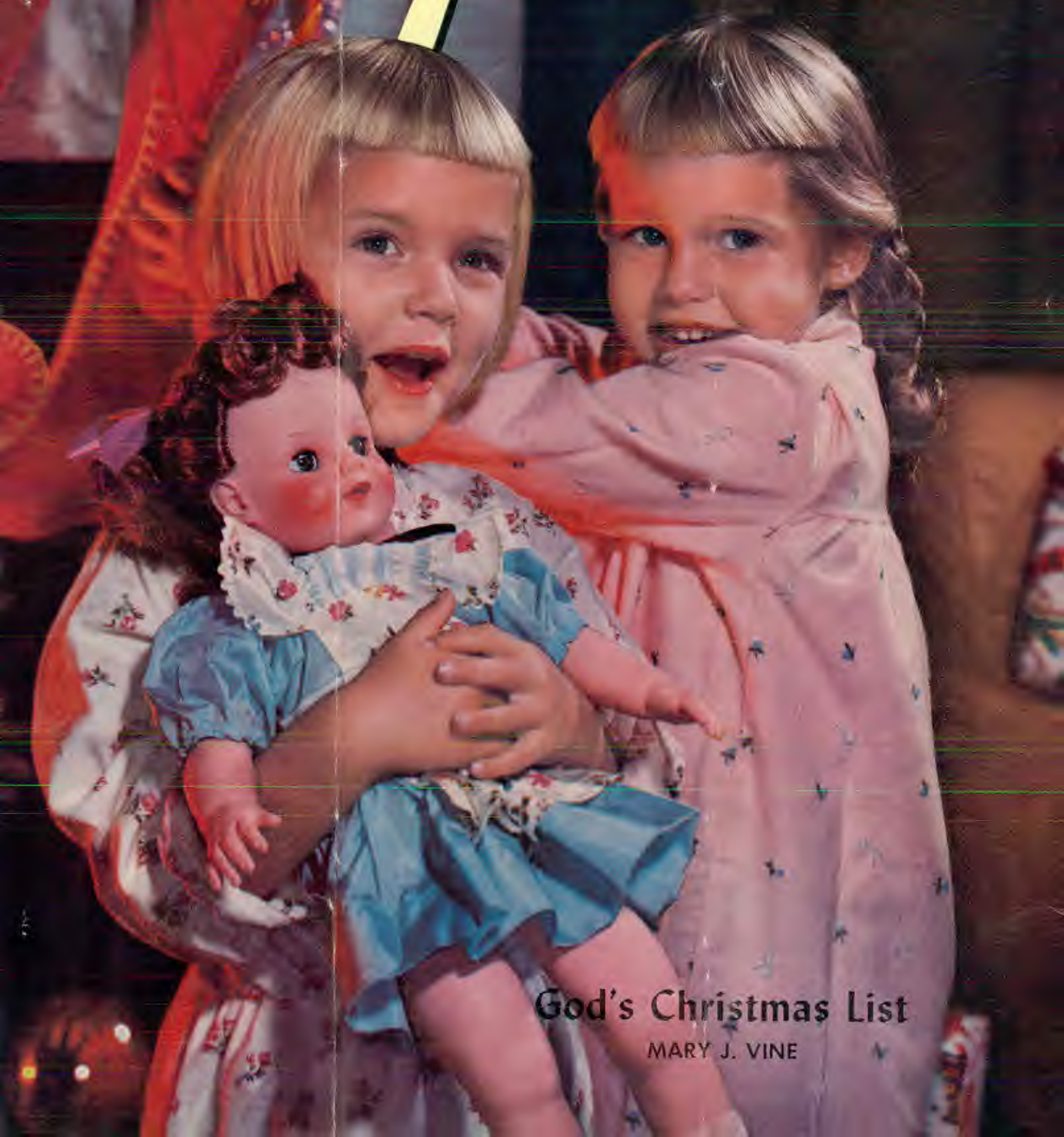


DECEMBER, 1958 35c

Signs

OF THE TIMES



God's Christmas List

MARY J. VINE



THE CHRISTMAS STAR

by EDITH L. GIBSON

Over dreary mountain ranges,
Down across the wind-swept sands,
Came the travel-wearied Wise Men
From the distant eastern lands.
Sought they gold or hidden treasure
That they journeyed from afar?
Nay, but from the purple dawning
They did follow thus—a star.

Now it shone above the Christ child—
Wise Men entered, knelt within.
Hark! The angel chorus singing,
"Peace on earth, good will to men."
Gifts unto that lowly altar
Brought those Wise Men from afar,
They who through the years had waited
For the coming of the Star.

Light that shone upon Judea
Is the travelers' beacon still;
Yet again the heavenly anthem
Is a message of good will.
Still the wise of all the ages
Come to worship from afar;
Still they bow in adoration
At the shining of the Star.

In This Issue...

With six children and some grandchildren, our distinguished contributor, Mary J. Vine, has a Christmas problem all her own. On page 8 she writes about it in her characteristically novel fashion under the title, "God's Christmas List."

Also appropriate for this happy season is "The Name Above Every Name" on page 18, and "Where Is Heaven?" by Leonard C. Lee, on page 12. In this article Mr. Lee discusses the old but ever fascinating question, Where will the righteous spend eternity? Will it be on a little pink cloud, playing a golden harp? Will it be on another planet? Or will it be right here on this earth?

An unusual article will be found on page 14 where Donald A. Webster tells of his recent interview with Elsa Luukkanen, the outstanding woman evangelist of Finland. The story of how she won five hundred souls for Christ will be read by many with the deepest interest.

The work of a new contributor will be found on page 23, where Mary Cochrane writes about "First Waking Thoughts."

Those who have been following the excellent series on Law and Grace by Richard Lewis will find another informative article from his pen on page 20, entitled "Grace and the Sabbath."

Looking forward to our next issue, which will be the first of our 1959 volume, we are happy to announce some outstanding contributions. Of special note is "Seven Thousand Miles With God," by Captain M. L. Boling, who tells, in a personal interview, of his record flight from Manila, Philippines, to Pendleton, Oregon. Another interview article will be "From Mutineers' Hideout to Pacific Paradise," which has been prepared by Donald A. Webster in collaboration with Parkin Christian, a direct descendent of one of the mutineers of the "Bounty." Mary J. Vine will deal with the question, "Why Teen-Agers Go Wrong," and George McCready Price will discuss "Genesis and Geology." Dr. S. H. Horn will commence a series of articles entitled "Visiting Ancient Persia," and R. H. Libby will continue his Bible studies with "God's Guidebook for the New Year."

Rates in U.S.A. and its possessions, Canada, Mexico, and Pan-American Union:

One-year subscription \$3.50
Single copy35
To other countries, taking extra postage:
One-year subscription 3.90

SIGNS

OF THE TIMES

The World's Prophetic Monthly

A Magazine of Christian Living, Presenting
the Bible as the Word of God and Jesus
Christ as Man's Redeemer and Coming King

EDITOR ARTHUR S. MAXWELL

ASSISTANT EDITOR Charles D. Utt

ART DIRECTOR Robert E. Kutsch

CIRCULATION MANAGER H. K. Christman

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: Karl Abrahamsen, Norway; J. J. Aitken, Montevideo, Uruguay; G. J. Appel, Beirut, Lebanon; B. B. Beach, Florence, Italy; W. L. Emmerson, London, England; W. S. Jensen, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; C. W. Lee, Seoul, Korea; A. N. Nelson, Tokyo, Japan; R. C. Piper, Warburton, Australia; J. R. Spangler, Singapore.

Volume 85, Number 12, December, 1958

CONTENTS

EDITORIALS

No Peace Yet	5
Prayers for the Dead	6
"Religion-in-General"	7

ARTICLES

God's Christmas List	Mary J. Vine	8
Sound an Alarm!	Howard A. Welklin	10
Where Is Heaven?	Leonard C. Lee	12
She Won 500 for Christ	Donald A. Webster	14
Home Influences	Ellen G. White	17
The Name Above Every Name	Arthur S. Maxwell	18
Grace and the Sabbath	Richard Lewis	20
First Waking Thoughts	Mary Cochrane	23
Solving Your Nervous Problems	Clifford B. Anderson, M.D.	26
Ephesians: Unity in Christ	Taylor G. Bunch	29
Dead Trees	Sanford T. Whitman	34

POEMS

The Christmas Star	Edith L. Gibson	2
I'll Go to Bethlehem	Helen Rogers Smith	9
My Burdens Teach of Him	Mark Bullock	22
Star of Hope	Pearl Waggoner Howard	30

REGULAR FEATURES

Our World Today		4
Letters		7
Alone With Your Bible	Raymond H. Libby	16
Signs Counsel Corner	William A. Fagal	24
I Have a Question, Doctor—	"Your Radio Doctor"	28
Your Bible Questions Answered	Charles D. Utt	32

The SIGNS OF THE TIMES is printed and published monthly (twelve issues a year) by the Pacific Press Publishing Association at 1350 Villa Street, Mountain View, California, U.S.A. Second-class mail privileges authorized at Mountain View, California. Allow thirty days in requesting change of address; give both old and new addresses. Only paid-in-advance subscriptions entered. Member of Associated Church Press and Religious News Service. Copyright, 1958, by Pacific Press Publishing Association.



O U R W O R L D T O D A Y

Australian Churches Seek to Help Aborigines

Australian churches observe an annual National Aborigines Day to call attention to the spiritual needs of the native population and to form plans for carrying the gospel to them. When Australia was settled in 1788, there were about 300,000 aborigines. Now there are only 74,000, half of them of mixed blood. Comparatively few still exist in their primitive state. Two obstacles to the advance of the gospel among them are gambling and a "terrible thirst for drink."

School Population in Israel

Enrollment in the schools of Israel for the past year were as follows: kindergarten, 46,000; elementary schools, 350,000; secondary schools, 27,000. Figures released for the Hebrew University in Jerusalem show that during the last academic year 4,014 graduate and undergraduate students and 359 research students have been in attendance.

Lebanon's President is Maronite Rite Catholic

General Fuad Chehab, Lebanon's new president, is a Maronite Rite Catholic, as is his predecessor, Camille Chamoun. By agreement in the half-Moslem, half-Christian country of 1,500,000 population, the president is a Christian and the premier a Moslem.

Protestants Establish Audio-Visual Center in Brazil

At Campinas, Brazil, there was recently dedicated a \$250,000 Evangelical Audio-Visual Center. It is supported by 21 Protestant church groups in Brazil and the United States. Its equipment includes facilities for recording religious radio programs, making and distributing records, filmstrips, and movies, and printing audio-visual aid materials.

Protestants in Brazil numbered 1,741,430 at the last official count. About 93 per cent of the country's 61,000,000 population are Roman Catholics.

Church Membership Continues Upward

Church membership in the United States reached a new high of 104,189,678 in 1957, a gain of 964,724 over 1956. This means that 61 per cent of Americans of all ages are members of a church or synagogue.

The Yearbook of American Churches for 1959, published by the National Council of Churches, gives the following affiliation figures: 59,823,777 Protestants; 35,846,477 Roman Catholics; 5,500,000 Jews; 2,540,446 Eastern Orthodox; and 273,692 Old Catholics and Polish National Catholics. The Moslems, who numbered 20,000 in 1956, did not report for 1957.

Sunday or Sabbath school enrollment was 40,359,772. Fifty-two Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches reported contributions for 1957 totaling \$2,043,741,555, or \$56.74 per capita.

Cigarette Consumption Rises

The United States Department of Agriculture reports that 409 billion cigarettes were smoked in 1957, an increase of 4.1 per cent over 1956.

Rising Educational Level

In 1957 more than 40 per cent of the population of the United States at ages 25 and above had at least a high-school education, compared with only 25 per cent in 1940, states the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company *Statistical Bulletin*.

American Priest Catalogues Saints

According to Father Broderick, an American Jesuit priest who recently completed a catalogue of all the saints canonized by the popes, 283 persons, including 56 women, have been elevated to sainthood. At the head of the list is Ulrich, archbishop of Augsburg, Germany, who was canonized by Pope John XV in 993. Italy has furnished the largest number of saints, 95, and France is second with 55.

Gideons Plan to Supply Bible Needs

At their recent national convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the Gideons were urged to plan for the distribution of 3,600,000 Bibles during the 1958-59 fiscal year. During the last fifty years the organization has distributed 38,000,000 Bibles, with the result that the Scriptures have become "an accepted part of the furnishings of any hotel or motel."

New Archaeological Finds in Israel

The government of Israel reports extensive excavations at ancient Hazor, a city near the Sea of Galilee in northern Palestine. Described as "the head of all those kingdoms" in Joshua 11:10, 11, it was destroyed by Joshua and later rebuilt by Solomon. 1 Kings 9:15. Excavations reveal that there were six layers, representing consecutive civilizations, and that four citadels were built at the same site, one on top of the other. In an unearthed temple were found an incense altar and other ritual objects. Other discoveries were stables of Solomon and rocklike catacombs.

At Azor, near Tel-Aviv, digging has brought to light three burial grounds, where pottery, metal objects, and jewelry were found in almost every tomb. Some of the tombs date from the early Philistine period.

the flight of **TIME**



NO PEACE YET

AS CHRISTMAS returns it brings the usual avalanche of cards, carols, presents and parties—everything, in fact, except peace on earth, good will to men.

True, the beautiful words festoon department stores, whisky advertisements, and Christmas pastry, but the ideal they suggest seems farther away than ever.

Regrettably there seems to be more hatred, bitterness, and violence in the world today than there was when we went through the same routine a year ago.

For twelve months mankind has been moving "from brink to brink," much of the time perched perilously on the edge of the yawning precipice of World War III. Sometimes this ultimate tragedy has seemed but hours away.

Oscillating from Near East to Far East and back again, troublemakers have kept the world in constant turmoil. Nor a month has passed without a new alarm sounding in some part of the globe.

On December 25 we shall all be wishing each other "Merry Christmas," but the greeting will have a hollow sound, for we know how close we are to the disaster we all fear.

Should we then give up hoping for universal peace and abandon ourselves to despair? By no means. Then would we be indeed "of all men most miserable."

Improbable as it may seem at the moment, a day will dawn when "the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37:11.

This is the consistent testimony of Holy Scripture. Like someone crying "Courage!" in the dark, it bids us have faith that better times will come; that strife, violence, cruelty, suffering, will not continue forever; that evil will be brought to an end; and that ultimately "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14.

Nor are we left in any doubt as to how this is going to come about. It will not result from the deliberations of the United Nations, or from a new international peace parley, or from a summit conference, or even from the preaching of the gospel. It will be a divinely imposed solution through the personal intervention of God. As Peter told his generation long ago, God will "send Jesus Christ: . . . whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things." Acts 3:20, 21.

In other words, Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth to complete the work of redemption He began nineteen centuries ago. "This same Jesus" (Acts 1:11) will return as "King of kings, and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16) and assume the leadership of mankind.



