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January, 1979

**View From the Top**

**Life Under Glass**

**Faith Also Works the  
Eight to Five Shift**

**TV's New Menace**

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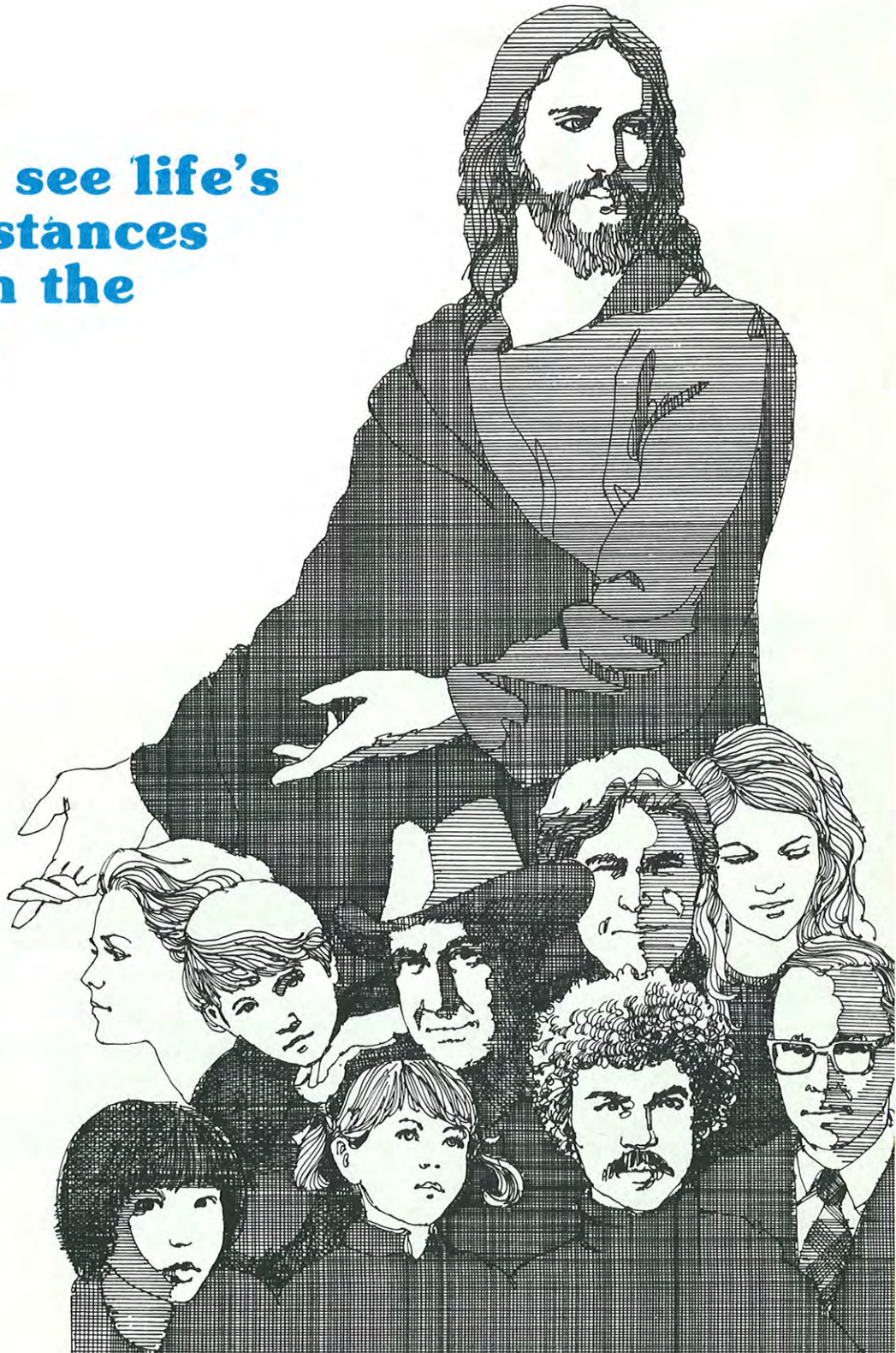
# View From The Top

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**How to see life's  
circumstances  
through the  
eyes of  
God.**

By June R. Critcher



God disciplines us so He alone can become our joy, wisdom, strength, peace and victory. It's a humbling experience to realize that we don't have the ability to solve problems or to remove difficult circumstances. Often in desperation we come to recognize that God alone is sufficient for the situation. He has the solution. He is the solution!

This is God's way of disciplining or educating His children. When we can't remove the obstacle, we learn to develop a deep, quiet trust in God. During these times of discipline we learn to share His holiness, and His correction is yielding the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

What is God trying to teach us through suffering? C. S. Lewis said, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to arouse a deaf world." Pain drives us to God.

### VIEWING LOSS FROM GOD'S VIEWPOINT

When we lose a mate, a child, our job or our health, we may react in anger, bitterness, remorse or we may panic. We may even sink into the slough of depression. (Grief is a normal reaction to death, but God is not honored when we allow grief to gnaw away indefinitely at the very fiber of our spirits and hinder our usefulness to God.)

The believer who saturates his mind with God's self-fulfilling Word responds to loss with a supernatural reaction. His reaction will be *above the natural*. "Father, I accept this loss. Even though I don't understand it; I submit to You and give the loss to You. I ask You to bring good out of it, and I know You will."

The loss itself neither makes nor destroys us. But our perspective determines what effect the loss has on us. Perspective determines whether we grow from the experience or whether we blame God and become bitter towards Him. Viewing the loss from a human perspective, we feel sorry for ourselves. But we can have a divine perspective and become enriched through the loss.



Last week my friend, who had just lost a close relative four days earlier, complained that none of the minister's biblical teaching shared at the funeral really helped.

Our minister of music tried to get the congregation to sing joyfully . . . but seated near the back of the auditorium was an embittered father whose lovely daughter had been taken from him. He refused to sing.

Where was God when my friend's mother died suddenly?

Why did God take the father's charming daughter? (Even more puzzling, why does He allow such an embittered man to poison other lives?)

### JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE IN SUFFERING

To understand the meaning and purpose of suffering in our lives, we look at Jesus' life. In obedience to the Father, Jesus endured suffering. Because of His suffering and death, we experience redemption.

Today God uses suffering to discipline and teach us, to make us like Himself, to reveal to us the inner life of God. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8). We share in God's discipline because we are His sons. He disciplines us for our good that we may share His holiness (See Hebrews 12:10).

God's discipline takes place in suffering. Because we tend to view suffering from a human viewpoint, we fail to understand God's purpose in it. In our self-centeredness, we fear that God does not love us when we are being punished. We view blessings as proof that God loves us. But the Scriptures declare, "For whom the Lord loves He chastens" (Hebrews 12:6).

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## VIEW (From page 3)

Job didn't deserve his massive loss. He was a godly man, one who walked with God. But he looked at his loss through the eyes of God. Instead of staging a one-man pity party, Job conducted his own praise service. Job worshipped God!

He focused on the character and goodness of God at a time when he was stripped of those persons and things dearest to him. Job's losses did not sidetrack him. He kept his affection set on God, the Source of all his possessions.

In *Victory over Suffering* Graham Iken's mentions three ways we can react to problems. One is to break down, in agony. The other is to break out, in anger. The third is to break through, in adoration. Job responded in adoration.

### VIEWING FAILURE FROM GOD'S VIEWPOINT

Someone has termed failure "the backdoor to success." Who hasn't known the disgrace of falling flat on his face? Of being tagged a failure? But what we often term *failure* God calls *success*. He views our failures with eternity on the horizon.

Many men of faith in Hebrews 11 never fully entered into God's abundant provision for them. Even though they stepped out in faith they probably considered themselves failures for not having reached their goals. But God saw their faith and He saw their motives as they obeyed His call. So, these "failures" in the Old Testament were commended in the New.

When we look at failure from God's viewpoint, we must remember that we are kept by an all-powerful God. We don't cling to Him as though we're dangling by a well-worn thread. The God of all power and all wisdom keeps us. He's never lost a battle. He is always victorious.

### REACTIONS TO DIFFICULTIES AND TRIALS

We can rebel when trials come. And this rebellion may lead to feelings of guilt. Or we can accept the trial trustfully, without blaming God. He is not obligated to tell us why. (See Romans 9:20.) We can accept the trial with the attitude that God

knows best what to use for building materials in our character structure and spiritual maturity.

Sometimes the Potter discovers a flaw in the clay, and He breaks it so He can reshape it into a vessel of honor. Once we submit to the Potter and accept the situation, we can appropriate God's bountiful resources that enable us to act creatively and grow.

Rather than worry and blame God, we must use our energies for working toward a solution.

We can react in calmness. God gives inner peace, but we must first desire this peace and meet His conditions for obtaining it. God keeps that person in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him because of his trust in God. God tells us to be still and know that He is God.

This intimate knowledge of God is the greatest force in the world for remaining calm when calamity strikes. As we spend time in God's Word we come to know that He is good and gracious, kind and loving, caring and sovereign. God's ultimate purpose will be realized in our lives as we trust Him instead of leaning on our own understanding.

We are not just conquerors—we are more than conquerors. This describes one who gains a surpassing or an overwhelming victory. Right in the middle of your problem you are gaining an overwhelming victory. How can you overwhelmingly conquer every problem?

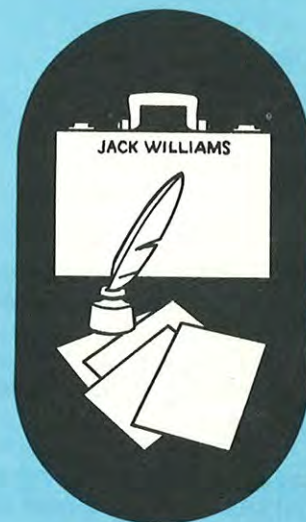
Believe that God knows all. He is sovereign. He knows how your problem originated and how it will end. He knows all about your hurts, disappointments, discouragements. Combine this vast knowledge with His loving concern and what a beautiful combination results!

### LEARN TO ACT CREATIVELY

It is important that we recognize God's providential sovereignty in situations and circumstances, but we should also accept our responsibilities. During his imprisonment, Paul acted creatively by using opportunities to share Christ. He refused to wallow in self-pity. He reached out to others instead of feeling sorry for himself.

(continued on page 14)

## Briefcase



**When  
Your  
Uncle's  
Name  
is  
Caesar**

Many Americans don't pay enough taxes to keep the potholes mended in an average five-mile stretch of interstate.

