

# Signs

OF THE TIMES

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**SAVE YOUR HOME**

Theodore Carcich

**GOD ISN'T DEAD**

The Editor





## Hidden Spring

by Marie Daerr

*Spring never truly leaves the earth.  
Hidden within the blackened bough  
Are promises of fragile bud  
And foliage that disavow  
The present with its ice and snow.  
Buried beneath this drift of white  
Are roots that wait in quietness  
To work their magic overnight  
And thrust through rain-wet soil the spears  
That will not be deterred by cold  
And soon are velvet hyacinths,  
Bright marching tulips, and the gold  
Of daffodils. Beneath the din  
Of winter winds' strong-powered cry  
There lies assurance this will change  
To tender breeze and lullaby.  
Spring never leaves hearts steeped in faith.  
Like winter bough and frost-locked sod,  
They hold themselves in readiness  
To blossom at the touch of God.*



## In This Issue...

So many homes are being broken by divorce these days that the continuance of orderly civilized society is threatened. All parents should do their utmost to preserve the nation's most essential and priceless institution. See "Save Your Home!" by Theodore Carcich on page 7.

Month by month Harold W. Clark, experienced biologist, piles up evidence in support of the Biblical account of the creation of this earth and its inhabitants. This time he deals with "Nature's Spinners and Weavers," revealing astonishing facts concerning spiders and silkworms for which there is no adequate explanation apart from the wisdom and power of God. See page 10.

All who have wondered how the good news of salvation through Christ is going to be brought to the hundreds of primitive tribes in far-off lands will read with deep interest about John Ford's "Fabulous Talking Box," as told by Joyce McClintock on page 12. It is the story of a miniature and very elementary gramophone which brings the gospel story to millions in their own tongue.

"All Glorious Within" is another delightful contribution by Mary J. Vine, who on page 14 discusses the prime requisite for living with God.

A few months ago Roland R. Hegstad, accompanied by Dr. Jean Nussbaum of Paris, had an interview with His Excellency Fernando María Castiella y Maíz, Foreign Minister of Spain, during which they discussed the matter of religious liberty in that country and the prospects of more liberal arrangements for Protestants. Be sure to read his fascinating report on page 21.

Two short articles are worthy of special attention: "Wrong Way—Go Back!" by Kenneth Wilson on page 29, and "Kindness Has No Color," by Ruth Earhart on page 34.

Looking forward to our March issue, we are glad to announce the following contents: "Time of the End," by Dallas Youngs; "Which Road to Unity?" by W. L. Emmerson; "Light in the Jungle," by Daniel R. Guild; "Masters of the Earth," by Harold W. Clark; "Lost God Found," by Norval F. Pease; "God's Hiding Place," by Sanford T. Whitman; and "Bookful of Happiness," by the editor.

# 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

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### **Bill for the Bottle**

Americans spent an estimated \$8,600,000,000 for alcoholic beverages last year, according to an industry official. Harry Greenwald, executive vice-president of Affiliated Distillers Brands Corp., said the figure was up from 1965's estimated \$8,200,000,000. Greenwald said women and young people are becoming increasingly important customers for alcoholic beverage dealers. "One of our studies shows that almost half the adult female population now drinks alcoholic beverages, compared with 60 percent of the adult male population," he said.

### **Catholic Publications in North America**

Total circulation of 156 Roman Catholic newspapers in the United States, Canada, and the West Indies now stands at 6,256,489, a gain of 4 percent over last year, according to the 1966-67 Catholic Press Directory. The directory lists 386 Catholic magazines in North America with a 22,688,235 circulation. All Catholic papers and magazines combined total 542 with a circulation of 28,944,724.

### **Joint Bible Translation in Dutch**

The Dutch Protestant Bible Society and the Roman Catholic Bible Foundation are planning to make a joint translation of the Bible, it was recently announced in Amsterdam. Each group has named two experts to begin work on the new translation.

### **Adventists' Record Budget**

A record \$40,100,000 budget for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1967, representing an increase of \$674,000 over 1966, has been approved by the denomination's Executive Council. Nearly one half of the new budget will support the church's work in North America and the remainder will go to ten overseas divisions. Among other items are \$22,000 for Christian Medical College in Vellore, India; \$92,000 for three servicemen's centers in Maryland, Texas, and Okinawa; and \$14,000 for the American Bible Society.

### **Protestant Church Offerings**

Church offerings by members of forty-four United States and Canadian Protestant and Anglican denominations reached a record \$3,300,996,291 in the 1965 fiscal year, the National Council of Churches has reported. Average per capita giving for all purposes rose from \$72.04 in 1964 to \$77.75 in 1965. It was noted that only forty-four denominations were reported out of 250 listed in the 1966 *Yearbook of American Churches*.

### **Family Man Ordained as Priest**

Harold R. Bronk, a former minister of the Episcopal Church in the United States who is married and the father of seven children, was recently ordained in Rottenburg, Germany, to the Roman Catholic priesthood. His ordination was made possible under a special dispensation from Pope Paul VI. The priest has agreed to remain in Germany.

### **Lutheran Reunion in Australia**

Formation of a new Lutheran Church of Australia has ended more than a century of Lutheran division on that continent. The new church came into being through merger of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia. Dr. Max Lohe of North Adelaide, president of the 61,000-member UELCA, was named president of the new united church. Rev. Harold W. Koehne of Hyde Park, head of the 50,000-member ELCA, was elected vice-president.

### **Mission for Reunion**

Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras of Istanbul, supreme leader of Eastern Orthodoxy, has stated that his plans for 1967 include a visit to Rome as well as to the heads of all Orthodox churches around the world. In an interview with *Ethnos*, Athens daily newspaper, Patriarch Athenagoras reiterated his belief that a reunion of Orthodoxy and Catholicism is possible in the foreseeable future. As to his projected visit to the Vatican, he said, "The pope is expecting me."

### **Synodical Government for Church of England**

Far-reaching proposals to provide synodical government for the Church of England by 1970 have been approved by the Church Assembly. They will give the Church a new General Synod which will combine all the legislative and other powers now held by the Church Assembly and the Convocations of Canterbury and York. They will also give the laity a greater voice in church government. The Convocations, consisting of bishops and clergy only, will continue with limited powers.

### **Common Bible**

A worldwide project to study the possibilities of a common Catholic-Protestant Bible has been launched by the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. An American Jesuit, Father Walter M. Abbot of Boston, formerly associate editor of the weekly review *America*, has been appointed the personal assistant of Augustin Cardinal Bea, Secretariat head, for the direction of the study. A Jewish lay leader, Seymour M. Liebowitz, president of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, has suggested that if a common Christian Bible is produced by Catholic and Protestant scholars, any references in the New Testament blaming Jews for the crucifixion of Christ should be deleted.





Silicon chips containing transistors, diodes, resistors, and capacitors are sealed in these lead frames which are utilized in computer and communication system industries.



Attracting attention in New York City Central Yard is a strange-looking locomotive powered by two jet engines mounted on top. It established a rail speed record for this country of 183.85 mph during a test run in the Midwest.

## THE FLIGHT OF TIME



### ERA OF ANARCHY

Time after time in these columns we have called attention to the tragic increase of lawlessness and the growing disregard for oldtime standards of morality, such prominent features of the world scene today.

Recently David Lawrence wrote on the subject with the vehemence of one of the ancient prophets. In the August, 29, 1966, issue of *U.S. News & World Report* he declared: "Historians someday will write that the United States in the 1960's experienced an era of anarchy unparalleled in a free country governed originally by a written Constitution and once dedicated to the principle of law and order.

"We are today on the verge of a complete breakdown of our governmental structure.

"City governments appear helpless to protect human life. State governments are paralyzed by lack of tax revenues. . . .

"City after city is plagued with 'demonstrations' and disorders led by irresponsible elements who put their own interests above those of the community. Crime has increased to an unprecedented degree as law enforcement is frustrated. . . .

"Is mobocracy to take the place of democracy? Even clergymen, who are supposed to preach doctrines of human love and conciliation, have joined the mob. . . .

"Where shall we look for leadership in the crusade to restore law and order?"

We all know how sickeningly true this indictment is. Evil, destructive forces have got out of hand, and there seems to be no way to bring them under control. While

many good men are doing their best to save the situation, they are outplayed and outmaneuvered by the powers of the underworld.

What is happening in the United States is also taking place in most other countries. The moral breakdown is no local phenomenon but a global disease. Unhealed, uncorrected, it can result in nothing less than universal calamity.

We are witnessing clear evidence that democracy without Christian principles will not work and that civilization without conversion cannot last.

Having turned its back on God, the Bible, the Ten Commandments, and the moral values advocated by Jesus Christ, the world is slipping fast toward a state of lawlessness ominously resembling conditions before the great Flood of Noah's day.

Fortunately a description of those times is still on record. The Bible says that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth" and "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5.

Moreover "the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." Verse 11.

That's the way things always go when God is left out. Evil thoughts lead to corrupt deeds, which in turn spawn violence. And after that, judgment.

In Noah's day judgment came in the form of a gigantic, unprecedented flood. The Bible says, "The Flood came, and took them all away" (Matthew 24:39)—all, that is, except Noah and his family.

And judgment will come again. It is inevitable, for like causes bring like results. Only this time it will be by fire, not water. See 2 Peter 3:7.



Jesus said, "As things were in Noah's days, so will they be in the days of the Son of man. They ate and drank and married, until the day that Noah went into the ark and the Flood came and made an end of them all. As things were in Lot's days, also: they ate and drank; they bought and sold; they planted and built; but the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and sulphur from heaven and made an end of them all—it will be like that on the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:26-30.

The present "era of anarchy" is clear evidence that the words of Jesus are being fulfilled before our eyes. The days of Noah, the days of Lot, are here again. They portend coming judgment, complete, global, permanent. It is the saddest, though perhaps the most convincing, of all the signs of our times.

A. S. M.

## FALLING STARS

Every November the earth, in its journey round the sun, passes through debris from the Temple comet, which accounts for the shooting stars commonly seen in the sky at this time of the year. Every thirty-three and a quarter years the earth intersects a particularly heavy cluster of the comet's dust, resulting in star showers of amazing brilliance and magnitude. They are called the "Leonids" because the meteors appear to radiate from the constellation Leo.

Astronomers predicted that they would reappear in November, 1966, and they did, right on time. Unfortunately thick haze prevented millions from observing the phenomenon, but in certain parts of the United States and other countries viewers witnessed an unforgettable scene.

Students from the University of Arizona ascended Kitt Peak on the night of November 17 and were richly rewarded for their vigil. About 5 a.m. the meteors fell "like a snow-fall." "Many outshone Jupiter. During the peak period meteors were falling at the rate of 140,000 an hour."

"It looked like an umbrella," said another observer. "From the center of the umbrella directly above us the meteors spread out 360 degrees. They came in spurts at intervals of three to five minutes. You could see them start. With two or three of the bigger ones you could see a trail of dust."

"It was the brightest Leonid shower since 1866," said J. Allen Hyneck, chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University.

Greatest shower of all, however, occurred 134 years ago. "On the night of November 12-13, 1833, a tempest of falling stars broke over the world. North America bore the brunt of its pelting. From the Gulf of Mexico to Halifax, until daylight with some difficulty put an end to the display, the sky was scored in every direction with shining tracks and illuminated with majestic fireballs."—Agnes M. Clerke, *History of Astronomy in the Nineteenth Century*, page 328.

This shower was "probably the most remarkable of all the meteoric showers that have ever occurred. . . . The number at some stations was estimated as high at 200,000 an hour for five or six hours. 'The sky was as full of them as it ever is of snowflakes in a storm.'"—Charles A. Young, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Astronomy in Princeton University, *Manual of Astronomy*, pages 469-472.

According to the *American Cyclopaedia* (1881): "The year 1833 is memorable for the most magnificent display on record. This . . . was visible over all the United States, and over a part of Mexico, and the West India Islands. Together with the smaller shooting stars, which fell like snowflakes and produced phosphorescent lines along their course, there were intermingled large fireballs, which darted forth at intervals describing in a few seconds an arc of 30 or 40 degrees.

"At Niagara the exhibition was especially brilliant, and probably no spectacle so terribly grand and sublime as ever before beheld by man as that of the firmament descending in fiery torrents over the dark and roaring cataract."

That amazing, unexampled shower was widely regarded at the time as the fulfillment of the prediction made by Jesus that "the stars shall fall from heaven." Matthew 24:29. Coming as it did not many decades after the mysterious darkening of the sun on May 19, 1780, it confirmed the belief of many devout Bible students that the coming of Christ was near.

Wrote one observer: "We pronounce the raining fire which we saw on Wednesday morning last an awful type, a sure forerunner, a merciful sign, of that great and dreadful day which the inhabitants of the earth will witness when the sixth seal shall be opened. . . . Many things now occurring upon the earth tend to convince us that we are in 'the latter days.' This exhibition we deem to be a type of an awful day fast hurrying upon us."—*The Old Countryman*, New York, printed in the New York *Star* and quoted in the Portland (Maine) *Evening Advertiser*, Nov. 29, 1833.

Occurring as it did at the right moment in the fulfillment of the great time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, this great natural phenomenon was hailed—and still is—as a sure harbinger of the approaching end.

What, then, of the great star shower of November, 1966? Was this a sign too? Why not? Might it not have been like an alarm going off the second time?

The Lord said, "The stars shall fall from heaven," not indicating how many times they would fall. Each such awe-inspiring occasion, when the whole sky is ablaze with meteors, is a potent reminder of His prediction that "fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven" (Luke 21:11), reiterating and reconfirming His solemn warning, "When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Verse 31.