(Upper) In a red-and-white-striped balloon, Air Force Captain Grover J. D. Schock is shown making preparations for a 20-mile-high flight over Saint Paul, Minnesota. (Lower) Safe in its atom-age "garage," an underground base somewhere along the coastline of Sweden, a Royal navy ship rides at its mooring. The largest of the moorings would hold an entire block of five-story buildings.

UNITED PRESS PHOTOS

Before He was born in Bethlehem, His mother was told by Gabriel, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:32, 33.

Mary hid these words in her heart and wondered what they might mean. As the years passed her hopes rose and fell, finally being dashed completely as she saw her Son nailed to a cross and dying a criminal's death.

Yet Gabriel did not lie. Nor did he err when he told the shepherds: "Unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Nor was there any mistake when the angels drew nigh the stable in Bethlehem and filled the countryside with their songs of rejoicing as they cried, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Because the Babe of Bethlehem was indeed the Son of God, the "Son of the Highest" and "Christ the Lord," we may rest assured that His glorious plan to bring peace and righteousness to this earth will not fail.

And because He died on Calvary, rose again from the dead, ascended to heaven, and sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3) we may know for certain that He will come again to complete the task to which He set His hand in the long ago. "He shall not fail

nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth." Isaiah 42:4.

Then will be fulfilled that glorious prediction, "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

"Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever." Isaiah 9:6, 7.

So while there is no peace yet, it is surely coming. Jesus will bring it with Him. And it will embrace all mankind and the whole wide world. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord." Isaiah 65:25.

Will it really happen? Never fear. "The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:7.

A. S. M.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

"SHOULD Protestants Pray for the Dead?" was the question raised in the July number of *The United Church Observer*, the official organ of the United Church of Canada. Answers were given by seven of the church's ministers, four of them saying Yes and three saying No.

One who answered Yes believes that because our loved ones who have died are capable of continued growth, we should pray for them. Another believes that praying for the dead will help those who pray to maintain their own belief in eternal life and help them "to live as those who have this hope." One cites the passage in the apocryphal book of 2 Maccabees which the Roman Catholic Church uses in support of its practice of praying for the dead: "And making a gathering, he sent twelve thousand drachms of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead, thinking well and religiously concerning the resurrection, (for if he had not hoped that they that were slain should rise again, it would have seemed superfluous and vain to pray for the dead)." 2 Maccabees 12:43, 44, Douay Version.

One who answered No said, "My comment would be that no intercessory prayer I might address to the throne of God would affect His 'righteous and merciful judgment.'"

The editor of *The Observer*, in introducing the discussion, says, "There are some who say that such prayers on our part would be opening the door to false doctrines renounced by the reformers." One Roman Catholic writer, the Rev. John O'Brien, writes: "Without a Purgatory, prayers for the dead would be meaningless." One of the United Church ministers who answered No also recognized that prayers for the dead logically call for "a doctrine of purgatory which," he rightly says, "has no Scriptural basis."

Prayers for the dead and purgatory are two of the many errors growing out of the doctrine of the soul's natural immortality. Other errors that have their roots there are re-incarnation, pre-existence, eternal torment, and spiritism, with its pretended communication with the dead; but if one accepts the Bible teaching respecting the nature of man and his condition in death, he will not be misled by such beliefs.



U.P.I. PHOTO

Soviet bloc nuclear scientists (left) and Western scientists (right) are seated opposite each other at the atomic disarmament technical conference which was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in July.

The Scriptures do not teach that one can change his relation to God after death, either by anything he can do or that someone else can do for him, but rather that all men will be judged according to the way they have lived. Says the apostle Paul: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Since in death there is no remembrance of God and the thoughts of the dead are perished (Psalm 6:5; 146:4), there can be no "continued growth" after death. Nor is any necessary. For if one's sins are cleansed by the blood of Christ and his life is hid with Christ in God, he will not be found wanting in the judgment day. C. D. U.

"RELIGION-IN-GENERAL"

THOUGH religion in America is more popular than ever before, many thoughtful religious leaders are asking whether the statistics showing church membership, Sunday-school enrollment, and church building at an all-time high justify a feeling of complacency.*

This fall a leading Protestant journal, *The Christian Century*, began a series of articles by the associate editor, Martin E. Marty, that raises serious questions. The religion that America is experiencing, the writer says, is not a true religious revival and commitment to Christian beliefs formerly held to be essential, but the emergence of a "new religion," a diluted Protestantism which has become merely "religion-in-general."

The new religion calls for little more than "faith in God," which the writer defines as a "comfortable familiarity" with a god who is expected to bless and prosper our plans and purposes rather than a seeking to know God's will and bringing our plans and purposes into harmony with it.

Other religious leaders are deeply concerned about the shallowness of the current "casual Christianity." Dr. Elton Trueblood, writing on "Our Greatest Unevangelized Field—the Church," in the *Christian Herald*, says, "Our main mission field today, so far as America is concerned, is within the church membership itself," and he makes a strong plea for earnest work in behalf of "those who, though claiming or claimed by the churches, are in fact uncommitted."

Among other signs of the last days is a religious vogue—"a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"—predicted by the apostle Paul. 2 Timothy 3:5. A "form of godliness" may lead to self-satisfaction, but it will not transform the life. There is danger that such "religion-in-general" will make people think they have a saving connection with Christ that they do not have.

We would not by any means disparage the trend toward religion and the church. Many of those now flocking to the churches are seeking blindly for something that will satisfy their spiritual hunger. Ministers have a wonderful opportunity to bring nominal church members to an understanding of their need of conversion and lead them to a commitment to Christ that will transform their lives. If in the church they find Him, great good can result from the present interest in religion. C. D. U.

* The latest church membership figures available are given on page 4 of this issue.

LETTERS

ON AND ON

DEAR SIR:

It was a wonderful gesture on the part of some kind friend to send a subscription for the *Signs of the Times* to me. When I have finished reading it, I give it to a friend who has four boarders and they all read it. Then it goes to another neighbor, and I don't know where it goes from there. I am not an Adventist but my church doesn't have a magazine to compare with yours. G. D.

Edwall, Washington.

GIFT APPRECIATED

DEAR SIR:

With pleasure I enclose check for renewal of my subscription. For two years I have been receiving the *Signs of the Times* as a gift from some unidentified friend. I have never appreciated an anonymous gift as much as this one, and am not willing to risk being without it in the future. I particularly enjoy the well-written articles on the Creation and the current studies of geology as interpreted by Scripture. L. P. V.

Coupeville, Washington.

BEST YET

DEAR SIR:

I surely appreciate the *Signs of the Times*, and feel it is the best magazine I have ever read. I am taking the Bible Correspondence Course. I am not a Seventh-day Adventist, but from what I have studied I believe it is the only answer. It fills the soul-hunger for which I have always been looking.

Suisun City, California.

MRS. A. S.

WORD FROM TAHITI

DEAR SIR:

I am a regular reader of your wonderful paper, and I find a great deal of comfort from each page, from cover to cover. Some unknown friend has subscribed for me. When I finish with each issue, I forward it to our leper colony.

Papeete, Tahiti.

A. T. D.

BIBLE STUDENT

DEAR SIR:

I have always been interested in the study of the Bible, and so have appreciated the *Signs of the Times*. I especially enjoy the articles on astronomy and archaeology that appear from time to time. The paper has been a comfort to me, and I have been most grateful for it. MRS. J. A. M.

Corona, California.

VALIANT

DEAR SIR:

May I congratulate you on your splendid handling of "All Men in Expectation." You have a very fine magazine. I can't go all the way with you on some basic matters, but I am nonetheless glad to have your valiant little magazine coming to me. C. A. C.

Excelsior Springs, Missouri.



STANLEY HALL

God'

by MARY J. VINE

WE KEEP a Christmas notebook in our house, with a page for each member of the family. It is easier that way.

End to end the pages make a long list by Christmas, and, picking up the notebook, a Sherlock Holmes could form a pretty shrewd idea of what kind of family we are, how old we are, what our work, talents, hobbies, interests—even our weaknesses and frivolities—are, for it ranges from spools of thread to chemistry sets, from lingerie to lamp shades, from dolls' houses to dress lengths, and from bath salts to Bach. It is arm length, that list. There is plenty, more than plenty, for us to choose from, and none of us need be nonplused, no matter how slender our means may be.

"I'm going to buy Mummy some spools of white machine thread for Christmas," I heard the Little One whisper the other day.

"You're not!" teased her big brother.

"Yes, I am," she said. "Mummy said she needed them. And, anyway," she added, "I shall be able to afford that because they only cost a dime."

Bless her, she was altogether sensible. She is going to buy something of which she is absolutely sure I shall make use, and she is not going to pester anyone else to help her bear the expense. She

has counted the cost. It will be within the limits of her means.

Not even grownups are always so wise.

There was a time, for instance, when I used to worry very much about certain of my Christmas presents. Even now, after many years of the same experience, I feel overwhelmed. But I can do nothing about it. Several dear friends always send us a gift which is completely out of proportion to anything we can hope to return, and that, not because any one of them is rich, but because they have a world of affection for us and choose this means of giving it expression. To repay them, as it were, in kind, would be impossible. We can only "love them for their love," and hope that our burden of gratitude and regard will in some indefinable way metamorphose our small gifts into treasures in their eyes.

That it can and does do so we know by experience. If the Little One does carry out her plan and there are some

spools of machine thread among my Christmas presents, be they several or be it only one (even a dime is a lot when you have many commitments), I know that I shall appreciate that dear gift as much as any, for she will have given her heart with it.

And that is what matters.

That is what gives the gift significance.

That is what adds the touch of beauty even to the commonplace, even to spools of machine thread.

All of which, it seems to me, adds up to a thought which should give us a great deal of encouragement this Christmastime.

There is One who doesn't need to consult our Christmas list, for He knows exactly what we want—the things we *really* want, not such as can be thought of in terms of money.

What an interesting list it would make! Some of the items, so sacred they are, so personal, we would hesitate



**A Happy Christmas
to All Our Readers!**



Christmas List

What Does He Want Most?

even to give them expression. They are almost too much to hope for.

As though the day of miracles were past.

As though the Father were not now omnipotent.

As though, it being 1958, He had ceased to be the all-wise Oracle and the loving Father of all who look to Him.

That He did so wondrous a thing for us that night the angels sang was but an earnest that He can do all else that we require. "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32.

All things!

"Mummy," the children say, "will you please tell us some *little* things you want for Christmas, things that *we* can afford?"

That they have always delighted in spoiling me to the limit of their resources is something that I shall always remember with gratitude. But here is One from whom we can ask big things, exceeding big things, miracles if need be, in the full knowledge that His resources are infinite, that nothing is too hard for Him, and that, because we are the "apple of His eye," nothing will please Him better than to bestow what we ask—just so long as it is good for us; and surely we can leave *that* decision to Him.

One great preacher we heard recently took as the basis for his sermon Jeremiah 33:3.

He called it his million-dollar text.

"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

And they were mighty things indeed that he recounted.

He told us of the overthrow of the powers of darkness in places far and near.

He told us of the miraculous opening of doors in heretofore blank walls.

He told us of power, full and free, bestowed just when and where there was the greatest need.

He told us of exceedingly abundant answers to prayer, prayers answered before the call.

He told us of such triumphs of grace as made the heart burn within and the spirit long that such might also be one's own experience.

But that is the beauty of it. It *can*.

The mighty things are for every one of us if we will only ask in faith and so live that we can be found within the channel of His blessing.

And that, of course, is the other side of it.

His wealth, ability, and wisdom are boundless. He can give us anything. He can do anything.

But we—what have we to give?

Yes, that's it—ourselves, our lives.

Our poor, distracted lives.

Our lives that fall so terribly short of all that we had hoped and planned.

Despite their failures, however, He still covers them for His own, and it is no long list He gives to us this Christmas season. Just one thing He would like, and that well within our means.

"My son, give Me thine heart."

Shall we?

Oh, let's not hold back!

It would be a fearful thing to nullify God's wondrous Gift to us, yet so far as we personally are concerned it is easily possible.

Though Christ a thousand times in
Bethlehem be born,
If He's not born in thee,
Thy soul is still forlorn.

There is nothing quite so sad as coming up to Christmas with nothing to give away. Maybe we feel sometimes that we have nothing of worth that we can give to the Lord. For our comfort let us remember that first Christmas. Perhaps no babe ever received such an oddly assorted selection of gifts as did

the Saviour then. In caskets of scintillating beauty the Magi brought their treasures and laid them at His feet. Maybe we wish that we, too, could bring something rich and rare. I am glad, though, that He received other gifts. Roughly clad shepherds, heavy with the odor of their flocks and of the wood fire and the fields, also brought their offering, a poor thing in comparison, but not, thanks be, in the eyes of Him who is Lord of all. To Him only one thing can be denied, thereby making it a thing of infinite worth and, as He Himself says, "more precious than . . . the golden wedge of Ophir,"—just your heart.

Let us not deny Him that this Christmastime. That will make it a Christmas of joy and gladness to Him and of unbelievable comfort to ourselves.



I'LL GO TO BETHLEHEM

by HELEN ROGERS SMITH

I'll go to Bethlehem tonight,
Rejoicing in Christ's birth,
And hear the blessed angels sing
His peace to men of earth.

I'll listen as the shepherds kind
The tidings glad repeat,
And watch them go to find the Babe
And worship at His feet.

I'll pass the busy inn, and pray
Lest worldly joy or care
So fill my little inn of life
No room for Christ is there.

Illumined by the glory bright
He only can impart,
Before His manger-bed I'll lay
My undivided heart,

Knowing I've looked upon His face
Who is this dark world's Light,
As all may know who in love go
To Bethlehem tonight.

AN ARMY of more than 6,000,000 gangsters and thugs of every variety are walking the streets of America today, mingling with society. This fact is even more sobering when it is learned that this horde of warped humanity is spearheaded by juveniles.

Not long ago two boys in Troy, New York, stole an automobile. They then went to a grocery store and stole enough groceries to fill up the car. The police caught them on the getaway. When brought to the police station, one of the boys said, "You would never have caught us if I could have seen a little better over the dashboard." He was too small to see out of the front windshield. What a tragedy it is that so many youngsters are being sucked into this wave of lawlessness!

A survey of 116 state and Federal prisons reveals that more than 20 per cent of their inmates are under 21 years of age. One third of the murders, one half of the robberies, and two thirds of the burglaries and larcenies are being committed by youths under 25 years of age.

Sociologists, psychologists, penologists, churchmen, and parents are all becoming alarmed over the problem of juvenile delinquency that is evidencing itself in wanton destruction of property, crimes of violence, and general lawlessness.

Walking the streets of the nation's capital has become a perilous venture. A stroll, even within sight of the Capitol building where the country's laws are made, can end in brutal robbery or

Sound

THE MENACE OF INCREASING LAWLESSNESS

death. The police chief of Washington, D.C., Robert V. Murray, says that most of these street crimes are committed by teen-agers and young adults, many being no older than fifteen.