Though our taxes might buy some technological gadget we can't pronounce for a high school science lab, that's small price to pay for the gleam in a boy's eye when he for the first time through a microscope sees a tiny world he didn't know existed.

Don't let word get out but I'd rather use tax dollars and hire someone else to teach my children the three R's than do it myself. I expect controversial winds to huff at the sails of their faith and strain the timbers of their souls. The fourth "R", home-lived and church-taught religion, will keep them on course.

Now I reserve the inalienable American right to squawk about high taxes and double-digit bureaucratic rat holes. At the same time I don't begrudge a tax dollar beefing up the nation's defense. I rather admire the big stick swinging from Uncle Sam's belt. Hope he never has to use it, but if he does, I want that stick seasoned and ready, whatever the price.

### **PAY YOUR WAY**

Even Jesus advised rendering unto Caesar that which was Caesar's. I assume that means Caesar will get his come what may so why beard the lion? The only question seems to be my attitude in the matter.

I fancy that warm feeling when tax-bought police cruisers pass me to rope highway Jehus. When tragedy slams a community the government declares it a disaster area and sends federal aid, but we all know it's really my tax dollar dressed in work clothes.

My tax dollars go where I cannot go and don't have the time to go and probably wouldn't go if I had time. Why even our oft maligned welfare

program isn't nearly so befouled as things would be if we had none. I'm inclined to say risk a few welfare dollars slipping into wrong hands if it means a houseful of hungry inner-city children have food.

I'm even willing to underwrite a little 007 action for the boys who negotiate in the high rent district. When you're hauling as big a load of gravy as Uncle Sam does, some of it's bound to slosh over.

As Will Rogers said, "America is a great country but you can't live in it for nothing."

### **REMEMBER THE TEA PARTY**

But in the same breath, when it's time to open the ledgers, I want easy access and quick response from Caesar's nephews. Reacquaint the IRS and other misinformed governmental agencies that it is me and people like me, the John Q. Taxpayers, who keep this country solvent, not mote-hunting departments with official-sounding names and high-handed ways.

We the taxpayers acquiesce to bankroll some (even quite a few) federal blunders. But if after a reasonable length of time those responsible for juggling public finances can do nothing but spill the paint, they can expect to seek employment in the competitive private sector with the rest of us.

I don't mind paying to live in America. I'd rather pay to live here than be paid to live anywhere else. Much rather subsidize public service than be subsidized by socialism or any other law-hawking ism.

The point being, let "Uncle Caesar" and his kin remember that taxation without proper representation ignited one revolution in this country. We are the descendants of Boston Tea Partyists and the Bunker Hill gang. Eventually, if pushed far enough, we tax-payers do more than write editorials. Watergate should be sufficient evidence you can't fool all the people all the time.

We are willing to pay our fair share, but we'll help decide what is our fair share. We are opposed to being milked by some committee-hatched gabelle, and any fluffy-headed official who tampers with that trust courts sudden retaliation.

Taxpayers rarely forgive and never forget.

### **DRAW THE LINE**

Many of us don't fully understand the zero balanced national budget concept nor the inane reasoning behind billions in deficit spending. But we clearly understand when the tax bite leaves a federal imprint where take-home pay used to be.

As a Christian citizen, I expect to pull my own weight, paying just as others. Furthermore, as a Christian I'll make sure tax dollars are never spent because I got drunk, went on a rampage, damaged property and endangered lives.

But I draw the line at paying taxes to support a government that threatens to slowly smother my freedom to worship or teach my children Christian principles.

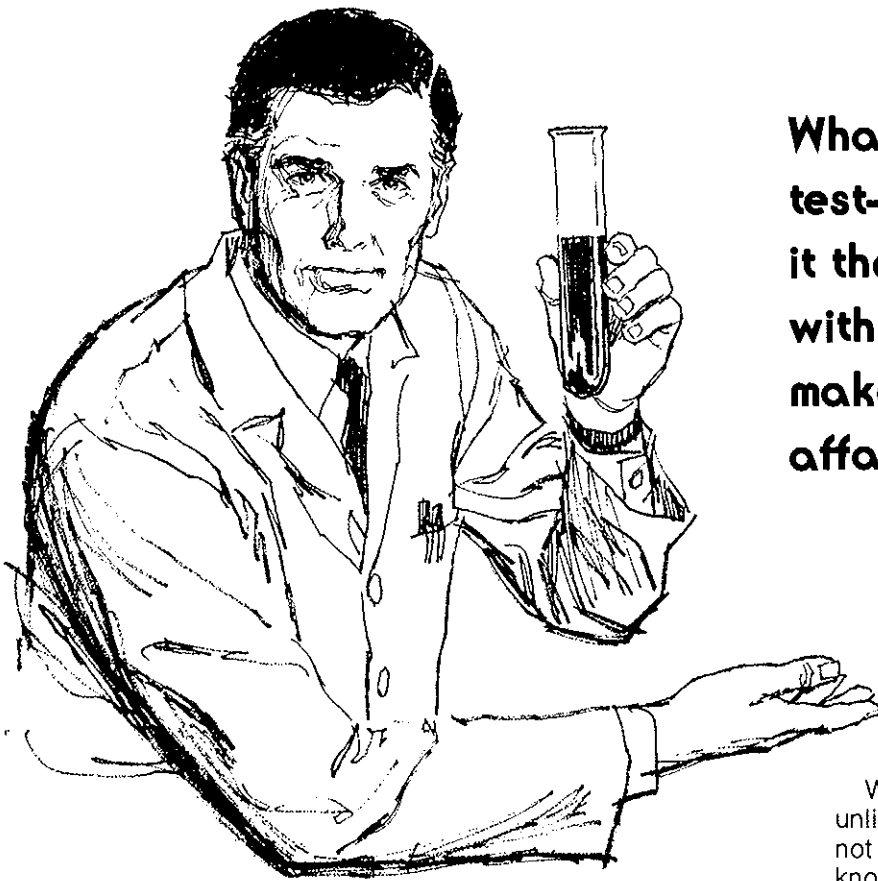
We Christians are biblically bound to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's. But let's make sure this is said plainly enough that no one misunderstands it: Some things do not belong to Caesar, they belong to God! God has no trouble distinguishing between the two; Caesar does.

Syndicated columnist M. Stanton Evans blew the whistle on IRS' David/Goliath struggle about granting tax-exemptions to private schools. Evans concluded, "The underlying view (of IRS) is that all wealth belongs to government by right, and that we enjoy such portions of it as are left to us by grace of the authorities." If Evans is correct, once IRS cages private schools, the next step is to muzzle America's churches by the same blackhanded methods.

We are paying government to do something *for* us not *to* us. Uncle Sam, when you draw back the big stick to strike Christian taxpayers, that distant click you hear is the hand of God unchaining His wrath.

This month begins a new political year. We taxpayers are hereby serving notice on all newly elected officials—we're making a tax list and checking it twice. You fellows who can't distinguish between naughty and nice better clean up your act or come next election, we'll have a new cast of actors playing the Washington circuit. ▲

# Life Under Glass— The Test-Tube Generation



**What are the real issues in the test-tube baby controversy? Is it theologically errant to tamper with the human birth process and make it a pheasant-under-glass affair?**

By Judy Simpson

**W**hen Louise Brown, five pounds, 12 ounces, was born July 25, 1978, at 11:47 p.m. in Oldham, England, the whole world took note.

It was not that Mr. and Mrs. Lesley Brown, the baby's parents, were rich or famous. In fact, Mr. Brown, a van driver and Mrs. Brown a housewife who enjoys knitting and doing puzzles, are most ordinary. Why then, did the birth of this tiny baby girl interest the world and create a great outpouring of public opinion?

While baby Louise was a normal, healthy child, she unlike her parents, or any human being before her, was not ordinary; for Louise Brown was the world's first known so-called test-tube baby. She was an infant who was conceived in a test tube in a laboratory.

Many who learned of the birth of Louise Brown heralded her as the Miracle Baby, the Baby of the Century. On the other hand, there were scientists, doctors and theologians, as well as ordinary people, who were alarmed that science had reached the point of conceiving a child in-vitro, in glass.

Where will it go from here, they wondered? What are the long-range implications of this achievement? Like the scientists, doctors, theologians and concerned citizens we as Bible-believing Christians must be concerned about the legal, social and moral consequences of in-vitro fertilization for all of mankind.

At the same time, we must also be concerned about its implications for Christians. Does test-tube fertilization violate biblical principles? If it does not, are we to ignore it? Are we to react to the issue merely from an emotional basis, or are we to take our position after reviewing the subject from as many angles as possible? Although at this point in-vitro fertilization poses far more questions than it provides answers, as Christians we are not to be unaware of these perplexing issues.

### LEGAL/SOCIAL TEST CASE

Although the legal complications that will perhaps arise, and indeed have already arisen, as a result of test-tube pregnancy are not a Christian's primary concern, they should concern us. For example, can the doctor who removes a live egg from an ovary, places it in a laboratory dish, adds sperm, incubates the ovum, and finally places the developing embryo in the uterus be held legally responsible if the child that results is a perfectly formed monster of some sort? What if the child is deformed? Can the doctor be sued for malpractice?

What happens if a doctor fertilizes an ovum and then destroys it? One doctor has already been sued for \$1.5 million in damages because he chose not to allow an ovum to be implanted after it had been fertilized. Although the plaintiffs did not win the case, the issue was decided in court.

In addition, in the event that a deformed or handicapped child is born are the parents, the doctors or the government obligated to care for it? If the ovum from one female is fertilized and placed to grow in another woman, who is the legal mother? Or, by the same token, can the husband of a woman whose ovum was fertilized by another man's sperm be considered legally responsible for the child which his wife bears? Needless to say, at this point, these questions are only rhetorical, but they are doubtless questions which would have to be settled by law.

In addition to the many legal questions that arise, there are also social problems which will no doubt result from in-vitro fertilization. Is test-tube research just another step toward dehumanizing, manipulating and controlling man? Are scientists on the way to creating groups of people who will be under their control? Although most people are not worried that in-vitro fertilization will produce Brave New World hatcheries, there are legitimate concerns.

Not only is it a legal problem if a deformed child is born, but it is also a social problem. There are already far too few institutions and programs to care for deformed and handicapped persons, and if these people are kept in the home, how will the family be affected?