A. S. M.





# Save Your Home!



DEVANEY

*How to Preserve the Nation's Most Essential and Priceless Institution*

by **THEODORE CARCICH**

There was a time when the home stood for great ethical values. It was a haven from disruptive forces of hate, envy, greed, and selfishness. Today that type of home is disappearing.

Each day in the United States some 4,000 couples stand before a clergyman or magistrate to be united in marriage, yet one out of every four of these marriages will end in divorce.

Each year divorce tears apart the homes of half a million children, depriving these future citizens of the love, security, and character patterns so necessary to a well-ordered and law-abiding society. Tragically for many youth, home no longer exists.

If our contemporary culture is bad, it is because our homes are no better. A great society does not stem from some political gimmick or the halls of Congress, but from homes where parents sense their solemn responsibility to rear children who are truthful, honest, upright, and law-abiding. As the youth go out from such homes, the lessons they have learned are imparted to others. Noble and steadfast principles of life are thereby introduced into other households, as well as into places of industry, business, and government.

The first six years of a child's life are the determining years. This impressionable period fixes habit structures and emotional patterns. Granting that development vari-





MONKMEYER

ation is possible under later religious training, the truth is that either goodness or delinquency begins very early in life.

As an example, consider the problem of dishonesty. Manifesting itself currently in cheating, embezzling, shoplifting, tax evasion, and planned bankruptcies, this grave social disorder filches billions from business and ultimately from the total population. Unless corrected, this serious fault could well undermine not only the economic but also the political foundations of the country.

An individual is not honest or dishonest because at some particular moment he decides to be one or the other. Rather, he acts as he does because he grew up in a home where either honesty or dishonesty was absorbed out of experiences as a child and a teen-ager.

Children copy their parents. They are swift to incorporate adult ideas, attitudes, and habits. The father who brags about his traffic violations and questionable business dealings can hardly expect his son to become a paragon of honesty. Neither should he be shocked if his son is dismissed from college for cheating or is refused a responsible

position because of his attitude toward veracity and integrity.

Moral values must be exemplified by Father and Mother if they are ever to be understood and appreciated by Son and Daughter. They must govern relationships between all members of the home, between you and your neighbors, between you and your business competitor or employer, and between you and those who differ from you religiously. To be of any value to those about you, honesty, truth, and morality must first become a way of life in your home. Emotional instability is often imparted to children by parents' double set of standards. A child is greatly confused when he is confronted by some strict requirement that is excused in his father and his mother.

For instance, someone calls at your home. Your children are present. You ooze friendliness and polite conversation until the callers leave. As soon as the door is closed you heave a sigh of relief and exclaim, "Of all the bores, why did *they* come and spoil our evening?" Worse yet, consider the mother who instructs her child to go to the phone and inform the caller that she is not at home.

This type of hypocritical double-talk conflicts sharply with the standards of veracity we dictate to our children. Youngsters are impressed not so much by what we say as by what we do. Need we wonder why prevarication, evasion, and deceit permeate all levels of life today?

Someone has aptly stated that a home is a manufacturing plant for the production either of responsible citizens or of social misfits. Parents can avoid manufacturing misfits if they strive unceasingly to make home the most attractive place in the world for their children. This is achieved not necessarily by gadgets and period furniture, but by the presence of parents who possess sunny dispositions, good sense, and understanding hearts. By the very nature of things a mother's presence should be the home's greatest attraction. When a mother becomes so busy saving the community, or working away from home, you can be sure that in time her family will go to pieces.

In saying this, I do not mean to downgrade a mother who is involved in community projects or budget balancing, but simply to point out that there is a time in a child's life when he needs more than anything else to find his mother at home. Neither am I contending against women taking employment after the children are grown and have left home. Nor is it to say that an occasional evening out for Mom and Dad is out of order, or that one should never hire a baby-sitter. Mothers should realize, however, that during the formative years of children's development their place is with their children. Whenever a mother shirks this close and personal relationship, she courts trouble for herself and her children.

Sixteen-year-old Betty left home and married a twenty-year-old boy whom both her mother and her father considered to be a poor marital risk. Dismayed, the distraught mother wondered why her intelligent daughter would do such a thing without first talking it over with her. She had a right to be dismayed, but not surprised. In reviewing the

MAX THARPE FROM MONKMEYER





past she discovered the reasons for her daughter's action.

When Betty was ten years old, Mrs. Brown had taken a full-time job to help pay for some needed wardrobe items. She intended to work for only a few months, but the hefty paycheck had a hypnotizing effect, and she could not bring herself to quit.

Consequently, every afternoon Betty came home from school to an empty house. When Betty's parents did come home, they were too tired to discuss her girlish problems and aspirations. Thus Betty grew up alone; and when she complained about how lonely it was around the house, her mother would shrug her shoulders and say, "You are a big girl now, and you must learn to do things without depending so much on Mother."

And this is precisely what Betty did. In her loneliness she invited school friends to her home. Since Mother was not around to assist in the choice of friends, some came whose influence was not the best. Mrs. Brown did not know it, but while she was gaining financial security she was losing her daughter. Suddenly one day she realized, too late, that you cannot neglect children when they are young and expect them to confide in you when they are older. Sadly Mrs. Brown recognized that companionship with one's children is established through the years and not in some sudden emergency.

Wise mothers realize this and live close to their children. At best a mother's time with her children is limited, and every moment must be used to teach them how to differentiate between right and wrong, to implant a sense of responsibility in their young minds. By example and precept she must uphold standards of cleanliness, order, and purity. She must be willing to listen to the seemingly idle chatter and prattle that marks the adolescent and then with quiet talks impart the direction, confidence, and security that the child needs. All this takes time, and it cannot be done by remote control. There are many part-time jobs in this world, but a mother's job is not one of them.

Furthermore, home life provides the child with the opportunity to grasp the full meaning of obedience and cooperation. Insignificant as these traits may seem to some, they are tremendously important in our complicated technological civilization. Life today moves swiftly, often demanding split-second reactions, and those who would survive must understand the meaning of obedience and cooperation. This is true whether one is experimenting in a kitchen or a college chemistry laboratory or driving a powerful automobile on a freeway.

Each week a thousand persons are slaughtered on the nation's highways. These frightful accidents are caused largely by persons who have never sensed the significance of obeying and cooperating with the requirements of safe driving. In these dangerous days, when existence or annihilation may depend upon the handling of either an atomic button or a gas pedal, parents need to send into the world children who are strongly motivated by obedience to law and respect for the rights of others.

How well husband and wife cooperate with each other

at home, and children with parents, determines the cooperation of youth in classrooms and on public highways. This is so because courtesy, politeness, and regard for others is not taught by textbooks, but by example.

Someday children will be old enough to consider marriage. In Father and Mother they should behold their matrimonial ideals. Over and above the cooking, sewing, laundering, and working for a living, what should youth behold in their parents?

Chief among many things, they should recognize their parents as partners in holy wedlock who are constantly increasing their capacity to care for others. They progress from getting to giving—often giving in to each other. Included in this is willingness to work and pray together to solve problems through many compromises.

The Christian husband especially will assume his share of the home burdens. When the other partner is under stress, just a little support makes a world of difference. Such consideration and harmonious relationships develop a sense of warmth and appreciation for each other. Children brought up in this congenial atmosphere will experience no difficulty in developing congenial homes of their own.

Far too often parents express disagreeable thoughts about each other in the presence of children. They nag or deflate. Unconsciously this engenders hostility in children toward society. Thoughtlessness and selfishness exhibited in the home cannot be shed too easily outside the home.

Especially effective in manufacturing delinquents are parents who periodically turn loose their critical venom upon the teacher, minister, law enforcement authorities, or a neighbor who happens to own a better house or car. This hostile atmosphere is calculated to spawn youngsters who are suspicious of and antagonistic to any rules and regulations of a well-ordered society.

On the other hand parents can provide opportunities for children to develop inner resources against the corrosive pressures of life. Such training is needed more than ever today when the temptation is so strong to glue attention on the glowing box in the corner of the living room.

When did you last read the Bible to your children? When did you last take them to an art gallery or arboretum or arrange for them to listen to the music of the masters? Unless you supply them with that which is uplifting, they will fill their minds with the cheap, tawdry, and defiling.

Along with everything else, parents should provide controls for their children. State institutions and penitentiaries are crowded with people who have never learned that controls are a necessary part of life.

Limits to behavior should be established, clearly defined, and firmly enforced. Home is the training school for life in a world of many people. No one can with safety disregard the rules of physics, chemistry, space travel, or sports. It is disastrous to suggest to children that some laws should be obeyed and others disregarded.

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

[END]



# Nature's Spinners and

## Weavers

The other day as I passed the open doorway to my woodshed, I saw stretched across it one of the largest spider webs I have ever seen. Though not particularly fond of spiders, I had to admire the marvelous engineering

feat there displayed. The door was the usual size, about 3 x 7 feet, and the web practically filled it. If I had tried to perform such a task in proportion to my size, I would have had to spin a web half as high as the Empire State Building. How could this tiny creature accomplish such an amazing task?

If I had been doing it, I suppose I would have started at the top, in the middle of the opening, and would have let myself down by a line for about 700 feet. But the marvel of this performance was that the spider actually made the line as he worked, from a secretion produced by glands in his body.

But he did not start at the middle of the space to be filled with web. Instead, he started at one corner at the top of the doorway, and spun a loop that formed an arc hanging down about eighteen inches in the middle. How this was done is a mystery. But it obviously had a purpose, for to this arc were attached radii of the web at regular intervals. Hanging down as it did, it made the distance from the center of the web to the loop about the same as to the edges of the doorway. Good planning! Then on the bottom was another arc, this one *with its center upward*, and serving the same



H. D. WHEELER

purpose as the upper one. How this was accomplished is still more difficult to understand.

From the middle of the area bounded by the two arcs and the edges of the doorway, a space about three feet across, extended about thirty radiating lines, almost evenly spaced. Then, beginning from the center, another line spiraled to the outside, giving the appearance of a series of evenly spaced concentric circles. The whole structure was a beautiful piece of architecture. I wish I could have watched the process of building to see how all the connections were made.

I was even more intrigued a few days later to find another web of the same kind tied up to a pine tree beside my front entrance. But here the engineering feat was still more remarkable. The upper left-hand corner anchor line was attached to a dead limb twelve feet from the ground, and the right-hand line to the tree itself. The lower anchor lines were attached to bushes nearby. The expanse of the entire structure, including the anchor lines, covered an area 6 x 12 feet. Quite a job for a spider only half an inch across!

Spiders spin webs of many kinds, such as sheets, funnels, and orbs. The different kinds of spiders show no evidence of any evolutionary sequence. Closely related kinds spin different webs, and widely separated kinds may spin the same kind of web. Nor only is this true, but there are no known creatures which could conceivably have given rise to spiders and to have passed on to them their spinning ability.

One of the strangest of all web builders is an aquatic species of Europe and Asia that builds a bell-shaped tent underwater. Having completed its web, it takes a bubble of air between its legs, swims down with it to the bell, and releases it. This is kept up until the bell is filled with air. For anyone to try to explain this by any supposed evolutionary process is a hopeless task.

While spiders have their silk-producing ducts on the rear of the body, other closely related creatures have them in front. Pseudoscorpions produce silk through the first pair of appendages, located in front of the mouth. The glands are

*Astonishing Feats of Spiders and  
Silkworms Declare the Wisdom  
and Power of the Creator*



close by, just behind the mouth. One group known as grain mites can spin silk by the use of modified salivary glands.

All spiders have spinnerets, but not all spin webs. Silk is used for a number of other purposes, such as making egg cocoons, lining burrows, or making hinges for the lids of burrows, as in the case of the trap-door spider. One of the most remarkable of all is the gossamer spider, which takes an aerial journey by means of its silk. Pointing the rear end of the body upward, it begins to exude silk, which is carried away by the wind until a thread of sufficient length is formed to lift the spider and take it for a ride.

The spinnerets, as the silk-producing organs are called, may vary in number, but there are never more than four pairs. Each is formed by a combination of from 100 to 1,000 tubes, from which a fluid flows that forms silk as soon as it touches the air. Silk is thus a composite thread, and spider silk is the finest known. Attempts have been made to produce it commercially, but with very little success. The difficulty lies largely in the problem of caring for the spiders and getting them to spin when their silk is needed.

However, there is a certain very important use made of spider silk. It is used to make the cross hairs in telescopes and surveyors' transits. The silk is perfectly smooth and even and thus very satisfactory for the purpose.

One remarkable ability shown by a spider is that of dropping from an object by means of a silk thread it exudes. The other day a tiny spider, about 1/16 of an inch across, dropped onto our dining table from the light fixture above, a distance of about four feet. This would be like my dropping down a line for about three quarters of a mile, or farther than from the top of El Capitan in Yosemite. And the interesting thing was that as soon as this little fellow looked around awhile, he climbed back up his line, making the climb in about half a minute. Imagine my climbing El Capitan that fast!

A fly alighting on the web may become entangled; and to be sure that it is secure, the spider may weave a pattern of silk over it. If the intruder happens to be a bee or a wasp, silk is sometimes squirted for an inch or more over the victim.

The male spider makes a peculiar use of silk, forming a silken strand or sheet onto which sperms are ejected. The openings of the sperm ducts in the male do not match the openings to the egg ducts in the female. In order to fertilize the eggs, the male spider uses his *palpi*, appendages by the mouth, to pick up sperms and transfer them to the egg ducts of the female. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* says of this procedure: "How such an arrangement could have originated remains a mystery." It is, indeed, one more mystery for which there is no explanation except that the Creator planned it that way.