We hear of all manner of violence perpetrated by teen-agers in the public schools of New York City. The daily papers are filled with accounts of the most brutal and fiendish murders. Still fresh in our memory is the vicious killing escapade of two Nebraska youths who left eleven victims in their trail of blood.

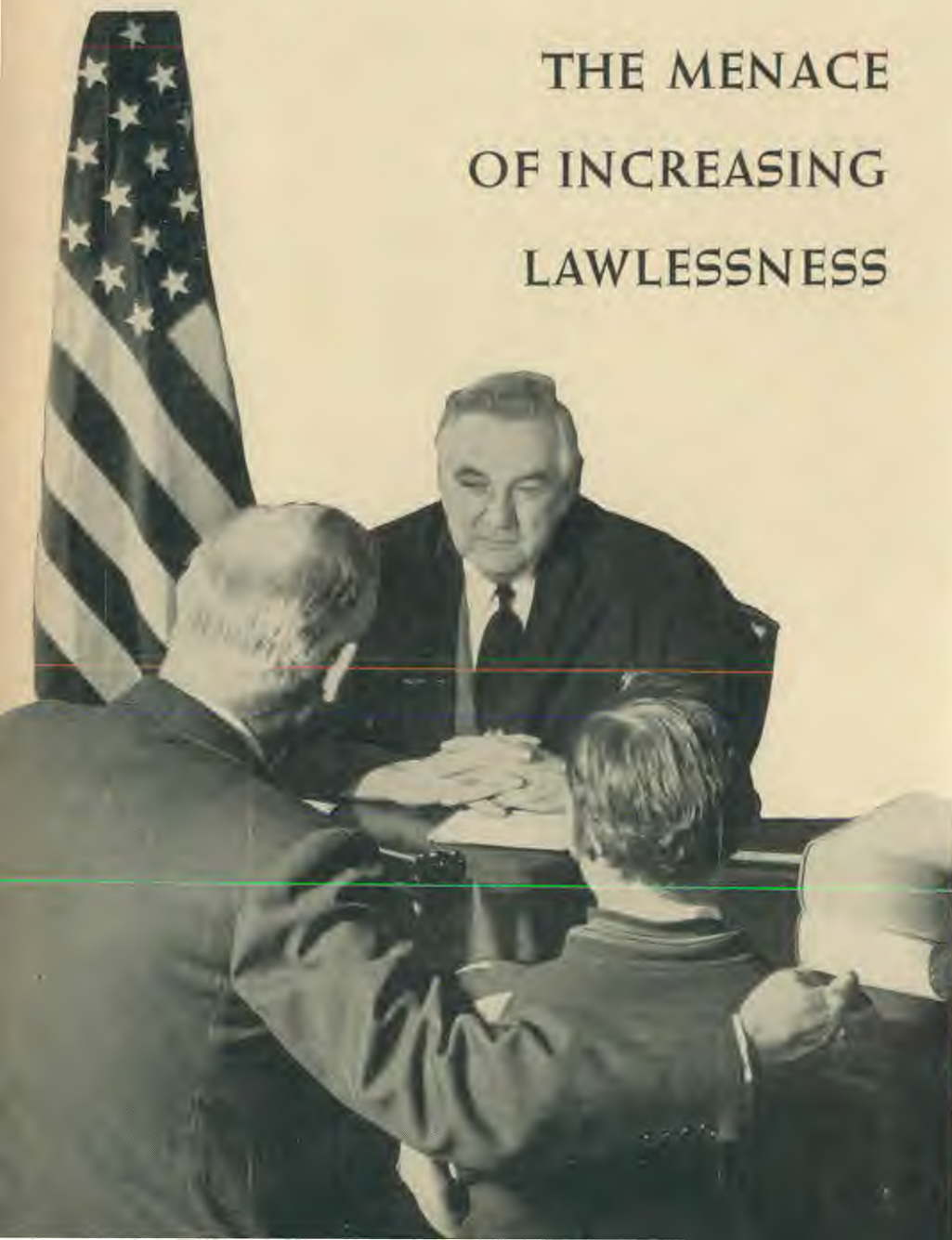
In one day recently the newspapers carried three stories of teen-agers who had shot and killed their parents over trivialities. Robbery, rape, theft, vandalism, are all crimes for which juveniles are being apprehended in increasing numbers. The entire gamut of crime is covered by these young people at an annual rate increase of about 9 per cent.

"The escapades of teen-agers today," according to J. Edgar Hoover, "indicate a breaking down of the moral fiber of the country. There is less respect for law and order."

These conditions constitute a notable sign of the times; for observe how the voice of Scripture speaks its prophetic warning regarding the "perilous times" during the closing scenes of earth's history. We quote from the Revised Standard Version:

"But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, fierce, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." 2 Timothy 3:1-4.

The alarming wave of lawlessness is reflected in the lives and deeds of public



an Alarm!

by HOWARD A.
WELKLIN

servants. All too familiar are the revelations of racketeering among certain labor-union officials. So many scandals have come to light that one is led to wonder what has become of the moral standards which were once the pride of the founding fathers.

Senator Estes Kefauver, who was chairman of the Senate Crime Investigating Committee, made this statement at the close of the investigation of America's powerful underworld: "What I have learned scares me. I . . . cannot shut out completely a feeling of fright as I contemplate how close America has come to the saturation point of criminal and political corruption which may pull us down entirely."

The most serious aspect of the problem we face is the change of viewpoint that has gradually come about concerning wrongdoing. Instead of frowning upon sin, many people make light of it. All too often the darkest crimes are excused and condoned. As Senator J. William Fulbright said in a speech before the United States Senate, "It is bad enough for us to have corruption in our midst, but it is worse if it is to be condoned and accepted as inevitable." Then he added, "The values of life which were clear to the Pilgrims and the founding fathers have become dim and fuzzy in outline. The time has come for a new look at what is right and what is wrong."

We need to sharpen our perceptions and our sensibilities which perhaps have become blunted and dulled by the multiplicity of vice during the past generation. We must be sure that we are able to detect the subtle differences between good and evil. As Alexander Pope so well expressed it:

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

We have come to an unusual state of affairs when things that once brought disgrace now bring a movie, book, radio, or television contract. What has happened around us to bring about this new low in morals? What has caused this wave of lawlessness and corruption? Unless we are willing to face the cause, there can be no adequate solution.

Tragically, much of the blame for the collapse of morality lies at the door of the churches! Note this indictment from the editorial columns of *The Christian Century*, October 6, 1954:

"But one must probe much more deeply than FBI figures or the economic situation to find the answer to the increase of criminality in this country. Are the churches failing in their duty to indoctrinate the young with principles of morality? Membership and attendance at the churches are reported at an all-time high. But what do the people, and particularly the young, learn from the churches? When the churches for their own gain break the law in various forms of mass gambling, what does this teach the young?"

The ministry is not without guilt for the breakdown of moral living. Too many sermons have been preached that failed to give the law of God its rightful place. Too often grace has been exalted and the law derided, when both have their proper place in God's plan. Too often the Ten Commandments have been mentioned in such a way as to bring that heavenly code into disrepute. Too often the impression has been left that the Christian has nothing to do with the law. The result has been that many sitting in the congregation have concluded that if they need not keep the law of God, neither is there any need to keep the laws of men.

In his book, *The Return to Morality*, Senator Charles W. Tobey makes the following observation:

"The churches, too, were not very actively engaged in teaching moral truths. There was more interest in the study of theologies than in teaching the basic lessons of morality and uplift of the spirit so needed in these years when not only the children but the whole world was crying for guidance. People had begun to lose the ability to distinguish right from wrong and this led to corruption in all its phases."

Not long ago a defiant sixteen-year-old boy stood before the judge awaiting sentence. The kindly, dignified administrator of justice talked to the lad about his family, his friends, and his obligations to society. He spoke about immoral actions that were not in accord with the commandments.

"What are the commandments?" asked the perplexed youth.

(Continued on page 28)



DEVANEY, LAMBERT



MOUNT WILSON AND PALOMAR OBSERVATORIES

Where

WILL THE RIGHTEOUS
SPEND ETERNITY
ON A CLOUD?
ON ANOTHER PLANET?
OR RIGHT HERE
ON THE EARTH?

I HAVE always been curious about heaven. Everyone talks about it and seems to want to go there, but no one has ever seen it or knows what it is like. One man explained it like this: "When you die you have to go somewhere, and I'd rather go to heaven than hell."

Most people I have talked to think of heaven in terms of what they would like it to be. Tired people think of heaven as a place of rest. I have often wondered about that. Some people do not know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon; what would they do with an eternity of rest?

Sick people think of heaven as a place of perfect health. Lovers of the beautiful long for a paradise of beauty. Selfish people envision the land of bliss as a place where every sensual appetite can be sated and every desire satisfied.

Human minds can think of heaven only in terms of human enjoyment. We long for peace in a world of strife. We crave beauty in a world of ugliness. We want our needs and longings satisfied.

But would we be satisfied if heaven turned out to be exactly what we have sometimes hoped it would be?

It was reported that a certain general back from a hard campaign was asked what he would like to do. He said, "I want to sit in my rocking chair on the porch and rock back and forth real slow for a couple of years."

He would soon have tired of it. Vacationers are usually glad to get back to work. Many retired people start a new career because they find resting so tiresome. Man was never created for inactivity. Playing a harp on a cloud is not God's idea of heaven.

I have been interested in heaven for a long time because I plan to make it my future home. And I have taken pains

to find out all I can about it. If heaven is really to be the answer to man's needs, what are his needs? I found the answer to that in God's word.

Man was created in the image of God. "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." Genesis 1:27.

God is the Creator of the universe, and man, too, must be creative. Nothing else will fill his destiny or bring him the happiness and satisfaction he associates with heaven. Adam, the first man, was given a task to do. "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." Genesis 2:15.

There will be no sickness in heaven. Everyone will have perfect health. "The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." Isaiah 33:24.

People who are strong and healthy do not want to spend all their time resting. The things that bring the greatest happiness are useful, creative labor, a sense of being needed and wanted, and to love and be loved. God gave to man before he sinned just what he needed for perfect happiness: a task, a companion, and a home.

The Bible makes it very clear that the earth was made for man and man for the earth. It is human nature to think the grass is greener on the other side of the fence or on some other planet or star. The real difference is in us, and not in the place we occupy. Let us look at the prophecies and promises of the Bible in regard to the eternal reward of the righteous. The devil has tried to make this world a hell, and God has tried to make it a heaven. How will it come out?

As I have studied the Bible from Genesis to Revelation I

Is Heaven?

by LEONARD
C. LEE

have come to the conclusion that this earth is to be the eternal home of the righteous. God has no other plan. The human race and the earth were created for each other; they belong together. To remove the population to some other planet would not solve its problems.

God has not left us in doubt on this vital question. "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited," Isaiah 45:18.

It is true that the earth is not much like heaven now, but that is man's fault, not God's. If men's hearts were to be changed so that they would love one another, this earth could become a heaven in a very short time. If the billions spent on armaments could be spent on better living conditions, the earth would seem like heaven. And God could transform the earth into a thing of beauty with one creative word.

Our heavenly Father is picking out people one by one who are willing to let sin be purged out of their lives. He needs men and women who will be heirs with Christ Jesus. They must be men and women saved by the blood of Christ, purified from disobedience, who can be trusted to inhabit a perfect world and never start the tragic cycle of sin and death again. When He has gathered to Himself a renewed people He will renew the earth for their eternal habitation. This is what Jesus was talking about when He said, "Blessed

are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5.

The psalmist mentions the same thing in the Old Testament: "For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37:9-11.

God has to deal with sin and blot it out forever before He can make this earth a paradise. The real problem has always been in the human heart. Those who heed God's pleading voice and let Jesus come into their heart, will be fitted to live forever with Jesus. Those who harden their heart and resist His loving call will perish when God purifies the earth by fire, just as the wicked perished in Noah's day when the earth was purified by a flood.

It is true that the righteous will be taken from the earth to dwell with Christ in the Father's house for a thousand years while the earth awaits its cleansing from the effects of sin, but that will be but a brief interlude in the eternal destiny of those who choose Jesus. Though they may visit other worlds as we visit our neighbors, yet this earth will be the eternal abode of those who are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. "Thy people also shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land forever." Isaiah 60:21.

We all recognize that the (Continued on page 25)

CLYDE PROVANSIA, ARTIST

10 P. 47. 4





Elsa Luukkanen, the Finnish evangelist (right), and her associate in soul winning, Aino Lehtoluoto.

She Won 500 for Christ

JOHANN crouched over the battered body of a dead Russian soldier. Reaching down, he pulled the soldier's large revolver from its holster.

"I promise," he whispered, "to use this gun to kill priests of the church." He slipped it under his tunic. Johann was a Finn. During the Russo-Finnish war he had seen so much wickedness among the clergy that he had developed a deep hatred for them. He returned to his home town determined to carry out his purpose.

It was at this time that two young ladies, Elsa Luukkanen, the only woman evangelist in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Aino Lehtoluoto, a Bible worker, moved to this East Finland town. They had come to lead men and women to Christ.

They found five elderly women who were already members of their church. "We have been waiting twenty years for a preacher," one of the ladies told Elsa; "now all we get is two girls!" Elsa and Aino were not welcome.

For seven weeks they looked for a place to stay, without success. Meanwhile they spent the nights wherever they could find a place to lie down. Finally their courage was gone. They called the head of the church in Helsinki.

"We're going to leave this town," they said. "We can't find a place to live."

"Pray one night and one day more," pleaded the church leader. "You must preach Christ in that city."

Elsa and Aino spent the night praying. Tears flowed freely. For two girls to be on an evangelistic mission alone was hard enough. But to be unwanted made it even more difficult.

Elsa had recently purchased a new Bible. Taking it out of her bag, she held it in her hand as she prayed. "God, give us an answer," she entreated. "We do not know what to do." Then she opened her Bible. The first text she saw was Acts 18:10: "For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city." The next morning they found a place to live.

Then they started looking for a hall in which to conduct meetings. They went to the mayor of the city.

"You can have the city hall," he said. "But, who will speak?" he asked.

"We will," replied the young ladies.

"Oh, you poor girls," countered the mayor. "You do not realize how big the hall is. It has enough seats for 450

people. Do you think anybody will come to hear you speak?"

"No," said the girls, "they will not come to hear us, but they will come to listen to the message."

The meetings started. On the first night half of the seats were occupied. The second night saw approximately 400 people present. On the third night every seat was occupied.

Then the opposition started. The city threatened to refuse further use of the hall. The priest in charge of the district spoke over the radio, telling the people not to listen to these two foolish women. "Let us drive them out of town," he suggested.

That evening Johann was lying on his bed. The radio was tuned to the local station. Johann heard the priest's tirade. He had not heard about these two women. But he did know a lot about the priest, and what he knew he did not like.

When his roommate came home he asked him, "Do you know anything about these two lady preachers?"

"Yes," he replied. "In fact, I heard them this evening."