Another question which should concern society at large is whether test-tube people will be able to function normally in society. There is no doubt that Louise Brown's every move will be monitored by newspaper, magazine and TV. What will this do to her self-image? Will she be warped and maladjusted and thus a liability to society because she cannot lead a normal life?

Another concern is what test-tube fertilization will do to the adoption situation? It is true that there are too few Caucasian, normal children to meet adoption demands. Could not those people who are unable to have children more greatly benefit society by adopting non-Caucasian, abnormal children who will grow up to be societal misfits because they did not have the opportunity of developing in an environment which was conducive to producing people who are a positive force in society rather than choosing the in-vitro route.

On the other hand, world population is increasing at such a fantastic rate scientists tell us that in the foreseeable future, food supply will not nearly meet demand, and, of course, in many countries this situation already exists. Why then should governments spend billions of dollars on research which will produce more people to feed?

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“... though the Bible does not speak directly on the subject of in-vitro fertilization, it does make clear no man creates life....”

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One cannot deny, however, that there will be some positive feedback for society from test-tube research. People who have desperately longed for children of their own will be able to have them, and surely no one would want to deny them that joy. Further, test-tube research will investigate and hopefully help to prevent occurrence of some types of hereditary diseases and birth defects.

### MORAL/ETHICAL QUAGMIRE

So great are the moral and ethical implications of fertilization in-vitro, that in 1975 the United States government stopped financing test-tube research. September 15, 1978, hearings began by the Ethics Advisory Board of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to determine if in-vitro fertilization research should be financed by the government.

Many people believe that the fertilization of the human egg outside the body is a moral question. According to a spokesman for the Vatican, Louise Brown was conceived without sexual relations and her birth was, therefore, “morally illicit” (See *Christianity Today*, August 18, 1978, p. 27).

Some believe if God does not allow pregnancy, then it is not His will and should not be. Various people have also voiced concern that in-vitro fertilization will further erode the family unit by fostering single parenthood. Some theologians, as well as private citizens, believe



## LIFE (From page 7)

that it is immoral to produce a deformed or handicapped person. In other words, parents do not have the absolute right to have a child if there is the possibility that child might be harmed in any way.

Another serious moral question posed by those who believe human life begins at conception is what happens when a fertilized ovum is dumped down a sink or allowed to die instead of being implanted? Has murder taken place? An equally serious consideration is whether it is morally defensible to fertilize an egg with the sperm of one other than one's spouse. Many people believe this practice would be immoral.

### SEARCH FOR BIBLICAL COUNSEL

Although the legal, social and moral implications of test-tube fertilization often shade into each other and present more questions than answers, the Christian as a responsible citizen is obligated to be aware of what is going on. What he is primarily concerned with however, is what light the Bible throws on scientific advances in procreation.

First of all, we will have to conclude that though the Bible does not speak directly on the subject of in-vitro fertilization, it does make clear no man creates life, much less the egg and the sperm from which life comes.

Psalm 139:13-16 clearly tells us that God . . . did form my inward parts, You did knit me together in my mother's womb. I will confess and praise you . . . for the awful wonder of my birth. My

frame was not hidden from You, when I was being formed in secret and intricately and curiously wrought (as if embroidered with various colors) in the depths of the earth (a region of darkness and mystery). Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days of my life were written, before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them. (Amplified Version)

Man therefore, may make conception possible, but only God can make a child. In fact, God will not allow that fertilized embryo to plant and develop if He does not desire it. It is quite clear, however, that test-tube research can lead to situations which Christians would have to decry.

Anything which would erode the marriage relationship and the concept of the family would have to be condemned. In addition, if human life begins at conception, one could not blink at destroying life or allowing the fertilized egg to die.

In truth, the legal, social and moral questions can only become more intense as new and better techniques of test-tube fertilization are explored and developed. The Christian will have to carefully weigh these procedures and their implications in the light of God's Word and decide what his stand must be.

While we must not condemn test-tube fertilization because it is new and certainly we never condemn test-tube people, we must be ready to condemn test-tube fertilization if it violates God's Word.

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Judy Simpson teaches in the English department at Tennessee State University, Nashville. She is a member of Horton Heights Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville. ▲*

## TV (From page 28)

phenomena . . . is much higher today than in 1960." Chances are there will be more occultic stories and specials on television in the future.

### WARNINGS AGAINST THE OCCULT

The Bible is clear in its warnings against dabbling in the occult. The Old Testament tells us the children of Israel were commanded to put witches, wizards or men and women with familiar spirits to death (Leviticus 20:27; Exodus 22:18). Revelation 21:8 says sorcerers have part in the Lake of Fire.

Christians are not to depend on familiar spirits, wizards, or mediums (Leviticus 19:31). Using enchantment, witchcraft, dealing with familiar spirits and wizards provokes the Lord to anger (II Chronicles 33:6). And contact with

the spirit world is detestable to the Lord and forbidden to his people (Deuteronomy 18:9-14).

In the New Testament Ephesians 5:11, 12 tells us it is a shame even to speak of things done in secret. Although this verse is usually referring to sexual sins, it's interesting to note that many occult rites are done in secret.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE

*Be Aware.* Pay attention to what you're watching. Ask yourself, "Will watching this program add or detract from my faith? Will it bring me closer to Jesus?" Decide whether you will change the channel or turn off the set when you recognize occult themes.

*Be prepared.* Be able to answer questions from children or teenagers that may arise when they are exposed to occult programming. Teach them to be

discerning, to examine supernatural ideas in the light of Scripture.

And finally prepare by putting on all of God's armor "that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:11, 12).

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Carol McGinnis is a free lance writer headquartered in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. ▲*





# The Beauty of Holiness

By Randy Cox

**E**very Christian must face the biblical exhortation, "... Be ye holy ..." (I Peter 1:16). It is not a request, but a command.

People who have no interest in pleasing God and no interest in living for God, don't concern themselves with this command. However, we who want to please God and want to live for Him *must* face the issue.

The fact that the doctrine of holiness has been abused does not excuse us. The fact that some believe this doctrine is archaic does not diminish its weight to us at all. To the contrary, it clearly signals more firmly the need for its understanding and application *today*.

## THE HOLY GOD

"Holy" is a term that can be rightly used only with reference to God. It means God is entirely separated from evil and that which defiles.

When speaking of the "holiness" of God we mean the absolute perfection, purity and sanctity of His nature.

His name is Holy (See Isaiah 57:15). He does not participate in any way in that which is wicked (See Job 34:10). He fully and continually does, endorses and encourages right. He emphatically and repeatedly declares Himself to be holy, "... I am holy ..." (Leviticus 12:44, I Peter 1:16).

The first and foremost thing God wants us to think of when He comes to mind is that He is holy. This is clearly seen in the emphasis of both Old and New Testaments.

What is God commanding when He says "Be ye holy"? He is commanding likeness to Himself in every area of life. He is commanding a life separated from evil and that which defiles. He is commanding purity in daily purposeful progress toward the goal which He is, absolute perfection.



## HOLINESS (From page 9)

The goal will not be completely realized until we see Him. (See I John 3:2).

This, however, does not excuse anyone from pursuing it. The lack of progress on the part of many Christians is absolutely inexcusable. He commands us to do, endorse and encourage right living which is personified in Christ, the living word, and fully revealed in the Bible, the written word.

Far from this, it seems the attitude of many today is not, "how much can I be like Jesus," but rather "how much can I get by with and hold the status of saved." Yet, God commands, "... be ye holy in all manner of conversation..." (living, I Peter 1:15); every area of your life.

### GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE

The new birth is clearly a birth unto holiness. Paul said, "... put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24). He further states that this involves some *putting off* (Ephesians 4:22).

The new creature in Christ is to wear the garments of the "new man", a new conversation and a new conduct. The same Holy Spirit who works through the Word to call all sinners to repentance also simultaneously calls to holiness. "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto *holiness*" (I Thessalonians 4:7).

When a conscientious parent chastens a child, it is done with a definite goal in mind. The biblically informed parent knows if a child does not learn submission to the God-ordained authority of the home he will be a rebel toward every form of authority.

God our loving Father in a perfect manner chastens His children with a clear goal in mind. It is declared in Hebrews 12:10b, "... but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His **holiness**". It is clear that the chastening of God administered to His children is designed to serve the highest purpose of all—that we may be more perfectly conformed to His

likeness. When our manner of life is not that of holiness, God moves to correct it.

Every Christian should anticipate the time when he will see Christ. We look forward to standing before Him having His favor. In order that this be a reality we must give diligent pursuit to some particular qualities.

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*"... true holiness  
has balance. It is  
pure but not proud,  
practical but not  
promiscuous."*

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Hebrews 12:14 states, "Follow peace with all men, and **holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord." The eminent prospect of being in the Lord's presence should always be a strong motivation toward holiness of life. Paul prayed for believers that God would "... stablish your hearts unblameable in **holiness** before God... at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (I Thessalonians 3:13).

### THE PRACTICAL DIMENSION

Holiness has to do with behavior. Paul said of the aged women, "... that they be in behavior as becometh holiness..." (Titus 2:3). The deportment of the Christian is to convey and compliment God-likeness. This does not mean that we stay aloof from the pain and need of sinful mankind. Christ was holy, but He was also approachable.

The beauty of true holiness lies in its balance. It is pure but not proud, practical but not promiscuous.

Holiness articulates clean speech. Holiness is manifested in unparalleled consecration to God. Holiness does not condone sin but it does demonstrate compassion for the sinner. Holiness is seen in the way the believer treats his body, knowing and showing that the body is the temple of the Holy Ghost (See I Corinthians 6:19). Holiness of life bears witness to being part of a holy priesthood (See I Peter 2:5).