Speaking of evolutionary possibilities, it is interesting to note that there is no evidence of evolutionary progression in spiders. Clear down to the lowest orders, they show the same complex structures. They are a unique group, with no relatives closely resembling them in structure and behavior.

One of the most peculiar features of spider behavior is their mating habits. At mating time male spiders wander about seeking the webs or lairs of the females of their species. And since females have never seen anything on their webs but such insects or other creatures as might serve as food the males are just as likely as not to be regarded as another supply of food. The male must go through all kinds of antics to prevent his intended mate from killing and eating him before he has time to transfer the sperm to her egg-producing ducts. Sometimes he escapes unharmed, or again he may become a meal before

or after the mating is accomplished.

Much more might be said about spiders and their webs and funnels, but we must give some attention to other silk producers.

The mulberry silkworm of the Orient has been the chief commercial insect spinner, although several other insects do produce silk. The Chinese have been manufacturing silk as far back as records go. Silk manufacture is a subject by itself, but we are interested in the relation between silkworms and other silk producers.

First let us inquire as to the relation between silkworms and spiders. The only real relation is that they are both arthropods, that is, creatures with jointed legs. But spiders are not insects, nor do they give any evidence of having arisen from insects.

In fact, the use made of silk in the two groups is quite different. In spiders it is used for webs, funnels, and lining of burrows. In silkworms it has only one function, the formation of the cocoon in which the pupa becomes transformed into the adult moth.

Obviously, because the function of the silk in the two groups is so different, the spinning organs must be different. Whereas in spiders the spinnerets are at the rear end, so that the spider can walk away and leave a line of silk behind him, in the silkworm the plan must be quite different.

The silkworm has two series of glands running along the underside of the body, one on each side, but joining at the front, just beneath the underlip. As the time for metamorphosis approaches, the glands become filled with fluid (in the spider they are always filled). When this fluid is exuded from the spinneret, it is mixed with another fluid produced at the orifice, which hardens it immediately into a silk thread.

Now, in order for the silkworm to produce a cocoon that will cover its entire body, (*Continued on page 28*)

by **Harold W. Clark**, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Pacific Union College





## FABULOUS "TALKING BOX"

*Miniature Gramophone Brings Christ to Millions in Their Own Tongue*

by Joyce McClintock

Members of an Indian tribe in a virtually inaccessible area in Mexico looked up in surprise as a small plane circled, dipped down, and landed in a nearby clearing.

An American pilot, having heard of their needs and undaunted by lack of roads, had flown in a planeload of clothing to be distributed among them. When he finished unloading his plane, he walked up to the chief and said, "I have a special gift for you."

Taking the cardboard carton held out to him, the chief opened it and found inside a small, brightly colored gramophone and some records. The pilot showed the curious chief how to operate the machine by simply placing his right forefinger on a little plastic loop resting on top of the record and turning it clockwise. The chief immediately went and sat under a tree, so absorbed with his new possession that it was impossible for anyone to get his attention. When the pilot returned a few months later, the chief requested a new set of records. He had worn out all but three of the original set.

On the other side of the world, on the island of Taiwan, the country people have little or no entertainment to occupy their time after the day's work is done. It has therefore been their custom to retire early and rise at dawn to start work anew. However, it is possible today to find groups of country peasants staying up until midnight or later because someone has given them a bright-orange, toy-sized gramophone and a set of records, and they now have something with which they are very much "entertained."

Scantly clad tribesmen cluster around one of their fellows in a jungle village in a remote part of New Guinea.

Their eyes widen in amazement and their bodies tense as they prepare to run from what the man in the center holds in his hand. It is not what they see, but what they hear, that startles them, for out of this strange "talking box" a voice is speaking to them in their own tongue! How can such a thing be? As they realize no danger is going to befall them, they gather closer to comprehend better the words being spoken.

What do these people hear that is so intriguing to them? On these small records are the basic fundamentals of Christianity; not involved doctrine, not specific dogmas of any one church, but simply the story of the redeeming love of Jesus Christ as Saviour and the gospel of the kingdom as He gave it.

In an unpretentious building in the hills of Malibu, California, a man, his wife, a retired Navy man who donates full time, and one paid employee assemble and ship each year to foreign countries 5,000 hand-operated plastic gramophones, each accompanied by a set of eight records. So simple a child can operate them, these sets are bringing Christianity to many who might otherwise never hear of it.

Now known as International Educational Recordings (I.E.R.), a nonprofit, nondenominational organization, this project was initiated and is carried on as a labor of love by a tall white-haired man who receives no monetary return from his full-time work, but who feels that it is pay enough to know his efforts are helping pagans to become Christians. John Ford is a rather soft-spoken man, but what he says reveals determination and singleness of purpose.



Pastor Paul Piari demonstrates the "talking box" at Lake Kapiago, New Guinea.



Although they now had money with which to meet their living expenses, where were the finances coming from to defray the costs involved in buying the gramophones, pressing the records, and shipping the sets to mission fields? Thinking that others might be interested, they mimeographed a letter explaining their plan and sent out about fifty copies to neighbors and friends. In response a number of people sent contributions totaling over \$1,000. The Fords were in business for the Lord.

Ford's next step was to write in English the script for the basic lessons in Christianity, phrased in as simple language as possible so that primitive, unschooled people who know nothing about Christianity and can't read can still understand. The script was sent to a missionary working in New Guinea, who selected two tribesmen, Cari and Koyu, and explained to them what he would like them to do. Setting up his tape recorder, he had Cari translate the script into his native Agarabe tongue. Then Koyu did the same in Auiana. When this was completed the tape was flown back to Ford in California. The first records in these languages were quickly pressed and sent back to New Guinea, arriving there just about one month from the time the script had first reached the missionary. "This demonstrated how quickly the gospel could be made available in a new language," remarked Ford.

Interestingly, Koyu became the first convert to Christianity from his tribe. Although the knowledge of Christ was very new to him, he immediately became a missionary to his own people, who lived about three day's walk from the mission station. Having no education, he could not preach, but the little

*(Continued on page 30)*

A sincere, devoted Christian who served for four years during the 1920's as a missionary in the Andes near Quito, Ecuador, Ford's great burden for spreading the gospel arises from the Bible text which says, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Matthew 24:14), and the text in Revelation 14:6 which reads, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Ford emphasizes the word "tongue," pointing out that there are 3,000 major languages plus 8,000 dialects in the world. It was during his missionary years that he first realized the problems posed by the language barrier.

Many years later, at a time when he could presumably look forward to retirement within a few years, he became increasingly concerned with the fact that most methods of presenting Christianity reach relatively small numbers of people. With the world population exploding and non-Christian people increasing at a greater rate than Christians, he felt that some different method of reaching the masses of humanity would have to be devised if there were to be any hope of giving the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Thus in 1953 Ford began turning his thoughts, energies, and prayers toward a solution to this seemingly insurmountable problem.

After much consideration he decided that a simple, inexpensive, hand-operated gramophone, with records in many languages, would be an excellent way to present the gospel. He and his wife, Louise, agreed to devote all their time to putting this idea into effect, and further decided that they would take no financial remuneration for their services from any funds that might be donated to help develop the project. At the time, their assets were minimal: some well-worn furniture, an automobile, 160 acres of mountain brush land in Malibu, a bank account of approximately \$200, and an acre planted to avocados in San Diego. They sold their avocado land for enough to provide living expenses for several years.

As a Pila Valley chief operates the gramophone, his people enjoy the gospel in their own particular Papuan language.





# "ALL GLORIOUS WITHIN"

*Prime Requisite for  
Living With God*

by MARY J. VINE



CHARLES ZINGARO, ARTIST; © P.P.P.A.

Always there are conditions to be fulfilled. Everything is conditional—our reaping upon our planting, our progress upon our diligence, our happiness upon our unselfishness, our health upon our habits, our good name upon our behavior—there is no end to it.

With this in mind, I give you a text. You will find it in Hebrews 12:14: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, *without which no man shall see the Lord.*"

Now if there is one thing that I desire above all others, it is that, with the rest of His accepted children, I shall "see the Lord" on that day He has appointed, that I shall be among those who will *not* cower in terror at His coming, but contrariwise be full of gladness and rejoicing.

Indeed, quite apart from the eternal loss, the alternative does not bear consideration. When the Scriptures talk about "the great day of His wrath" (Revelation 6:17), and foretell a time of trouble "such as never was since there was a nation," they are not speaking metaphorically. When,

through Noah, God told the antediluvians that He would send a flood upon the whole earth, He sent a flood upon the whole earth. And when, to ancient Egypt, through Moses, He said, "Tomorrow the Lord shall do this thing in the land," it was no idle forecast. "The Lord did that thing on the morrow." Exodus 9:5, 6.

So, therefore, when in His warnings regarding the last days our Lord Himself talks of famines and pestilences, wars and commotions, earthquakes, and, in the end, plagues as real as any that were visited upon the hardened Egyptians, we must believe that He means exactly what He says, and as for me I am profoundly thankful for His promises.

"The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him." Deuteronomy 33:12.

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Psalm 34:7.

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10.



Glorious promises, but all conditional.

The Lord's "beloved," they that put their trust in Him, alone have right to expect coverage in "the day of trouble." Similarly, only they who are possessed of the indispensable asset of holiness shall see the Lord.

We *must* have it, every one of us. Otherwise of what use is our striving? As Jesus Himself said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Matthew 16:26.

David sang much of "the beauty of holiness." Did he perhaps remember the memorable day of his anointing when he did so? You will remember that he was the last of Jesse's sons whom Samuel saw, the last and the youngest; and when the prophet looked on Eliab, the eldest of the eight, he was so impressed by his looks and stature that he was convinced that this must be the Lord's anointed.

And there was only one reason why he was not. It had nothing to do with his physical fitness or his good looks. "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature," God said to Samuel; "for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7. David also was "of a beautiful countenance" and "goodly to look to," but not for that was he called to sit upon the throne of Israel. It was that "beauty of holiness" that God saw within and which, despite David's many failures, still predominated in his experience. Again and again it is recorded that his heart was "perfect toward God."

In fact, with regard to holiness of heart, even good works can often be as poor a criterion as good looks. Even as Paul wrote to the Corinthians, we may speak with the tongues of men and angels, we may be the greatest of philanthropists, bestowing all our goods to feed the poor, we may even suffer martyrdom and yet be profited not at all. Said Jesus to His disciples, "When ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." Luke 17:10.

The hypocritical Pharisees were meticulous in the carrying out of what they thought was their duty. Every herb of the garden they faithfully tithed. In His telling comparison between those two who went up into the temple, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican, Jesus did not deny the Pharisee's obedience to the Pharisaical code. He was without doubt one who did his duty as he saw it. But for the wrong reasons. Not as a natural result of a perfect condition of heart, but as an end in itself, thinking by that means to work out his own salvation. There is no question, of course, that we must by all means do our duty, but only as it is the spontaneous outcome of a right spirit within is it acceptable.

"God loveth a *cheerful* giver," we are told, and when, standing in the temple one day, Jesus saw the rich giving of their plenty and the poor widow giving her two mites, He said she had given "more than they all." A ridiculous assertion on the face of it, but Jesus could see her heart, just as He could see the heart of the poor publican who laid no claim to good deeds.

What does He see when He looks into our hearts?

"The king's daughter," says the psalmist, "is all glorious within." Psalm 45:13.

I can think of no better definition of holiness than that. "All glorious within!"

The twelfth chapter of Hebrews states clearly what should not be found in a believer's heart—bitterness (verse 15), impurity and irreverence (verse 16); but to be "all glorious within" suggests more than an absence of evil tendencies. We are not to be just empty of the ugly and the vile; we are to be full to overflowing of the lovely and the good.

Are we? We have need to be.

And, thank God, we *can* be.

Of ourselves we shall never attain fullness of glory within, but let us always remember that our Lord came for no other purpose than that we might be "partakers of His holiness." Hebrews 12:10.

"Ask," He says, "and ye shall receive." "Seek," He says, "and ye shall find." "Knock," He says, "and it shall be opened." There are some prayers we pray to which we must of necessity add "Thy will be done"; but this, we know, *is* His will, that we should be "all glorious within," receive grace sufficient for every need, possess joy unspeakable and peace that passeth understanding, have in fact that holiness which is the key to all good things.

The king's daughter, says the psalmist, "shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework." Psalm 45:14. Day by day, stitch by stitch, He fits our experience to our individual need, and all with one design, that we may at last see Him face to face, secure thereafter for a place in His kingdom—forever and ever "all glorious within."

[END]

## This Temple

by Della Adams Leitner

*My body is Thy temple, Lord;  
Oh, may I worthy be  
Of this, the sacred confidence  
Thou hast reposed in me.*

*And may it be my highest aim  
To keep this dwelling place  
Pure, undefiled, and filled with love,  
Renewed with light and grace.*

*Each morning may I consecrate  
This temple as I pray  
And realize Thy presence here  
Each hour of every day.*







# SIGNS OF THE WORLD'S END

*Harbingers of Christ's Second Coming* by Raymond H. Libby

**Why did Jesus foretell future events to His followers?**

"Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am He." John 13:19.

*Note:* One phase of Christ's ministry to His followers was to forewarn them of coming events. The fulfilling of these prophecies helps to convince us of His divinity.