"I'm going tomorrow night," promised Johann. And he did, with his revolver in its usual place under his coat.

"The first night Johann came to the meeting, I noticed him," Elsa told me. "There were hundreds of people standing, but he was a large man, easily seen in a crowd. For a long time we did not get a chance to speak to him. He always came a little late, stood near the back, then slipped out immediately after the service."

One evening, after several weeks had elapsed, Johann stayed behind. "Is this true what you preach?" he asked. He asked many other questions also.

Finally he said, "Here is a man that wants to give his heart to God. Will He take me?" When assured that God was anxious to receive him, despite his sinful life, he wept. He was thirty years old, he said, and it was the first time he had cried since he was nine.

The next morning Johann went down to the river. He walked to the middle of the bridge. Removing the revolver

from his pocket, he hurled it into the fast-flowing water. Then he went to a bookstore and bought a Bible. He placed it exactly where previously he had kept the revolver.

Meanwhile Elsa kept preaching. Aino sang, played her guitar, and visited the people in their homes. A few weeks later ninety people received Bible baptism at a lake outside the city. One of those baptized was Johann.

Elsa and Aino stayed in this city for four years. They built a church with three hundred seats. When they left, the membership was no longer five, but two hundred.

Johann is one of more than 500 people who have come to know Jesus as a result of the preaching of Elsa Luukkanen. These amazing results can only be understood when one knows the story behind Elsa's ministry.

Elsa was born in a poor home where God was not known. When she was sixteen a minister held meetings in her town. She attended and soon became a Christian.

Elsa faced much opposition from her family. They had no sympathy for Christians. It was hard to stay at home. But she was too poor to leave. Besides, her father was paralyzed as the result of a stroke. It fell to her lot, as the oldest of seven, to earn the meager living. "I wanted to work for God," Elsa said, "but I never dreamed the day would come when I would be able to preach."

God had a plan for Elsa. Twenty miles from her home lived a good Christian woman. She, too, was poor. But she often wished and prayed for money to send Elsa to college. One day she was out in the field sowing seed. Suddenly she heard a voice. "You must write to Mrs. Hayrenen," said the voice. "She will give Elsa money to go to college."

This poor woman fell to the ground with fright. She looked around. There was no one there. She was alone in the field. She had heard of Mrs. Hayrenen, a wealthy businesswoman, but she did not know her personally.

"Oh, God," she cried, "let me hear the voice again!" The same words were repeated. "One thing more, Lord," the woman beseeched. "I want Elsa to come to my home without my sending for her."

"One day while working around the house," Elsa told me, "I felt impressed to visit this lady, so I sent her a postcard. When I arrived at her home, she was not her usual happy self."

"Before taking off your coat, sit down," the lady commanded Elsa. "God has spoken to me," she said. "I have the words in my mind which you must write in a letter. Then I will take your coat and give you something to eat."

The letter was mailed in the spring of 1936. "I did not hear a thing all summer," Elsa said. "But in early autumn I received a telephone call. The lady who had heard the voice said, 'I have received a reply from Mrs. Hayrenen. She will give you money to go to college.'"

A few days later Mrs. Hayrenen asked Elsa to meet her in a local hotel. Opening her purse, Mrs. Hayrenen took out enough money for one year's tuition. This was as much money as Elsa earned all year working in a dress shop.

After Elsa's second year of college her father died. Elsa now wanted to go into church work, but her mother did all she could to dissuade her. "I am a widow now," she said. "My youngest boy is only five. I need you."

What should Elsa do? She picked up her Bible, letting it fall open on the bed. "I do not usually use this method," Elsa told me. "I have used it (Continued on page 31)

THRILLING STORY OF A WOMAN EVANGELIST AS TOLD BY ELSA LUUKKANEN IN AN INTERVIEW WITH DONALD A. WEBSTER

by RAYMOND
H. LIBBY

Alone With Your Bible

The Christian

WHO laid the foundations of marriage and the first home?

"So God created man in His own image; . . . male and female created He them." Genesis 1:27.

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. . . . Therefore shall a man . . . cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:23, 24.

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it." Genesis 1:28.

What other institution did God immediately found to keep the home holy?

"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." Genesis 2:3.

Note: Two institutions have come down to us from the perfect world of God's creation, the home and the Sabbath. Both are objects of the devil's persistent attack. He has led man to disregard the weekly reminder of creation's God—the Sabbath. And the home is assailed on every side. Disregard for the Sabbath has brought our world to its present lawless state, and the undermining of the home has brought a fearful state of delinquency among the nations' children.

What counsel did God give to parents in Old Testament times?

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 6:5-7.

Note: It is God's plan that children should be brought up in homes where religion takes first place. Parents are to set an example of right living.

What does the Bible say concerning discipline in the home?

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4.

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Proverbs 13:24. See Hebrews 12:6.

Note: Home is to be a place of love and tenderness. But a home must have discipline. Parents who fail to correct with Christian firmness the disobedient child are sowing seeds of delinquency in him.

What spirit must pervade the lives of parents in a successful home?

"Husbands, love your wives." "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies." Ephesians 5:25, 28.

"As the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands." Ephesians 5:24.

Note: Perfect love and unity between husband and wife are guarantees of successful, happy homes. Children will build characters approved of God in such a favorable environment.

How sacred is the marital union of husband and wife in God's sight?

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matthew 19:6.

What divine commands were given to safeguard the family circle?

"Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14.

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife." Exodus 20:17.

Note: When God instituted the first home He placed in it one man and one woman and commanded them to maintain that union inviolate.

What solemn declaration did Jesus make regarding divorce?

"Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." Matthew 19:9.

Note: The same principle applies to the wife as to the husband. God would protect the social order of the nation by protecting the sacredness of the home, for the home is the cornerstone of the nation.

How terrible will be God's dealings with those who violate the sacredness of the home?

"For fornicators and adulterers God will judge." Hebrews 13:4, R.V.

"For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." Revelation 22:15.

Note: Immorality brings a curse in this life because it destroys the home and undermines society. God will never risk the peace of the new earth by admitting those who do not repent of and forsake all impurity and immorality. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8.

What does the word of God counsel regarding "mixed" marriages?

"Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following Me." Deuteronomy 7:3, 4.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with

Home

darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" 2 Corinthians 6: 14, 15.

Note: Unless husband and wife are agreed in spiritual matters the harmony of the home is affected. Perfect understanding and unity can never be possible in a divided home. In such a home "the shadows are never lifted."

In a spiritually divided home, what powerful influences can the Christian husband or wife exert?

"For the unbelieving husband is hallowed by union with a Christian woman, and the unbelieving wife is hallowed by union with a Christian brother. Otherwise your children would be unholy, but in reality they are holy." 1 Corinthians 7:14, Weymouth.

Note: The apostle Paul does not here sanction the forming of a "mixed marriage." He does emphasize the power of a godly life in a home. To live in the presence of Christianity exemplified by a believing husband or wife has a transforming influence on the unconsecrated marriage partner and on the children born to such a union.

When children are rightly trained in the home, what may we expect of them in maturity?

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

What fateful question will God ask of parents in the judgment?

"Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?" Jeremiah 13:20.

What precious promise is made to Christian parents by the Lord?

"For I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children." Isaiah 49:25. [END]



Home Influences

It is by the youth and children of today that the future of society is to be determined, and what these youth and children shall be depends upon the home. To the lack of right home training may be traced the larger share of the disease and misery and crime that curse humanity. If the home life were pure and true, if the children who went forth from its care were prepared to meet life's responsibilities and dangers, what a change would be seen in the world!

Great efforts are put forth, time and money and labor almost without limit are expended, in enterprises and institutions for reforming the victims of evil habits. And even these efforts are inadequate to meet the great necessity. Yet how small is the result! How few are permanently reclaimed! . . .

Our homes should be a place of refuge for the tempted youth. Many there are

who stand at the parting of the ways. Every influence, every impression, is determining the choice that shapes their destiny both here and hereafter. Evil invites them. Its resorts are made bright and attractive. They have a welcome for every comer. All about us are youth who have no home, and many whose homes have no helpful, uplifting power, and the youth drift into evil. They are going down to ruin within the very shadow of our own doors. . . .

Our sphere of influence may seem narrow, our ability small, our opportunities few, our acquirements limited; yet wonderful possibilities are ours through a faithful use of the opportunities of our own homes. If we will open our hearts and homes to the divine principles of life we shall become channels for currents of life-giving power. From our homes will flow streams of healing, bringing life and beauty and fruitfulness where now are barrenness and dearth.—E. G. White.

GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF BETHLEHEM

The Name Above Every Name

by Arthur S. Maxwell

After the angels had appeared to them, the shepherds "came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:16.

THIS Christmas Day, 1958, let us in imagination journey back across the centuries to the moment when Christ was born. Let us leap across continents and oceans to Palestine and find our way to Bethlehem.

Leaving behind every trace of modern civilization—our comfortable homes with their electricity, gas, running water, and television; our cars, trains, planes, and all the conveniences of the twentieth century—and clad in the coarse garments of that far-off time, we dismount from donkeys before a crude rustic building called the local inn.

We are back in Bethlehem!

Stopping a passer-by, we ask to see Jesus.

"Jesus?" he repeats with a puzzled look, "there's nobody here by that name."

"But you know—the Founder of Christianity."

"The *what?*" asks the stranger. "You must be mistaken. There's no founder of anything here."

"But His name is known everywhere!"

"But not here. We've never heard it. Ask anybody you please. You have come to the wrong town."

We pause, surprised and shocked. Then we remember, and turn to him again.

"We beg your pardon. We forgot—He is in a stable—take us to the stable behind the inn."

The stranger points to it and we follow his directions. It is a low-roofed barn, built for cattle. We enter. It is almost dark inside, but by the dim rushlight we make out a manger filled with straw. In it, yes! there is a Child, while beside Him, looking down in awe and wonder, are Mary and Joseph, a group of poor shepherds, and others we do not recognize—inquisitive strangers wondering what it is all about.

Some are offering gifts. They kneel. We kneel.

But can this Babe be the Messiah, the Christ of prophecy? May it not be only another peasant child? How can we know?

We touch a shepherd on the shoulder and ask him.

"Pardon, good man, but why are you kneeling before this Child?"



"Because, sir, only tonight, not far from here, the whole countryside glowed with a wondrous light, the very glory of the Lord. And we saw the angel of the Lord, and he said to us, 'Unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' [Luke 2:11-14.] We saw them, sir. We heard them, and did what the angel said, and found this Child here. Surely this is the Christ."

Then it must be He! We recall the prophecy of Micah 5:2: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

Suddenly it comes over us that we are indeed beholding the miracle of miracles, the incarnation of the infinite God in finite humanity. This is the sacrifice of sacrifices, the imprisonment of uncreated Spirit within created flesh. This is the love above all loves, the visitation of the one lost planet by the Creator of the universe, the arrival amongst the human race, defiled and degraded by sin, of its Redeemer and Deliverer.

As we look, we remember the beautiful words, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11.

Can it be possible? we ask ourselves. This Child! Lying here in the squalor and stench of this stable! It is all so unlikely, so unreasonable, so impossible!

A name above every name!

This Child!

Greater than Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

Greater than Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah?

Greater than Annas and Caiaphas, the high priests?

Greater than Herod and all the governors of the Roman Empire?

Greater than the mighty Augustus himself, ruling in pomp and splendor in the Eternal City?

Greater than Socrates, Plato, and all the wisest philosophers of Greece?

Greater than Alexander the Great, than Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, than Amenhotep and Cheops, the pyramid-building pharaohs of Egypt?

Yes. Greater than all these; and greater than every name to follow.

Greater than Tiberius, Nero, and Trajan.

Greater than all the emperors and all the popes.

Greater than Charles V of Germany, Edward III of England, and Louis XIV of France.

Greater than Attila, Alaric, Hannibal, Napoleon, and all the famous generals who have led their people to war.

Greater than Confucius and Mohammed and all the leaders of religions that have competed for the loyalty and devotion of men.

Greater than all the men we have known in our day. Greater than Eisenhower, Khrushchev, and Churchill.

Greater than all the leaders of business and finance, of capital and labor.

Greater, too, than our own names. Infinitely greater, so that we seem but worthless nonentities by comparison.

Oh, the wonder of the words, "A name which is above every name"! Written in a Roman prison by a zealous believer in this Child,—a prisoner himself, chained to a Roman guard,—they express not only a mighty faith, but a mighty truth.

For in Paul's day Jesus was still unrecognized by the world. He had grown to manhood, performed His ministry, preached His message, and died a martyr's death; but the ruling powers and leaders of thought were virtually ignorant of Him.

Tacitus (A.D. 55-120), the Roman historian, gives but a passing reference to this greatest of names. He speaks of Jesus as the founder of a "pernicious superstition"—a criminal put to death "in the reign of Tiberius."

Augustus, Tiberius, Nero—these were the great names of that day. They were regarded as divine, and demanded the worship of their subjects. But their names have faded with the centuries, while the name of Jesus has glowed with ever-brighter glory.

Two thousand years have proved Paul's words wonderfully true. This day in every land Christ is known and revered. Multitudes of all tribes and tongues worship Him as Lord and Redeemer.

And why?

Not only because He was a kind man who loved the poor, the needy, and the children.

Not only because He went about "doing good," healing the sick and speaking tenderly to the sorrowing.

Not only because He was a forceful teacher, vanquishing the scribes and Pharisees with His invincible logic.

Not only because He raised the dead and opened the eyes of the blind.

Not only because He was a pattern of perfect righteousness.

No; but because, above and beyond all else, He was the Son of the living God; God incarnate in man; Immanuel, God with us.

(Continued on page 33)





by RICHARD
LEWIS

Grace and

THROUGH the long medieval centuries, the Church of Rome dominated the Western nations and Sunday observance went unchallenged except for remote islands of resistance.

When the Reformation came, the Bible was re-established as the basis of doctrine. Purgatory, penance, transubstantiation, and other human institutions were discarded, but not the observance of Sunday.

Protestants were aware of the claims of the Roman Church. Speaking of the Catholics, the Augsburg Confession states, "They allege the change of the Sabbath into the Lord's day, contrary, as it seemeth, to the Decalogue; and they have no example more in their mouths than the change of the Sabbath. They will needs have the Church's power to be very great, because it hath dispensed with a precept of the Decalogue."

In *Henry IV*, Falstaff is shown at the battle of Shrewsbury taking part in an amusing action. As the two Harrys fight, the old fat knight appears and meets the onslaught of Douglas by falling to the ground, feigning death. After Prince Harry leaves Harry Hotspur dead and, in passing, takes leave of the apparently dead Falstaff, the old fellow comes to life and, seeing that he has the field to himself, claims the fallen hero and starts to carry him off as his trophy.

In somewhat the same fashion the Roman church claimed the victory over the Sabbath.