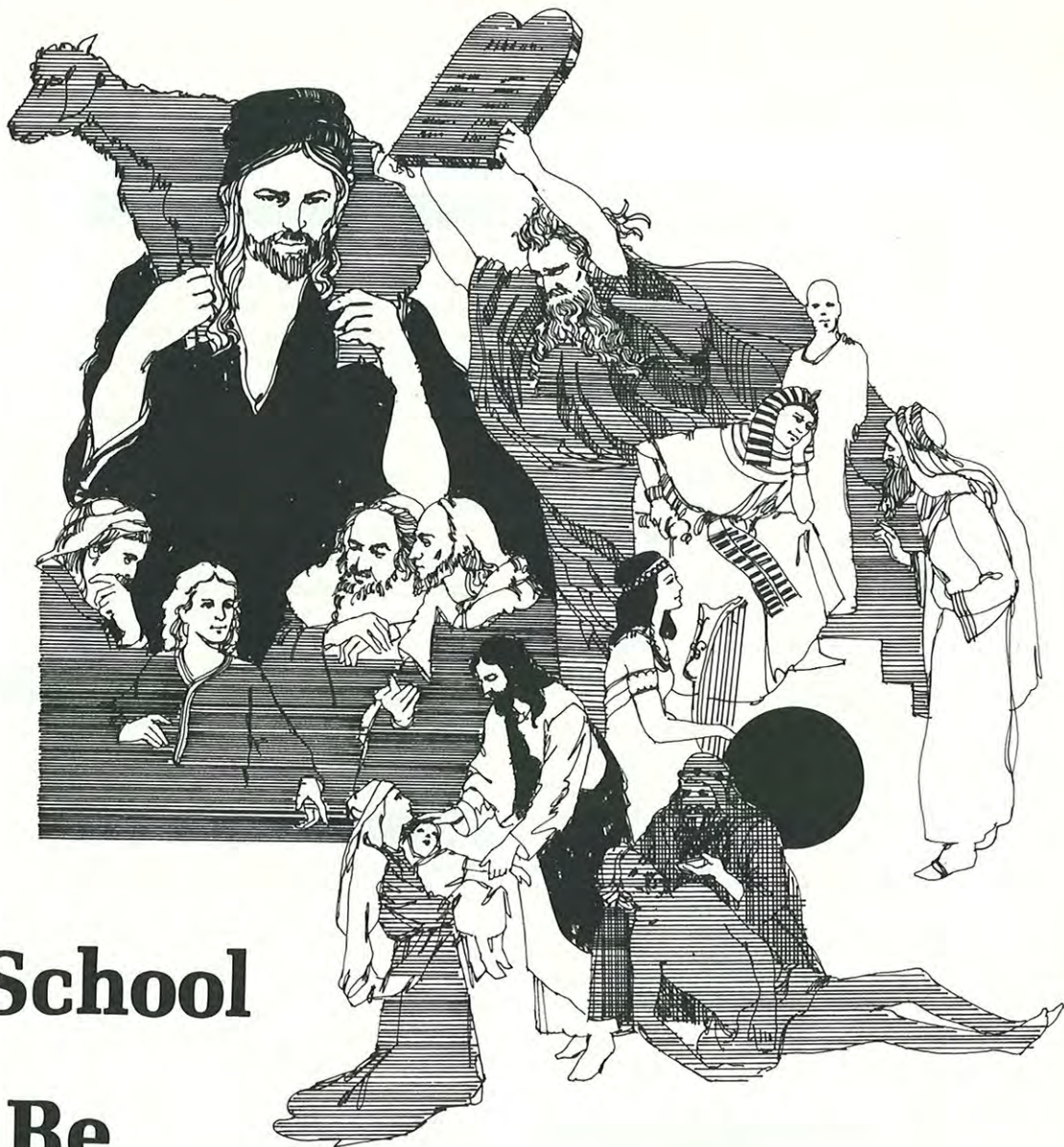
Holiness is obvious God-likeness. Remember, the command of God is neither impractical nor impossible. With every command He gives enablement that will produce His desired results. "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16). The compelling concern of the Christian should be to please HIM.

In this wicked world you cannot live God-like and go unnoticed.

*ABOUT THE WRITER: Randy Cox pastors First Free Will Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. He is chairman of Free Will Baptist Bible College's Board of Trustees. ▲*

Don't Miss  
"Life  
Under  
Glass"

(See page 6)



# Sunday School May Be Your Child's Best Friend

By H. D. Harrison

**S**unday school ought not to be your child's best friend, but it may very well be! How can this be? Sunday school may be one's best friend by serving as an alternate or surrogate.

All children need an "authority figure" who is not authoritarian. Many children do not have such a model in the home. This may be due to a broken home, neglect or a lack of knowledge in parenting.

In such cases the Sunday school's teacher becomes a powerful model in influencing behavior. This is especially true in Sunday schools where busing is prominent. The majority of bus children come from homes where the children are spiritually, socially, emotionally, culturally, intellectually and sometimes even physically deprived.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AS SURROGATE**

Because of these existing conditions the Sunday school acts as a surrogate in bringing *conviction* to the child through the Word of God.

"For the word of God is quick, (alive) and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

The deeds of sin are rubbed raw by the grit of the Word. A conscience thus awakened is forced to respond with its eyes wide open to the consequences of its actions.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL (From page 11)

Correction is possible for the saved and unsaved alike. For the Christian II Timothy 3:16 offers such. The word "correction" as used in this verse is a mariner's term. It connotes the idea of a ship correcting its course at sea.

Such correcting is made by "shooting" the sun or star or by taking a "fix" on land. All these points are stationary. They are absolutes as it relates to their positions. So it is with the Word of God. We take a "fix" on our lives by using the standard of the Word. It will show the error of our ways and provide the remedy.

These truths make it imperative that the teacher teach and exemplify the Word.

Such conviction and correction can easily lead to *consecration*. The teacher can lay it on the line as Joshua of old when he challenged the Israelites, "... choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). The process of decision making (e.g. choosing between good and evil) is an essential ingredient in character building. Those denied this process invariably become weak-willed and vacillating.

### VALUE REINFORCER

The Sunday school may be your child's best friend because of its *reinforcing* value. Where the child's parents are Christians, the Sunday school acts as a reinforcing agent in supporting and reiterating cardinal moral and ethical doctrines given in the home. Sunday school curriculum materials are prepared with this in view.

Not only does the Sunday school reinforce the child doctrinally but it helps the child to determine and develop a wholesome value system. One's values are reflected in his attitudes toward God, sin, himself, home, family and property. Christian teacher models, whose conduct exemplify and excel in eternal values, give a momentous thrust for impressionable lives to imitate.

It is not so much the painstakingly prepared Sunday school lessons that they will remember but the simple

living out of Christian virtues as depicted in Galatians five and I Peter one.

### HOME SUPPLEMENT

The Sunday school may be your child's best friend because of its *supplementary* role to the home. It provides opportunity for the child to have exposure to spiritual concepts, to participate in the spiritual exercise of such concepts and to experience with one's peers interpersonal relationships in a controlled Christian setting.

After conversion the true function of Sunday school should be to help develop the individual in four different areas: the psychological, sociological, ethical and religious.

How a person views himself will determine the nature of many other relationships he has. Self-esteem, self-respect and self-confidence are prerequisites to good mental health.

### LIVING WITH YOURSELF

The Sunday school should be concerned about developing happy, healthy personalities. This has not been and often is still not one of the goals the average Sunday school sets. On the contrary, many have been encouraged to follow a pattern of such self-abasement and false humility that it militates against any wholesome development of the person who was created in the image of God.

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***"The Christian who does not like himself is in danger of despising part of God's creation."***

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For those who would argue against such a view, let me cite the fact that Jesus grounded love for one's self as the basis for love of one's neighbor.

The organizational structure of the Sunday school suggests opportunities of service for students to function on a level which will help them develop and deepen a wholesome self-image. The service thus rendered affords potential successes through input, leadership and other expressional activities.

Success means achievement which involves acceptance and recognition. This is the breeding ground for the development of self-worth. It leads one to greater exploits in the Lord. We need to be developing the kind of hale and hearty Christian who says, "I can, I will, I did." The Christian who does not like himself is in danger of despising part of God's creation.

### LIVING WITH OTHERS

The second function of the Sunday school is of a sociological nature. The individual should have ample opportunity to function in a creative way on the social level. The democratic processes of the school itself, the social interaction both within and out of class gives freedom for people to learn to work together.

The give and take in classroom discussion, the Sunday school class social, the informal fellowship between sessions, choir practice and many more situations afford a person of any age opportunity to assume the role of a submissive follower or to exercise the role of an aggressive leader. These opportunities provide the grist for the mill of social development. They also give occasion to reflect the lack of such development.

It is the considered opinion of this writer that a woeful lack of social and emotional development is responsible for many schisms and hurts which have been inflicted upon the church body. The quantity and/or quality of biblical knowledge is no guarantee that one is proportionately developed in the other Christian graces which accrue from a well-rounded social and emotional growth.

Jesus set the example. "And Jesus increased in . . . favour with . . . man." His social and emotional attitudes toward people were not dependent upon what they

thought of or did to Him. They were dictated by the worth He saw in man. I cite, for examples, the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, the maniac of Gadara, Mary Magdalene and even His tormentors at the cross.

### BUILDING CHARACTER

A third function of the Sunday school is to build character. This relates to ethics. Ethics has to do with

truth of God's Word as food for thought because we believe that as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.

Responsibility and accountability for internalizing truth and development of character through such is solely the individual's. No amount of effective teaching, modeling, controlling the learning environment or developing superb curriculum can develop character. If it is to be done, the student must respond

If I was placed here to find God, His will for my life, to glorify Him in all things, then I ought to walk my talk. If Heaven is going to be my eternal home and earthly hope, then I must cling loosely to "things" down here. In so doing we can make Sunday school the best for your child, if not his best friend.

ABOUT THE WRITER: H. D. Harrison is assistant director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department. ▲

*"We need to develop the kind of hale and hearty Christian who says, 'I can, I will, I did.'"*

morals and ideals. Morals concerns itself with right and wrong while ideals concerns itself with good and bad. Character, then, is determined by one's moral judgment and standard of conduct. It is not so much made up of impulses as restraints.

The Sunday school has the tools of morality at hand to help develop character in the student. The Word of God is our main tool. The Holy Spirit is our Ally and Illuminator. The teacher's moral judgment and standard of conduct do not in themselves transfer to the student, but they can and do serve as a stimulus to him. Character cannot be given, it must be achieved.

Facts do play an important part in character building. They are the tools with which the mind should work. Wrong "facts" produce wrong thinking which spawns wrong conduct. Research reveals a high degree of correlation between convictions and behavior. So, we have in the Sunday school the potential for character building and character reinforcing. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." In Sunday school we offer the

favorably to these stimuli as the Holy Spirit reproves, convicts and enlightens.

### DEVELOPING A LIFE PHILOSOPHY

A fourth function of the Sunday school is to help the student build a correct philosophy of life. Tibbs says, "By establishing right attitudes toward the total environment and by facilitating the individual's adjustment to the will of God, the Sunday school makes its most far reaching and profound contribution."