**In what prophetic panorama did Jesus foretell the future to His disciples?**

"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes." Matthew 24:6, 7, New American Standard Bible.

*Note:* Revelation 5 pictures Christ as the only One able to unroll the scrolls of future history in the great conflict between good and evil.

**How did Jesus foretell the rise of many false religions in the world?**

"For false christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect." Matthew 24:24, New American Standard Bible.

**What troubles did Jesus declare would befall His faithful people?**

"They will deliver you up to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name." Matthew 24:9, New American Standard Bible.

*Note:* The number of Christian martyrs during the Roman persecutions and those of the Dark Ages has been estimated at not less than fifty million.

**Following the end of the long years of persecution, what would follow?**

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light." Matthew 24:29, New American Standard Bible.

*Note:* As the era of persecution drew to a close there occurred the famous "Dark Day" of May 19, 1780, when the sun was darkened and the moon failed to "give its light." The true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known.

**What other celestial sign was to follow?**

"And the stars will fall from the sky." Matthew 24:29, New American Standard Bible.

*Note:* Before daylight on November 13, 1833, the sky over much of North America blazed with meteors. Startled citizens stood for hours watching a display of celestial fireworks such as history had never recorded.

**Of what were these strange sights omens?**

"And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in

the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory." Matthew 24:30, New American Standard Bible.

*Note:* All these signs were harbingers of His glorious return, for He was answering His disciples' question, "What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

**Before our Lord's second advent what will be the state of international affairs?**

"And upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity." Luke 21:25, New American Standard Bible.

*Note:* Here Jesus describes the tensions that will keep the world in distress to time's end. It is a perfect picture of the "cold war" with all its anxieties and perplexities.

**How will the increasing troubles among men and nations affect human beings?**

"Men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world." Luke 21:26, New American Standard Bible.

*Note:* Read any newspaper, magazine, or journal; listen to TV and radio news reporters and commentators; and note how fear rules the nations today. Lawmakers tremble for the future as they grapple with ever-increasing crime. Scientists tremble at the threat of atomic war. Diplomats race feverishly from country to country trying to keep the nations from each others' throats. Economists are frustrated. All are asking, "How long can our world continue in such a state?"

**Having given such vivid warnings, what did Jesus counsel?**

"Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth." Luke 21:34, 35, New American Standard Bible.

*Note:* Dissipation and drunkenness are man's means of escapism from the realities of this world, just as they were in the days that preceded the catastrophic Flood of Noah's time. Jesus warned that such irresponsible attitudes will betoken His return. Matthew 24:37-39.

**What is our greatest need in these fateful days preceding His coming?**

"But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:36, New American Standard Bible.

*Note:* We must be constantly aware of the fulfilling signs, prayerful for needed grace, and steadfast in our determination to stand on the promises of God. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4.

[END]



Everybody is familiar with the statements made by certain scientists and clergymen that mankind has been mistaken about God all along; that space exploration has proved that no such Being exists.

A Russian cosmonaut remarked that while orbiting the earth he looked for God and couldn't find Him.

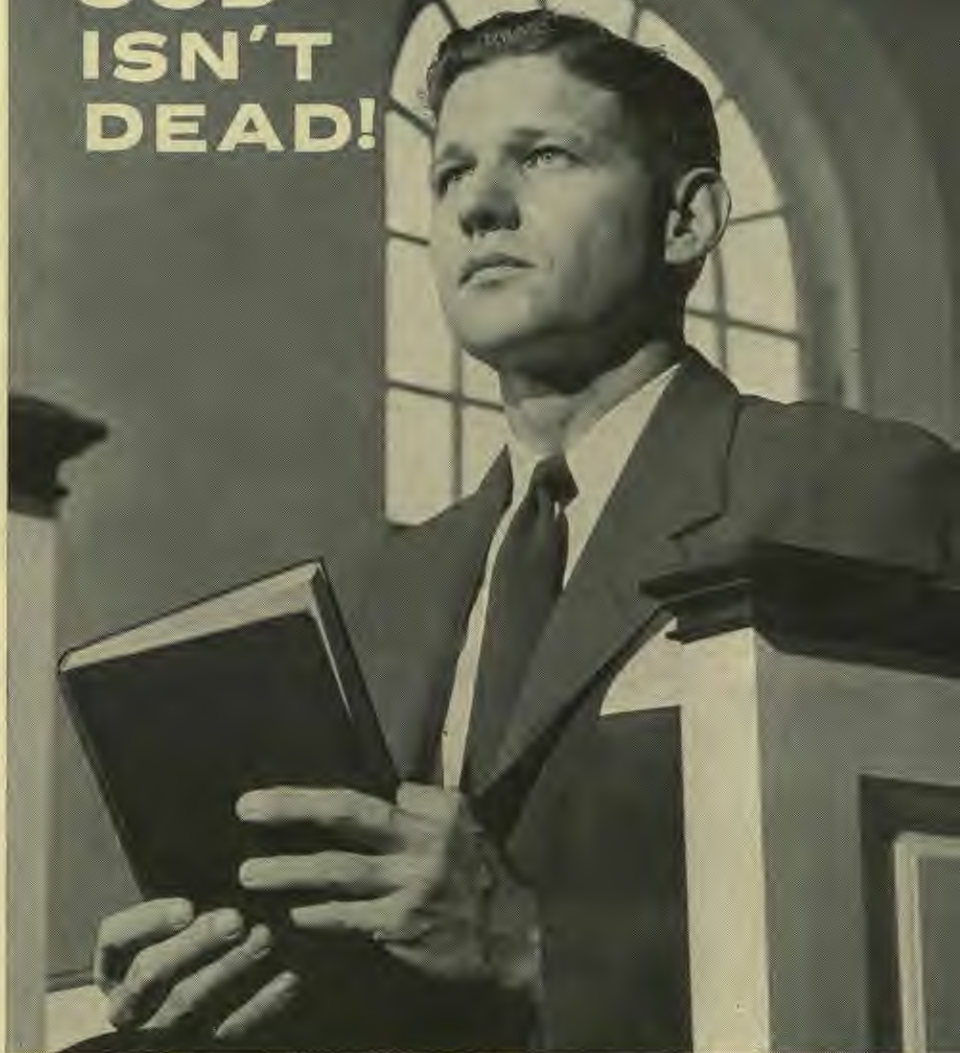
John A. T. Robinson, a Church of England bishop, declared in his book *Honest to God* that there's no place left for God anywhere. He is neither "up there" nor "out there." "In fact," he said, "the number of people who instinctively seem to feel that it is no longer possible to believe in God in the space age shows how crudely physical much of this thinking about a God 'out there' has been. Until the last recesses of the cosmos had been explored or were capable of being explored (by radio telescope if not by rocketry), it was still possible to locate God mentally in some *terra incognita*. But now it seems there is no room for Him, not merely in the inn, but in the entire universe: for there are no vacant spaces left."—*Honest to God*, The Westminster Press, page 13.

In Bishop Robinson's opinion the time has come for Christians to "grow up" and discard the concept of a personal God even though, he admits, this may mean throwing away most of the Bible and many long-cherished Christian beliefs.

As a matter of fact there is little to distinguish his views from those of Julian Huxley, an acknowledged atheist, who is quoted by Dr. Robinson as saying, "It will soon be as impossible for an intelligent, educated man or woman to believe in a god as it is now to believe that the earth is flat."—*Ibid.*, p. 38.

But the fact that a Russian cosmonaut failed to find God in space, that preachers like Bishop Robinson no longer believe in a God "out there," and that outright atheists like Huxley have completely dismissed Him from their thoughts, does not mean that God does not exist. He is not thus easily driven from His universe. All that these arguments mean is that these

# GOD ISN'T DEAD!



ROBERTS

## *More Evidence Than Ever That He Is Very Much Alive Today*

Another Chapter From the Editor's Latest Book, "Good News for You"\*

good men, in their scholarly research, have absorbed what the apostle Paul aptly called "the wisdom of this world," which he equated with "folly."

"God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish," he wrote to the Corinthians. "As God in His wisdom ordained, the world failed to find Him by its wisdom, and He chose to save those who have faith by the folly of the gospel. Jews call for miracles, Greeks look for wisdom; but we proclaim Christ—yes, Christ nailed to the cross; and though this is a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Greeks, yet to those who have heard His call, Jews and Greeks alike, He is the power of God and the wisdom of God." 1 Corinthians 1:20-24, N.E.B.

**by Arthur S. Maxwell**

\*"Good News for You" is the 101st book written by the Editor of the "Signs of the Times" over the past fifty years. You may obtain a copy of the first edition by sending \$1.15 (sales tax extra) either to the Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1350 Villa Street, Mountain View, California 94040; Southern Publishing Association, Box 59, Nashville, Tennessee 37202; or Review and Herald Publishing Association, Takoma Park, Washington, D.C. 20012.



The apostle's statement, "the world failed to find Him by its wisdom," is as true today as it was in the first century of the Christian era. Now having failed to find Him, it is convinced He does not exist.

As a matter of fact, however, there is more evidence today for the existence of a personal, omnipotent, omniscient God than ever before. Far from eliminating God from the universe, space-age discoveries have revealed more clearly than ever how vast is His wisdom, how limitless His power.

Astronomers, with their amazing new telescopes, have learned more in the past ten years about galaxies, suns, moons, planets, and other celestial bodies than has been known since the dawn of time. They have pressed back the frontiers of the universe by millions of light years only to be overwhelmed by the vastness, the orderliness, the majesty of it all. They may not have seen God, but they have seen indisputable evidence of the activity of a Master Architect, whose creation calls not only for wonderment but for reverence.

Highly skilled technicians and engineers, plotting the course of Mariner IV, the rendezvous of two spaceships, the trajectory of a moon rocket, or the thrust of a Titan booster, have found themselves face to face with absolute laws of nature which they must perforce obey or fail in their enterprises. They have based all their calculations, and the success of their billion-dollar undertakings, upon the constancy of these laws and the split-second timing of moving bodies millions of miles apart. These topflight scientists may not have seen God, but they have certainly found themselves in the presence of an incredibly intelligent Lawmaker who not only conceived these highly complex rules and formulas but preserves them unchanged from age to age.

Biologists, with their ultramodern microscopes, have likewise learned more in the past decade about life in its many forms than was ever known before. They have probed mysteries that baffled their predecessors. They have taken everything apart and examined it with elaborate care, even that greatest wonder of all, the single cell. They have found themselves on the verge of the secret of life and reached out, vainly, to grasp it. They may not have seen God, but time and again they have found themselves face to face with marvels beyond their understanding—unmistakable evidence of skill, design, and wisdom which only an infinite Being could possess.

Zoologists have also had better opportunity to study animal life in the past few decades than was ever possible before. With modern methods and painstaking care they have followed the migration of birds and fish and found themselves up against astonishing facts inexplicable apart from God. Some birds, such as the Arctic tern, fly 22,000 miles a year. Others, like the white-throated warbler, that fly by night, set their course by the stars through some amazing device in their tiny heads.

By tagging eels they have found that these creatures make their way in adult life to the waters south of Bermuda where they lay their eggs and die; but their young, as they grow older, move in two directions. Those hatched from eggs of the American species move west, while the offspring of the European species move east—but all, despite the difference in distances they have to travel, arrive at the river mouths when approximately three inches long!

Eagles' wings have been taken apart and examined microscopically to discover their secret of sustained flight. Peacocks have been dissected to learn how they come to have such glorious feathers and how their amazing tail-erection system operates. Ostriches have been studied to find the secret of their fantastically beautiful plumes.

Those engaged in such research may not have seen God, but beyond all question they have witnessed the operation of a creative Mind which in some inexplicable way has imparted highly intelligent and skillful instincts to His creatures.

Physicians and surgeons, with fluoroscopes and other X-ray apparatus, have

also learned more about the functioning of the human body in the past ten years than anyone knew before. Specialists of the highest caliber have concentrated upon the brain, the eyes, the ear, the nose and throat, the heart, the lungs, the digestive system, the nervous system, the reproductive organs. Yet even all this research has not fathomed all the mysteries of the marvelous mechanism of the human body. These men may not have seen God, but they have been confronted by overwhelming evidence that man is the masterpiece of an infinitely ingenious Creator.

Why cannot those who come so close to the works of God, who indeed almost tread in His footsteps, come to see Him? Because, as the apostle Paul says, He is invisible—"the King of all worlds, immortal, invisible, the only God." 1 Timothy 1:17, N.E.B.

Where is He then? "Up there"? "Out there"? Who knows? He has told us that He has a "dwelling place," but He hasn't told us where it is. It would seem reasonable to assume that He dwells at the center and heart of His universe, but if the universe is illimitable, where might that be?

We must be careful not to limit God—to confine Him in some golden box, as it were; to say that the great and wonderful Creator must be here or there. I like David's glorious concept: "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath He given to the children of men." Psalm 115:16.

As a young man I used to be bothered by questions about the nature and personality of God and the age-old question, What is God like? I would ask my friends, "When you pray, how do you think of God?" But no one gave me a satisfactory answer.

I used to think of those words of the Lord to Moses: "Thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me and live" (Exodus 33:20), and wondered what the face of God was like. I thought, too, of that statement: "No man hath seen God at any time" (1 John 4:12), and wondered yet the more concerning Him.



I read also the apostle Paul's beautiful ascription of praise to "the blessed, and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting." 1 Timothy 6:15, 16. What was one to make of that? How could one visualize an invisible God? Was I supposed to think of Him only as a blaze of light?