In the first century of the Christian Era certain Jewish Christians, clinging to the Passover, circumcision, and other ceremonial practices, contrary to the instruction of Paul, brought the Sabbath into disfavor. The Gnostics weakened the Sabbath with their no-law teaching. Finally, a pseudo-

Christian emperor with purely political motives brought Sunday into favor by legislative action.

Not until after the change from Sabbath to Sunday was practically accomplished did the politically-minded church step forward to claim the "credit." But claim it she did and does. There are many evidences of this claim, only one of which will be quoted here, taken from *A Doctrinal Catechism* by Stephen Keenan (1865):

"Q. Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?

"A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her;—she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority."

Protestants deny the right of any church to make such a change. The Bible alone, they say, is the source of doctrine. How do they support Sunday?

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the debate over Sunday by the Anglicans and Presbyterians of England reveals how the issue stood then and how it was reconciled. The Anglicans, not having rejected the authority of the Catholic Church to establish feasts, accepted the institution of Sunday. The Presbyterians, emphatically rejecting the authority of the Roman Church, and unwilling to accept the seventh-day Sabbath, were forced to find "Biblical" grounds for Sunday observance. The most widely accepted interpretation was the "one-day-in-seven" explanation of the fourth commandment, a view which is current today. The Bible says, "Six days shalt thou labor: . . . the

seventh day is the Sabbath;" but these first-day writers say, "Any day in seven is the Sabbath."

What a tragedy that the Reformers stopped short in their work of reformation! One more tradition of the medieval church should have been rejected—the false sabbath. Then we would today have a consistent Protestantism, united in the observance of the Bible Sabbath.

Having once accepted the Catholic Sunday, but not the Catholic authority for it, what could Protestantism do? The one-in-seven argument was not entirely satisfactory.

A friend of mine was making some motion pictures. Among other items, he shot some footage on a captured litter of fox pups. When he projected the processed film, the fox sequence was seen to be grossly underexposed. "Oh," he quickly exclaimed, "I was trying to get a moonlight effect!"

So first-day writers try to find "reasons" for what they have accepted in Sunday observance. Here are some of the "moonlight effects":

They say that Jesus rose on the first day, and so He did. But there is not the least hint in Scripture or history to suggest a divine command to celebrate the event by a rest day.

They say that the Lord appeared to the disciples on Sunday, and so He did—it was His first opportunity to do so, since He rose on Sunday. He met them on other days, also, after His resurrection. He ascended on another day.

They say that the disciples broke bread on Sunday, and so they did, as well as on other days.

They say that John had a vision on "the Lord's day," and so he did. But there is no reason to believe it was on Sunday

Why the Reformers Failed to Complete the Reformation by Rejecting the Roman Sunday

the Sabbath

(since the Sabbath had always been called the Lord's) just because a century later people began to apply the term "Lord's day" to Sunday.

They say the Sabbath was nailed to the cross, confusing the seventh-day Sabbath with the sabbaths which were a shadow of things to come.

They say that early Christians worshiped on Sunday. This is true. Some did. The apostasy began in the second century, as we have shown. But Christians in large numbers kept the Sabbath into the fifth century. Some have kept it through all the centuries.

They claim that the Sabbath was Jewish, but is it in commemoration of a Jewish creation?

They point to the early laws for the observance of Sunday, failing to realize that these laws against the Sabbath prove the strength of the Sabbath.

They quote Scripture in strange ways; for example, this from a 1957 booklet: "Moreover it is the clear statement of the Word that God inaugurated this day [Sunday]. 'This is the day which the Lord hath made' (Ps. 118:24)." You may search through every verse in Psalm 118 without finding the least hint that the first day of the week is referred to. It must be a shaky proposition that depends on such "evidence."

In spite of all that has been discussed in these articles, some good Sundaykeepers will say, "These arguments mean very little. The real point is that if you keep the Sabbath you are a legalist, denying Christian freedom through the grace of Jesus Christ."

This is where we came in, in the first article. It will be a good place to end our discussion. Only this time we shall not use our own words. We shall quote from

the late Dr. Robert McQuilkin, whose book *God's Law and God's Grace* is available at Times Book Service, 1800 Arch Street, Philadelphia. It was partially serialized in the *Sunday School Times* of September and October, 1957.

"O how love I Thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (Ps. 119:97). This outburst of the psalmist suggests that the Law of God is a very lovely thing. . . .

"The Mosaic Law includes salvation by grace through faith in its central message. Every drop of blood which was shed on Jewish altars spelled grace. But when we read, 'We are not under the law but under grace,' we are face to face with the word 'law' as a requirement of God. When Paul preaches salvation by grace through faith to the Gentiles, he preaches it from the Old Testament. . . .

"But it should be clearly recognized by all that there are two things unchanged through all the dispensations. One is God's moral law. . . . The other . . . is God's plan of salvation by grace through faith. . . .

"Thus the Ten Commandments have ever been regarded in the church as briefly comprehending the whole moral law of God. . . .

"And the Law cannot make alive. Nor can the Law do aught but exact the uttermost penalty. God's answer is grace. . . .

"As the eternal moral Law is unchanged in all dispensations, so that moral Law is unchanged through all the individual's life, and is unchanged when that man takes Christ as his Saviour. But the believer's relation to that Law is completely changed, when he by God's grace accepts Christ as his Saviour, and his righteousness. There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ. This is not because the Law does not require a penalty for the sinner. It is because Christ has completely paid that



penalty. There is now no terror in that Law. But the Law is a revelation of God's blessed will for our lives. We therefore love His law. We are grieved when we step aside from the perfect will of God. Our Lord Himself said, 'I delight to do Thy will. . . . Yea, Thy law is within My heart.' Could anything be plainer than this statement as to what the Law is for Christians? . . .

"Is it true that the Christian is far above the Ten Commandments and does not need them? . . . Our love for Christ constrains us to do His will. Love is the great motive. But to learn what that will of God is, the living God must reveal definitely to us what it is. This He can do only by way of commandment. Of course we love His Law. We delight in His commandments.

"But it is clearly revealed that no Christian perfectly keeps God's commandments. That failure does not bring him under condemnation, because Christ is his righteousness. He is not depending on the measure of his perfection in keep-

MY BURDENS TEACH OF HIM

by MARK BULLOCK

I have learned to love my Saviour
Through the trials He's given me,
Through the pain He lets me suffer
In His blessed ministry.

I have learned to know Him better
Through the heartaches I have known,
Through the bitter disappointments
I've been called to bear alone.

I have found Him in my sorrows,
And my grief has drawn Him near.
I have known His precious comfort
In the hours dark with fear.

Through the thorns along my pathway,
Bruising with afflictions sore,
I've a fellowship with Jesus
That I'd never known before.

And I thank Him for my burdens
That have seemed to make life dim,
For they've taught me of His meekness
And acquainted me with Him.

ing the commandments of God for his righteous standing before God. The blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin. When a Christian sins, he sins in the only possible way that any human being sins. He disobeys the Law of God. . . .

"It is from the Holy Spirit that we get power to live. But it is by the written Word of God, illumined by the Spirit, given to us through our intelligence, that we learn

what the will of God is. We are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. What a treasure we have in His written Word! What a dishonor to God to turn away from God's Law, rather than to say with the Psalmist, 'O how love I Thy law! It is my meditation all the day!'

"The answer then to the question, 'Shall we preach Law or shall we preach grace?' is that we should preach *the Word*. There in God's Word we have Law *and* grace rightly related. Then the Holy Spirit will guide as to whether this or that particular emphasis is needed in this or that place, or in this or that sermon.

"The fact is, of course, that a Christian preacher cannot preach Law without giving God's remedy for sin; nor can the faithful preacher preach grace without going by what grace means and why grace is needed. In that he must reveal the Law. . . .

"Thus the Christian has two choices—to live after the flesh, or to live after the Spirit. Of course, if a man continues to live after the flesh, it means that he is not saved. He is in the flesh. But we are not in the flesh. We are in the Spirit, if so be that the Holy Spirit of God dwells within us. But every deviation from the Holy Law of God is in that measure walking in the flesh. What are we to do? We are to put to death the doings of the body. That is a life of victory. But we cannot put to death the doings of the body. That is not what the Word says. It says, 'If ye, *by the Spirit*, put to death the doings of the body, ye shall live.'

"This is not a higher Christian life. This is not some special second-degree Christianity. This is God's provision for normal Christian living. But when a Christian opens his eyes to see the wonder of this, it does come like a second conversion to many. It does seem to be a second work of grace. It is merely that we are opening our eyes and clearing away our ignorance in seeing that this is God's plan for living the Christian life."

An earnest endeavor has been made to represent Dr. McQuilkin's thoughts faithfully in these few paragraphs. The reader may want to read the series or, better yet, read the book.

Now, what can we say in conclusion? Sundaykeeping friends, the Sabbath is part of God's holy law,—the seventh-day Sabbath, a specific part of time,—to commemorate an event. "Six days shalt thou labor: . . . but the seventh day is the Sabbath: . . . for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, . . . and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

The person who genuinely wants to please God loves to keep His law. If that law leads him to keep a very inconvenient day, the inconvenience becomes a privilege for love of the Jesus who died for him. It is true that one can keep the Sabbath commandment—and all the other commandments—in the hope that his righteous conduct will win him heaven. He can worship on Sunday with the same motivation. Such motivation is valueless, for it is legalistic. Some Sabbathkeepers are legalistic. Some Sundaykeepers are legalistic. Both need to understand the new covenant—the law written in the heart.

Where there is sin, there is salvation. Conversely, where there is salvation, there is sin. And sin is not known except for the law. "Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans 5:20. [END]

Best Way to
Begin the Day

First Waking Thoughts

by MARY COCHRANE



ROBERTS

"HE WAKENETH morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." Isaiah 50:4. Could it be that some of us fail to receive the fullness of God's blessing in the morning because we do not realize the close relationship that exists between our heavenly Father and His children? He who never slumbers or sleeps is watching over us every moment of the night as well as the day. Should not our first waking thoughts be of Him?

A young girl who was forced to live under trying circumstances was asked how she was able to resist the world and its strong temptations all through the day. She said, "I can't do it in my own strength. So each morning when I awaken I ask Jesus to come into my heart. When Satan comes with his temptations, Jesus is there already. I ask Him to help me meet the foe, and He always does."

An imaginary world of romance occupied first place in another girl's life. In the morning when she awakened she stretched out her hand for a novel. She had no desire in her heart to read the Bible or to pray. She tried to find solace in a make-believe world, when the only One who could give solace was nearby. He was longing to give her real happiness.

Many things prevent us from receiving the blessings of God. Is it love of money? Love of ease? Love of pleasure? What do we place first in our lives? What comes to mind with our first waking thoughts? Do they turn upward in contemplation of heavenly things, or do we think only of the transient things of earth? "The things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18.

But sometimes temporal things hinder us from opening the door of our heart to Jesus. A dear friend was trying to be a Christian, but one obstacle hindered her from knowing the Christian's joy. Each morning she allowed her first waking thoughts to dwell on the injustice of her mother-in-law. "I never can forgive her for what she said, never." But the longer she nursed her grievances, the more miserable she became. One day as she leafed through her Bible her eyes rested on a text: "But if ye forgive not men their

trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:15. "That text struck right home to my heart," she said. "The word of God is quick, and powerful, . . . and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12.

Then there are those who have no grudges against anyone, but each morning they awaken with minds full of cares and perplexities. These fearful ones have their eyes so blinded with tears that they do not discern the Saviour standing near waiting to brighten their outlook and give them rest from their anxieties. "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

The psalmist David, when beset by trouble, declared: "I will sing of Thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of Thy mercy in the morning; for Thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble." Psalm 59:16.

Some church members whom I know have the beautiful custom of employing their first waking moments with the singing of hymns. It was most inspiring to me when I awoke one morning and heard my sister singing,

"Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in today, come in to stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus."

I was so impressed that I decided to adopt this custom myself. When visitors came to our home we were rather reticent about continuing with our songs. Therefore we lowered our voices to a very hushed tone so that they would not hear. Some days later when we were having worship with the family the brother at the piano said, "Come on, girls, sing up. We know you can sing, for we have heard you." Then his wife said, "Do you know, the first time we heard those soft melodies we thought it was the angels singing."

We considered this as one of the greatest compliments ever paid to us. Singing was never an art with us, but we always like to choose hymns that contain the name of Jesus. And does not even the mention of that precious name bring the angels near?

One day I asked my best friend how she began the day. This is what she told me: *(Continued on page 25)*

If you have a question, address it to "Signs" Counsel Corner, "Signs of the Times," Mountain View, California. Enclose a four-cent stamp and your name and address. Anonymous questions cannot be answered.

Signs

COUNSEL CORNER



Conducted by
Pastor William A. Fagal
Director,
"Faith for Today"
TV Program

SECOND BAPTISM

QUESTION: Is it necessary for a backslider to be baptized the second time in order for his sins to be forgiven? What must he do to get back to God?

ANSWER: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. The Bible enjoins confession of sin and promises the forgiveness of God upon this condition. A backslider can always come back to God by simply expressing his heartfelt desire for forgiveness and coming in true repentance and faith for help. Rebaptism is not necessary, but it may well be that there are times when it would be highly desirable. If a backslider has lived in open sin and separated himself from the church for a period of time, it may well be that he should begin all over again by being rebaptized. This should be left up to each individual to decide with the help of his pastor. The Bible contains one example of rebaptism (Acts 19:1-7), which serves to indicate that there is nothing wrong in such a step.

ARE DEAD PARENTS ALIVE?

QUESTION: About ten years ago I quit my job in order to take care of my mother and father, and I faithfully cared for their needs until they both passed away. Naturally I am lonely without them, and at times feel like a lost soul. For a long, long time I have had a strong sense of feeling that they are near me, watching over me, and at times, especially since my mother has passed away, I hear or seem to hear beautiful music. Is such a thing possible, and could you please tell me its meaning?

ANSWER: No one could possibly state with complete assurance the source of your feeling that you are not alone, and that heaven is near to you. However, we can state with assurance that your mother and father are not with you, for the Bible very definitely tells us in Job 7:9, 10: "As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more unto his house, neither shall his place know him any more." The Scriptures point to the resurrection, yet to come, as the time and place when families separated by death will be united once more.

The Bible also points out that there will be unusual and miraculous phenomena in the last days closely allied with spiritism. We are warned in Revelation 16:14: "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world." Every

child of God must study the Scriptures diligently and keep close to Him so as to avoid the possibility of deception by the archdeceiver. Pray to God each day for His help and prepare to meet Jesus when He comes again. Then if faithful, you and your parents will be reunited to live forever in the place which Christ is now preparing for those who love Him.

BOY AND GIRL PROBLEM

QUESTION: I have a girl friend who likes a boy who is trying to serve the Lord. His parents do not want him to like her because she is not a Christian. What advice can I give her?

ANSWER: Perhaps you can tactfully point out to her that Christians have an obligation to marry those of their own spiritual outlook. Since boy and girl friendships frequently lead to marriage, the boy's parents are wise to discourage even the beginnings of such a friendship for their son. If she thinks about it, your friend can probably be brought to see the wisdom of this Christian principle. She herself would have little chance of happiness in marriage if she disagreed with the religious faith of her husband. The Bible brings this out by asking a very penetrating question: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3.

