

MARCH, 1975

contact

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS



**Stewardship
of the Body**

GOT THAT

"TIRED BLOOD"

Feeling?

By Wendell Walley

The energy crunch is more than an industrial and economic problem of this "progressive age." We often find our bodies faced with an energy shortage when it's time for prayer meeting, choir practice, visitation and countless other tasks worthy of our attention.

Bewilderment sets in as we look with disdain on duties we once anticipated with delight. We are shocked to

suddenly find ourselves bored with things that used to be a blessing. Guilt feelings emerge, and we imagine we are backsliden, or perhaps something is wrong with the pastor or church.

What has really happened? In many cases it may be that we are just plain tired. Overwork with accompanying fatigue is doubtless one of the most serious, through frequently overlooked, problems among dedicated and sincere Christians today. Neither the cure nor the preventative is to be found on the endless shelves of "tired blood" remedies. In most cases better stewardship of the body is the answer.

Satan deviously compounds the problem by convincing many Christians if they do not feel tired and worn out all the time, they are not giving Christ their all. Some churches unwittingly contribute to this pseudospiritual conception with an endless flurry of activity, transforming the "easy yoke" of our Lord into an almost unbearable

one. Service to Christ becomes the biggest competitor of a complete surrender to Christ.

In misguided zeal some pastors regularly use vacation time for revivals, boasting they had rather "burn out than rust out for the Lord." Unfortunately, they somehow overlook the miserable human wreckage of many of their peers and colleagues strewn along life's busy highway who did neither. They either "washed up" or "washed out."

Only a few days ago I learned of yet another "successful" young preacher who had hung his harp on the willows saying the tension and pressures were

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Walley is a home missionary in Greenville, Mississippi, serving as pastor of the church jointly sponsored by National Home Missions Department and the Mississippi Home Missions Board. The Free Will Baptist Bible College alumnus is presently directing the construction of a church building on a choice suburban site.

just too great. His number is legion. Added to that growing company is an even greater host of jaded saints who are "washed out" and might as well be "washed up" for the little good they are doing.

It goes without saying that good health is important to effective and prolonged service. Essential to good health is a proper diet plus adequate amounts of sleep, exercise, and relaxation. Christians are not immune to natural laws.

Some "super-spiritual" persons will look with raised eyebrows on any crusader for the cause of relaxation in this age that has succeeded in taking all the work out of work. But the mental and nervous strain of this frenzied age of automation might well be greater than the physical strain of our forefathers.

Prolonged neglect of relaxation will certainly result in a costly energy drain physically, emotionally and spiritually. For that reason adequate, but not undue, time spent for this purpose is just as important as time spent with God and with the family. Time spent whetting the ax is never wasted time.

I read somewhere that the Apostle John had a pet quail which afforded him great amusement. A passing hunter taunted the saintly scholar for such frivolity. With restrained voice the great Apostle inquired of the hunter whether or not he always kept his bow string tight. "No," replied he, "The bow would soon lose its resiliency." "Even so would the mind," responded the wise old saint.

Even music is not without its rests. While it may be convincingly argued that a rest is not music, it is equally true that it does have the "making of music in it." If we do not take times of planned leisure, God may send times of forced leisure.

Israel failed to rest from its agricultural tasks as commanded by God. After several centuries of such sabbath violation, they suffered 70 years of captivity while the land caught up on its sabbaths (2 Chron. 36:21).

Medical findings combine with human experience to warn of the dangers of fatigue. Work output dwindles; restlessness and dissatisfaction become apparent. Irritability, loss of joy and a critical attitude develop. Ability to handle complex problems erodes. Doubt and depression, also encouraged by fatigue, make us prime targets for the tempter. We become more susceptible to all forms of sin.

Have you ever wondered about Elijah's depression? Whatever the explanation, fatigue must have at least been a factor. *Tension* was at a fever pitch all day on Mt. Carmel. *Triumph* came only late in the day. Still more *travail* followed until at long last a rain cloud was sighted. His grueling day was yet not over. A 12 mile *trip* to Jezreel was yet to come.

In Jezreel the surprised prophet was greeted with a sickening *threat* from the still unbelieving Jezebel. Completely exhausted and bereft of his decision making powers, Elijah the stouthearted became Elijah the fainthearted. He fled the scene taking all hope of the revival with him. A good night's sleep or a day off might have furnished the holy boldness needed to resist the unquenchable queen and win a culminating victory.

How many modern day Elijahs have fled from their problems or made costly mistakes when "consecrated leisure" or a change of scenery might have saved the day.

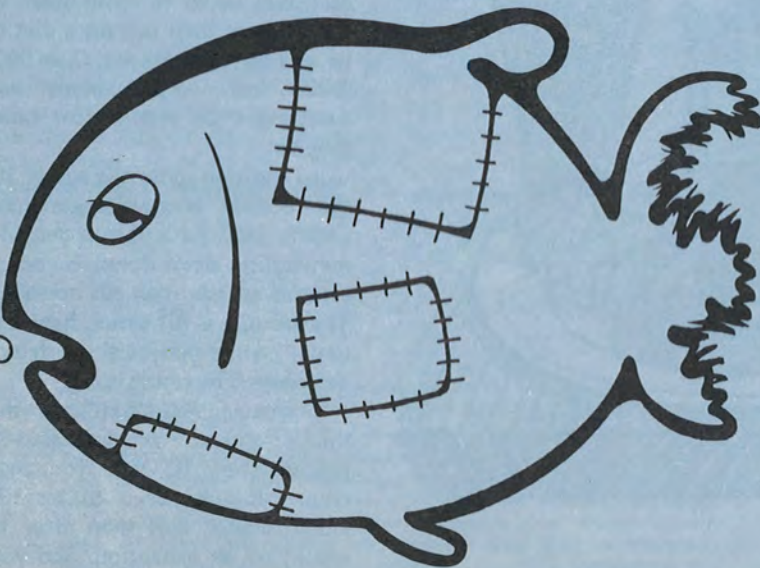
How do we find time for sufficient rest and leisure? Perhaps the answer is as varied as the individual. For most, a good point of beginning is a hearty use of the middle two letters of the alphabet: N-O! Be a job selector instead of a job collector. If some of your ties cannot be broken, cut them.

Next learn the art of "resting while you work." Allow for an occasional change of pace. Take a break here and there for a short walk or light exercise to relieve the tension. Be alert to the scents, sights and sounds of nature. They were put here by the Creator for our enjoyment.

Finally, organize. It is not more time we need, but time better spent. Advanced planning, an earlier start, realistic goals and a wise use of spare time balanced against sufficient relaxation will combine to give you maximum efficiency.

Your body is a sacred trust. Without it you cannot pray, preach, sing or witness. "Don't be foolish." Conserve energy. Even our Lord said, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile:" (Mark 6:31). Ignore that verse and you may literally come apart.

△



DIET AND DISCIPLESHIP:

Are They Related?

**Evangelist Bobby Jackson
discusses an oft ignored subject
among Christians.**

Should overweight and obesity be a matter for concern among Christians?

By overweight doctors usually mean about 15 or more pounds heavier than desirable. Those who are more than 30 or 40 pounds overweight are considered obese. Anyone may obtain a chart from his family doctor which gives a general idea of his desirable weight, considering height, body frame, and age.

Does it really matter?

Yes, and there are at least two good reasons why Christians cannot afford that extra fat. One is physical. The second is spiritual.



The Physical Problem

In a medical doctor's syndicated newspaper column a few years back, he suggested the 3 greatest causes of premature physical death in the United States.

Number one on his list was cigarette smoking. Keep in mind he was referring to direct deaths caused by the activity. He listed 17 serious physical problems related to cigarette smoking.

Number two was drinking alcohol. Had he included indirect deaths such as automobile accidents, suicides, murders, etc., this would have been number one.