Then one day I read again these words of the apostle John: "No one has ever seen God; but God's only Son, He who is nearest to the Father's heart, He has made Him known." John 1:18, N.E.B.

Suddenly a great light dawned. Here was the answer.

There is no need to struggle and strain to project one's mind into the insoluble mysteries of the infinite God. Christ has made Him known! "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. To know Christ is to know God.

This same problem once perplexed Philip. He felt that if only he could see the Father, he would be satisfied. "Show us the Father," he begged, "and we ask no more."

The Lord replied, "Have I been all this time with you, Philip, and you still do not know Me? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. Then how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? I am not Myself the source of the words I speak to you: it is the Father who dwells in Me doing His own work. Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father in Me." John 14:8-11, N.E.B.

Christ identified Himself completely with God. "My Father and I are one," He declared on another occasion. John 10:30, N.E.B. Again He said: "When a man believes in Me, he believes in Him who sent Me rather than in Me; seeing Me, he sees Him who sent Me." John 12:44, 45, N.E.B.

Comforting words! The Invisible has revealed Himself; the Infinite has made Himself plain. No longer in confusion and perplexity do we need to wonder and question and doubt concerning Him. With full certainty of knowledge we may turn to Christ. We may touch as it were the wound prints in His hands and side, exclaiming with Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

True, no photograph of Christ exists. As far as we know, no picture was ever painted of Him during His earthly sojourn. If there was, it no longer exists. Nevertheless, so complete and detailed is the story of His life that no Christian doubts that, should he see his Saviour face to face, he would recognize Him instantly.

By His brief life on earth Christ left an impression that will never be effaced from the memory of man. His incomparable ministry of love and sacrifice stamped His portrait upon history. He left on record a revelation of God that all in every age might know and understand Him.

In revealing God, Christ brought to view all the glorious

qualities of the Eternal Father. He made Him known as the personification of righteousness, justice, power, and love.

When in the long ago Jehovah descended in a cloud and passed before Moses, He proclaimed: "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation." Exodus 34:6, 7.

That same loving Father was revealed by Christ.

The people were astonished; they had never understood that God was like this! They rejoiced when He said: "The Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." Luke 9:56. They loved Him when He said: "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. And they marveled at His words, "God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, that everyone who has faith in Him may not die but have eternal life. It was not to judge the world that God sent His Son into the world, but that through Him the world might be saved." John 3:16, 17, N.E.B.

The apostle John, having listened to Jesus for three and a half years, came to the conclusion that "God is love." 1 John 4:8. Throughout those years he had heard God's voice. He had seen God in action. The eyes of the blind had been opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped. The sick had been healed, the lepers cleansed, even the dead raised to life. Miracle had succeeded miracle as Love had poured itself out in sacrificial ministry to the poor and needy. "Never man spake like this Man," the people said; and "He hath done all things well." John 7:46; Mark 7:37.

God was in Christ making Himself known—wooing, loving, "reconciling the world unto Himself," not willing that any should perish.

As men watched Christ, they beheld such goodness, such perfection, they were sure He must be God. This revelation of supreme love, perfect righteousness, flawless justice, ilimitable power—surely this was divine.

So they worshiped Him. And Christ accepted their worship. This was further evidence of His oneness with God.

Then came His death and resurrection. His glorious ministry of reconciliation was crowned by Calvary. In that dreadful drama on the cross the revelation of God was perfected.

Love! Here was God in Christ dying for the ungodly, accepting unmerited death that others might live, enduring the agonies of crucifixion that thereby many might find peace.

Righteousness! Here was God in Christ uplifting His holy law by His own obedience to death, and demonstrating to the entire universe its eternal inviolability.

Justice! Here was God in Christ accepting in Himself the penalty of man's transgression of His law—the Lawgiver dying for the lawless, the Judge for the criminal, the Just for the unjust.

Power! Here was God in Christ breaking the bands of death, storming the gates of hell, opening anew to the human family the way to the tree of life.

No wonder that "when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this  
(Continued on page 33)

If you would like to know more about what the Bible says about God, fill out the Bible Course application on page 33 and mail to Dept. B.C., "Signs of the Times," Mountain View, California 94040.





## RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN SPAIN

*Interview With His Excellency Fernando María Castiella y Maíz,  
Foreign Minister of Spain*

by Roland R. Hegstad

While in Spain some months ago I had the privilege of interviewing Señor Fernando María Castiella y Maíz, foreign minister of Spain. With me in Madrid was Dr. Jean Nussbaum, whose services in behalf of religious freedom are well known. For three weeks, in company with three technicians from a New York film company, we had toured eastern and western Europe, interviewing church and state leaders for a documentary film on religious freedom. Señor Castiella had agreed to discuss the Spanish situation and his viewpoints for the film.

I wished to learn whether the religious liberty bill sponsored by Señor Castiella was likely to be accepted by the Cortes—the Spanish parliament—and why it had not been acted on by the Cortes in 1964. How would it change the status of Spain's Protestants and, more personally, what were the convictions that had led Señor Castiella to commit himself to the achievement of religious liberty in Spain?

It was this last question that intrigued me most; I knew that the foreign minister was not free to discuss the content of the proposed law, and most of my other questions could be answered by other sources, including Protestant leaders. I wished to appraise for myself the convictions of a man who had won the confidence of Dr. Nussbaum, whose intercession on behalf of minority religious groups throughout Europe has given him not only wide diplomatic experience but also a pragmatic regard for the exigencies of politics.

Protestants in Spain number fewer than 35,000. Most Spaniards have never met a Protestant, either of the domestic or imported variety.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has its offices in an

old prison, the Carcel de Nobles, dating from the eighteenth century. Three floors of offices surround a central court, the hewn stone of which is covered with an ornately woven rug. Señor Castiella's ground-floor office is furnished with the casual elegance of old Spain. A rich tapestry depicting a mythological theme covers much of one wall; a 3 x 4-foot portrait of Franco sits to one side on an easel.

Señor Castiella had just come from a meeting with the Caudillo when Dr. Nussbaum and I met him. The foreign minister is a tall man, about six foot three, weighing perhaps 210 pounds. He has the soft dark eyes of the Castillian, set in a rugged honest-looking face below thinning brown hair interspersed with white. He was for six years Spain's ambassador to the Holy See, a post that calls not only for fealty to Catholic doctrine, but also, as those familiar with Spanish-Vatican relations will recognize, for independence of mind.

When we had filmed Señor Castiella for the religious liberty documentary and the cameramen and sound technician had left, he invited Dr. Nussbaum to sit beside him on a sofa, gestured me into a chair facing him, and gave me the equivalent of "fire away." Much of our interview was in English. The foreign minister described his English as colloquial, but it proved to exceed his modest estimate. When, on a few questions, he wished to phrase his replies precisely, he spoke in Spanish which was translated by Señor Olivie.

I asked Señor Castiella why religious liberty problems, which seemed to me to be primarily an internal matter, were handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It turned out that the mandate did not accrue to the office but to the





Entrance to an Adventist Church in Madrid.



Happy-faced elementary school boys at study in their classroom located in a church building.

Angel Codejon, president of the Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, is optimistic for the future.



man. In 1957, when he became minister of foreign affairs, Señor Castiella said, he discussed with Franco the necessity of achieving religious freedom in Spain. He found in Franco an "empathy" that encouraged him to seek concessions on behalf of Protestants. Both men recognized that support and agreement of the Roman Catholic bishops would be necessary to achieve substantial reforms. Franco had given Castiella the green light, asking only that he secure cooperation of the church.

The foreign minister is in an advantageous position to deal with religious liberty problems, said Castiella, because the ministry, in clerical Spain, has close diplomatic ties with the church—not only the Roman Catholic Church but other churches as well. Further, he has contact with the ambassadors of many countries and therefore is in a position to determine the problems of minority groups and how they are solved by other governments.

Was not the foreign minister also in a position to tune in a sensitive ear to the world's estimate of Spanish injustices to Protestants? To what degree was Spain's attempt to liberalize its image simply an accommodation to tourism and the dollar? The questions were phrased more discreetly than that, but Señor Castiella knew what I was asking: Was his position on religious freedom dictated by expediency or principle?

He conceded frankly that in today's Spain tourism is a significant source of revenue; an opportunistic philosophy might well have its roots in regard for money or a better image before the court of world opinion. But at the time he had formulated his thinking on religious freedom, some ten years before, Spain was not yet a tourist mecca. He had been motivated not by a desire to "wash the face of Spain," as he put it, nor by regard for tourist dollars, but by the innate conviction of the rightness of religious freedom and the wrongness of the Spanish approach to religious dissent.

I knew that Señor Castiella had, while ambassador to the Holy See, been prominently involved in negotiating the concordat between his country and the Vatican. The concordat contains provisions incompatible with religious freedom. Did it reflect his convictions?

He answered candidly. In what was

a "ticklish and delicate assignment," he had, against the opposition of the Spanish clergy and many authorities of that day, kept the terms "as soft as possible." For six years, as ambassador, he had sought the best possible terms for Protestants that Spain's political and religious situation would permit. While working on the concordat, he had "propagandized" for religious liberty. When a certain Protestant chapel was closed, he had "reflected his personal anger and dismay in the Vatican."

Did he approve of the religious liberty schema of the Vatican Council? He replied that "the document had created a climate of brotherhood in which substantial advances toward religious freedom could be made." Pope John had told him that he recognized that the Spanish situation did not reflect the principles to which the church of God should be committed. The schema reflected a trend that he [Castiella] had exerted his efforts to forward. So far as the document's objectives were concerned, he indicated his wholehearted approval.

Señor Castiella surprised me, however, by expressing a philosophy of religious freedom that went beyond the document itself. To digress for a moment, it must be remembered that the Vatican II document is the product of compromise between liberal and conservative wings within the Roman Catholic hierarchy and falls short of meeting the definition of religious freedom many clerics themselves had ardently championed.

The religious liberty document is based not on moral and Scriptural norms, which would be desirable, but rather on juridical and constitutional norms—a weakness that opens the document to the charge of expediency: What liberty the church deems it expedient to grant in a pluralistic society, the church may, in a clerical state, deem it expedient to withdraw. Religious liberty, as defined in the document, is primarily a juridical or constitutional issue "to be worked out by the public authority at any particular moment in history in the best interests of 'public peace,' 'public morality,' and 'justice.'"

A week before the interview with Señor Castiella, Dr. Nussbaum and I had interviewed Cardinal Tisserant, dean of the College of Cardinals of the Curia, at his residence in Rome. He had spoken for the documentary film



on which we were collaborating, but only after stipulating that we ask no questions concerning the religious liberty document itself. His reason: bitter disappointment that the document had not endorsed unequivocally the right of all men to believe and to propagate their faith—the right of even the atheist to “evangelize”!

Now again, from a leading Roman Catholic statesman, a faithful daily attendant at mass, whose liberal sentiments spring not from that agnostic liberalism so fashionable even in clerical circles on the Continent but rather from convictions based upon moral and Scriptural norms, I heard a testament of liberty which, in its theological perception, went beyond the Vatican document itself. Said Señor Castiella: “The state can never by coercion produce a worship that God will accept. God Himself desires to be worshiped ‘*en espíritu y en verdad*’ (‘in spirit and in truth,’ John 4:24). God does not coerce men to serve Him but invites them to give Him allegiance. ‘Men have, as the American Declaration of Independence asserts, certain ‘unalienable rights’; among these is the right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience.”

“Does the Christian have the right to share his faith?” I asked. “Not only the right but the mandate to do so,” Señor Castiella replied.

Señor Castiella stated that he had arrived at his convictions while ambassador to the Holy See. “Something seemed to be lacking in Spain,” he said. I gathered that he referred to religious vitality. Despite its reputation as a solidly Catholic state, only about 15 percent of Spain’s population can be called, as the archbishop of Valencia has said, “real Catholics.” Señor Castiella had determined that the only basis for religious vitality is personal commitment.

What had he done to advance religious freedom in Spain?

He had campaigned for religious freedom, seeking both in the Vatican and among the Spanish clergy to sell the rightness of that position. After becoming foreign minister, he had spoken to a number of ambassadors, including those from the United States, Switzerland, and Germany. He had invited them to give him information as to the aims and aspirations of Protestants. He (Continued on page 31)



Excavating at the site of Ur of the Chaldees.

## TEST YOUR “WORD” POWER

by Richard H. Utt

Names of Old Testament people and places are often long and difficult to pronounce, like Mephibosheth and Maher-shalal-hash-baz. Others are short, almost comically so, like Toi, Ziz, and Buz. This month’s quiz features some of the better-known short names. See how many you can identify, choosing your answers from the list at the right.

1. One of Jacob’s sons was named \_\_\_\_\_, which means “judge.”
2. Heavy property loss suffered by this man has given rise to the expression, “Poor as \_\_\_\_\_’s turkey.”
3. This same man lived in the land of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is described as one of the good kings of Judah.
5. Joshua, who followed Moses as leader of Israel, was the son of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Egyptian father-in-law of Joseph, son of Jacob, was Potipherah, priest (or prince) of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. On their journey from Egypt to Canaan, Israel passed through the wilderness of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. One of the three sons of Noah was \_\_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ was a king of Egypt.
10. The Israelites fled in disorder before soldiers from the village of \_\_\_\_\_.
11. One of the last judges of Israel, remembered for the wickedness of his sons, was \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Abraham left his Chaldean hometown of \_\_\_\_\_ in obedience to a divine summons.