Even though she may not realize it, your girl friend doubtless has been attracted to this boy because she admires his consecration to the things of God. It would be a fine thing if she could come to love Jesus Christ herself and thus experience the joy and assurance that comes from it. If I were in your place, I would do my best to encourage her to study a good Bible correspondence course, and to see if, through study and prayer, she could not come to be of the same mind as the young man whom she so much admires. Such a course is available free through Faith for Today, and may be secured by writing to the *Signs of the Times*.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRAYER

QUESTION: I have never been able to understand why we have public prayer in church when Jesus said that we should go into the closet and pray in secret. Can you help me understand this?

ANSWER: Our private devotions should be conducted in a place apart, but it is very proper for public prayer to be offered as well. The Bible abounds in examples of public prayer, dating back to earliest times when the children of

Israel were led by their priests in such worship. Private prayer in secret is to take care of personal matters, including confession of sin and presenting to the Lord those things which are nearest to the heart. Public prayer, on the other hand, includes matters involving all of the assembled congregation. There is a place for both, and neither should be neglected.

CAN THE DEVIL CAUSE APPARITIONS?

QUESTION: Can the devil cause one to have a vision when awake?

ANSWER: I would think that the devil could cause an apparition to appear before an individual during his waking hours. The Bible tells us in Revelation 13:13, 14 that the devil "deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do." The Bible itself contains an illustration of such an experience in 1 Samuel 28. Saul visited the witch of Endor and asked that the spirit of Samuel be called up before him. An apparition purporting to be Samuel was made to appear before Saul, but God declared His complete disapproval of the whole thing. The Bible states in 1 Chronicles 10:13, "So Saul died, . . . for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit." Undoubtedly, if God had nothing to do with the experience, the devil must have been responsible for the superhuman activity which resulted. The devil produced miracles like this in Saul's day, and he can and does today as well. To avoid being deceived, we must constantly fortify our minds with the truths of the Scriptures and be ever on our guard.

First Waking Thoughts

(Continued from page 23)

"I whisper the name of Jesus with my first conscious thought." Another good friend once told me that she likes to breathe the words, "Thank You, Lord," immediately after she awakes. She lifts her heart in thankfulness many times throughout the day, but she believes that a special blessing comes when she begins the day with praise and thanksgiving. "Thank You, Lord, for the peaceful sleep, thank You for sweet peace, thank You for hope, thank You for courage for the day."

The psalmist David wrote, "My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up." Psalm 5:3.

Some like to repeat comforting texts that they have memorized the night before. One text which comes most frequently to my mind in the morning is, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalm 103:1-5.

One devoted Christian writer has said, "Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, 'Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.'" —*Steps to Christ*, page 70.

Have I laid all my plans at His feet? Do I, with my first waking thoughts, throw open the door of my heart and invite the presence of Jesus? How long will Jesus stand at the door and knock tomorrow morning when I awaken? By God's help, not a moment. For "He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." Isaiah 50:4. [END]

Where Is Heaven?

(Continued from page 13)

earth as it is now, with weeds, disease germs, and deserts, is not what God intends for His people. It is not what He made in the beginning. Prophecy tells us what will be done with it: "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Isaiah 65:17.

The revelator also caught a vision of what it will be like: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Revelation 21:1.

All through the Bible runs the golden thread of hope that the earth, as well as the human race, will be redeemed. Jesus said He came "to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. Man had lost his earthly home as well as his life and dominion.

Every description of the future home of the saved is a description of an earthly scene. The Bible speaks of trees and the tree of life. The river of life is also mentioned in the last chapter of the Bible. This suggests a restoration of the Garden of Eden. "And there shall be no more curse." Revelation 22:3. That phrase would be meaningless if heaven were anywhere but on earth, for this is the only place where the curse has ever blighted creation.

In the prophecy of Isaiah, after the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, we are given a description of it: "And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. . . . The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock. . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord." Isaiah 65:21, 22, 25.

Man was made for the earth and the earth for man. They belong together. Jesus died to restore man's home as well as man's life. When sin is destroyed, its awful curse will be removed from the earth as well as from the hearts of men. Jesus, the last Adam, will set up His kingdom on the very earth where the first Adam failed. This once lost and dark planet will become the glory spot of all creation. The sun will still shine and mark off the days, but in the Holy City we will not need it. The moon will mark off the months, but the years will pass unnoticed as man, restored to his Edenic homeland, lives on in eternal youth and joy.

Weary pilgrims of earth often come home to die. But the triumphant pilgrims who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus will come home to live. The lost world will then be restored and once again the morning stars will sing together and all the sons of God shout for joy. See Job 38:7.



REVANCE

MARY JONES has a headache this morning. For some time things have not been going well at home. She has been tired and irritable with the family. No one could please her, no matter how hard he tried.

Normally Mary has always been a very pleasant woman, but of late she has been tense and worried. She seems to be troubled over little things that really do not matter. Something is wrong. The delicate machinery of life is out of balance.

No, she does not have a fever, nor is she coming down with some acute infection. She has an entirely different type of illness, an illness that gives her a vague feeling of uncertainty and frustration, something she cannot describe. She feels restless and disturbed over something that she is afraid to face. But back in the deepest recesses of her memory there is a shadow that hangs like a dark cloud over her mind. She is afraid—afraid of the future, afraid to live.

What is this hidden fear, this strange foreboding that she cannot, dare not put into words? As a child she saw her grandmother go through this same experience. She shudders now as she thinks about it. What if something like this should happen to her? Is she going the same way? Is she losing her mind?

Fear does some very strange things to all of us. In a sudden emergency most of us can rise to the occasion and meet the need, whatever it may be. But even well-balanced people may react strangely if they are constantly goaded by fear. The reason for this is that the nervous system seems to become exhausted by a constant drain upon its resources. Brave men and women may crack up badly without any visible reason, to the surprise of everyone, even their doctors.

A person's outward appearance can often be deceiving. He may look strong and healthy on the outside, yet be far from well underneath. Not all the ills of man can be detected by changes in the blood pressure, or the pulse rate, or even in the blood count. There are some illnesses that go much deeper than the surface of the skin, illnesses that all the X rays in the

by CLIFFORD R.
ANDERSON, M.D.

Solving

world may fail to show. It is a serious mistake to think that one is not ill simply because he has a normal temperature. He may not have a broken arm, but he may have something far more difficult to heal, perhaps a broken heart, or a mind that is overwhelmed with sorrow and fear.

Nervous illnesses are sometimes thought of as being something new and different in the history of man. But this is not true. As far back as human records go we find the story is the same. Fear—blind, unreasoning fear—can be clearly read in the messages written on the clay tablets of the ancient world. It can even be detected in the boastful words that are carved in the stone monuments of those who lived thousands of years ago. Fear was the basis of most of the ancient religions. And through all the centuries the story has been the same. The mind and soul of man today are not essentially different from what they were in the long ago.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, was a great general and a mighty builder. During his lifetime he conquered much of the ancient world. Yet he spent seven years as the victim of a severe mental illness. This was during the height of his power and influence. He possessed everything that heart could wish—everything except a healthy mind. And yet we are told that he made a good recovery after he had been ill for seven long years.

Mental Health Is Important

Mental health is vitally important. A man may have a splendid physique. He may be able to run like the wind, lift great weights, and endure more physical stress than those around him can. But if his mind is weak and his judgment poor, there is little that he can contribute to the world. Such a person becomes a burden upon society and a disappointment to himself and to those who must care for him. On the other hand, another man may be badly handicapped by the loss of an arm, or a leg, or perhaps both of his eyes. And yet he may be of enormous value to his community and his nation because of his wisdom, ability, and good judgment. Certainly it is important to have good physical

health, but the condition of the mind is far more important. Many animals and birds have keener eyesight and much sharper perceptions than man. But that which has made man supreme is his marvelous brain and his ability to think, to plan, and carry out his decisions. In other words, mental health is of the utmost importance.

Signs of Nervous Trouble

Fear of the future is a natural consequence of nervous fatigue. Because a person is not sure of himself he may be afraid of his job, afraid of his superiors, afraid of his family, and perhaps even afraid of himself. Fear sets some very strange currents in motion, especially when there is no reasonable basis for that person to be afraid. So much depends on the condition of the mind and the nervous system. When you are well in mind you are able to look forward to the future without fear. You can make your plans and carry them through without undue anxiety or nervous strain. Living is not one long period of frustration, but rather a time of planning for the future. For you, life is interesting and filled with happy adventures. Each day brings its exciting moments. You contact people who bring out the best that is in you. You feel you have done your best, and you have every reason to enjoy a certain amount of satisfaction.

Of course you will make mistakes. This is natural. Everyone does. But after a few moments of embarrassment, you manage to recover and go on from there. These are the normal reactions of a person who is strong and healthy in mind. You find that people like you for what you are, not for what you have. You enjoy living, because you are mentally well. You are not afraid. Why should you be? Your future seems assured. You get along well with other people, and they enjoy being in your company. Life is good because you have a free mind. You are not critical of others, nor are they critical of you. You are willing to live your life as one to whom others can look for guidance in time of need. In other words, you are mentally well.

Then things begin to go wrong. Per-

haps the first indication of trouble is a feeling of exhaustion. This is not that natural tiredness that comes on after a heavy day's work. This is rather a sensation of fatigue when you get up in the morning. In other words, you are *tired before you start*. You find yourself becoming uneasy. Now you are beginning to worry about how you feel! Your nerves are on edge for no good reason at all. You find yourself becoming irritated over little things that have never bothered you before. There are times when you have to hold onto yourself, just in case you might scream.

Now you find yourself becoming suspicious of others, particularly the folks at home, or perhaps the people with whom you have to associate while at work. You are easily offended. You are intolerant of others. Sometimes you have a feeling that people are "out to get you." You are not sure whether you can trust anyone any more. You feel uncomfortable, and you dread going out and meeting people.

All of this means that you are sick. You are beginning to feel you are a failure. You just want to be left alone. You are becoming more and more depressed. And as you withdraw yourself from others you find you are being left behind in the race. This continual brooding over the past only increases your discomfort. You find it hard to smile, and soon you begin to hate life. Your mind is continually dwelling on yourself and all your misfortunes. You have pains in your head, or in your chest, and your heart pounds and makes you more afraid. Many different sensations sweep over you, until you feel as if you are being crushed. In the words of a popular song, you are "tired of living," and at the same time "scared of dying." You feel wholly inadequate to meet the problems of life, either now or in the future.

At a Low Ebb?

All of this confusion means that you have reached a low ebb in your nervous energy. The tide has gone out, leaving you weakened, both physically and mentally. You are seriously ill and need the proper kind of help. Remember, anyone could feel this way, for no one is immune to a

Your Radio Doctor Discusses

Your Nervous Problems



mental illness. A certain amount of anxiety and tension is perfectly natural. We could never live without these normal reactions to the stress of life. But when these stresses and strains come too frequently, or when we try to do more than our strength will allow, we may use up our nervous energy more rapidly than it can be replaced.

The most important thing is to recognize the problem before it becomes too serious. One of the earliest signs of trouble comes when some strange, unreasonable fear develops. This is always a danger sign that must not be ignored. When this happens it is best to seek the counsel of a good family doctor without further delay. So much can be done to help the nervous patient today. There is no need for anyone to suffer such agonies of mind as we have just described. And yet many are in this condition today, often through no fault of their own. Each one of these sufferers can be helped by the kind of treatment that is now available. All that is needed is a careful diagnosis and a

correct evaluation of each individual problem.

Every person who is suffering from a nervous ailment needs to have the kind of treatment that will bring him back to health and happiness. He needs the sympathetic support and the guidance of his family and friends, for with proper care almost every nervous patient can look forward to making a real recovery. He cannot do it alone. He needs the chance to make good again, and the *will to recover*, also a doctor who understands his problem.

Remember, friend, if you have the right attitudes, you can recover from almost any type of nervous or mental illness. You can overcome your fear of the future. You can forget the shadows that have haunted you so long. You can begin to live again, meeting life's problems without fear, and perhaps accomplishing far more than if you had never been sick. The greatest medicine for any mental illness is *faith*—faith in yourself, in your doctor, and in God. [END]

Sound an Alarm

(Continued from page 11)

"Are you serious, son?" the judge asked. "Do you mean you have never heard of the Ten Commandments?"

"No. Don't know anything about 'em."

The appalled judge took a Bible from his desk, handed it to the lad, and pronounced his sentence.

"I sentence you to learn the Ten Commandments by heart and to obey them."

It is a sad commentary that in this age of enlightenment in almost all lines of human endeavor, there should be such a dearth of knowledge in the field of moral conduct. The scientific advances of our day are illusory. We have developed many mechanical devices to get more enjoyment out of life, but we have never invented a better formula for human behavior than the Ten Commandments.

We are reaping what has been sown. The fruits of the antinomianism heresy are in stark evidence. Multitudes of youth today are the products of a pagan education. With no God to reverence, no Bible to guide their feet, no commandments to keep, and a largely immoral mental diet of "comic" books, novels, movies, and radio and television productions, it is little wonder that boys and girls adopt the habits and morals of the jungle.

The children and youth of today need help. They need mothers and fathers in whose lives are exemplified the high standards of morality as set forth in the word of God. The time has come when it behooves all who have the welfare of mankind at heart to unite in stemming the tide that seems ready to engulf us. We need to re-examine the ten precepts of the Decalogue written with the finger of God, and magnified by the Saviour in His Sermon on the Mount.

The ultimate solution of spiritual and moral problems rests in changed hearts and lives, and only Christ can do that. Reform without redemption is but cleaning the outside of the cup.

May God arouse us to meet this threat of lawlessness which constitutes a greater threat to the nation than does any foreign foe. "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." Joel 2:1.

Let us restore the law of God to its rightful place. Let us permit the Saviour to write it on the "fleshy tables of the heart." 2 Corinthians 3:3.

[END]

Your Health Questions Answered



I HAVE A QUESTION, DOCTOR--

by "YOUR RADIO DOCTOR"

HOSPITAL TRAINING

Q. "I will soon be fifty-five years old. At that time I will retire from the postal service. Is there anything I can do to help others? I would dearly love to take some nursing or hospital training, so that I can serve my fellow men."

A. I wish there were more men like you. Yes, there are excellent courses available. Go to your local Red Cross and pick one out. Take the first-aid course as a start, both the simple course and the advanced course. Then see what you can do along the lines of civil defense. The way some nations are piling up armaments today, there may be plenty of opportunity for people who can help in times of need. You can also take a course in home nursing, and find some useful work in helping to care for the aged and infirm. There are never enough nurses to go around, especially in times of

emergency. I hope many more will follow your example.

CIRCUMCISION

Q. "Why do hospitals circumcise all boy babies? One encyclopedia says that there is no true medical reason, unless some deformity needs to be corrected."