Number three, and hold on to your hat (or maybe belt buckle), was overeating.

This brings up the question: "What Causes Overweight?"

Some blame their excess weight on glands, metabolism, heredity and anything else beyond their personal control. The simple fact is that about 99.44% are fat because they eat too much. These take in more calories than the body uses; the excess is stored as fat.

A test once run on 1,000 overweight people bore this out. All insisted that their problem was not overeating. So each was asked to write down what he ate. He was then put on a diet of what he said he normally ate. Over 950 of the 1,000 lost weight! Many who are overweight do not realize how much they eat.

In addition, after the age of 30 or 40, the body's energy requirements are usually less. As a person gets older, his metabolism slows down. He needs fewer calories to maintain his normal weight. The trouble is his eating habits stay the same, while physical activity often decreases. The result is fat.

Someone suggested that the food intake should be decreased by 10 percent every 10 years from age 30. Of course if you lived to be 130, you would starve. But then after 100 you would be an exception, and you could junk the suggestion.

There is no question about it: overeating causes overweight, and overweight causes premature death! Obesity is dangerous and damaging to the human body.

Life insurance companies spend much time and money studying how, why and when people die. The figures show that overweight folks are more likely to develop diabetes, heart disease, circulatory problems, high blood pressure and other life-shortening conditions than those whose weight is normal. Obesity makes for a much poorer surgical risk plus a lower resistance to infection. Overweight persons, on an average, simply die younger.

In contrast, those with normal weight suffer less from back problems, foot troubles, fatigue and many other physical problems. In terms of everyday comfort, they simply live longer, healthier, more comfortable lives.

Physically one will be far ahead to control that appetite, rid himself of that excess fat, and maintain a normal weight.

The Spiritual Problem

"What has this to do with spiritual matters?" someone asked. "After all if I die younger, I'll just get to heaven sooner."

Is God concerned about our bodies?

It stands to reason that since my spirit now lives in this physical body, and since I have known no conscious existence apart from this body, and

since activity in this material world is related to this body, and since God created this physical body for me to inhabit, then He surely is concerned about the condition of my body.

Body is Temple

The Bible has much to say about the body and its relation to the Lord.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are," I Cor. 3:16-17.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's," I Cor. 6:19-20.

Evidently, the body has been bought by the Lord. It belongs to Him. It is inhabited by Him. It is to glorify Him.

Your body is not given to you simply to enjoy pleasure by indulging its appetites. You are responsible to control the body and not to be controlled by it.

Paul said, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things . . ." I Cor. 9:25.

"But I keep under my *body*, and bring it into subjection . . ." I Cor. 9:27.

Are you subject to your body? Or is your body subject to you?

Body is Instrument of Service

Furthermore, the only instrument through which you labor for the Lord in service among men on earth is that body in which you live.

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" Romans 6:12-13.

One of the greatest exhortations of the Bible is Romans 12:1 — "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your *bodies* a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

The only lungs, mouth, tongue, lips God uses to preach the gospel are physical and parts of the body. The only feet and legs used to go for God are physical. The only eyes to see, brain to think, hands to labor are physical parts of the body. If these members are sick, weak, damaged by indulgence, then your service for God is hindered.

Body is a Testimony

Finally, there is the testimony and influence upon others to be concerned about.

"In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works . . . that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" Titus 2:7,8.

It has been told that Moody once spoke to Spurgeon about smoking cigars. (Later Mr. Spurgeon gave up smoking cigars for his testimony.) At the time Mr. Spurgeon simply smiled, reached over and patted Mr. Moody on his large, fat abdomen, and needed not speak any further rebuttal.

What testimony does a disciple of Jesus Christ have for self-control, self-denial, self-crucifixion, when he cannot even control his appetite for good?

Until one can control that appetite, it is impossible to control the weight.

What about drugs, steam baths, massages, machines, exercise? Isn't there some easier way?

Drugs are dangerous. Steam baths and massages are helpless. Exercise will tone muscles, increase circulation, strengthen the heart, release tension, and contribute greatly to good physical health. But without control of that appetite there is no control of that waistline.

Self-denial is never pleasant; yet, there is no other way to reduce. One must eat less.

Taking a little liberty with I Cor. 10:31, put it in the negative. "Whether therefore ye eat (do not eat), . . . do all to the glory of God."

Some Christians should "not eat" for the glory of God. Δ

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Jackson is a full-time Free Will Baptist evangelist residing in Greenville, North Carolina. Educated at Free Will Baptist Bible College and Bob Jones University, he was one of the first full-time evangelists in the denomination when he entered the field in 1954.

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DOES BODILY EXERCISE PROFIT?

by James R. Puckett

In 1 Timothy 4:8 Paul wrote, "Bodily exercise profiteth little: but Godliness is profitable unto all things." The emphasis of Paul is on the importance of exercising oneself in spiritual things which are eternal. To make his point more vivid he contrasts godliness with the physical exercise which, though profitable, is only temporal.

There are three ways of interpreting the phrase, "Bodily exercise profiteth little." The first, there is no profit because only eternal things really matter. The second, there is some profit in physical activity, but very little in view of the great value of Godly exercise. The third interpretation is that bodily exercise does profit for a little time, that time being while we live in this world.

All must agree that we cannot neglect our spiritual exercise because of its eternal value. Few agree, however, on the importance of and the approach to

physical exercise. Some neglect it completely, while others put so much emphasis on physical activity that their spiritual needs and the spiritual needs of others must wait. The purpose of this article is to help Christians, and particularly ministers, to maintain the proper balance between the spiritual and the physical, with the right emphasis given to each, as God intended.

GIVE THE SPIRITUAL FIRST PLACE

Consider the Rev. Brown who had planned all week to go fishing with a deacon on Saturday. All the plans had been made and excitement was high. But at the last minute Pastor Brown received a call from a church family that had never been very faithful. An emergency had arisen, and they needed the pastor's spiritual direction. What should be the pastor's decision?

Another occasion arose when Pastor Brown had a last-minute opportunity to go golfing with a fellow pastor and friend. He was not prepared for Sunday's service — he had not finished his studying; he had not saturated the service with prayer. Yet he reasoned that he should "get away for a while."

The pastor must discipline himself to remember — the spiritual comes first.

IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE

Though some Christians, including a few pastors, overindulge in physical activity; there are far more who do not realize the importance of any type of exercise. Exercise is closely related to the general health and well-being of the individual. Although there is no reason to believe those involved in exercise will be immune to bacteria or virus, medical authorities believe that they can more readily combat different virus after having been attacked.

According to Donald Strand, M.D., who was interviewed on this subject, exercise stimulates the heart, lungs, circulatory system, the blood and the brain. Exercise is so important to general health that a **PRESIDENTIAL SPORTS AWARD** is now offered to adults in almost every exercise imaginable. For more information on various activities and requirements, write:

PRESIDENTIAL SPORTS AWARD
P.O. Box 129
Radio City Station
New York, New York 10019.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Puckett, who was a coach in the public schools, is now pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Deerfield, Florida and principal of the Christian school sponsored by the church. The Arkansas native is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee.



There may even be a spiritual obligation here as well. The body is God's temple and needs to be kept fit as a testimony to others. Preachers don't need the image of being soft and overweight. Exercise and physical activity can help change that image.

THE BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE

There are many benefits of exercise — physically, mentally and socially. Physically, exercise can help combat a weight problem which often leads to heart disease, circulatory problems, diabetes, strokes and even surgical complications. The blood is strengthened by exercise. The muscles are increased in size and demand a larger blood supply. In turn, there is more demand for oxygen, and more hemoglobin is formed in the blood stream. As the heart muscle is strengthened, there is less likelihood of heart attack or stroke. A reserve is built up that will help eliminate overexertion when a job does require some physical activity.