This brings us back to the basics of every philosophy. We must help the student find the answers to the age-old questions: (1) Who am I? (2) Where did I come from? (3) What is my purpose for being here? (4) Where am I going after death?

Those of us who are students of the Word can answer these questions verbally. The problem we face is living the answers. If I am created in the image of God, people are learning something of what God is like from the way I represent Him. If I am His, by right of creation and redemption, then my stewardship of life ought to reflect it.

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# Thank You for Your Gifts to the...

## COOPERATIVE PLAN OF SUPPORT October, 1978

### RECEIPTS:

State	October '78		Oct. '77	Yr. to date
	Co-op	Design.		
Alabama	\$ 404.21	\$ . . .	\$ 458.16	\$ 1,787.63
Arizona	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,174.73
Arkansas	1,944.70	. . .	1,595.68	25,381.91
California	730.18	(730.18)	763.91	8,521.72
Florida	508.64	(491.98)	16.66	3,600.38
Georgia	465.84	(80.00)	257.87	3,364.99
Hawaii	. . .	. . .	. . .	200.00
Idaho	. . .	. . .	. . .	260.97
Illinois	2,284.17	. . .	1,229.11	13,246.92
Indiana	. . .	. . .	50.00	150.00
Iowa	227.09	. . .	187.74	2,288.52
Kansas	159.69	. . .	274.36	1,425.04
Maryland	. . .	. . .	171.38	751.73
Michigan	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,734.59
Mississippi	117.54	. . .	70.63	971.01
Missouri	5,344.66	(4,908.95)	4,290.39	50,425.99
New Mexico	. . .	. . .	. . .	90.28
North Carolina	135.50	(85.00)	160.52	2,147.74
Northwest Assoc.	. . .	. . .	162.23	388.86
Ohio	1,253.20	. . .	544.59	8,220.42
Oklahoma	11,835.66	(11,807.35)	4,735.47	57,681.86
Tennessee	782.16	(45.00)	1,831.50	10,080.12
Texas	60.00	. . .	253.10	2,267.77
Virginia	. . .	. . .	22.00	370.24
Virgin Islands	250.00	. . .	. . .	1,390.40
West Virginia	23.49	. . .	10.83	199.01
Interest	. . .	. . .	. . .	398.69
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 26,526.73</b>		<b>\$ 17,086.13</b>	<b>\$ 198,521.52</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Executive Office	\$ 6,786.60	\$(2,530.70)	\$ 6,524.64	\$ 64,247.98
Foreign Missions	6,773.04	(5,717.76)	3,724.34	45,535.27
Bible College	3,977.17	(2,950.36)	2,282.58	29,094.07
Home Missions	3,892.56	(3,130.24)	2,063.59	26,277.69
Church Training Serv.	2,299.80	(1,681.43)	1,057.95	15,342.88
Retirement & Ins.	1,799.16	(1,304.47)	950.83	12,124.55
Layman's Board	800.85	(656.55)	339.35	4,571.14
Commission on Theological Liberalism	197.55	(176.95)	92.85	1,227.94
Other Ministries	. . .	. . .	50.00	100.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 26,526.73</b>		<b>\$ 17,086.13</b>	<b>\$ 198,521.52</b>

### VIEW (From page 4)

God has not equipped one believer with stronger spiritual muscles than the others. Each Christian has the potential for growing up in Christ. In pain and conflict we learn to strengthen our spiritual muscles.

Examine your reaction to difficult situations. Do you panic? Blame God? Blame your mate? Or do you become engaged in creative work? Work is healing to the discouraged and depressed person.

Instead of asking, *Why me, Lord?* we do well to notice the teaching in John 9. Through this man's affliction, we learn to ask, *God, what is Your purpose in this?* Asking this changes our perspective. As we firmly fix our focus on God and His purposes we begin thinking and moving in a positive and productive direction.

### GOD'S DESIGN: TRIUMPH IN CHRIST

God has planned that believers always triumph in Christ (See II Corinthians 2:14). We are to triumph always!

In New Testament days, whenever a Roman centurion was victorious in battle, he sent news of the victory to Rome. The Senate would then assemble and decide whether to give this centurion a "triumph," which was a triumphal march through the streets of Rome.

In this parade, the centurion would be driven in a chariot, and behind him was a procession of all the wild animals taken from the country he had conquered. The animals, all the slaves, even the kings he had conquered in battle would be bound in chains and cages behind the centurion. Roman citizens lined the streets to see the centurion's victories and to applaud this victor.

One slave who knew the triumphant centurion quite well would ride on a horse and be stationed behind the centurion's right ear. While the conqueror was driving through Rome and receiving the cheers of the people, this slave would bend toward his ear, saying, "I know you. You're only a man." He would keep reminding the conqueror of the mis-

takes he'd made and all the things he had done wrong.

God always causes us to triumph in Christ. Christ has always been victorious. We are victorious with Him. We stand in the chariot with Him. Our adversities, problems, difficulties are behind us.

But the flesh or the devil often whispers, "You blew it today. You failed. Your problems are bigger than your faith." By an act of the will we can stand erect in the chariot with Christ and defeat the devil. Or we can agree with this adversary and fall into despair and defeat.

We can emerge triumphantly over our problems or we can allow them to triumph over us.

Today, you may be grappling with some soul-testing struggle and wondering *God, where are You?*

You may find yourself even doubting His love and care for you. If so, invite Him right now to enter the chambers of your memory and let Him heal these memories . . . and erase the bitterness.

God may need to calm the deep emotional currents of your life and deposit His perfect peace.

The jarring effect of some traumatic experience may have left you wondering if God really cares for you. Oh, yes He cares! He is concerned about every detail of your life. You are known by God personally. He knows you by name. He loves you unconditionally.

In His Word God informs us of His thoughts regarding us—His plan, His purposes. Faith is the result of encountering the Scriptures and believing them and acting upon them. For this reason, we need to live in God's Word and see ourselves and every situation from God's viewpoint. A view from the top always changes our perspective.

*My life is but a weaving  
betwixt my God and me;  
I do not choose the colors,  
He worketh steadily.  
Oftimes He weaveth sorrow,  
and I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
and I the underside.*

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** June Critcher is a member of Horton Heights Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. She is widely known as an effective public speaker and Christian writer. ▲

# Light on Life's Questions . . .

By Wade T. Jernigan

**QUESTION:** *So many miracles seem to fill the pages of the New Testament. Why don't we have them today?*

**ANSWER:** More than likely thousands of miracles have taken place today. Had God yet been inspiring men to write Scripture there's no doubt but what many miracles would have been recorded.

I am not convinced there are no miracles today. I've seen the flow of blood stop at the start of prayer, fever drop five degrees in less than five minutes after prayer, a baby instantly healed who was scheduled for surgery, a young woman's heart condition arrested with x-ray proof, a blind woman healed in a Sunday morning worship service.

That men do not have power to perform miracles today as did the Apostles (See Revelation 2:2) is true, but God is still performing miracles. A rather large and well documented volume giving accounts of miracles could be written even in our day.

Maybe the answer is given somewhat in Matthew 17:21, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

*Readers may address their questions to Mr. Jernigan 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.*

# ***FAITH ALSO WORKS THE EIGHT TO FIVE SHIFT***

By W. C. Combs

**T**he pressure and stress of life are so great that even Christians can barely cope. Many are crushed by the enormity of the load.

Every facet of life is on display in this fastmoving age of computerization and mechanization. Amid the race toward inevitable climax, the time of which is known only to God, individual Christians are apt to be swept with the tide. Their serenity, peace and confidence is likely to be seriously shaken or even lost, at least temporarily.

***Faith sees the invisible, accomplishes the impossible, bears the unbearable, endures the unendurable, loves the unlovable.***





The faith our spiritual ancestors knew is relegated to the castoff relic of a bygone day as not being relevant for this streamlined age.

The faith of our fathers will still give an undergirding spiritual strength and amazing peace and serenity in spite of extremely trying circumstances. Whether the individual be a high school teen, a housewife caring for a family or a shift worker holding down an industrial job, faith in God will produce a life that is meaningful, stable and worthwhile.

### **GOD'S PURPOSE**

Faith begins with God. In fact faith is a gift of God (See Ephesians 2:8, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:29).

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). . . . "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

The more God's word becomes a reality in our lives, the greater our faith. The ground of faith is not dependent on feelings, visions or dreams but upon truth as found in the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's purpose is to bring "many sons unto glory" (Hebrews 2:10) from the level and status of "new-born babes" (1 Peter 2:2) and "children" (Ephesians 4:14) "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

Since faith begins with God, finishes with God and is for His glory in the life of every Christian, we can simply accept events as they come as being from God or permitted by God and for our good (See Romans 8:28). This of course is dependent on our love for God and our commitment to Him.

He is sovereign and in absolute control. Neither Satan nor any of his forces can do anything touching one of God's children without His permission (See Job 1:12, 2:6).

### **GREAT POSSIBILITIES**

Faith is not a mystical, unattainable figment of imagination but a practical, usable substance to be embraced, acted upon and trusted

daily for final and lasting results even in minor things affecting the life of God's servant (See Hebrews 11).

Whether you work in the mines, the mill or the market, let faith be your constant companion. There will be problems, but they will be easier to solve. There will be injuries, but less frequent and quicker to heal. There will be scoffing, persecution and rejection by sinners, but the sting will hurt less.

Whether at home, school or on the road, faith works. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Begin each day with the thought: "I believe in Jesus and have committed my life to Him. He is working His will in my life, and since He is sovereign, nothing can defeat His purpose for me." "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

God has proven to this writer countless times that He wants us to trust Him for our needs even in the little things of life (See Luke 12:6,7,28). If the car breaks down, trust Him. If the undesirable jobs seem to fall to you, trust Him. If your schoolmates poke fun at you, trust Him. If the washing machine breaks down and the bread burns, trust Him.

Faith looks beyond the present burdens, problems, sorrows, heart-aches, gloom and depression knowing the clouds will lift and joy and peace will return (See Psalm 30:5).

A professor of psychiatry and medicine at the University of Florida College of Medicine says, "One in three visits to the doctor's office is a result of anxiety."

In a survey it was found that of the things people worry about:

- 40 percent never happen.
- 30 percent are things over which they have no control.
- 12 percent are health problems although they are perfectly well.
- 10 percent are about friends and relatives who are well able to care for themselves.
- Eight percent are reasons that definitely need medical help.