A. I do not know who wrote the article in the encyclopedia you are quoting, nor what his authority may be for making such a statement. But this much is clear. Wynder and other research workers have produced evidence that seems to indicate definitely that circumcision is of real value in preventing cancer. Such a conclusion must not be accepted as final, but the evidence seems to point in that direction. There may have been a very good medical reason why the Lord instructed Abraham and his posterity to carry out this simple surgical procedure.

Ephesians: *Unity in Christ*

by TAYLOR G. BUNCH

EPHESUS was a city of Ionia in the Roman province of Asia. At the time this epistle was written it was the metropolis of Asia Minor, being called "The Light of Asia," and "The First City of Asia." These inscriptions have been found on coins taken from the ancient ruins.

The city was located at the mouth of the Cayster River on the shore of the Aegean Sea, fifty miles south of Smyrna. By imperial edict Ephesus was made the gateway to the province for visiting Roman officials.

Ephesus was adorned with magnificent temples built by Nero, and after Paul's day by Hadrian and Severus, besides the famous temple of Diana or Artemis just outside the city, which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The size, glory, and fame of the city and its temples have been revealed by archaeological excavations. It was a center of idolatry and pleasure, the principal theater having a seating capacity of 25,000. In Paul's day the population was about a quarter of a million.

Christianity was planted in Ephesus by Paul during his first missionary tour. He remained but a short time and left Aquila and Priscilla to carry on the work. See Acts 18: 18-21. It was on his third tour of the mission fields that Paul remained in Ephesus two years and three months, making it the headquarters for missionary operations throughout the entire province. This indicates the importance of the city in his estimation. In all his work he showed great wisdom in starting the work in the great centers of population rather than in small villages or country places, thus laying the foundation for a permanent work. His missionary zeal is indicated by the fact that he labored "from house to house" and "ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears." During his stay in Ephesus the many churches in the province were doubtless established by him and his associates. Ephesus became the third city of Christianity after Jerusalem and Antioch.

The missionary zeal of Paul and his companions in labor aroused the fierce opposition of both Jews and Gentiles. So many pagans were turning to Christianity that the fame of the city as the "temple keeper of Diana" was in jeopardy, as well as the business of Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen who enjoyed a lucrative income from the manufacture and sale of gold, silver, brass, and terra-cotta shrines, hundreds of which have been found in the ruins of Ephesus. An inscription on black marble has been found, giving rules for magic. This throws light on Acts 19: 18, 19. These books of "curious arts" were sold to visitors at fabulous prices and constituted another source of the city's wealth. The burning of these books by converts from paganism testified to the genuineness of their conversion. They might have sold the books at a good



CAMERA CLIX

profit or kept them as souvenirs, but they refused to expose others to a danger from which they had been delivered.

It seems that Paul began his preaching in the synagogue, as was his custom, giving the gospel first to his own race. Then, when opposition deprived him of that privilege, he transferred to the school of Tyrannus and continued his work from there. Mighty miracles were performed in Ephesus, which demonstrated the power of Jehovah to be greater than that of the pagan deities. On his last journey to Jerusalem the apostle asked the elders of the church of Ephesus to meet him at Miletus, where his ship had landed. He then warned them of false teachers and of the coming apostasy, or "falling away" from the faith, which had already begun to develop and later ripened to maturity in the papal apostasy. See Acts 20:16-38.

The Pauline authorship of the Ephesian letter has rarely been questioned. The only objection critics have raised has been its similarity to the letter to the Colossians. Since the two were written by the same man at practically the same time and from the same place and then delivered by the same person, and also since the two churches were located not far apart in the same province where almost identical conditions prevailed, what else could be expected than similar expressions and instructions? Two letters written by the same person at the same time on the same subject would naturally contain many similar if not identical statements. This and

other criticisms are not well founded and are given little weight by the best scholars. One of the authors of *The Pulpit Commentary* declared that "an hypothesis so clumsy and hanging so ill together refutes itself."

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus," is the introduction to the letter and seems to indicate that it was written and intended for the use of more than one church. Also because of the fact that the instruction is general and was needed by the other churches as well, it may have been a sort of circular or encyclical letter, addressed to Ephesus because that was the headquarters church and the first to receive it. The same seems to have been true of the Colossian letter as indicated in the following statement: "And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea." Colossians 4:16. It is believed that "the epistle from Laodicea" here mentioned refers to the Ephesian letter on its rounds of the churches and not to a lost epistle of Paul. It was only natural that all the epistles should be passed around to all the churches until they could be collected in one volume in the Biblical canon.

The statement that the writer was "the prisoner of Jesus Christ" and "an ambassador in bonds" shows that the letter was written from the Roman prison during Paul's first confinement there. Most scholars also agree that the letters to Ephesus, Colosse, and Philemon were sent at the same time by the hand of Tychicus. See Ephesians 3:1; 6:20-22. The absence of the usual personal greetings at the close may be accounted for on the basis that they were sent by a personal messenger; and this, too, may indicate that the letters were intended for more than one church. The date of writing is believed to have been between A.D. 62 and 64.

Many students believe that the Ephesian letter is Paul's masterpiece and the most deeply spiritual of all his writings. It has been called his "third-heaven epistle." In it he soars from the depths of sin to the height of redemption through Christ where the saints sit with Him in heavenly places. The spiritual tone of the letter reflects the splendid spiritual condition of the church and reveals the secrets of a successful and happy Christian experience.

The letter presents the only possible basis of union between Jews and Gentiles, and, in fact, all nationalities and dispositions. Similarity of character and conduct can be attained only "in Christ." In fact, "in Christ Jesus" is the keynote of the letter. With Christ abiding in the hearts of His people and they abiding in Him, perfection is assured. Such a union can know no defeat or failure. With it all distinctions and differences disappear. In Christ, both Jews and Gentiles—in fact, all races—are on an equal footing before God. "He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition."

The tone of the epistle is calm and serene because the members had been elevated to "sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." The evils existing in the churches of Corinth and Galatia were not present in the church of Ephesus, and the future dangers mentioned to the elders at Miletus were not yet evident. The doctrines and practices of the members were still in harmony with the gospel standards. There was no serious local situation that needed reproof or correction. The apostle seemed relaxed in the knowledge of an unusually healthy spiritual state which

STAR OF HOPE

by PEARL WAGGONER HOWARD

Tranquil, o'er the troubled waters,
Rose the early evening star,
Shining with a steady radiance
From the twilight clouds afar;
'Till the rough waves were forgotten,
Also, conflicts of the day,
And that one star's peace and quiet
In our hearts alone held sway.

Tranquil, o'er this world's commotion,
Shines a bright Star even yet;
One alike to Bethlehem's story,
One no storms can make to set;
And if 'mid the earth's confusion
Men their eyes should upward raise,
Troubled hearts would change to quiet,
Fear to trust and psalms of praise.

Shine on still, O Star of comfort,
O'er these closing earthly scenes,
Lighting still the path we're treading,
Showing what the tempest means.
May in Thee our hearts find quiet
Till, at morn, we "pass the bar,"
In Thy peace to live forever—
Christ, the Bright and Morning Star!

made it possible for him to delve deeply into the mystery of godliness and set forth spiritual attainments which would challenge them to still greater efforts.

After the usual Pauline salutation, the apostle expresses his gratitude for the gospel that had done so much for the church. Even "before the foundation of the world" the Lord had chosen them to "be holy and without blame before Him in love." They had been "predestinated" to the "adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." Before the fall of man a provision had been made that all who would conform to the will and character of Christ would be saved. When the work of redemption is finished in the triumph of truth and righteousness, the Lord will "gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him." Thus predestination is made perfectly clear. All who exercise the power of choice to be conformed to the image or character of God through Christ will be saved. All others will be lost, and this was decided before the entrance of sin.

Christ is the Head of the church, which is His body, and should therefore be under His control. Union with the Head is the secret of spiritual unity and growth. The apostle also gives another symbol of unity, that of a building "fitly framed together," which grows "into an holy temple in the Lord," and thus becomes "an habitation of God through the Spirit." This spiritual temple is composed of "lively stones" (2 Peter 2:5) and has for its foundation the Scriptures written by "the apostles and prophets," with Jesus Christ as "the Chief Cornerstone."

Again, Paul likens the unity of the church to that of a "family" who are "rooted and grounded in love" because they "know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge" and are "filled with all the fullness of God." Paul also compares the love relation and unity between Christ and His church to that existing between bridegroom and bride, and husband and wife. His bride, the church, is redeemed, cleansed, and sanctified through His death and atoning sacrifice so that eventually at His second advent He can "present the church to Himself a glorious bride, without spot or wrinkle or any other defect, but to be holy and unblemished." Ephesians 5:27, Weymouth. This perfection is to be brought about through the operation of the gifts of the Spirit, whose functions are to bring all into "the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" so that we "may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ."

The apostle concludes with an appeal to be strong in the Lord in order to stand firm against all the attacks and stratagems of the devil and his wicked angels. The soldiers of the cross are not to wage war against their fellow men, but with the unseen hosts of darkness. Their only hope of victory is the protection of "the whole armor of God," composed of the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

With these divinely provided offensive weapons and defensive armor, the soldiers of the cross are assured that they will be able to stand their "ground on the day of battle, and, having fought to the end, to remain victors on the field." Ephesians 6:13, Weymouth. [END]

She Won 500 for Christ

(Continued from page 15)

only twice." Elsa saw Jeremiah 49:11. "Leave thy fatherless children," she read, "I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in Me." God had spoken.

Elsa started working with an evangelist in Vaasa, West Finland, in 1940. Soon the evangelist, along with all other eligible Finnish men, was inducted into the army to fight in the war against the Russians. "The work of winning souls to Christ had to go on," said Elsa, "so I started preaching."

Elsa's most recent evangelistic campaign, before coming to North America, was conducted in Helsinki, the capital of Finland. "I received many invitations to hold meetings in the capital," Elsa said, "but my answer was always, 'Never!' I was afraid. Finally, however, I consented."

The meetings were held four times a week in two halls, each seating 450 people. At first there was only one meeting a night. Then there were two. Then three, one right after the other. One night Elsa preached four times! As soon as one group of people left through the rear exit, another large group flowed in through the front door to refill the hall.

One method which Elsa used in Helsinki was to have office hours from nine in the morning until five in the evening. People made appointments to see her. For three months she hardly moved from the same building. She preached, visited with the people, and even slept there. People appreciated her kind Christian help so much that they sent her flowers. Soon the auditorium was filled with hundreds of beautiful blossoms. So much money was collected that after all the bills for the meetings had been paid, a large sum was left over. Every penny was given to the church.

Recently Elsa and Aino were sent to Canada. They had thrown themselves into their work of winning souls for Christ with such completeness that their health had suffered. It was felt that they needed a chance to recuperate.

But they have not had much rest. They met a Finnish family in Canada who knew of their soul-winning work. "Please hold meetings here in Port Arthur," the family pleaded. "There are 8,000 Finnish people here who have never heard of the second coming of Jesus."

So Elsa held one meeting, then a second. Soon she and Aino were holding meetings twice a week. So far nine people have accepted Jesus for the first time. Many others, once Christians, have returned to following the Master.

Today, looking back over eighteen years of preaching Christ, Elsa is thankful for the decision she made. Her mother is now a church member, as is one sister. And her brother, the one who was five when Elsa left home, is himself a young evangelist. Her family has never been in want.

"Why didn't you stay in the dress shop?" I asked Elsa. "You were earning a good salary."

"I enjoyed being a dressmaker," Elsa replied. "But," she said further, "when Christ came into my life I just had to share Him with others. It was the only thing I could do and be happy."

"I am Elsa's first convert," Aino told me. "We have been working together for sixteen years now, and we are happy."

I could tell that they are supremely happy. They are doing the work they love most—the work they cannot keep from doing. There will be many stars in their crowns. [END]



GOD'S FORGIVENESS

If one is religious but sometimes commits sins, and after he has committed them he prays to God for forgiveness, what would be the consequence after his death? W. M. L.

In both the Old Testament and the New are many assurances of God's complete forgiveness of our sins. "I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." Psalm 32:5. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. See also Acts 2:38; 5:30, 31.

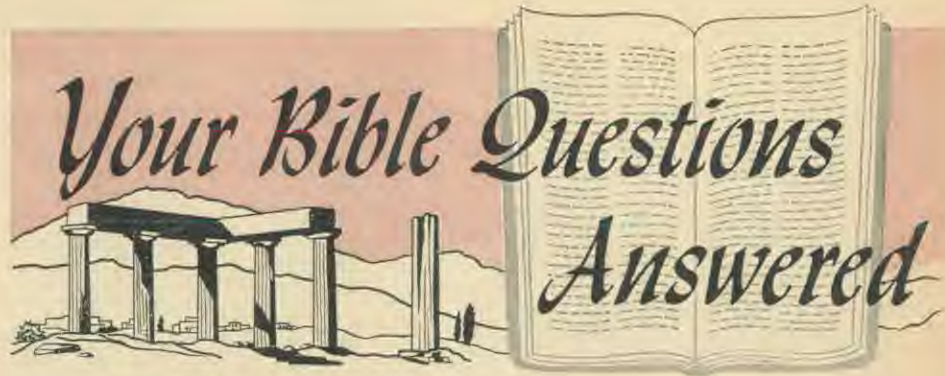
It is in Christ, who shed His blood for the remission of our sins, that we have forgiveness. "In whom [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Ephesians 1:7. See also Colossians 1:14; 1 John 1:7.

God's forgiveness is taught in a number of impressive illustrations. "Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of Thy people, Thou hast covered all their sin." Psalm 85:2. Again in the Psalms we read, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:12.

The prophet Micah says, "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:18, 19.

Through the prophet Isaiah God says, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins; return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee." Isaiah 44:22. God assures us also that after He has blotted out our sins, He will remember them no more. Isaiah 43:25. See also Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 8:12; 10:16, 17.

When we confess our sins and God forgives us, we stand before Him as if we had not sinned. However, because



by CHARLES D. UTT

we cannot know when death may overtake us, we must be sure every day of our lives that our sins are confessed and forgiven. If our sins have gone before to judgment (1 Timothy 5:24), we need have no fear when the books of heaven are opened (Revelation 3:5; 20:12).

PAUL

Please tell me when Saul's name was changed to Paul and what he did in Arabia. H. W.

Paul, as another name for Saul, is first mentioned in Acts 13:9—"Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him." The time was about ten years after his conversion. After this time he was called Paul exclusively, and he always referred to himself as Paul, except two or three times when he had occasion to mention his early life and conversion.

We do not know whether Saul's name was changed to Paul or whether he had both names from birth. Saul was his Jewish name, the same as that of the first king of Israel. Since Latin was the official language of the Roman Empire and Paul, though a Jew, was a Roman citizen (Acts 22:25-27), it was natural that he would also have a Roman name. Before the time mentioned in Acts 13:9, Paul had been mostly with Jews and Jewish Christians, but in this chapter it is mentioned that his work was beginning for the Gentiles. His missionary journeys were to take him over much of the Roman Empire, and for this reason he may have thought it wise to be known by his Roman name. The names Saul and Paul are not at all alike in meaning. The Hebrew name Saul means "asked for," and Paul (Latin, *Paulus*) means "little."