Physical exercise is essential to mental health. The pressure of the job, problems that must be faced, or frustrations can be forgotten in time of physical activity. A large percentage of the pastor's work is mental and he especially needs a physical outlet to do his work properly.

Socially, some physical activities afford opportunities for fellowship with friends and the making of new acquaintances. The one who is physically fit has less cause for feelings of inferiority, has a better sense of his own well being, and is better able to adjust to others in the social realm.

HOW TO DO IT

Before beginning a program of physical activity, it is best to have a doctor's examination, especially if it has been some time since you've been examined or if there is any knowledge of a heart condition or other physical problems. Then start a program of regular exercise, preferably something that can be enjoyed in a short period of time so you may participate more often. It is best to exercise several times a week. Jogging, swimming, bicycling, weight lifting, and general calisthenics can be enjoyed two or three times a week.

Don't start big! It is best to work gradually into any program in a systematic way. Doing it all in one day brings unnecessary strain on the body. But as you gradually work into a regular program, you will see a significant change in the way you feel. Your powers of concentration will be enhanced. The afternoon doldrums will disappear and you will be better able to utilize your time. Your body shape will begin to change — clothes once too tight will loosen up. Your heart will not pound wildly nor will you have to gasp for breath as you mount stairs or climb a small hill. Your very existence will not be threatened if you have to run a half-block distance.

Physical exercise alone will not correct all the body ailments with which you may now be plagued. Proper rest is needed. Rufus Jones, a Quaker saint of earlier this century, reportedly went to bed each night at 10 p.m. When asked to explain, he said, "When I am up I want to be wide awake." He knew that in order to perform adequately and live a complete life, our bodies must be in condition.

Although physical exercise must take second place to the spiritual, it does hold a place of great importance in your well-being — "Bodily exercise profiteth." △

By Heddy Chapman

"For I will RESTORE health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds," saith the Lord..." — Jeremiah 30:17.

We are an independent, impatient nation with many immediate needs. No one can deny that this is an "instant age," ranging from instant grits and oatmeal to instant replay and reruns.

However, modern man has never discovered any medication to bring instant *healing*. Medicines and surgery are often vital, but most thinking doctors will agree that only God gives the healing.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Although hindered from physical activity because of a prolonged affliction, Mrs. Chapman is busy with her pen. Her third and latest book is *"Grins, Groans, and Amazing Grace"* available from WNAC, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Mrs. Chapman is a member of the Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia.

PROGRESSIVE HEALING IN THIS

"How long, O Lord, how long?" prays the, at times, instantly-stricken soul, as I did some years ago. Especially when I considered what needed to be done "out there," I begged and bargained with the Lord for *instant deliverance*. But the raging battle against pain, immobility and fear of instability had to be fought "in here" within my own being and largely within these same confining walls.

Through it all, never did the Lord fail to meet any instant need. I cannot explain how a prayer can be answered while it is yet being formed in one's heart or thoughts. I can only give God glory and thank Him also for His Spirit-controlled children who carry people like me on their hearts. Truly, these small "miracles" (which in essence they were) have been my daily lift.

Still, there are times when one feels he must somehow move the Arm of God. It is not always easy to discern the will of the Lord. When so many kind friends assured me of what God could do for me — if only I trusted enough — I believed them. However, I could not conjure up feelings that were not there, nor lay claims to something of which I was not sure. In time, as I communed in my heart, I began to pray for something *solid* to hold to — like a promise from the Word of God.

"Every promise in the Book is mine..." the children sing, and we find these special promises when we need them most. There is always an answer for the trusting heart, and in my case, there has always been a confirmation.

It was a dreary, rainy morning. I was alone, aching and generally restless.

I Quit Smoking!

By Oziel L. Jeffries

The Lord is a patient God. How often He must watch us, His children, as we struggle with habits displeasing to him and long to hear us say, "Take it from me,

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Jeffries is a deacon in the Amherst Free Will Baptist Church, Amherst, Ohio. He resides in nearby Lorain where he is employed with the Ford Assembly Plant.

Lord." I'm sure this was true in my case.

It took a long time for me to admit that my Christian witness was being destroyed by a smoke, but it took even longer for me to admit that cigarettes were hurting my body. It wasn't that I did not know this; I just did not want to accept the facts. I was saved in January of 1964 and finally quit smoking in January of 1974 — a total of 10 years that the Lord dealt with me before I was willing to accept the facts and change that habit.

If you are a Christian who smokes, then you need to consider the possibility that your smoking may not be glorifying the Heavenly Father before the sinner to whom you are witnessing.

I feel smoking should not be practiced by a Christian because of the negative witness that it gives to the lost. The sinner that you are witnessing to, or the one that is watching your life, who disagrees with smoking will not let

you witness to them with an effective result.

I came to accept these truths when trying to witness to a man who was very close to me. Every time the subject of church was brought up, he would mention smoking. In fact, there was hardly a day went by that someone didn't say something about smoking in relation to my Christian life. This took the joy out of my witnessing.

We must use every means of winning the lost. Our daily lives are an important means of witnessing. We should try to present ourselves blameless before the world. We cannot afford to let our actions make void that which we say.

For over a year now the Lord has helped me have victory over my former smoking habit. I know He can give you the strength to overcome your habit, too, if you will only face the problem and trust Him to help you quit smoking. △

INSTANT AGE

Somewhat petulantly, I began to remind the Lord that I thought I had been "held under" long enough with this "stupid affliction," when some words caught my eye. In my hand was a greeting card from my own church Bible class. On the left hand side of the card in fine print was *the* verse, "I will restore health unto thee; I will heal thee of thy wounds . . ." — Jeremiah 30:17.

How many wonderful ways the Lord has in revealing Himself to His children!

All day long I meditated on that verse. Later I asked my husband to define the word "restore."

"To bring something back to its original state," he suggested.

"And would you say that process may take a long while?"

"Possibly."

Dared I believe that I could be restored to my original health and strength? Physically, I felt no different; rather, I was experiencing a sense of expectancy.

Several mornings later, the verse was confirmed, as several neighbors met with me for a short season of prayer. As He blessed us with His presence, a soft mantle of warmth and ease flowed slowly through my shoulders and spine . . .

Some call it remission; others call it a reversal. I only know that from that day until now I am conscious of a little more movement in those damaged reluctant joints (once nearly locked in position), and in the weakened and depleted muscles and tendons. The medical profession will not assure me that I shall ever be free from pain, but I have been told that the more limber I become the less pain I will have. So something (besides my husband) urges me on. It's strive, str-retch, soak, sit tall, stand straight, stride, and struggle on. ("How long, O Lord, how long?") And SMILE! GOD LOVES YOU.

Meanwhile, my dear suffering friend, whatever our fate or His Will concerning us, we can all *share* in the goodness of the Lord, knowing that we can always overcome. He promises sufficient grace for our every need. △

SUMMER '75 SCHOOL

at FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
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Think of it! Two great opportunities to study the Bible and church-related subjects under some of the best teachers in the Free Will Baptist denomination!

Perhaps you have always wanted to study the Bible in depth, or learn how to lead singing or conduct a business meeting. Maybe you are a high school student who has finished your junior year and would like to sample life at the Bible College. Or, you might just want to be a better pastor, layman, or Sunday school teacher.

Whatever you want, we think you will find something you like in one of Free Will Baptist Bible College's Summer School sessions. Summer School No. 1 runs two weeks and offers up to three semester hours of credit; Summer School No. 2 is four weeks long, offering up to six hours of credit. The cost for S.S. No. 1 with a full load of courses and including room and board is under \$150. S.S. No. 2, taken with six hours of classes, will cost only \$283.