Dr. Charles Mayo said. "Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands, the whole nervous system and profoundly affects the health. I have never known a man who died from overwork, but I have known many who died from doubt."

### **GLORIOUS PRODUCTS**

The office work of faith is to produce stalwarts whether they be men, women or children; whether it be 5,000 years ago, 500 years ago or today.

Faith kept Noah chopping, hewing, building and preaching oblivious of the scoffers (See Hebrews 11:7). Faith sustained Abraham (as well as Isaac and Jacob) through numerous trials, travels and tests (See Hebrews 11:8-21).

Joseph, David and Daniel are examples of God's use of the young under the most trying of circumstances because of their faith. Ruth, Rahab and Tamar, although of questionable ancestry, were as a product of faith included in the ancestral line of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In recent observations of problems associated with duties and happenings of everyday life, this writer has seen what seemed to be insurmountable difficulties and total frustrations fade into insignificance by just slowing down and approaching them with complete confidence that they would be solved.

Faith sees the invisible, accomplishes the impossible, bears the unbearable, endures the unendurable, loves the unlovable.

Don't ever be influenced by the common saying "you can't be a Christian and work here". As long as it is honorable and moral, no matter how lowly the job or menial the task, a Christian can bear a Christian witness.

Remember God's goal is to produce mature Christians. He accomplishes this through the exercise of your faith (See Hebrews 5:12-14).

*ABOUT THE WRITER: W. C. Combs pastors Corinth Free Will Baptist Church, Iron City, Georgia. He has organized churches and held denominational offices in West Virginia and Florida. Two of his 14 children are Free Will Baptist pastors. ▲*



FREE WILL BAPTIST  
**newsfront**

### DEPARTMENT GIVES \$200,000 BUILDING TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

NASHVILLE, TN—The Board of Sunday School and Church Training voted during their semi-annual meeting November 28, 1978, to give the CTS building located on Murfreesboro Road to the National Association of Free Will Baptists effective December 31.

Sunday School and Church Training Director Roger Reeds said the 12-year-old structure has a \$200,000 assessed value. The recent merger of the Sunday School and Church Training Service Departments resulted in consolidation of the merged departments at the Sunday School Department's 114 Bush Road location leaving the Murfreesboro Road property vacant.

The 9700 square feet masonry

and steel facility has been used as a combination warehouse/office space. It was erected by the Sunday School Department in 1967 as an Operations Building. Four years later the Department outgrew the building, sold it to the Church Training Service Department and relocated on Bush Road in south Nashville.

With completion of this latest transaction, Randall Bookstore, now free of its lease commitment, closed its store in the National Offices and secured a new outlet January 15 in Charlotte Square, a west Nashville site approximately five miles from Free Will Baptist Bible College. Randall Bookstore will maintain its base store on Bush Road.

### FLORIDA INVITES 1983 NATIONAL CONVENTION

AUBURNDALE, FL—Delegates to Florida's 34th annual state association meeting at First Free Will Baptist Church, Auburndale, November 1-3 extended a unanimous invitation to host the 1983 national convention.

Shortly before the meeting adjourned, constituents were informed that United Press International and Associated Press wire services had carried four resolutions endorsed by delegates. One resolution opposing casino gambling called for defeat of Florida's Proposition 9 (Proposition 9 was defeated by a wide margin on November 7).

Other action clarified the Free Will Baptist position opposing charismatic doctrine and urged churches not to use pastors who were sympathetic toward this divisive teaching. Churches were challenged to respond to the needs of suffering humanity by prayer, gifts and support of world relief ministries.

Florida's \$60,000 state cooperative plan budget allocated 65 percent of the funds for in-state ministries and earmarked the remaining 35 percent to national ministries. Twenty positions on state boards were filled. The Florida Youth Board made a \$1500 gift to the Daytona Beach Mission. Delegates were notified that Salem Bible College trustees had begun bankruptcy proceedings and that the property would revert to the original owners.

Moderator Gene Helton announced 1979's state meeting would convene with Wesconnett Church, Jacksonville. More than 200 delegates and visitors gathered for the 1978 session. Association theme, "Breaking the Fallow Ground", was developed by preachers Tom Willey and Melvin Sanford.



*CTS Building given to National Association*

## CHURCH TRAINING PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN WINNERS ANNOUNCED

NASHVILLE, TN—Thirty-nine Free Will Baptist Church Training groups in 13 states were represented in the 1978 National Church Training Promotional Campaign, "Developing Disciples." Tabulation of the results revealed that those churches who utilized all the promotional plans and programs together with their own initiative and creativity reaped the greatest increase.

The Campaign was conducted during the month of September, taking the attendance for each of the four Sundays and measuring it against the average attendance in Church Training for March, April and May, 1978.

National awards are given in each of the four divisions (A—150 and up), (B—100-149), C—50-99) and D—49 and below) to the top church with the largest percentage of increase in attendance in Church Training. Several churches did not submit their Campaign results. Of those who did, the following compilation of winners and runners-up has been made:

TOP ATTENDANCE GAINERS	SPRING AVG.	SEPT. AVG.	PERCENT. OF INCRS.
DIVISION A (150 and up):	— NO ENTRIES —		
DIVISION B (100-149):			
Woodbine Church, Nashville, TN— <i>Winner</i> Elro Driggers, Pastor; Mike Mayher, Director	134	148	10%
DIVISION C (50-99):			
Valley Forge Church, Elizabethton, TN— <i>Winner</i> Arther Luster, Pastor; Carl Roberson, Director	56	72	29%
First Church, Gastonia, NC— <i>1st runner-up</i> William Calvert, Pastor; Jimmy Rogers, Director	60	71	18%
First Church, DeSoto, MO— <i>2nd runner-up</i> Charles L. Miller, Pastor; Alan D. Chapman, Director	82	93	13%
DIVISION D (49 and below):			
Marvin Chapel Church, Marianna, FL— <i>Winner</i> Buford A. Pierce, Pastor; W. W. Eiland, Director	20	54	170%
Huffman Church, Birmingham, AL— <i>1st runner-up</i> Gerald Baxley, Pastor; M. J. Jennings, Director	15	36	140%
First Church, Jacksonville, NC— <i>2nd runner-up</i> Billy Jackson, Pastor; Myron Buckhalter, Director	38	65	71%

### GEORGIANS VOTE TO BEGIN BIBLE INSTITUTE

DUBLIN, GA—The Georgia Bible Institute, featuring a three-year 96-quarter hour diploma program, won approval by delegates at Georgia State Association's 42nd annual session in Dublin, November 17-19. Classes are slated to begin in September at First Free Will Baptist Church, Albany. Dr. Melvin Worthington has been tapped as GBI president.

In other business, three five-man committees were appointed for study purposes. One group was charged to study Georgia's financial structure, another to study the state constitution and re-evaluate all board duties, a third

group is to determine the feasibility of a Free Will Baptist retirement center in Georgia.

A six-page standardized questionnaire for licensing and ordaining ministers was passed and sent to constituent associations for ratification during the year. After discussion, a motion to sell the property of Dublin Free Will Baptist Church was tabled until the next session to allow the mission board time to secure a pastor. Georgia Executive Secretary C. B. Dowdney had served as interim pastor.

National ministries were allocated 10 percent of the state's \$42,000 cooperative budget. Registration personnel announced attendance at 163 for the three-day session. Missionary to Atlanta,

Larry Nix, was commissioned Thursday evening.

Georgia's 650-member Woman's Auxiliary met November 16. Their 1978-1979 state project is to raise \$5000 for missionary Jerry Banks account by May 1. In other action, delegates agreed to earmark 1978 pre-Christmas week of prayer offerings for the Larry Nix account.

National Master's Men chairman Don Elkins addressed 73 at Georgia's first annual Master's Men breakfast. The 39-year-old Arkansas high school principal called on Georgians to "face and accept disappointments as part of life's lessons". He asked for a return to "basic" Christianity in faith, wisdom, prayer and the Great Commission.

**SECOND ANNUAL WRITERS' CONTEST ANNOUNCED**

NASHVILLE, TN—A second annual Writers' Contest is being sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Sunday School and Church Training Department, according to Dr. Roger C. Reeds, General Director. The contest will have seven categories and will allow for multiple entries.

The purpose of the writers' contest is twofold: (1) to give an opportunity for expression and recognition of creative writing skills, and (2) to develop and/or discover latent and/or new talent within the denomination.

Deadline for entries is March 5, 1979. Entries and registration fee of \$10.00 should be sent to: Dr. Malcolm C. Fry, SS & CT Writers' Contest, P.O. Box 17306, Nashville, Tennessee 37217.

**RULES OF ENTRY**

1. Any member of a church in the National Association of Free Will Baptists may enter.
2. Each entry must be religious in nature and the original, unpublished work of the contestant.
3. Each typewritten page should have 25 double spaced lines of type. Each line should be approximately 70 spaces in length. The writer's name and address, as well as the approximate total number of words in the entry, should be placed in the upper right hand corner of the first page.
4. Entries must be postmarked no later than March 5, 1979. Those arriving after March 15, 1979, cannot be considered.
5. A contestant may submit an entry in two categories; however he/she is eligible for first place in only one category. All entries become the property of the Free Will Baptist Sunday School and Church Training Department.

6. Winners will be announced in press releases to editors of Free Will Baptist state papers where applicable, in *Contact* magazine and *Scope*.
7. Winning entries may be published in *Scope* magazine, space, time and priorities permitting.

**CATEGORIES**

1. **Exegesis/Sermon.** Each exegesis should develop a brief passage of the Scriptures not exceeding 10 verses in length. Each entry should be at least 10 pages in length but not more than 14 pages. Sermon text and subject are left to the discretion of the writer.
2. **Short Story.** A short story may be any length but not exceeding 14 pages.
3. **Poetry.** Rhymed or unrhymed verses of not more than 100 lines which develop a central theme or image.
4. **Tract.** Gospel tracts or tracts on special subjects are acceptable. These should be short enough to be published in the usual tract format.
5. **Plays/Skits.** Not to exceed 14 pages in length, plays or skits should contain plot, theme, dialogue, characterization, setting, suggested set design and stage directions.
6. **Book.** A book entry may be of any nature as long as it serves a religious purpose. Suggestions include devotional guides, novels, commentaries, guides to practical Christian living, etc. No length is specified.
7. **Art/Visuals.** A painting, drawing, poster or slides adhering to the main principles of element and design.

