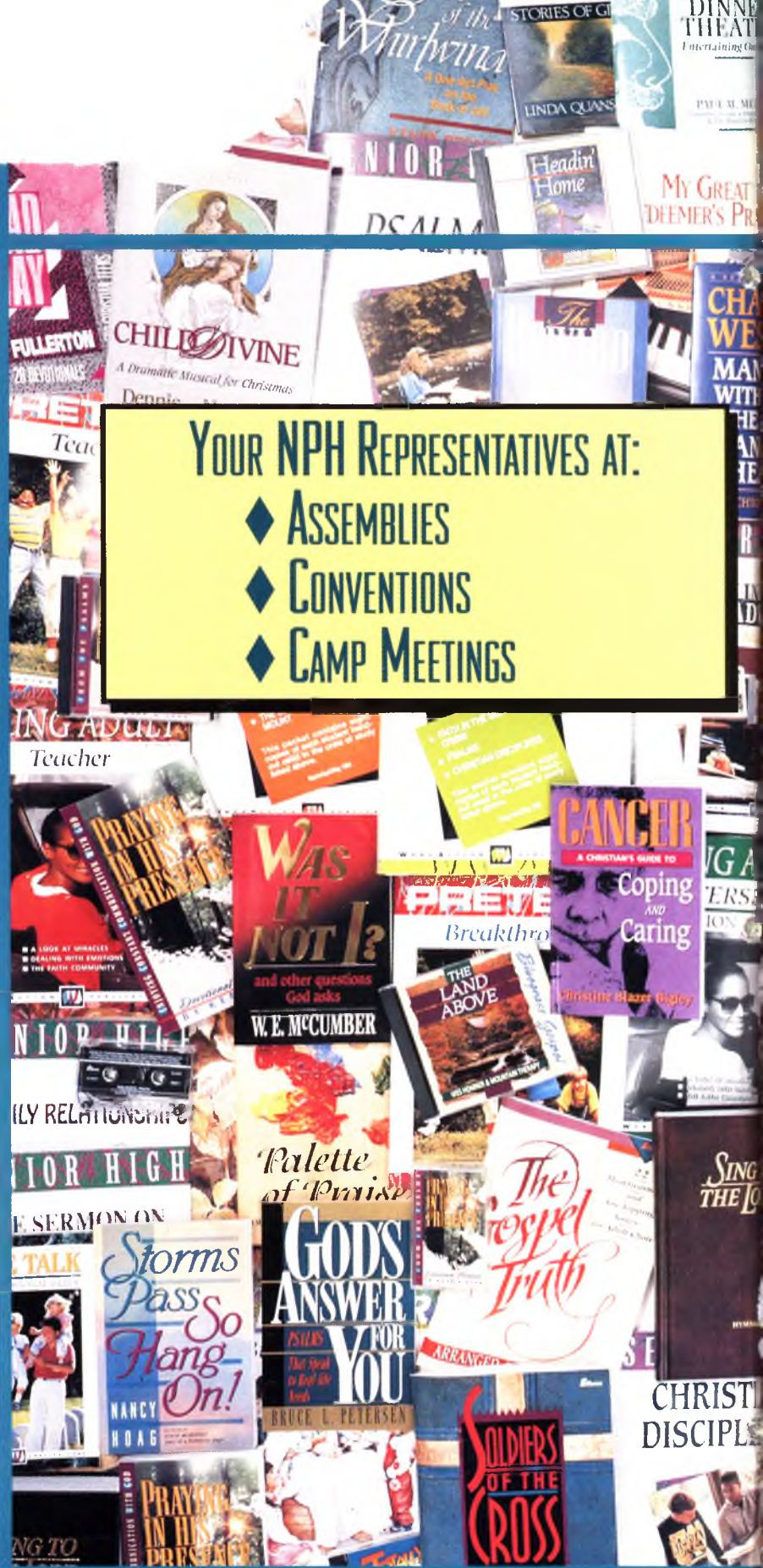


Dr. Ron Wilson

Rev. Gary Daud Linda Gabourel	Not Pictured: Rev. Paul Myers Dr. George Rice
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