Look at the course offerings below; then fill out the coupon and mail it to the college for full information on either Summer School session.

Summer School No. 1

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The following courses are scheduled:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| * Song Leading | * Efficiency Filing |
| * Parliamentary Law | * Free Will Baptist |
| * Church Publications | Doctrine |
| * Church Music Materials | * Book of Acts |
| * Church Bookkeeping | * Dead Sea Scrolls |
| * Interpretative Speech | * Pastoral Counselling |

Summer School No. 2

June 2-27, 1975

The following courses are scheduled:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| * Book of Romans | * English Literature |
| * Doctrine | * Church Music Admin. |
| * General Psychology | * Sunday School Admin. |
| * Intro. to Education | |

The college reserves the right to drop or add courses, if necessary.

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NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT SETS RECORDS IN 1974

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The Home Missions Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists set two records in 1974 with the surpassing of their budget by over \$80,000.00 and the placing of 13 new missionary couples on the field.

Gifts to Home Missions reached an all-time high of \$478,142.29. The budget was exceeded by \$82,142.00.

According to Home Missions Director Robert Shockey, 13 is the largest number of missionary couples ever to be sent out under the National Home Missions Board in one year. This brings the total number of missionary families serving with the Board to 45. They are serving in 25 states.

Missionaries who began serving in 1974 and their places of appointment are as follows: Rev. and Mrs. Jason Salyer, Shelby, North Carolina; Rev. and Mrs. Edd Green, Clovis, New Mexico; Rev. and Mrs. Ron Wood, Globe, Arizona; Rev. and Mrs. Frank Cousineau, Billings, Montana; Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Gore, Jackson, Mississippi; Rev. and Mrs. Leland Horton, Des Moines, Iowa; Rev. and Mrs. Tom Hunt, Houston, Texas; Rev. and Mrs. Jim McKown, Puerto Rico; Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Presley, Memphis, Tennessee; Rev. and Mrs. Paul Reid, Greenwood, South Carolina; Rev. and Mrs. Jim Summerson, Emporia, Kansas; Rev. and Mrs. Bob Thomas, Greeley, Colorado; and Rev. and Mrs. Gary Watson, Hawaii.

Roy Thomas, associate director, reports 40 Home Missions Rallies were conducted during the year. These rallies are a combination of soul-winning conferences, revivals, and a stress on missions. In addition to receiving faith-promise commitments, the conferences encourage the local churches in soul-winning and seek to strengthen and edify the local congregations.

Goals for the new year include a continuation of an effort to organize 50 new churches per year for the next 10 years. In addition to regular missionary support a goal of \$100,000 has been set for the church Extension Loan Fund (CELF). This program is designed to finance the establishment of new churches.



FREE WILL BAPTIST

newsfront

DECADE OF CO-OP GIVING REFLECTS INCREASE; 1974 GIFTS REACH NEW HIGH

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Climaxing a decade of steady growth, the Cooperative Plan of the National Association of Free Will Baptists registered a 95% increase in giving as of 1974. At the same time giving through

the Cooperative Plan of Support reached a record high for any year in 1974 when \$152,083.19 was received in gifts.

However, according to Executive Secretary Rufus Coffey, this does not give the full picture of growth. There has been additional growth at the state levels. During the past 10 years new state offices have been established and more district and state agencies now share a portion of the Cooperative gifts before they reach the National Office. The amount of Cooperative funds kept for state ministries ranges from 55 percent to 90 percent.

In evaluating the growing trend to keep more of the Cooperative funds for district and state projects, the Executive Secretary points out that this is due to one of the strong merits of the Cooperative Plan — it eliminates a multiplicity of financial appeals in the local church. Lest this trend become more serious, the Executive Secretary also pointed out the need for judicious stewardship when consideration is given to allocating Cooperative gifts.

Oklahoma for the first time in 1974 replaced the state of Missouri as the largest contributor to the Co-op Plan in the amount of dollars. But Arizona and Illinois tied for the number one place in per capita giving to the Cooperative Plan with an average of \$2.83 per member.

The Cooperative Plan is a channel of stewardship whereby local churches can respond to various state and national ministries. It is an expression of cooperation which manifests a unity of purpose. The Cooperative Plan links the individual believer in a common fellowship of sharing in the total ministry of the church.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION HITS 'OFFENSIVE' TEXTBOOKS

COVE CITY, N.C. — A resolution opposing the use of public school textbooks that contain "offensive" material has been adopted here by the Coastal Association of the North Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists. Others are expected to follow suit.

In the definition of "offensive" material, the resolution cites such things as blasphemy, ideas opposing America or its patriotic symbols, gutter language, premarital sex, and material written by "avowed racists and revolutionaries," among whom it lists H. Rap Brown and Eldridge Cleaver.

The resolution recommends that concerned parents write to elected officials asking for help in removing such material from public schools. Action at the local levels was suggested in the January issue of *CONTACT* magazine which highlighted the textbook problem.

The Reverend Thomas Johnson, pastor of the Friendship Free Will Baptist Church at Wilmington, N.C., stated that non-violent efforts to "clean up" the textbooks have been underway in New Hanon County, N.C. for some months. Some success has been realized.

DISCOVER Dayton

JULY 13-17, 1975

when the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
convenes in
THE BIRTHPLACE OF AVIATION

Coming in CONTACT'S April issue:

- Housing reservations forms
- Other Convention details

"OPERATION PARTNERSHIP" GAINING OPTIMISTIC SUPPORT THROUGHOUT DENOMINATION

NASHVILLE, TENN. — Over 250 Free Will Baptists have been enrolled as members in Gideon's Army, the enlistment arm of "Operation Partnership" which is a denominational effort to retire the present indebtedness on the National Office Building.

Dr. J. D. O'Donnell, campaign coordinator and moderator of the National Association, stated "The attitude of those contacted has been very optimistic. There seems to be an eagerness to relieve the national departments of this debt."

The goal of Gideon's Army is to enroll at least 300 volunteers who will agree to enlist at least 10 people, churches, Sunday school classes, or other groups to pledge \$50.00 or \$5.00 a month for 10 months in an effort to reach the campaign goal of \$150,000.

This amount is needed in order to retire the indebtedness on the National Office Building. By so doing a sizable sum of interest will be saved and each of the departments now housed in the National Office Building will be relieved of the cost of renting floor space. Pastor Billy Beven of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Blakely, Georgia, was the first Gideonite to reach the goal of 10 pledges.

In order to reach the campaign goal, 3,000 people are needed to give \$5.00 monthly for 10 months or a one-time gift of \$50.00. Dr. O'Donnell stated several individuals and churches have already sent their money. The First Free Will Baptist Church in Jesup, Georgia, pastored by Gideonite Jake Creech, was the first church to send a \$500 check.

Anyone desiring information

concerning this denominational campaign may write to Operation Partnership, P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

FLORIDA CHURCH BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW UNIT

ALFORD, FLA. — Pastor Chester Huckaby and members of the Cypress Creek Free Will Baptist Church near here broke ground February 8 for an educational building. The new addition will be 30 x 70 feet and include five classrooms, nursery, fellowship hall, kitchen, ladies lounge and rest rooms.

Construction is expected to begin immediately.

NEEDED:

A Renewal of Faith

By Ernest C. Winchester

Recently I read a startling headline in a local newspaper: "Half A Million Youths Run Away From Home Each Year." Yet, this tragic realization is not so startling if one reads Jerry Buck's statistical report in *News Week*, March 1973. Mr. Buck concludes his report with these words: "The runaway problem is national in scope. Many of today's youth are fleeing what they consider intolerable conditions at home. Others are searching for nirvana among the disintegrating hippie enclaves." Why do they run away? Captain Thomas M. Frost, director of Chicago Youth Division, says it's a sign of the times,

and blames the lack of family stability. "They (youth) expect free food from the friendly natives," contends Captain Mortimer McInerney of the San Francisco police department, "and are seeking crash pads, wall-to-wall fun in the streets, plus hot-and-cold running rock music. I'd like to make it clear that all they run away to is fear, sickness, stagnation and real danger."