**CRITERIA**

Entries will be judged on creativity, composition techniques, originality, expertise of the literary or art form selected, impact and theme content.

**AWARDS**

In each of the seven categories the awards are:

- First place — \$50.00
- Second place — \$25.00
- Third place — \$10.00
- Fourth place — Books

**WILLIS RECOVERING FROM OCTOBER MISHAP**

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. Homer Willis, 54, full-time Free Will Baptist evangelist and former General Director-Treasurer of Home Missions-Church Extension Board, is recovering from a near fatal riding mishap on October 14.



Willis and his 33-year-old son, Paul, were horseback riding in a heavily wooded area of rural Davidson County at a friend's farm when the accident occurred. Brother Willis' mount fell pinning him against the ground. He suffered broken ribs and a serious thigh injury from the saddle horn.

Willis was rushed to Nashville's St. Thomas Hospital where he remained 26 days, seven of which were spent in critical and special care. During his stay he received 34 pints of blood.

Rev. Willis is home at 1200 Davidson Road recuperating. He has canceled a number of evangelistic meetings. Willis expects to resume his evangelistic schedule later this spring.

**GIBBS HONORED BY TENNESSEE STATE ASSOCIATION**

COOKEVILLE, TN—The Tennessee State Association honored John Gibbs at their 1978 session with a plaque in appreciation for his 1975-78 service as Tennessee promotional director. Wallace Hayes assumed the vacated position November 1.

Tennessee's 194 churches were represented by 73 ministers, 47 delegates and 113 visitors. "Gathering the People" was the theme for the November 13-15 gathering held at Cookeville Free Will Baptist Church.

Moderator Dann Patrick and Treasurer I. L. Stanley retained their offices. New officers elected were assistant moderator, Richard Adams; clerk, Earl Langley; assistant clerk, Garnett Reid. Two Executive Committee members were elected, Raymond Riggs and Glen Poston.

## FALL ENLARGEMENT OUTREACH SCORES 33 PERCENT INCREASE

NASHVILLE, TN—Enlargement campaigns continue to be an effective tool for evangelism. The Fall Enlargement Campaign, "Outreach To The Unreached", scored a 33.3 percent net increase in attendance among the 22 states from which Free Will Baptist churches participated. This increase is based upon the Spring quarter, 1978 average

attendance.

These continuing success stories testify to the fact that enlargement campaigns are potent instruments to increase enrollment, average attendance, and to bring persons under the sound of the gospel.

Recognition has been given the winners in eight different numerical categories as listed below:

Division	Church	Mar.-May Avg.	Camp. Avg.	Increase
A	1st Heritage Temple—Columbus, OH	522	908	73.95%
B	1st West Tulsa—Tulsa, OK	469	596	27.08%
C	1st Collinswood—Portsmouth, VA	358	389	8.66%
	2nd First—Erwin, Tn	345	370	7.25%
D	1st Capitol Hill—Okla. City, OK	220	267	21.36%
E	1st Vista Hills—Van Buren, AR	171	247.2	44.56%
	2nd Noble—Noble, OK	166	237	42.77%
F	1st Shafter—Shafter, CA	127	224	76.38%
	2nd First—Poteau, OK	105	175	66.67%
G	1st First—Hot Springs, AR	62	116.2	87.42%
	2nd Calvary Fellowship—Fenton, MO	61	108.6	78.03%
H	1st Grace—Okla. City, OK	49	118	140.82%
	2nd United—Blanchard, OK	32	66	106.25%

## HAITIAN PROJECT ADOPTED AT ALABAMA MEETING

WINFIELD, AL—Alabama Free Will Baptists voted to underwrite operation of two Haitian schools some 15 miles from Haiti's capitol, Port-Au-Prince. Officials reported more than 400 poverty stricken Haitians are being educated by Free Will Baptists already on the island. It is estimated that funds of \$750 per month are essential to adequately fund the mission effort.

This action was taken at Alabama's State Association meeting in Winfield Free Will Baptist Church, November 9-11. Outgoing Moderator Jack Rollins presented a plaque to Carbon Hill, Alabama, physician Dr. G. W. Keith for providing free medical service to children at Alabama Children's Home for the past 31 years.

Another children's home related award honored Miss Florence

Sides who was employed by the home 31 years. Miss Sides recieved an appreciation plaque and a \$3,225 cash gift. Four hundred delegates and visitors witnessed the awards ceremonies.

Forestdale Church layman Ernie Winchester of Birmingham addressed 85 at a Master's Men breakfast Thursday morning in the Travel Inn Motel.

John Edwards, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur, was elected state moderator succeeding Jack Rollins. Delegates reaffirmed biblical plenary verbal inspiration and resolved that the Bible was the only rule of faith and practice. February 12-14 is Pastors and Workers Conference at Jasper, Alabama. A state-wide Youth rally will meet concurrently at Jasper.

## SPRING ENLARGEMENT CAMPAIGN "ENLARGE YOUR VISION"

NASHVILLE, TN—ENLARGE YOUR VISION is the theme for the 1979 Spring Sunday School Enlargement Campaign. This campaign will be of special value to the Sunday school which wants to promote not only a time of dramatic growth but also a time of spiritual growth for their students and teachers. Witnessing and missionary vision are stressed in this program of involvement.

The Spring Enlargement Campaign will begin March 4, 1979, and end March 25, 1979. Sunday schools in each division who experience the greatest percentage of gain over the 13 weeks average attendance for September-October-November, 1978, will be declared winners and presented appropriate awards denoting first or second place.

Sunday schools will be arranged in accordance with the following table for competitive purposes.

Division A over 500 average  
 Division B 400-500 average  
 Division C 300-399 average  
 Division D 200-299 average  
 Division E 150-199 average  
 Division F 100-149 average  
 Division G 50- 99 average  
 Division H under 49 average

Campaign materials are available from the Sunday School Department. Order by March 2.



## Currently ...

By  
**JACK WILLIAMS**

Missions Outreach Sunday was a great day at **Village Chapel FWB Church, Ceres, CA**. Foreign Missions Director of Deputation **Henry Van Kluyve** threw a spotlight on the world for members to see. Their goal was \$750 per month in faith promise giving. Pastor **Adrian Condit** said the response so far has exceeded \$811 monthly.

No one seems to be quite sure what the maximum age is for ordaining a deacon. **First FWB Church, Toledo, OH**, might have a record on their hands. Pastor **Fred Taylor** said the church recently ordained **Shorty Mason**, 68 years young, as a deacon. The elder statesman has a daily hospital ministry that he carries on with great faithfulness. He also dedicates himself to any church mission project.

**Blackoak FWB Church, Marshfield, MO**, garnered first place awards for its entry in the annual Bible Echos Parade in Marshfield. Pastor **Jack Day** said the church float used "The Manger to the Cross" as a theme. Churches, civic and industrial organizations participated in the city-wide splurge.

Radio station **WGGC FM** in **Glasgow, KY**, is donating broadcast time to **First FWB Church, Glasgow**. Pastor **John Gilliland** said the good neighbor policy began November 5 and will continue every other month in order for the station to air Sunday morning worship services of the local congregation.

The 1979 goal at **Cofers' Chapel FWB Church** for missions is \$16,500. Last year the **Nashville** congregation gave just over \$15,000 to worldwide missions. **Eugene Waddell** pastors.

Thursday night visitation is getting to be a more risky chore than most members bargain for in **North Little Rock, AR**. Pastor **Ben Scott** said two members of **First FWB Church** called one night at the home of an aged widow. When they entered the house there was grandma in the frontroom sitting in a rocker with an automatic .22 rifle laying across her arms. She said something about catching burglars crawling through the window. On another night two of Brother Scott's members were greeted at the door by a man holding "a very distinguished business-like revolver".

New records were set at **First FWB Church, Russellville, AR**, during its October Sunday school push. The congregation averaged 317 during October—some 20 per Sunday higher than a year ago. **Fred Warner** pastors.

When the **Mississippi State Association** met in **Richton** they did more than conduct routine business. Mississippi presented a \$10,000 check to missionary **Steve Nichols** in order to liquidate the **Greenwood, MS**, land debt. Shortly afterward the State Woman's Auxiliary presented missionary **J. L. Gore** with a \$4,200 to help in the work at **Jackson, MS**.

The youth group of **Forest Grove FWB Church, Knoxville, TN**, has changed its name to the Searchers. Pastor **Douglas Roberson** said the group changed the name to better symbolize their purpose, searching out those who are lost and have no direction in life.

Another big choir retreat is planned by **Mississippi Free Will Baptist** music lovers at **Tombigbee State Park**, April 6-7. Seminars, workshops and a mass choir highlight the two day event. **Blaine Hughes**, minister of music at **Bethany FWB Church, Norfolk, VA**, will be special guest. Participation is restricted to choir members 15-years-old and up. In addition to the helpful seminars the group will learn six new songs and sing them in concert at **First FWB Church, Amory** on April 8. **Larry Gunnoe** is calling the signals for the 1979 session.

A big all day Bible Conference was conducted at **Guin FWB Church, Guin, AL**, on October 31. The conference came in the middle of a regularly scheduled revival featuring **Richard Adams** as evangelist. Bible Conference participants include **Billy Bevan**, Tupelo, MS; **Harold Pitts**, Tuscaloosa, AL; **Tom Malone**, Florence, AL; and **Richard Adams**. Pastor **Richard Cordell** said the one-day conference theme was "Biblical Separation".

In most cities the mayor is called upon to award plaques to other people. **St. James FWB Church, Phenix City, AL**, reversed the process and presented **Mayor Chard**, a Gideon, with a special plaque. Pastor **Dennis Keen** said the church also set an attendance record of 260 during the Sunday worship service.

**Middle Tennessee's Cumberland Association** followed a number of other Christian organizations by passing a resolution to boycott the ABC Television Network during the entire month of November.

October was layman-of-the-year month in **First FWB Church, Moore, OK**. The eight nominations for layman of the year were reduced to two men. Pastor **Dan Farmer** announced co-winners—**Jerry Wright** and **Charlie Scott**. Congratulations to both men.

Getting folks saved is what this Christian life is all about. The people of **Phillip's Chapel FWB Church, Springdale, AR**, really believe that. Last year they reported 79 conversions from their community, 48 were baptized and 53 united with the church. **Loy Counts** pastors.

Ground breaking ceremonies were observed in **Paragould, AR**, by members of **First FWB Church**. Pastor **Carl High** estimated construction costs for the new building would rise to \$40,000. The congregation is worshipping in a store building they purchased in 1973. They expected to move into their new building late December or early January.