Asa  
Zin  
Ham  
Uz  
Eli  
Job  
Dan  
Ai  
Ur  
On  
So  
Nun

(Answers on page 33)



# SIGNS COUNSEL CORNER



## ADULT AND TEEN-AGE PROBLEMS

Answered by **William A. Fagal** Director, "Faith for Today" TV Program

### COMPULSORY RETIREMENT

**QUESTION:** I am now approaching mandatory retirement age and can hardly stand the thought of it. I am a Christian and have put all in God's hands. But I do not know how I will ever be able to endure life when I have nothing more to do but putter about the house and garden. Do you feel compulsory retirement is fair?

**ANSWER:** Obviously you are going to have to develop new interests in order to make the necessary adjustment to retirement. Many older people like you resent the idea of having to retire just because they have reached a certain age, regardless of their ability or state of health. The United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is attempting to develop new plans for easing the transition into retirement. One of these includes working a shorter work week for a time so that one actually is partially retired before making the full break. Have you ever thought of using your time after retirement in Christian service of some sort? I visited recently with a dedicated man who retired early from his business so that he could devote himself completely to church endeavors. He is satisfyingly useful in a cause in which he thoroughly believes. As a result, he is radiantly happy—more so than he has ever been in his life. The idea is worthy of your consideration.

### FAMILIES IN HEAVEN

**QUESTION:** What do you think is meant in Matthew 22:30 by the words, "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven"? Does this mean there will be no family life in heaven? I cannot see how we could be completely happy living any other way.

**ANSWER:** Frankly, I must confess that I do not understand many things about heaven and the new earth. Since one of the greatest joys of our present existence is living together in families, watching our children grow and develop, it is difficult for me to imagine a happy world without marriages. But I realize that my difficulty lies in the fact that "now we see only puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we shall see face to face. My knowledge now is partial; then it will be whole, like God's knowledge of me." 1 Corinthians 13:12, N.E.B. God has promised that life will be absolutely complete and that we will have everlasting joy in the earth made new. Though I cannot understand how life without marriage could be as happy as we now know it or even happier, yet I have enough confidence in the God who made us to believe His Word in this matter as I do in all others.

### "INTELLECTUAL SNOBBERY"

**QUESTION:** I am a university graduate, and the majority of my college friends give no place to religion, often expressing the opinion that we do not need the church. I am now married and we have a little two-year-old. But something is missing in our lives. Recently through reading and listening to religious programs over the air, my eyes have begun to open. Could it be possible that intellectual snobbery has created a void in my life?

**ANSWER:** Intellectual snobbery, as you call it, has prevented many from adequately investigating religious matters for themselves. To accept premises only on the basis of religious faith is regarded by some as unbelievably naïve and simple. We all meet people who attempt to undermine the foundations of religion by what is nothing less than ignorance parading as intellectual superiority. The Bible tells us, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Psalm 14:1. Perhaps the coming into your home of a little dependent child has made you take stock of the aridness of your life and face some great and eternal questions. No one can thoughtfully observe the miracle of birth and the development of a new life without seeing the mighty outworking of a power greater than himself. Religion is not incompatible with intellect. It appeals to some of the world's greatest minds as providing the only truly satisfactory answers to life's imponderables. Continue to seek God through a study of His Word. You will find, with one of the greatest minds of all times, that "my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19.

### TIME FOR BAPTISM

**QUESTION:** My niece plans to be baptized on Easter Sunday in her church. This has led me to wonder if there is some annual day or season especially appropriate for baptism.

**ANSWER:** No more so than is there any special day or season most appropriate for accepting Jesus Christ as one's Saviour. The best thing any individual can do is to get right with God at the time the Holy Spirit brings conviction to his heart. The Scriptures are full of appeals for immediate heart surrender to the Lord Jesus. "Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart." Psalm 95:7, 8. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6:2. Baptism should logically follow conversion just as soon as possible. Brief



delay may sometimes be desirable in order that an individual may give evidence through his changed life and consistent Christian living to the genuineness of his conversion. But baptism, like surrender to Christ, should never be put off until a more convenient season.

## **VIOLENCE NO SOLUTION**

**QUESTION:** Recently our town was the scene of civil rights riots. Groups of people, mostly teen-agers, roamed the streets doing a great deal of damage and injuring innocent people who happened by. It took police action to stop them. I am puzzled by these happenings, for without doubt some of the rioters have legitimate reason to be dissatisfied with what life has brought them.

**ANSWER:** Violence is never a satisfactory answer to injustice. Jesus said, "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Matthew 26:52. This was His way of telling us that violence breeds violence. One of the sure laws of life is that good does not grow naturally out of evil. Sowing seeds of hate can only lead to a similar crop. Right-thinking people of every race and persuasion deplore mob action as a means of solving society's injustices. There must be a better way, and it is up to men to find it. The Christian who suffers injustice of any kind will remember that only the coming of Jesus to this earth the second time will bring the ultimate solution to mankind's ills. The apostle James, therefore, has admonished us: "Be patient, my brothers, until the Lord comes. . . . You too must be patient and stouthearted, for the coming of the Lord is near. My brothers, do not blame your troubles on one another, or you will fall under judgment; and there stands the Judge, at the door." James 5:7-9. N.E.B.

## **FOLLOWING THE LORD**

**QUESTION:** I am a Protestant and have given my life to the Lord Jesus Christ, whom I love. But there is something which bothers me. I feel that many Christians are keeping the wrong day when they observe the first day of the week instead of the Bible Sabbath. How will God judge them in the end?

**ANSWER:** You are to be commended for having given your life to the Lord Jesus and for recognizing the need to obey Him in all things. When it becomes clear that the Sabbath is really the seventh day of the week, or Saturday, what else can any honest-hearted Christian do but observe it? If we refuse to obey God, can we honestly claim to love Him? However, certainly not all people who fail to observe God's Sabbath can be relegated to the lost. God has many sincere people in every church on earth. They are honest-hearted Christian brethren who someday will accept all of God's truth as it reaches them. We are not to follow others, but Christ. At one time one of Jesus' disciples asked Him, "What shall this man do?" Jesus replied, "What is that to thee? follow thou Me." We must have the attitude that no matter what anyone else does, we will serve the Lord and obey Him fully.

## **WHY NEW TRANSLATIONS?**

**QUESTION:** Why are the Scriptures being revised? I have recently read an article which states that another Old Testament revision is now about complete. Is not this

highly dangerous and does it not amount to tampering with God's Word?

**ANSWER:** I know of no attempts to revise the Bible itself, and presume that you refer to new and revised *translations* of the Scriptures. Since languages are constantly changing, certain words in the King James translation no longer mean what they meant when this famous and well-accepted translation was made. Also, additional manuscripts have been discovered in recent years which form further source material to shed light upon some Bible passages. While it will be a long time before our King James Version falls into general disuse, the newer translations, through use of words which are a part of our daily speech, open up formerly obscure truths to our understanding.

## **RIGHT EXAMPLE**

**QUESTION:** My husband and I have been studying a Bible course lately. We both believe in God, but we have not yet joined the church. I want to be a good Christian, but I want my husband to take this step along with me. I want a Christian home, but how can I make my husband want it also—not later, as he says, but now?

**ANSWER:** If you have a conviction which your husband does not yet share, by all means show him the way by leading out. Never can you hope to see him form a religious conviction strong enough to move him to action if your own does not move you. Probably you are fearful that if you enter the church by yourself he will never take his stand. But look at it another way: Since salvation and eternal life are what you really desire for him, can this best be attained by your remaining uncommitted to Christ or by your setting him the right example and taking a public stand for Christ and His church? Consider that you may be the only key which God can use to unlock his negligent heart. Let him know by your testimony and example that God's message is important to you.

## **LIVING MEMORIAL**

**QUESTION:** I have been thinking a great deal of late about the dangers of an atomic war and the possible obliteration of most of the people living on the earth. I have thought it might be a good idea to bury pictures of this generation and other evidences of how we live so that future generations will be able to know something about us. Do you think this idea has value?

**ANSWER:** It is my firm conviction, based on Bible predictions, that Jesus Christ will soon return to end this present age and establish His kingdom on earth. I am convinced that life as we know it cannot possibly go on indefinitely without man ultimately destroying himself. Only the intervention of Jesus can prevent this. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44. Every sign indicates that the second coming of Jesus cannot be far away. Therefore, rather than recording in detail descriptions of our generation's life on earth. I would rather prepare men and women to meet Jesus with sins forgiven and lives cleansed. Eternally redeemed men and women will be an everlasting monument and the best possible memorial to our generation.



*Menace of Modern Living*

by Clifford R.  
Anderson, M.D.



## HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

There are some diseases, such as arthritis, that have afflicted the human family for many generations. We know this from various medical writings of long ago and also from the study of bones in ancient tombs. Whether high blood pressure also existed in ancient times, we have no means of knowing, but we suspect it did, at least to some extent.

Only in relatively recent years have we had a machine for measuring blood pressure. This machine has a most outlandish name—sphygmomanometer. Earlier models and many still in use, employ a column of mercury in a glass tube. Some newer instruments make use of a single dial and are easier to handle.

But regardless of which instrument is used, it is surprising how much a doctor can glean from a careful check of a patient's blood pressure, with all its various fluctuations, according to whether the individual is under stress or completely relaxed.

To understand something about blood pressure, let us first think about the flow of water through an ordinary garden hose. If we leave the nozzle wide open, water will flow out in a smooth, gentle stream under low pressure with very little force. Now notice the difference when we tighten the nozzle. Water spurts out for twenty or thirty feet, either in a fine spray or in a direct stream, according to how we control the nozzle. In other words, opening or closing the nozzle makes a great difference in the force of the water as it leaves the hose.

Something similar to this is going on in your blood vessels all the time, but with this difference that blood is much thicker than water, because of all the chemicals and red blood cells it contains. It is the heart's job to keep the blood in constant circulation throughout the body. When all the tiny channels are open, blood flows freely, supplying all parts of the body according to the amount needed at that moment. Any change of activity makes a great deal of



difference in the direction and force of the flow of blood.

Suppose you take a leisurely walk down the street. You're not in a hurry. All is peaceful and quiet. Then suddenly you decide to run to catch a bus. Instantly a change takes place in your circulation. Surplus blood pooled in the vessels of your abdomen is immediately shunted to the large vessels supplying the muscles of your legs and thighs, giving them power for rapid motion. Your heart beats rapidly and forcefully to aid you in this momentary burst of energy.

So you catch the bus and take your seat. Soon you begin perspiring to get rid of the excess heat you generated by your sudden burst of speed. Your skin begins to feel hot, because the smaller vessels in the deeper layers of the skin are suffused with blood. Out in the now dilated capillaries of your skin the blood cools rapidly. Your heart is still beating fairly fast, but soon the rate drops back to normal.

The reverse of this process takes place when you are suddenly chilled. The smaller blood vessels in the skin are narrowed, reducing the volume of blood in those areas and shunting the flow back to the deeper vessels. Later as your skin temperature begins to rise some of the blood comes back to the surface, giving your skin a healthy glow.

Under excitement or physical stress a much higher output of energy is required by certain parts of the body. But physical stress is not the only cause of marked changes in the pressure or rate of blood flow. The same thing also occurs when we are under prolonged mental stress. And here is one of the main reasons for hypertension or high blood pressure.

### *What Causes High Blood Pressure?*

There are many unanswered questions about hypertension. For instance, why does it occur in some people who are constantly under stress and not in others who may be under just as much stress? No one really knows for sure. All we can say is that various factors are responsible and that the situation may differ from one person to another.

Normal pressure is maintained by the combined actions of the automatic nervous system and the walls of the smaller blood vessels. Certain hormones also play an important part in this, particularly some of the hormones produced by the adrenal glands. Nervous tension apparently sets up a chain reaction, especially in those who have a family background of heart and blood-vessel disease.

Sometimes important changes are seen in the blood vessels of the kidneys, particularly in persons who have had *nephritis* or Bright's disease. Such people almost invariably have a rising pressure, especially in the later stage of the

disease. Again, that strange form of internal poisoning known as *toxemia* of pregnancy also raises the blood pressure, but there is always the question of whether earlier infections may have opened the way for the toxemia.

However, in nine cases out of ten, doctors are still groping for the underlying cause of the high blood pressure; and, lacking a suitable explanation, we can only describe the great majority of cases as *essential hypertension*. But even though we don't know the true cause or causes, we are only too familiar with the disastrous effects of this strange condition, especially when that very serious form known as *malignant hypertension* develops in young adults. This is rather rare these days.

Referring to the illustration of the hose, one can readily see that any rise in blood pressure is bound to increase the work load on the heart. This extra burden causes the cardiac muscles to thicken and contract with more power to overcome the elevated pressure in the distant vessels. But eventually the heart is bound to fail through sheer overwork.

What goes on in the smaller vessels or arterioles is still somewhat of a mystery, but their walls also thicken and reduce the actual volume of blood flow. Normally these little arterioles act like millions of tiny nozzles, raising and lowering the blood pressure according to the directions they receive from the central nervous system.

In hypertension some process sets the pressure at a higher level. This strains the heart and may reduce the blood flow to the tissues. Therefore any medicine that lowers the pressure will tend to relieve the strain on the heart and may increase the blood flow to the rest of the body.

But we must not think that these medicines will actually *cure* the hypertension, for just as soon as the patient stops taking the medicine his blood pressure climbs right back to where it was before. This means that he must continue to take the medicine regularly in the hope of relieving the strain on his system. Any medicine that will help to lower the pressure and keep it down to a safe level is certainly to be recommended, for it usually benefits the heart, but for best results these pressure changes must be done slowly enough for the body to make the normal adjustments.