Without minimizing the seriousness of this situation, it is only fair to point

out that half a million runaways represent barely one in a hundred youths. Nevertheless, to point to this half million is to point in turn to something terribly needed in America today — a renewal of faith. A renewal of faith for families and individuals. Not a renewal of faith that rests on human arrogance to go it alone; not a faith that is based on human wisdom to break the deadlock of the generation gap or to resolve the frustrations prevailing on college campuses, in city ghettos, within the guilt complexes in society and ourselves. It is a renewal of faith rooted in God's power, in the supremacy of human values, in the final triumph of righteousness and in the Lordship of Christ.

There is a desperate need for a renewal of faith in America today because: (1) *Many have failed to recognize the omnipotence of God.* A false sense of security in the supposed "greatness of America" has fostered a complacent tendency to rely completely upon our own ingenuity. In our highly technological and structured society, we often limit God's power to that of miraculous healing, and that only when all other medical knowledge and techniques fail us. For the most part, we acknowledge the fact that God created the world, but once this was accomplished He then placed its continuance and destiny solely in the hands of his supreme creation — man. Totally abandoned by his creator, man is left to work out his own fate and destiny. God is always there looking over our shoulder, but refuses to intervene unless begged to do so. This dangerous spiritual attitude and direction is the basic cause of America's moral and materialistic degeneration. In the physical world electric power becomes effective when released through positive and negative wires. In the spiritual world, God's power becomes effective when released upon a similar principle — the inflow of His power into the hunger of our souls.

(2) *Many are attempting to rob the Holy Spirit of His authorship of the Scriptures.* Few things have generated more heat and less light than that bearing on the place of the Bible in today's society. Many school systems across America have reduced the influence of the Bible to that of mere "historical literature — an influential philosophy." Humanizing and

CHURCH PERSONNEL CHANGES

These changes in Free Will Baptist pastoral and other church personnel are provided by CONTACT Magazine as a service to its readers. No personnel will be listed as having left a place of service until he is called officially to serve with another congregation.

PASTORATES

ALABAMA

Don Grice to Shady Grove Church, Adamsville from Riverview Church, Bettendorf, Iowa

ARKANSAS

Clarence Tice to Hope Church, Fayetteville

GEORGIA

Robert Wood to Free Will Baptist Mission, Dalton from First Church, Anderson, Indiana

ILLINOIS

Jesse Meade to First Church, Mt. Vernon from Immanuel Church, Joliet

INDIANA

Eddie Vincent to First Church, Anderson, Indiana

MICHIGAN

James Nason to First Church, Pontiac from Trinity Church, LaGrange, North Carolina

MISSISSIPPI

Danny Dwyer to First Church, Amory from Faith Church, Manchester, Tennessee

Ray Fletcher to Northside Church, Columbus from First Church, Wattsville, Alabama

MISSOURI

Robert Sharry to Bethel Church, Festus from First Church, Wellington, Kansas

OHIO

James Cox to Community Church, Galloway from Whitman Church, Whitman, West Virginia

TENNESSEE

Willie Sumerlin to Harper Road Church, Joelton

David Weeks to Oaklawn Church, Chapmansboro

WASHINGTON

Holt Seawell to Valley Church, Wenatchee from First Church, East Wenatchee

Bernard Roberts to Omak Church, Omak from First Church, West Helana, Arkansas

de-spiritualizing the Bible has become the pleasurable pastime for many educators, historians, and philosophers. The Old and New Testaments have been given entirely new connotations in the past decade. Even though the Bible continues to be the number one in total yearly book sales, its actual readers become fewer and fewer. Sex and sports literature have placed the number of Bible readers in a very poor second. It is now several years since former President Nixon became the recipient of the billionth copy of the Bible printed in America. Significant as that may be, the Bible remains for a pitifully few a source of strength and spiritual guidance. While some readily accept parts of the Bible as being divinely inspired, remaining Scriptures are either disputed or completely disregarded. Unfortunately, many do not allow God to speak to their longing and need through the reading of the Bible. Too often it is not read at all, but kept only as a fetish on a table or used as a vehicle of magic.

Walter D. Calvert tells of a prisoner who had the Bible as his only companion through many years of solitary confinement. In that time he counted the letters, the words, the verses, the chapters. He determined the middle verse, the longest, shortest. But nothing is known about whether he allowed the Bible to reach his heart, or whether he was led by God's forgiving love to cry, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!"

A large segment of the American society does not take the Bible seriously. I say "seriously," because whether the Bible is God's Word does not depend on whether or not we are listening as God speaks, on whether or not the world's static drowns out what He is saying, on whether or not His Word reaches us with its hope, light, strength and peace.

(3) *Many are attempting to totally humanize Christ by stripping Him of His Divine origin and purpose.* Worst, perhaps, of all man's conniving endeavors is that attempt he makes to

"The Church is indeed a dying community. It always has been. But it is also the community of the Resurrection — as it has always been."

assail or discredit the existence and purpose of Jesus Christ. How easy it is to accept the belief that Christ was no more than a mere man; that He was not the Son of God, but was bound by human limitations, subject to evil and sin, tormented in heart and soul by continuous evil thoughts and deeds, and obliterated by the grave. Modern scientific achievements and an abundance of mental resources leave little room for supernatural phenomena. If Christ did in fact once live, many would have us believe He lived as others of His day and time, died as others have died, and all that remains is a concocted story of His supposed supernatural nature and feats.

Men have tried in every way to disprove and discredit Christ. One and all, both ancient and modern, have failed. In this time of change, rebellion, heresy and confusion, every institution, every tenet of faith, every individual is being tried as silver in the fire. The true test of our faith is not when we are within the watchful eye of parents or peers, friends or foes, superiors or inferiors, but when "in a far country" we live according to the faith once delivered to the saints. Jesus Christ is real — and He lives! And until America comes to grips with this unquestionable truth, there cannot begin to be any renewal of faith.

(4) *Many are minimizing the function and purpose of the Church.* The visible body of the Church is that mighty army of believers whom God has called to be a bulwark of righteousness, a witness to the Gentiles, an example of servanthood, a fellowship of saints, an instrument of reconciliation, The Bride of Christ. It has been said that people are killing the Church and that if in another generation there are people who have faith, it will be in spite of the Church. Who said so?

The Rev. John G. Weller, General Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, has pointed out that at the beginning of the 20th Century,

Christians numbered 35% of the total population of the world, and that in 2,000 A.D. the figure is expected to dwindle to 12%. "Here is a paradox," said Mr. Weller. "The Church is indeed a dying community. It always has been. But it is also the community of the Resurrection — as it has always been. Side by side with the death of the Church there is in country after country the evidence of its renewal. Christ's servant people are engaged with each other and the world in its suffering and redeemability as never before since the very earliest days of the Church. The Church is not of man, therefore it can not be destroyed by man."

One thing seems certain: If the church is to serve as a means of faith renewal for us, it needs first to die, not the death of ease and indifference, of self-esteem and self-sufficiency, but to die the death of Christ, for truth and righteousness' sake, in love and forgiveness.

This does not mean that we must destroy our sanctuaries, for men need a temple in which they can re-orientate their lives and join with others in praise and prayer to the unseen God. It does not mean that we must discard our forms and structures, for men need discipline, of spirit and soul as well as of mind and body. It does mean that we must identify ourselves with the lives of men whether they be rich or poor, educated, or ignorant, righteous or unrighteous, white or black, with or without prejudice or pride.