It is worthy of note that the change of Saul's name to Paul occurred at the time of his missionary visit to the island of Cyprus, where his preaching resulted in the conversion of the chief

magistrate, Sergius Paulus. Some commentators believe it is more than a coincidence that from this time Saul became known as Paul. They think that he took the name of this Roman official, one of his first converts, perhaps at Barnabas's suggestion, to commemorate the proconsul's conversion to the Christian faith.

Paul mentions his sojourn in Arabia in Galatians 1:17. From there he returned to Damascus, where he remained for three years before going to Jerusalem. Paul's stay in the desert recalls the experience of Moses. Both Moses and Paul were highly educated according to the worldly standards of their times, and they needed time for re-education and communion with God before beginning their lifework. No doubt while he was by himself in Arabia, Paul restudied the Scriptures to learn the certainty of the things that he had been told about Christ.

THE CORNERSTONE

Where in the Old Testament do we find a prophecy of Christ the cornerstone? Mrs. C. H.

There are two Old Testament references to cornerstones that are to be understood as representations, or types, of Christ. The first reads as follows: "The stone which the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner." Psalm 118:22. "The stone which the builders refused" is an allusion to a stone said to have been prepared for a place in the wall of Solomon's temple; but the builders, not recognizing where it was to be placed, let it lie unused. Later it was found to be exactly what was needed for an important corner, where it was placed to complete the building. See C. J. Ellicott, *A Bible Commentary for Bible Students*, vol. 6, p. 134.

Again, in Isaiah is a promise, or prophecy, of a cornerstone: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure

foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste." Isaiah 28:16.

The psalmist and Isaiah could hardly have understood what was symbolized by the cornerstone, but in the New Testament we find it several times explained as a representation of Christ. First He applies it to Himself. "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" Matthew 21:42. See also Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17.

The apostle Peter applied both prophecies to Christ, the first time before the Sanhedrin when he and John were arrested and tried for preaching Christ. He said, "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner." Acts 4:11. And again in his epistle he speaks of Christ as "a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious," and he further refers to the passages in Psalms and Isaiah, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a Chief Cornerstone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed." 1 Peter 2:4-8.

The apostle Paul also spoke of Christ as "the Chief Cornerstone." "And [ye] are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone." Ephesians 2:20.

SOUL AND BODY

Please explain Matthew 10:28, which says, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

L. E. McC.

The reference in this verse is to the persecution Christ foretold in verses 18 to 27. His followers might expect hatred, persecution, and death, not only from the world but from members of their own families. Such persecutions were not to be feared, however, for the harm they could do would be limited to taking away the physical or temporal life; they could not harm or endanger the eternal life of His children who were faithful to Him till death.

These words of Christ do not teach the inherent immortality of the soul

and eternal suffering of the lost. Christ declares positively that God can destroy both body and soul in hell, and His warning is pointless if the word "destroy" does not have the same meaning with reference to the soul that the word "kill" in the first part of the verse has with reference to the body: Destroying the soul affects it in the same way that killing, or destroying, affects the body.

Verse 39 of the same chapter helps to define the meaning of "soul" and "destroy" in verse 28. "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it." The verb here translated "lose" and "loseth" is the same Greek verb (*apollymi*) that is translated "destroy" in verse 28, and the noun (*psyche*), twice translated "life" in verse 39 is twice translated "soul" in verse 28. Loss or destruction of the soul is the same as loss or destruction of the life.

We should not think of God as wishing or willing to destroy men's lives. The next verses (29 and 30) refer to His concern for the sparrows and the very hairs of our head. He is long-suffering, "not willing that any should perish;" but when sinners persist in rejecting His offers of mercy, He will destroy them, soul and body, in the fire that destroys the earth and the works that are in it. 2 Peter 3:9, 10. "Hell" in Matthew 10:28 is translated from Gehenna, the name of the place near Jerusalem where apostate Israelites offered their children as sacrifices to Molech. It is used figuratively for the lake of fire, in which the wicked will be destroyed. This is the second and final death (Revelation 20:14), from which there is no resurrection.

Christ wished His disciples to realize that the temporal life is a small consideration compared with eternal life. One who finds, or preserves, his present life by denying Christ will lose his soul, his eternal life; but he who loses his temporal life, if need be, for Christ, will find eternal life.

The Name Above Every Name

(Continued from page 19)

It is "this same Jesus" whose birth in Bethlehem of Judea is commemorated in all the world at this Christmas season—Jesus, who came from heaven to earth; who lived among men and died on Calvary for our salvation, and now is exalted "far above all."

And it is this same Jesus—whose name is above every name—who is coming soon in power and majesty to gather His redeemed to Himself and establish them forever in the "many mansions" His love has prepared for them.

Erelong, in the grand consummation of the divine plan of the ages, "every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them" shall fall down in humble acknowledgment of His Lordship, crying, "Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever." Revelation 5:13.

May the beauty of it, the glory of it, the wonder of it, never fade from our hearts, but suffuse our lives and service every day and every hour until He comes again. [END]



Free BIBLE COURSE FOR BUSY PEOPLE

Check
Language
Desired

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Hungarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Rumanian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Italian | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finnish | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Jugoslavian | <input type="checkbox"/> Swedish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> German | <input type="checkbox"/> Polish | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukrainian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek | <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese | |

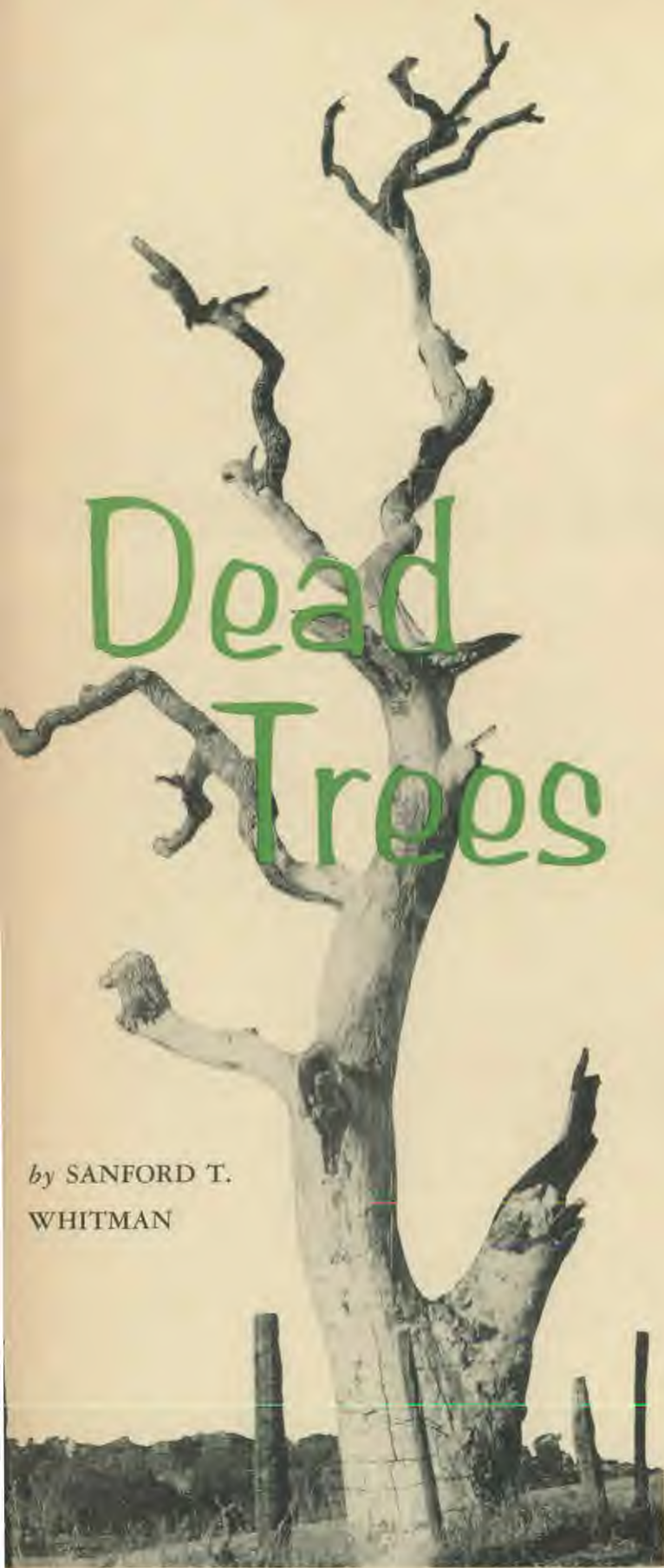
- ▶ Now available to all Signs readers.
- ▶ The Bible your only textbook.
- ▶ Study at home. Lessons mailed to you.
- ▶ Nothing to pay. Nothing to buy.
- ▶ Just fill out the coupon and mail to Dept. B. C., Signs of the Times, Mountain View, California.

Name _____ Please Print

Street _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ Junior ☐ Senior Check Course Desired



by SANFORD T.
WHITMAN

IT STANDS today where it has stood for centuries, a nameless tree in a nameless canyon in the logged-over wilderness of the Pacific Northwest. One of thousands of its kind on the upper watershed, it is the best that remains of the empire and era of old-growth timber.

Years ago when lumber was plentiful it was left as unsound because of a single shelf of fungus on its trunk—a growth scarcely larger than a squirrel's ear. Wantonly its top was broken out, its limbs shattered, when the fellers laid low the primeval forest. Most of its bark has now been shed. Its sapwood has been ravaged by worms. Dry rot has eaten to its heart. Its limbs are jagged splinters, bleaching in the sunlight. Mournfully it looks down upon the underlying jungle of brush and young trees. Its sole present usefulness is as a perch for hawks and owls.

From the creek in the canyon below, the soft melody of flowing water floats up by day and by night, but the gentle notes of its voice only mock the pitiful old tree. Naked, stark, valueless and unlovely, it stands in the glare and heat of summer, the rain and snow of winter. If there is any comfort left for the battered and hoary monarch it is this: The long ordeal will soon be ended. Before many years pass it must topple to the ground and be lost in that final oblivion beneath the trees now growing.

A dead tree. Gaunt. Forlorn. Silent. Symbol of depreciation, decay, loss, waste, ruin, death and of the carelessness and greed of man.

Symbol, too, of the effect of sin in a being created in the image of God.

"For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.

No more can we comprehend the purity and holiness of God than we can understand the enormity of sin. But of the end result of sin we need be in no uncertainty. Depreciation. Decay. Loss. Waste. Ruin. Death. Shame that is gallingly unendurable, wholly inescapable, doubly tragic because it is so needless.

Look at the face of a baby—pure, innocent, harmless. Then turn to the features of the hardened criminal. The hopeless victim of excess. The husks tottering along skid road.

What makes the difference?

Some will say tough luck, the wrong breaks.

Others will say indulged appetites. Uncontrolled passions. Weaknesses that have not been overcome.

The Bible has a shorter, better way of saying it. The Bible explains it like this—sin. Sin that takes root in the life, grows to maturity, comes at last to full harvest.

Sin will do it. Make no mistake about that. And it need not be the ugly, violent crimes that make the headlines of the daily press. The popular, pleasing, desirable, apparently harmless sins will work our downfall just as effectively.

As mute as stone is the gray old tree swaying in the wild upland canyon. Yet eloquent and eternal is the lesson it teaches.

What about your life? What about mine?

Are we spiritually dead, decaying, worthless?

Or are we, quickened by the Spirit of the indwelling Christ, growing into a future of unending life and happiness?

Signs OF THE TIMES

A gift
that is new every month



Gift Coupon

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

1350 Villa Street
Mountain View, California

Enclosed find \$ _____ for the following
subscription(s):

☐ 3 years ☐ 2 years ☐ 1 year

Name _____

Address _____

☐ Send greeting card with my name as donor.

☐ 3 years ☐ 2 years ☐ 1 year

Name _____

Address _____

☐ Send greeting card with my name as donor.

For additional subscriptions, use separate sheet.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES, Dept. H,
1350 Villa Street, Mountain View, California

SIGNS OF THE TIMES is delivered to your home each month by the postman, fragrant with hope and radiant with good cheer. Its messages of faith build confidence in the word of God and give assurance of His divine leading in the lives of those who trust Him.

Marvelous prophecies, relating to our time, are explained in the light of God's word as they unfold in the annals of the world drama. Readers of SIGNS OF THE TIMES catch a new vision of God's truth and His plan for their lives. The loving ministry of SIGNS offers hope and courage, faith and confidence, as it visits the home with a friendly and intimate expression.

This Christmas, give a gift that is new every month during the coming year. A gift that inspires and challenges one to live a more sublime life.

A beautiful greeting card with every gift subscription, available upon request.

Special reduced rates for two- and three-year subscriptions:

Three years (36 big issues), only	\$9.00
Two years (24 big issues), only	6.50
One year (12 big issues), only	3.50

These rates are effective in the United States, Canada, and Pan-American countries. Add 40 cents on subscriptions to other countries.

THE NEW MODERN MEDICAL COUNSELOR

is in a class by itself!

You can have up-to-the-minute information in your home regarding:

SYMPTOMS

There is a Symptoms Index that will help you to decide what the trouble is and how to treat it. In cases where it is best not to try treatment at home, but see a physician at once, you are so advised.

FIRST AID

Know what to do in case of an emergency or accident.

The first-aid section is specially marked by color and has an emergency index.

This latest edition advises what to do in case of atomic attack.

SIMPLE TREATMENTS

How to treat colds and other minor ailments in the home by use of hydrotherapy, natural methods, and simple treatments is told and illustrated.

DIET

Knowledge of food values and the proper preparation of food are important in keeping healthy.

You can depend upon THE NEW MODERN MEDICAL COUNSELOR for guidance.

Written by H. O. Swartout, M.D., Dr. P.H., in collaboration with thirty leading medical men of experience.

THE NEW MODERN MEDICAL COUNSELOR

is written by specialists, but in language the layman can understand. You may examine this up-to-date volume in your own home without any obligation. Use the coupon below to obtain information.

THE NEW MODERN MEDICAL COUNSELOR

can help you
SAVE doctor's bills
PREVENT disease and suffering
PROVIDE day-by-day health protection

The New Modern Medical Counselor



PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
Mountain View, California

Gentlemen:

Without obligation, I would like to

- ☐ have more information regarding THE NEW MODERN MEDICAL COUNSELOR.
☐ see THE NEW MODERN MEDICAL COUNSELOR.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

PREVENTION OF DISEASE

It is much better to prevent disease by right living than to cure disease after it has made its appearance.

THE NEW MODERN MEDICAL COUNSELOR

gives practical instruction on how to keep well and ward off disease.