In a patient with high blood pressure, the heart is not the only organ affected. Changes may also occur in other organs, such as the eyes. Blind spots may develop in the patient's vision due to hemorrhages from the smaller vessels on the surface of the retina. This could be serious but not hopeless, for nature often has a way of getting around the difficulty, if we will do our part to avoid further stress and strain.

[END]



# Nature's Spinners and Weavers

(Continued from page 11)

two things are necessary. First, it must have a movable head, something a spider does not have, and, second, the silk glands must be located so that the silk can be extruded somewhere from the head. As the silkworm begins its work, it moves its head back and forth, adding line after line to the thickening mass of silk being wound about itself.

The amount of silk a worm can produce is almost unbelievable. Each cocoon contains about 1,000 feet of fiber, and it is so fine that it takes 1,000 miles of line to make a pound of silk.


Do other insects produce silk? Commercially, only a few moths. Once in a while one may see a caterpillar hanging by a thread. It is able to run silk out through its spinneret very swiftly, thus producing a "lifeline" on which it can swing to evade an enemy, or to hold if blown off the branch on which it is crawling. Some caterpillars spin

threads over the food plant to help them about; in some cases, as in the "webworms," they form large communal webs in which a number live while feeding on the foliage.

Some flies produce cocoons, but mostly these are made by gluing together soil or bits of organic matter. Occasionally a bit of silk is produced.

As we review all these facts and attempt a rational explanation, it seems quite clear that silk production is a function given to certain types of life only—to those that can use it efficiently. Other creatures have no particular use for it. Each insect, for instance, has its own peculiar mode of pupation, or metamorphosis, but to some the ability of making silk gives distinction. So with spiders—they stand out from all other creatures in their ability to produce webs and other devices for catching their food. These facts obviously indicate a definite design. How such intricate and ingenious arrangements could come about by mere chance would be extremely difficult, in fact, impossible, to comprehend. [END]

## Your Health Questions Answered



BY YOUR RADIO DOCTOR  
CLIFFORD R. ANDERSON, M.D.

## LEG CRAMPS

**Q.** I am sixty-five years old and have noticed lately some peculiar cramping in my legs which seems to come on more frequently when I smoke. What is the reason for these leg cramps?

**A.** The condition you have described is known as intermittent claudication. It is always more common in heavy smokers, but it is also seen in those who smoke more moderately, such as from ten to twenty cigarettes a day. Nonsmokers are rarely affected. The condition is probably due to arteriosclerosis or hardening of the arteries in certain vessels of the legs. Recent studies among 400 patients in the Soviet Union are very interesting in this respect. Of these patients 180 were classified as smokers, 220 as nonsmokers. Postmortem tissues from these 400 people showed that hardening of the arteries was from two to three times as

great among the smokers as among the nonsmoking control group. The Russian scientists concluded that "tobacco smoking apparently is one of the main factors predisposing the vascular wall to intensive development of the atherosclerotic process." They felt that people who do not smoke are far less likely to develop hardening of the arteries. People suffering from leg cramps should use unsaturated vegetable shortenings rather than the saturated types. Those who are overweight should definitely bring their weight down to normal. A moderate amount of exercise such as walking will help, but only as long as this does not cause pain in the legs. Suitable medications should be used if the blood pressure is much above normal. Smokers are always more likely to develop blood vessel lesions. Those so affected should either cut down or better still stop smoking altogether. They should be moderate in all things in order to minimize mental and emotional stress and to promote health and healing.

## LEUKEMIA

**Q.** My grandson is sick. His blood count is low, and his hemoglobin is only 7.4 grams. He has a high white count with 86 percent lymphocytes. He is taking cortisone, but this isn't helping him. The bone marrow is not making any red cells at all. He is only five years old. Is there anything we can do to help him?

**A.** I am afraid there is little you can do except to try to keep him as comfortable as possible. From your brief description, I believe your grandson has acute lymphatic leukemia. Cortisone products do help for a time, but unfortunately the best of modern medical science can only delay the progress of this "cancer of the blood." Some medical authorities believe the marked increase in leukemia may be due to the increased amount of radiation in the atmosphere of recent years, but no one knows for sure. Leukemia can occur at any age, but it is so tragic during the early years of life. Someday we may know the answer. Today we can only relieve pain and try to give the patient courage in his hour of desperate need.



# WRONG way--GO BACK!

*Modern Perils Call for Swift Decisions and an Infallible Internal Guidance System*

by Kenneth W. Wilson



The glare of headlights approaching in the wrong lane shocked drivers into terror. Frantically, several swerved and checked their speed to avoid the oncoming menace. Another saw the threatening headlights too late. There was a screech of tires, a resounding clash of metal and glass, and two speeding automobiles were reduced to a heap of tangled wreckage—all occupants dead. One driver, his mind befuddled by alcohol, had failed to see a large sign, plainly displayed: "ONE WAY, DO NOT ENTER."

Highway safety engineers have struggled to keep pace with driving conditions constantly more complex. They have installed strong fences on divider strips to keep careless drivers from wandering. Specially designed on-and-off-ramps now supposedly keep freeway traffic flowing in the right directions. But these entrances and exits pose potential hazards because occasionally some driver inadvertently heads into an exit which he mistakes for an entrance. At such points the safety engineers have installed warning signs. First is "ONE WAY—DO NOT ENTER," then, a little farther on, a bold red sign with white letters shouting the warning: "GO BACK. YOU ARE GOING WRONG WAY."

Two ways confront every traveler—the wrong and the right. Jesus mentioned the choice in His Sermon on the Mount. "Enter by the narrow gate," He admonished; "for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few." Matthew 7:13, 14, R.S.V.

Modern travelers are impelled at such high speeds that decisions must be made instantaneously. Who has time to stand at an intersection and deliberately ponder the question, Which way shall I take?

In the air the old "mile-a-minute" pace has given way to velocities several times the speed of sound. Sophisticated computerized devices check positions and correct directions

faster than a man can think. Even subsonic jet airliners are equipped with electronic course computers to make possible pinpoint arrival at the desired airport. An error of a fraction of a degree would cause a jet flying across the Pacific to miss its island destination completely, and the plane would be lost at sea.

Friend, your life is like that. As you rush along toward "the end of the road," you need the help of God's built-in directional equipment. While He has posted His direction signs along the way, such as "Thou shalt not steal," "Thou shalt not commit adultery," "Thou shalt not covet," He has also provided you with a built-in guidance system. "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21, R.S.V.

Life is full of puzzling situations. Everyone has to make decisions daily—sometimes many times a day. Not all choices are as vital as those confronting a jet liner pilot or an astronaut, but each one helps determine the final destination. A wrong "heading" on a seemingly inconsequential question may result in a course that misses the goal by a wide margin. It could end in a fatal crash.

Friend, which direction are you going? Are you heeding God's urgent counsel as recorded in His Word, "This is the way, walk in it"?

As the wise man wrote long ago, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." Proverbs 14:12, R.S.V. But God's Word abounds with promises of safe guidance to the man who walks uprightly. See Psalms 15:1, 2; 84:11; Proverbs 2:7; 10:9; 28:18; Micah 2:7.

Would you like to study God's Word systematically and so learn more about His way to abiding peace and happiness? Then clip the coupon on page 33. Join the thousands who have thus found divine guidance to keep them "on course."

[END]



## Fabulous "Talking Box"

(Continued from page 13)

gramophone provided him with all that he needed to present Christ to his tribe, and he shortly had many of his people ready for baptism. Perhaps the one he was most happy to see forsake his former ways was his own father, who had previously been a cannibal but who now became an ardent gramophone evangelist.

In New Guinea the records have proved remarkably effective in reaching heathen people with the gospel. Pastor L. C. Naden writes of a group belonging to a cannibal tribe living in the village of Purosa. One day a man from a neighboring tribe walked into this village carrying a strange-looking contraption that spoke to them about a Man of whom they had never heard. The stranger told about the European missionaries in the nearby village of Okasa who could tell them more about this wonderful Person.

Clutching their bows and arrows, for they refused to believe they could travel unarmed, the little group made their way to Okasa. With bodies generously covered with rancid pig's grease, they were a sight to behold. The women's wrists were decorated with bracelets of dried pig's entrails, and a small bark cape hung down their backs. The men were adorned with shells, sticks, and greasy bands. They hardly seemed likely prospects for conversion to Christianity, but they listened in awe as the missionaries told them the story of redemption.

They stayed in Okasa for several days, drinking in every word. When they left for their own village, a transformation had been wrought not only in their hearts but also in their bodies, for now they were washed clean of grease and their heathen emblems had disappeared. Their enthusiasm for their newly found religion was so contagious that within a few months the village of Purosa boasted a church large enough to seat 400 and a tithe house to which the people brought the Lord's portion of their produce. Tribesmen who all their lives had been cannibals forsook the ways of their forefathers and became baptized Christians.

Since 1954, when the first records were pressed from the tapes made in New Guinea, similar discs have been made in 140 different languages or dialects, generally those spoken by larger groups. At the request of a missionary of any faith anywhere in the world, Ford sends the script to him. The missionary follows the procedure of using a tribesman who knows at least pidgin English and has him translate the gospel message into his native tongue. The tape is sent back to Ford, who now presses the records in his own shop where the gramophones are assembled and packed for shipping.

All this work is done with absolutely no charge to the missionary or to the people. The entire cost of the gramophones, records, labor, and shipping, and all other expenses, are covered by donations sent to I.E.R. "There is no phase of commercialism about this enterprise," Ford says emphatically. "I am not trying to get something, but to give something. I feel that the Lord honors a work of this kind." Although he makes no personal solicitations of funds, enough money comes in so that Ford has never had to refuse the request of a missionary; he can supply him immediately. Demonstrating how easily the plastic hand-operated gramophone works, Ford laughed. "We've made several innova-

tions since the days when I first made gramophones out of cake tins, aluminum scraps, screws, and bolts. We now have a lightweight, virtually rustproof machine which can be operated even while being held in the hand. It takes very little instruction to show a person how to use it and how to change the needles every once in a while. The records can be played about 1,000 times each before they're worn out."

All around the globe, missionaries are seeing the results of what this machine can do in the lives of primitive, often savage peoples. The secret of this success is that the records are prepared in the language of the people who hear them, not by a white person who can't quite master the proper accent, but by a native of the country. Sometimes people will not even listen when a white missionary tries to tell them about Christ, but hearing a voice coming from this "talking box" in their own tongue seems to reach them in a way which no other method has been able to do.

Thousands of miles away from where the gramophones are made lives a man who was instrumental in starting the work of these machines in mission fields. Approximately eleven years ago, at Pastor Ford's request, Pastor A. J. Campbell paved the way for the distribution of the machines to heathen people in New Guinea. Now semiretired in his native Australia, he and his wife served as missionaries for thirty-three years, nine of them in the Solomon Islands, and twenty-four in New Guinea. Because his health failed, he has retired from mission field work, but he is still active in promoting this gramophone ministry. From the branch office of I.E.R. in Cooranbong, New South Wales, Australia, he sends letters all over the world explaining the work of the gramophone and how startlingly successful it can be in spreading the gospel.

A friendly man in his mid-sixties, Campbell is unceasingly exuberant about the possibilities of reaching the heathen in this way. "I have seen primitive people lie on the grass, bury their heads in their hands, ignore planes flying overhead and jeeps driving by, even the little gramophone itself, after a while, and just *listen*, positively astounded at the message coming from it in their own tongue!"

Reminiscing about his years of patient missionary labor, Campbell recalls, "We waited five years before the first natives of eastern New Guinea were baptized. They were a wild, difficult people, fighting day and night. I only wish that we had had the little 'wonder machines' in those years." Today airplanes are flying the gramophones into the very same rugged mountain areas where he and his wife worked. In that area there are now 5,000 baptized Christians and 14,000 more studying the Word of God, many as a result of hearing the records.

Campbell is thrilled with the remarkable results obtained with the gramophones, not only in New Guinea but in widely separated areas of the globe. "It would be impossible to measure what these grand little workers are accomplishing," he states enthusiastically. "I received an order for 1,200 recently from Matto Grosso, deep in Brazil; this led to other orders. They are used along the west coast of Greenland in Greenlandic or Eskimo, from Godthaab in the south to the great American rocket base at Thule in the north, eight hundred miles from the Pole. They are being used among the American Indians of Arizona and other places and among the aborigines of Australia. They are



also in Mandarin, which the people of China speak, but possibly only half can write. We hope they will soon go into Communist China. They are a real breakthrough, for they do not involve learning how to write a language."

Thus, in lands from one end of the globe to the other, because of the enthusiasm and dedication of many devoted missionaries, and by new and ingenious methods, the work of spreading the gospel of Christ goes on with undiminished zeal. [END]

## Religious Liberty in Spain

(Continued from page 23)

had spoken with representatives of the German-American colony and other national groups living in Spain. He had formed a commission within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For nine years this committee had studied the principles of religious freedom, its application, the constitutions of the nations, the thinking of different religious groups, and, most important, all problems relating to Spanish Protestants—marriage, proselytism, et cetera. He had discussed these problems with members of the Spanish hierarchy; and the correspondence he had had with some of them, he said wryly, "would make interesting reading if it were ever published."

Señor Castiella went to his desk and picked up a stack of documents about a foot and a half high. He set them on the low table before us. "These," he said, "are articles from the world press—newspapers, secular magazines, religious periodicals—whatever has been published on the religious liberty problem in Spain is here." The articles had been collected, on his orders, by Spanish ambassadors around the world.