Without prejudice or pride? Think of the wife's reply when her husband, complaining that his neighbor refused to speak to him, concluded by saying, "I guess he thinks I'm not his equal." She said, "Why, that stupid, brainless, conceited, good-for-nothing moron! You certainly are his equal." In God's sight we are all equally precious, and within the fellowship of the Church we are given faith to break down the barriers which divide men. But, we need a renewal of faith to do it. △

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Winchester, a public school educator, is a layman in the Forestdale Free Will Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of Alabama.

THE HARMONY STORY

"Harmony Church is
... a church given to
extremes and geared
to the pro-football
approach — a wide-open
offense! ..."

By Jack Williams

At first glance you're tempted to believe the fleet of red, white and blue buses *is* the Harmony Story — or that it's found in the used Chevy panel truck. Then all those buildings on the new property loom up out of the grass on Belmont Avenue, and you must reconsider. But ultimately the Harmony Story like any other church chronicle finds its genesis in the mind of the man behind the pulpit — in this case, the flamboyant, razzle-dazzle ministry of Charles Harris.

The Harmony Free Will Baptist Church is a part of the whiterail fence, East Fresno suburbs, but it did not begin there; it began November, 1971, in the Northern California Bay Area.

Charles was in the last month of his second pastorate and had just completed study at his *seventh college*. For 5 years he led El Sobrante's

Sherwood Forest Church before deciding that probably only a newly organized church could be structured to cover some of the areas in which he was interested. In a cafe interview Harris related, "I'd always felt like a church should be able to win souls all over the place and be unlimited in outreach." He confided that a 1970 Jack Hyles Pastor's Conference and a Jerry Falwell Worker's Conference had greatly influenced his thinking and given him a wider, broader vision and perspective.

With limited assistance from the California Mission Board, Charles moved to Fresno on January 2, 1972, "talked my way into an insurance job," and met with 2 families in their homes as a prologue to chapter 1 in "The Harmony Story." On January 16, 41 Free Will Baptist converted Butler Hall's Square Dancing pavilion into a sanctuary and conducted their first worship services.

"I taught my way through the book of Acts for a month, and then we organized in February of '72 with 43 charter members," Charles reflected.

For almost 18 months, it was catch-as-catch-can in securing a suitable building for the weekly services. Three Sundays in the dance hall gave way to the 3 months in a ramshackled Oneness Tabernacle and then led to 14 months in the 7th Day Adventist facilities.

During this calendar merry-go-round, attendance spiraled. On Anniversary Day 1973, a record 547 persons worshipped at Harmony Church. The past 6 months a consistent 275 average has been maintained. They are "shootin'" for a 450 average in the Spring of '75."

While many Free Will Baptist Churches operate on a "play it safe ... and let's not go overboard" philosophy, Harmony Church is the polar opposite. It's a church given to extremes and geared to the pro-football approach — a wide-open offense! Harmony pulls out all stops in a race to win more, enlist more, influence more.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Williams is Academic Dean of California Christian College. He is a past contributor to this magazine and is currently writing *OUTLOOK*, the Free Will Baptist devotional book which makes its debut this spring. The Louisiana native is also a member of the Educational Study Committee appointed at the 1974 national meeting.

Commenting on this, Harris defended: "We must not grow overly cautious and refuse to step out. We started with nothing; God gave us everything — if we lose it all, we'll only be back where we started."

"The key to our outreach — the one thing that gives us an unlimited file of prospects for evangelism — is the bus ministry," he further spoke. "We have 5 now; I see 15 in 5 years and 50 eventually. We will drive those buses in a 30 mile circle around Fresno when the program is fully developed."

This church has the land acreage to handle the anticipated growth. Already they own 6.7 acres of usable soil which houses 6 buildings, a baseball diamond and even a large swimming pool that doubles for the baptistry. By July, 1973, they had outgrown their immediate facilities. There is still a pressing need for a new 375 seat "preaching auditorium."

Although the church is but 3 years old, it has given birth to a robust financial program which consumes \$650 per week "just to operate." That figure is as low now as it ever will be. From this point, expenses promise to keep stride for stride with every accomplishment.

What makes Harmony distinctive? Reverend Harris explained *five* areas. One is an officer standard, and two is a teacher standard; both of which border on Bible College rigidity. Three is a stipulation that candidates for membership (except transfers from other FWB churches) must attend 9 of 13 new converts' classes before becoming eligible for membership.

A fourth distinctive is personnel "willing to pay the price." Harris volunteered: "This is the key to all of it! I don't want to surround myself with 'yes' men, but on the other hand not with perennial arguers either. A fellow's got to have enough 'moxie' to get the job done. I feel particularly close to my deacons; they're top quality men."

The fifth distinctive is the one with the bite in it and concerns pastoral authority. Harmony's pastor has the authority to remove any elected or appointed leader if proof is evident that they are in violation of the church's standards. It is a right, a power that makes for heady wine unless the man at the helm has both feet firmly lashed down. But it works at Harmony, and that is what counts.

Thank You for Your Gifts to the . . .

COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT

January 1975

RECEIPTS:

State	Jan. '75		Jan. '74	Year to Date
	Coop	Design.		
Alabama	\$ 625.31	\$...	\$ 968.04	\$ 625.31
Arizona	...	...	122.00	...
Arkansas	849.40	...	883.72	849.40
California	558.56	...	431.29	558.56
Florida	725.70	...	1,267.63	725.70
Georgia	150.20	...	39.47	150.20
Idaho	86.58	...	...	86.58
Illinois	1,590.93	...	1,293.56	1,590.93
Indiana	...	...	203.75	...
Kansas	252.16	...	162.60	252.16
Maryland	35.00	...	35.00	35.00
Michigan	...	...	41.11	...
Minnesota	...	...	35.90	...
Mississippi	207.73	...	148.27	207.73
Missouri	2,506.83	(2,506.83)	1,318.78	2,506.83
North Carolina	150.61	...	75.00	150.61
Northwest Assoc.	52.23	...	...	52.23
Ohio	1,555.30	...	1,265.83	1,555.30
Oklahoma	4,384.52	(4,157.75)	4,881.61	4,384.52
Tennessee	265.13	...	537.08	265.13
Texas	25.00	...	370.66	25.00
Virginia	60.52	...	48.58	60.52
Totals	<u>\$14,081.71</u>		<u>\$14,129.88</u>	<u>\$14,081.71</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 5,638.80	\$ (843.77)	\$ 4,944.33	\$ 5,638.80
Foreign Missions	2,835.01	(2,166.91)	2,954.84	2,835.01
Bible College	1,856.71	(1,173.94)	1,995.99	1,856.71
Home Missions	1,630.39	(1,145.82)	1,748.64	1,630.39
Church Training Ser.	940.08	(599.20)	1,141.51	940.08
Retirement & Ins.	795.78	(454.90)	823.34	795.78
Layman's Board	314.96	(223.18)	395.79	314.96
Commission on Theological Liberalism	69.98	(56.86)	93.31	69.98
Miscellaneous	...	...	32.13	...
Totals	<u>\$14,081.71</u>		<u>\$14,129.88</u>	<u>\$14,081.71</u>

Harmony's 5-year-plan is 3 years old and right on target. Now it projects a Sunday School high of 700 by Spring of '75 and placing the part-time Assistant Pastor/Bus Director on full-time by the end of the year. By '76 Harris foresees: a 750 Sunday school high, a new "preaching auditorium," and 10 buses; by '77: a Sunday school high of over

1000, a 750 average, and 15 buses. By '78 the church plans to start a Christian school.

As my interview with Charles Harris consummated, he looked across the table at me and said with quiet resolve: "We are going to capture this town for God!" △

Corrupted Law Brings Corruption to Grace

PART V

By Leroy Forlines

Through this series of articles, stress is being given to the fact that grace is a friend of law, not an enemy of law. It is law that points out the need of grace. It is grace that meets the demands of law in providing atonement.

Law was deeply involved in our becoming a Christian. There is no clear understanding of gospel until there is a clear understanding of law. The sinner

needs to understand that he has fallen short of the righteousness that the law requires (Romans 3:10). He needs to know that this failure has made him guilty and condemned before the law of God (Romans 3:19-20). He needs to know that the interests of the law which are holiness, righteousness, justice and morality are good and sin is "exceeding sinful" (Romans 7:13). He must see sin as bringing ruin into his life both in this life and the life to come.

We cannot expect a person, when he

is under conviction, to have a perfect and thorough understanding of the seriousness of sin. Yet, he must see sin as serious. He must see it as that which places him under the condemnation of a holy God. He must see sin as something that is bad for him. He must see sin as something from which he needs to be delivered.

How is a person going to know these things? We cannot assume that all people have this kind of awareness of sin. A person's own moral constitution



WORDS FOR WOMEN

Rejoicing in the Midst of Trial

By Gloria Floyd

The apostle James said that he could "count it all joy" when he was in the midst of trial (James 1:2). What a paradox this seems to be! However, from experiences that have been permitted in my life and in the lives of others whom I know, the meaning of such statements is becoming clearer to me.

Probably one of the first things that trials in our life will do is to send us to our knees. Prayer is surely one of the most powerful weapons that a Christian

possesses, yet probably the most neglected. But in times of heartbreak or sorrow, prayer becomes a very real comfort to us. Surely anything that forces us to a realization of the power of prayer cannot be "all bad."

Trials also help us to discover the real values of life. Several years ago my husband pastored a "part-time" church and worked at a secular job. His company relocated in another town which left him without a job. We were expecting our third child any day and it just seemed that we were at "rock bottom." I am ashamed to admit it, but

I railed out at God, saying, "Lord, you know that I can take anything but financial insecurity, but this I just can't bear." How those idle words rang in my mind a few days later when our little daughter lay in the hospital nursery very ill, her condition worsening every hour. She recovered, but her hospital bracelet hung in my kitchen for a long time as a reminder that the important things in life are not things that money can buy, but things such as health, family, friends, God. So we can rejoice in trial because God may be teaching us a valuable lesson concerning the true values of life, and having learned this lesson we will be able to live a more abundant Christian life.

Only one who has experienced personal tragedy can realize the overwhelming presence of God that prevails at a time such as this. He is there!! Sometimes the darkest hour of our lives is also the brightest, for we realize perhaps for the first time the power and comfort of His presence. Many times in looking back over such

keeps him from being a moral blank. However, to bring his level of awareness to the point of conviction requires a confrontation with God's law. If our understanding of grace causes us to give a weak view of law, we seriously hamper the ministry of the law in bringing conviction.

A person under conviction realizes that he is a sinner. He feels deeply about it. He is aware of the fact that he is unworthy and stands condemned before God. He wants to be forgiven. He wants to be delivered from sin. Grace forgives and delivers. Grace makes it possible for

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

him to fulfill the righteousness of the law (Romans 8:4).

As Christians we are to proclaim the gospel of grace. Hearts will be open for the message of grace only after they have been prepared by the message of law. Δ

situations, the awfulness of the tragedy is overshadowed by the beauty of the experience with God. Only after such an experience are we able to share with others the profound truth that "God's grace is sufficient" for anything that comes their way.

Romans 8:28 is also a source of rejoicing as we realize that all of these things are actually working together for our good. God is only putting us through the refining process so that He can lead us to new plains of Christian maturity and so that He can work out the divine plan that He has for each of our lives.

How wonderful it is to serve a God who can take the ugly trials, tragedies, and perplexities of life and transform them into something sweet and meaningful. "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." (Phil. 4:4).

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Floyd is a former staff member of the National Home Missions Department. Her husband, Merritt, is presently pastoring St. John Free Will Baptist Church, Patrick, South Carolina. Δ

PAUL'S BOLDNESS AIDED HIS SUCCESS

By Dr. Robert Picirilli

In I Thessalonians 2:2 Paul gives one of the reasons for the success of his ministry at Thessalonica: "Even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God." Two of these words are especially interesting in the Greek original.

First is *hubristhetes*, translated "we were shamefully entreated." Of course, we realize that Paul was referring here to the beating and jailing he and Silas experienced at Philippi. As described in Acts 16:16-40, Paul had cast a fortune-telling demon out of a slave girl. Her masters, realizing this would mean money lost to them, aroused a mob to drag the missionaries to the city magistrates; and Paul and Silas were brutally beaten and locked in the stocks in the inner prison. (There are always men who had rather line their own pockets than see souls freed from Satan's clutches.)

Now, what does Paul mean in Thessalonians when he calls this business at Philippi "shameful

treatment"? *Hubristhetes* is a treatment that is insolent and wanton. The basic idea involved is that the person so treated is outrageously treated. Trench (*Synonyms of the New Testament*, p. 103) defines this as "insolent wrongdoing to others, not out of revenge, or any other motive except the mere pleasure which the infliction of the wrong imparts." The person guilty of such wrongdoing is insolent and haughty. He thinks himself a law unto himself or above the law. He does not respect or regard the one he wrongs. He takes delight in insulting the one he wrongs. His injury to the other person is calculated to embarrass publicly that person. He shows his contempt for the person's rights and the person himself in his impudent treatment of that person.

Paul and Silas were abused in just such a manner at Philippi. Their dignity as persons — and as Roman citizens, for that matter — was not respected. They were publicly outraged and embarrassed: stripped half-naked in the street, flogged for all to witness, publicly — and probably laughingly — bound, and dumped in the jail.

From all we know about Paul, we can guess he was a sensitive man, one who would feel keenly the insolent and

gems

from the
Greek New Testament

outrageous wrong done him. So we are pleased when we hear him say that in spite of that cruel humiliation in the public eye, he was *bold* to preach in the next city. "Bold" is *parresia*. This word refers to open, public, free and fearless, unreserved speech. Literally, it means "say anything." So it came to refer to one who holds back nothing in public declaration. The word is the opposite of shame or concealment or fear. Paul preached openly, confidently, freely, fearlessly in the public eye.

Knowing him as we do, we are not surprised. He who was *publicly* humiliated by the beating and jailing at Philippi was *publicly* preaching in Thessalonica the very same truths that got him jailed to start with. He did not retreat or withdraw or timidly weaken his message. We ought to have the very same public boldness, and that in spite of the risk of public humiliation. Δ



what's your problem?

By R. Eugene Waddell

QUESTION: *I have heard people refer to the seventh heaven but I have not been able to find it in my Bible. Would you give the scripture and explain it in your article?*

ANSWER: The term "seventh heaven" is an unscriptural term. It comes from such ancient non-Biblical writings as Enoch II and the ascension of Isaiah. These writers (not inspired by the Holy Spirit, of course) probably used the term to express the fullness and perfection of heaven since the number seven symbolizes fullness and perfection.

Paul refers to the "third heaven" in II Corinthians 12:2. And the phrase "heaven of heavens" appears in the Psalms. But the "seventh heaven" is not in the Bible.

QUESTION: *Does it seem to you that there is a greater turning to Christ in America today? I've heard some clergymen say there is and other clergymen say they see no sign of it. What is your opinion as a Free Will Baptist pastor?*

ANSWER: In my opinion, America is not experiencing a revival. I do not believe we are experiencing a large scale turning to Christ. According to the Gallup Poll, only 37% of the Protestants attended church during a typical week during 1973 (latest statistics I have available). I doubt that the picture changed for the better in 1974.