I leafed through clippings from the *Washington Post*, the *Brooklyn Tablet*, the *Times* of London, the *New York Times*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *The Christian Century*, and *Signs of the Times*. The headings ranged from the acerbic—"Hierarchy, Franco Pass Buck in Religious Liberty Dispute" (*Catholic Observer*, Springfield, Massachusetts)—to the innocuous—"Spanish Protestant Leader Says Council Is Helping to Curb Bias," (*The Pilot*, Boston). "Backward Ecumenism in Spain" was headlined in the *Brooklyn Tablet* (Catholic), and "Protestant Chapels Reopened in Spain but Legislation Is Shelved," by the *Guardian*, of Manchester, England.

Each of these articles, the foreign minister said, had been translated into Spanish and put on the desk of every member of the Cortes! "We faced an education problem in selling the principles of religious freedom," said Señor Castiella. "Much of the opposition to religious freedom was based on ignorance. When members of the government saw how the world outside lived, and how that world reacted to the treatment of Protestants in Spain, their consciences were stirred, and they were embarrassed."

The power of the press, in Señor Castiella's estimation, was a major factor in creating an atmosphere whereby religious liberty might be achieved in Spain.

The first success of the committee set up within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was achieved in 1956. Motivated by one of the Catholic bishops, police confiscated the Bibles of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Believing that the seizure must be illegal, Señor Castiella asked his

aides to search for evidence of violation. This they found, and Señor Castiella was successful in getting the government to vote indemnity for this "outrage." As a result, existence of the Bible Society was legitimized.

I turned my attention to the religious liberty draft that had not been acted upon by the Cortes in 1964, much to the dismay of Protestants and other advocates of religious freedom around the world. What was its status? When would it be acted upon? What were its chances of passage?

Señor Castiella went to his desk and returned with the draft. As he sat down across the table from me, I found myself wishing that I could read Spanish upside down! Though he could not discuss its contents with us, we knew its basic purpose was public recognition of non-Roman churches in Spain, making it possible for them to own property and to build schools, churches, and so forth.

Señor Castiella told us that the document was being revised to bring it into harmony with the principles enunciated in the religious liberty document of the Vatican Council. The bill which had not been acted upon by the Cortes in 1964 had been drafted with a purely Spanish vision of the religious liberty problem; passage of the Vatican II document had made it possible to strengthen the bill. In other words, the delay was all to the good.

At the time of the interview, the bill was being revised according to suggestions made by three committees. One was composed of officials of the Ministry of Justice, who are lawyers expert in Spanish law. They were being assisted by three theologians. Another committee was working under Ambassador Antonio Garrigues in Rome. The third committee was under Señor Castiella's direction in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Toward the end of November, 1966, General Franco revealed the contents of the long-awaited document. The public press has referred to it as a religious liberty law, and public officials and clerics, both Protestant and Catholic, will be quoted, extolling the advance it represents. However, it represents, at best, religious *toleration*, not religious freedom. So long as Spain remains a clerical state, so long as the privileged position of the Roman Catholic Church is protected by a concordat, the modest expectations of Spain's realistic Protestants will not likely be exceeded. None, for example, expected any significant change in restrictions upon evangelism—"proselytism," in the Spanish clerical vocabulary.

Indeed, what the Roman Catholic Church could not do by years of repression—extinguish Spanish Protestantism—it might achieve by charity. I concluded this after examining a chart shown me by a Protestant leader. On it were recorded Protestant baptisms year by year. Without exception, the hardest years for Protestants were the most productive so far as baptisms were concerned! Another conclusion could be drawn from the chart: that Spain's Protestant leaders, well used to coping with adversity, have not yet learned to take advantage of prosperity!

At any rate, Protestants and Catholics are talking to each other for the first time since the Reformation. The week I left Spain the leader of one of the so-called "sects" among Spanish Protestantism told me that he had been invited to address a large gathering of Roman Catholic priests on the beliefs of his church. When "separated brethren" get to talking, who knows what might be the result? [END]



# YOUR BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

by CHARLES D. UTT

## FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH

In the August number of the *Signs of the Times* we published an answer to a question about "the four corners of the earth," an expression found several times in the Bible. See Isaiah 11:12; Ezekiel 7:2; Revelation 7:1. Our explanation was that the Bible writers used idiomatic language to denote the whole extent of the inhabited earth. However, in the light of recent scientific discoveries, it appears that "the four corners of the earth" may be understood quite literally. Our attention was called to this by a reader who wrote as follows: "The Bible continues to be vindicated by modern science, even in some of its idiomatic language, for in 1965 scientists at Johns Hopkins University discovered that the earth does in fact have four corners. For further details please see page 637, *Reader's Digest Almanac* for 1966. Yours truly, D. W. G."

As explained there, the earth is not a perfect sphere but has bulges on its surface. Four bulges have been determined from measurements of the earth's variable gravitational pull on satellites as they pass over certain areas of the earth's surface. The Johns Hopkins scientists refer to these areas as "corners" of the earth. The four corners are north of Ireland, north of New Guinea, south of Africa, and west of Peru. We cannot, of course, say that these "corners" coincide with the "four corners" of the Bible prophets, but it is interesting to note that "four corners" have actually been scientifically determined on the earth's surface.

## AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

You teach that the Lord's coming will be visible to all, but the apostle Paul says, "Now as for times and seasons, brothers, you need nothing to be

written to you, for you yourselves know quite well that the Lord's day is coming exactly as a thief in the night." 1 Thessalonians 5:1, 2. J. G.

These verses in the King James Version read as follows: "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."

These verses do not contradict other statements made by Christ and the apostles that His coming will be a glorious coming, visible to all. Said Christ: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24:30. Again, "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming

in the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64.

The comparison of Christ's coming to the coming of a thief is found a number of times. After telling his disciples that the inhabitants of the earth will see Him "coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory," He gives this admonition: "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up." Matthew 24:42, 43. See also Revelation 3:3; 16:15. When the thief comes, it is too late to prepare defenses against him. Just so, when Christ appears in the clouds, it will be too late to prepare to meet Him.

Paul's point of emphasis in 1 Thessalonians 5:2 is that Christ's followers will be in danger of becoming careless and so of failing to be ready at all times for His coming. This is brought out even more clearly in verse 6: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

The illustration of the thief cannot be applied in every detail. A burglar might come and go undetected by the householder, but it will not be so with Christ's coming. Both those who are ready and those who are not ready will see Him. The blessing will be for those who are watching for Him when He comes. Luke 12:37-40.

## MILK FOR BABES

What does Paul mean in Hebrews 5:13, where he says, "For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe"? Are we babies when we drink milk? A. F. K.

We quote the verse in its context: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

The writer is not discussing milk as an article of food for the nourishment of the physical body, whether of babes or of adults. He is using an illustration to describe the immature spiritual development of the people to whom

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he is writing. They are unprepared for the things he wants to teach them that are "hard to be uttered" (verse 11), that is, "hard to explain" (R.S.V.). The subject is the heavenly priesthood of Christ.

Spiritually these people were still in their babyhood as Christians, capable of understanding only "first principles." They had not advanced in their understanding of the oracles of God; hence they were not strong, mature Christians capable of teaching others. They still needed to be taught themselves.

A baby's first food is milk, but as it grows older it eats "strong meat," that is, solid food that promotes vigorous growth. So in the Christian life, the ideal is to grow beyond "milk" to "strong meat." The ones to whom the apostle was writing had stopped growing in the "milk" stage of Christian life.

The parallel, of course, is not exact. Normally a baby grows without exerting any effort. The Christian, on the other hand, when he is born again, can choose whether he will grow. He can by indifference or inaction remain a child by neglecting the knowledge that would make him a mature Christian.

In the sixth chapter of Hebrews the writer admonishes his readers to learn "the principles of the doctrine of Christ" and to go on from there unto "perfection," or maturity of understanding. In doing this, he uses "milk" in a metaphorical sense.

#### ANSWERS TO "TEST YOUR 'WORD' POWER"

1. Dan (Genesis 30:6)
2. Job (Job 1)
3. Uz (Job 1:1)
4. Asa (1 Kings 15:11)
5. Nun (Joshua 1:1)
6. On (Genesis 41:45)
7. Zin (Numbers 27:14)
8. Ham (Genesis 6:10)
9. So (2 Kings 17:4)
10. Ai (Joshua 7:4)
11. Eli (1 Samuel 2:12)
12. Ur (Genesis 11:31)

#### Score:

- 10-12 Correct, excellent  
 7-9 correct, good  
 4-6 correct, fair  
 0-3 correct, more Bible study needed

## God Isn't Dead

(Continued from page 20)

was the Son of God." Matthew 27:54.

No wonder, too, that the apostle Paul, writing shortly afterward, said of Christ: "Being in the form of God, [He] thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 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 2:6-11.

Death could not hold Him. From His sealed tomb He came forth its mighty conqueror. Reappearing to His disciples in bodily form, with "flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39), and bearing in His form the marks of His crucifixion (John 20:27), He at last ascended to heaven where, we are told, He "sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." Hebrews 1:3.

There He remains, "the same yesterday, and today, and forever," awaiting the day of His promised glorious return, and "from henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool." Hebrews 13:8; 10:13.

Though we may not be able to understand all the mysteries of the Godhead or penetrate the light with which God enshrouds Himself, yet we may know that at His right hand, seated upon His throne, coexistent with Him, is One with human form marked for eternity with the signs of His earthly sufferings.

Thither may our thoughts turn, not to some ethereal nothingness, not to "the ground of our being," but to a glorious high throne in the heavenly sanctuary, and to Him who sits thereon—to Christ, "My Lord and my God."

What good news is this! [END]

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## Kindness Has No Color

by Ruth Earhart

"Mother, may I go across the street and play with Kenny?" asked my seven-year-old after school one day.

I glanced out the window at cars rushing by and wished once more that we had been fortunate enough to find a house on a quieter street.

Every day I face the same problem: My children must cross this street on their way to and from school, or to play with their friends.

As each of them reached school age, we had gone through the same procedure. I crossed the street with them when they were in kindergarten and met them to recross after their class was dismissed. In first grade, I walked to the end of the driveway to see them safely across and met them as they returned. When they entered second grade, I steeled myself for the final untying of the apron strings when they would begin to cross alone. I learned after watching my oldest as he made his first attempts, that the best thing to do was to shove them out the front door and retreat to the farthest point in the house where I couldn't watch their nerve-shattering starts and stops to cross the busy street.

Even now, with child number five taking the final step, I felt the same uncertainties I had with all the others. The routine never changed—say good-bye at the door, busy myself with some minor chore; then the quick dash, the imperative look, to be sure they were safely across and on their way.

I heaved a sigh and turned to my youngest, "All right. You may go to Kenny's, but be careful crossing the street."

I had just finished cleaning the bathroom and was hanging clean curtains at the window which overlooked the street. As I placed one curtain on the rod, I glanced down to where the small figure stood waiting for a break in traffic. I saw his small feet start forward; then the muscles tightened throughout his body as he quickly pulled back to the driveway. I knew from his reaction that another car had just turned the corner and he would have to wait

till it passed. Three more times he attempted to cross. The cars continued in what seemed to be an unending stream.

I turned from the window, determined not to watch, but something drew me back. A beautiful, shiny new car stopped at the curb, and the man within rolled down the window and spoke to my son. My heart was in my mouth. What was he saying? Was he asking directions, or did he have other intentions? I was afraid to leave the window and run downstairs to see what he wanted. Impulsively I leaned forward, hoping to understand something from his actions and at the same time keep my child within sight.

I saw my son nod his head, and the man got out of the car. I paid no attention to how he was dressed, what he looked like, his height, or his age. I just watched in fascination as he proceeded to the middle of the street and raised his hands to the oncoming traffic. As the cars stopped, he motioned my son across the street; then he got back into his car and drove away. I was too shocked to note his license number or even the make of his car. I know it was aqua in color, but color doesn't mean much on today's highways. I could never pick out that car by its color alone.

In the ten years we have lived in this house, no other person has ever taken enough interest in one of my children to take time to help him across the street.

When Kenny came home that evening for supper, I was waiting at the door for him. "Was that someone we knew who helped you across the street?" I asked.

"No." He smiled up at me. "It was the nicest colored man."

I paused for a moment in silence. In my anxiety for my child's safety, I hadn't even noticed that the man's skin was a different color from my own!

Would you do the same for that man's child? I hope so. I know I would!

How true it is that "kindness has no color"—only a radiant glow from within.



Dear Mother,

We thought you'd enjoy this picture of the boys and me. Jack took it one night last week, one of those rare nights when we were all at home. Notice that Chuck's reading that magazine you sent us, Signs of the Times.

Jack read it first, then Chuck, then the other boys, and finally me. And we've really enjoyed it. Somehow its articles seem bright and refreshing, so much better than the hopeless situations reported in most magazines.

My first thought on seeing that it was a religious magazine was this must be some kind of dull reading. But after just a page or two and a second look at the colorful cover, I recognized my mistake. The "Our World Today" feature and editorials made me sit up and think. I had not realized so many significant things were happening in today's religious world.

Jack seemed most impressed by the articles that explained Bible teachings. He says they answered a few questions he had felt vaguely perplexed about for years.

As for the boys, it was the nature articles that captivated them. Now they're all set to do some shell collecting this summer and try mountain hiking again.

Oh, there are so many good things in that little magazine. We'll be interested to see what the next issue has for us. Thanks for thinking of us. And by the way, we plan to send more pictures of the boys next month.

Love from us all,

Carolyn



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