The breakdown in moral standards is another reason I don't believe we will see a wholesale movement to Christ. I mean standards such as the acceptance of profanity by the public on television. Another bad sign is the public indifference to, if not the acceptance of, pronography and prostitution. We must also consider America's insatiable appetite for alcohol, the rising divorce rate and the growing disregard for marriage as an institution. There is certainly no mass movement to Christ in Nashville where I pastor.

I believe we can look for a polarization of opinions about Christ. I hope we shall see people who were unregenerate fellowtravelers forced to make a definite choice about the claims of Christ. Perhaps there will be a sifting process which eliminates some of the phonies.

I would love to see a genuine extensive revival. If and when enough people get right with God, we will do something about the moral climate in our land.

Readers may address their questions to Mr. Waddell at P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tennessee 37202. Please limit each question to one specific topic. There will be no personal correspondence regarding those questions which are not used in the magazine. The column will not necessarily be considered the official voice of the denomination relative to the problems involved.

TO SMOKE OR NOT TO SMOKE

Warning: The surgeon General has determined that cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

This hazardous warning is printed on every package of cigarettes sold in America. Why did Congress enact legislation requiring such a warning label?

The grim truth is that the action stemmed from documented research and scientific evidence which linked the rise in smoking with the rise in major lung cancer, coronary heart disease, and the two common respiratory ailments — chronic bronchitis and pulmonary emphysema. This startling government report brought into dramatic focus a massive study conducted by Drs. E. Cuyler Hammond and Daniel Horn for the American Cancer Society in the 1950's. That bombshell report, presented to the 1957 Convention of the American Medical Association, released astonishing facts and figures. The conclusion? *All smoking shortens life, particularly cigarette smoking.* Furthermore, the more cigarettes a person smokes, the greater his risk of an early death.



PHYSICAL HARM

Cigarette smoking has an adverse affect on the lives of unborn babies. "Maternal smoking during pregnancy exerts a retarding influence on fetal growth as manifested by decreased infant birth weight and an increased incident of brain immaturity," reports Dr. Elvin E. Adams, medical officer for the National Clearing House for Smoking and Health in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. "Smoking mothers have a significantly greater number of unsuccessful pregnancies due to stillbirth and newborn deaths."

Dr. Adams further affirms that "smoking of any tobacco product whether cigarette, pipe, or cigar in a poorly ventilated or enclosed space, such as a conference room or automobile, produces levels of particulate matter and carbon monoxide that may exceed established allowable limits for these substances. This may result in a threat to the health of the non-smoker as well as the smoker and is especially threatening to an individual who has had a pre-existing heart or lung disease."

After years of research 1200 chemical compounds have been identified in cigarette smoke. Nearly 20 of these compounds are known to initiate cancer. Three of the most poisonous ingredients in cigarette smoke are nicotine, carbon monoxide and the tar with its many chemical constituents.

The health hazard from smoking "is a flat, scientific fact," according to Dr. William H. Stewart, Surgeon-General of the Public Health Service. Statistics

indicate that smoking may be accountable for at least 300,000 deaths annually. This number exceeds the combined total deaths resulting from murder, suicide, automobile wrecks, diabetics and infectious diseases. Cigarettes have been *tried* and found *guilty!* They spue the puff of death on its victims. The use of tobacco increases by tenfold the risk of death from a heart attack or lung cancer.

In spite of dire warnings, scientific studies and extensive educational campaigns, cigarette smoking continues to rise. According to the December 2, 1974, *U.S. News and World Report*, cigarette usage has taken a dramatic jump of more than 20 percent during the past decade. Although millions of Americans have quit smoking, the present yearly consumption is rising at the rate of 3 percent. This increase is due largely to an alarming number of teenage smokers, particularly girls. According to a recent Associated Press report, smoking among teenage girls has almost doubled during the past 6 years.

FINANCIAL LOSSES

In addition to the slow suicidal effects reflected by the high mortality rate among cigarette users, smoking costs to the public far exceed the revenue derived. Staggering costs are included in higher fire insurance premiums caused by smoking, the large number of forest fires, higher priced consumer goods from smoking-caused absenteeism and retarded production, higher life and health insurance premiums, and higher auto insurance rates because smokers have far more accidents than non-smokers.

According to a report in the March 1972, issue of *Reader's Digest*, the Farmer's Insurance Group of Los Angeles compared the auto-accident record of smoking and non-smoking policyholders. The results were startling: smokers had just about twice as many auto accidents. Mr. Park Godwin, the insurance actuary, believes that smokers' poor accident records are due in part to taking eyes and mind momentarily off the road to light up, or by being distracted by burning ashes in the car. Smoking also dims vision, particularly at night, reducing a driver's margin of safety.

SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES

But if the effects of cigarettes in disease, disability and death — along with severe financial losses — are not sufficient reasons to re-evaluate the merits (and demerits) of smoking, one should consider the moral issue of smoking as it relates to the principles of God's Word. While many modern practices are not labeled specifically in the Scriptures, many clear principles help us determine if a matter in question is right or wrong. For example, we read in I Corinthians 10:31: "Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or *whatsoever* ye do, do all to the glory of God." Again in I Thessalonians 5:22, we are exhorted to "abstain from all appearance of evil." The Bible teaches that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of stewardship responsibility, we should abstain from anything that contaminates the mind and body.

Smoking paralyzes the will through addiction to the nicotine content. Christians should heed the admonition of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 6:12: "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be *brought under the power of any!*"

Whatever the reasons for starting to smoke — parental example, social acceptance, relaxation, stimulation or fleshly gratification — the victim usually discovers too late that he has been deceived and hooked by an enslaving habit.

What is supposed to give pleasure, contentment and satisfaction produces a hacking, morning cough; ugly, thick phlegm; dull taste buds; shortness of breath; jumpy nerves; an odious smell; unexplained ailments; and the tragic prospect of losing a minute of life for every minute of smoking.

Those willing to accept the facts and face up to the dangers involved can discover God's sufficient grace to help them kick the habit. Ex-smokers find relief from anxiety because they are no longer addicted to a habit that is undermining their health and future happiness. Those who quit smoking permanently make a wise decision. God has made full provision for total victory for the smoker who looks to Him in complete confidence. △

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Stewardship of the Body

Contrary to the popular opinion of some people, stewardship involves more than the concepts relating to giving of funds and church finance. Stewardship is a spiritual principle and Biblical teaching. As I understand God's Word,

stewardship recognizes God as the owner of all things based on the fact that He created all things and retains sovereignty over all. The principle of stewardship recognizes man as responsible for his use of these things in keeping with God's purpose. Ultimately, man must give account for the quality and the results of his management.

Stated simply, the principle of stewardship includes all of life. It encompasses men's attitudes and actions; personality and personal influence; all money matters from acquisition to investment to final disposition; use of the land, resources and tools; one's profession, job or place of service; education and its use; one's worship, witness, personal testimony, and purpose and goals in life; and yes even one's own body.

Currently . . .

By
EUGENE WORKMAN
Administrative Editor

We are God's created beings and as believers are housing within this body of flesh a redeemed soul and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we exercise stewardship of our body. Many Christians, in their zeal to be involved in the Lord's work, fail to take in consideration that we have a responsibility to maintain our physical frame so that we can be of service to Him, not only today, but tomorrow and in the years to come. However, in no way can we as Christians overemphasize the maintenance of our bodies to the exclusion of fulfilling our scriptural obligations as believers.

God's purpose for sending His Son Jesus Christ into the world was for the redemption of mankind. Redeemed persons are now expected to accomplish this purpose through the use of created things. Our body is one of these created things. Therefore, we have a great responsibility in properly taking care of our body so that we might ultimately be a witness of Christ's redemption in a manner pleasing unto Him. May we each be responsible stewards in fulfilling God's revealed purpose through our witness, our lives and our physical temples. △