**Capitol FWB Church, Sacramento, CA**, is on the move again. Pastor **Larry Condit** said the church sold \$85,000 in bonds, wiped out \$30,000 indebtedness and built a new 3000 square feet educational building. A member of the church who is a local contractor built the structure. The church property is now valued in excess of one quarter million dollars.

Pastor **Gary Thomas** of **First FWB Church, Star City, AR**, said, "We have set New Testament standards and exercised New

Testament soul winning." An October miracle day at the church registered 272 for worship services.

After an all night prayer meeting, Hallelujah Sunday at **West Tulsa FWB Church, Tulsa, OK**, recorded 916 in attendance. Pastor **Connie Cariker** awarded family Bibles to three individuals for bringing 25 or more of their friends to church. Recipients of the family Bibles were **Bill Daniels, Pam Hollie** and **Bertha Revis**. No wonder Pastor Cariker called it Hallelujah Sunday—anytime a pastor can convince three people to bring 25 with them to church that is certainly worth sharing with someone.

**CONTACT** welcomes *The Christian Sounder*, publication of **First FWB Church, Benton, IL**. **Gene Norris** pastors.

**Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, OK**, is featuring an Alumni Roundup during its Bible Conference March 6-8 according to **Richard Gallant**, Alumni Association President.

A publication from **Fellowship FWB Church, Kingsport, TN**, suggested the four following brief rules for Bible study. 1. Read it through. 2. Pray it in. 3. Work it out. 4. Pass it on. **Winston Sweeney** pastors.

**CONTACT** joins **Shiloh FWB Church, Bristol, VA**, in saluting **Mrs. Bertha Helbert**. Mrs. Helbert has been teaching the Beginners class at Shiloh Church for 49 years. She was recently recognized by the church as Teacher of the Month. **Walter L. Statzer** pastors.

**Dr. Arthur Climenhaga**, professor of theology and missions and academic assistant to the dean of Ashland Theological Seminary, shared Harvest Sunday Weekend November 17-19 with **Trinity FWB Church, Bridgeton, MO**. Dr. Climenhaga shared the book of Philippians with the congregation. **Russell Spurgeon** pastors.

Here's another Super Sunday report from Michigan. Pastor **Robert Trimble** said guest speaker and former pastor, **William Mishler**, spoke to 300 at their October Homecoming and Old-Fashioned Day. Offerings exceeded \$2100 and many new families and prospects were in the congregation. The church is located in **Mount Clemens, MI**.

**First FWB Church, Fort Smith, AR**, observed its 25th annual shut-ins day. The yearly occasion is a time of excitement and creativity for the northwest Arkansas congregation. Pastor **Rupert Pixley** said the 1978 shut-ins day was capped by seven people uniting with the church.

Pastor **Buford Pierce** was on not one but two radio stations the week of October 9-14. Both **WTOT** and **WTYS** featured Brother Pierce as morning devotional speaker. Pierce pastors **Marvin Chapel FWB Church, Marianna, FL**.

**Bear Point FWB Church in Sesser, IL**, sent a glowing report of 21 people saved during one month. **James O'Dell** pastors.

Pastor **Carl Cheshier** and the **Cavanaugh FWB Church, Fort Smith, AR**, imported the pastor of **Heritage Temple FWB Church, Columbus, OH**, and his staff for a November 15-19 Bible Conference and revival. The guest entourage included **Paul Thompson, Bob Shockey** and three other able staff members.

On the 100th anniversary of **Mt. Harmony FWB Church, Saffell, AR**, 168 persons were present for morning worship. Pastor **David Waltrip** then welcomed more than 250 for an afternoon service. **Grady Linebaugh** gave the special commemorative address. Several former pastors were recognized and a history of the church read by **Lucy Williams**.

If you've ever wondered how it would feel to walk through astroturf, take a stroll through the basement of **Waltonville FWB Church, Waltonville, IL**. Pastor **Howard Flota** reports the installation of the famous turf as well as freshly painted walls courtesy of the Waltonville men.

The Old Mount Zion Newsletter, serving the **Old Mount Zion Association in Arkansas**, has a new editor. He is **Daniel Phillips**, pastor of **Calvary FWB Church, Springdale, AR**. Phillips is a 1977 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He replaces **Bobby Shepherd** as editor who originated the newsletter in 1973.

**Bob Culbertson** has been announced as Ohio's newest missionary. Culbertson is a member of **Heritage Temple FWB Church, Columbus**. He says God has called him to be a servant to Ohio churches in the area of church growth. His teaching and preaching are mainly in the areas of evangelism and discipleship. He specializes in principles of how to live the normal Christian life, how to grow as a Christian and how to share the gospel of Christ with others.

The Lord has been working a quiet miracle at **Fairwood FWB Church, Fairfax Station, VA**. In the past 21 years 32 men have answered the call to preach from this one church. Pastor **Lester Horton** chuckled, "If they'd all stayed and pastored churches near here we'd have enough to start a new conference by now." Thank God for churches which produce preachers.

**Waldo Young**, pastor of **Spencer Road FWB Church, Spencer, OK**, served as Oklahoma State Clerk for a decade and then declined the nomination this year. The **Oklahoma State Association** voted to purchase a plaque honoring the faithful pastor. When Brother Young returned to the city of Spencer he discovered another plaque of appreciation waiting for him. The city mayor read the proclamation of appreciation and presented Young with the five-year service plaque from the citizens of Spencer.

**Rolla Smith**, general director of the Foreign Missions Department, was guest

speaker for the annual Bible Conference sponsored by the **Northeast Missouri Association**. Services were conducted in **Kirksville FWB Church** October 27-29.

Sunday school contests of every hue and variety seem to be in full bloom this season. Some contests are cute, some are questionable, but every once in a while we run across one that is definitely unusual. This is the case with the Sunday school contest between **Danny and Dennis Keen**, twin brothers who pastor churches in **North Carolina** and **Alabama**. The losing pastor must knock doors for the other's church for a week. That sure beats a pie in the face or a sliced necktie.

Pastor **Richard Gallant** of **First FWB Church, Poteau, OK**, made history recently. The good pastor was excited about an article he read in **CONTACT**. He provided space for a **CONTACT** subscription form in his church publication. Here's the best part—he included this statement just above the subscription form, "Any of our church family who after receiving their first copy of **CONTACT** feel it's not worth the subscription fee, see the pastor and he will refund your money." Thank you Pastor Gallant for this vote of confidence.

December 1946, a sermon entitled "Why I am a Free Will Baptist" appeared in the **Mississippi Free Will Baptist Messenger**. It was preached by **George C. Lee, Sr.**, who pastored some 19 churches in Mississippi from 1909-1968. That sermon has been reprinted and is available by writing **George C. Lee, Jr.**, pastor of **Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC**.

**Sanford Davis**, missionary in **Temple, TX**, has become chaplain of T-CAP, a 1500 member state-wide CB organization. Davis is responsible for setting up chaplain services across the state of Texas. T-CAP is a part of the Re-Act Organization which monitors channel 9 CB distress calls.

Dedication services for the new quarter-million dollar sanctuary at **First FWB Church, McAllen, TX**, were conducted August 6 by veteran home missionary **Larry Powell**. The church is located on three acres donated by **Dr. and Mrs. Wilford Lee**. The acreage is valued at \$75,000, making net worth of property and facilities to exceed \$325,000. With attendance now averaging 75, the group has 30 of that number participating in door-to-door visitation.

Members of **Sherwood Forest FWB Church, El Sobrante, CA**, have committed themselves to a staggering faith promise pledge of nearly \$1500 per month to missions. Pastor **Milburn Wilson** said the \$2000 cash offering given during their mission conference proved the church simply could not outgive God.

It's retraction time again! Apologies to Pastor **Dennis Henderson** and **First FWB Church, Bryan, TX**, for a November 1978 "Currently" item stating that 50 percent of the congregation was new converts. The idea sounded good but the editor misinterpreted information about the church. ▲



# Your Word is Not Law . . .

## PART V

By Leroy Forlines

There are two basic foundations for the doctrine of Christian liberty: (1) The fact that God views New Testament believers as mature in contrast with immaturity of Old Testament believers, and (2) The full implications of the fact that we are persons, i.e., we think, feel and act.

There is a third observation corollary to these. No person or group of persons in the church today can say their word is law.

The word of a true prophet was law to Old Testament hearers because in a special way his message had come to him from God and he was inspired in the communication of that message (See II Peter 1:21). In the New Testament, Paul said, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (I Corinthians 14:37).

With the passing of the apostles and the completion of the New Testament, there ceased to be those in the church to whom God spoke by revelation. God's revelation is given to all in the Bible.

### INDIVIDUAL ACCESS TO GOD

Every believer has access to the Bible. Every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Every believer can study and interpret the Bible.

In the Old Testament, when a person sinned he took his sacrifice to the priest who offered it to God on behalf of the person. In the New Testament, no earthly priest is involved in the process of seeking God's forgiveness.

Paul tells us, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5). Christians can help another person understand what the Bible says about how we receive God's forgiveness, but the approach to God through Jesus Christ can and must be made by the person himself.

There is no person in the church who can grant God's forgiveness to another, nor is there any person in the church who can deny God's forgiveness to another.

The fact that we can neither grant nor deny God's forgiveness to another does not mean we cannot contribute to another person's receiving God's forgiveness. We can explain how Jesus died to save sinners and what is involved in confession, repentance and faith. We can encourage a person to confess his sins and ask God for forgiveness, but he must approach God for his own forgiveness.

While it is true that pastors and evangelists have usually studied more about God's redemption than

laymen, they have no different access to redemptive knowledge than a layman. God will save a person spoken to by a layman as surely as He will one spoken to by a minister.

Some may have a special responsibility to withdraw from secular employment and devote themselves full time to Christian service, but it is the responsibility and opportunity of all the redeemed to share the redemptive message with others.

### INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD

In the matter of ethical knowledge all believers have the responsibility and the opportunity to study the Bible and apply its teachings to life. This does not mean we cannot share our own findings with others and try to persuade them with regard to what we understand to be right and wrong, good and bad. What it does mean is no person in the church can speak with the force of law.

We must address everyone in the church as a thinking, feeling, acting being. This will not be fruitless in the promotion of ethical truth when we live a holy, dedicated life, study the Bible, work on how to communicate its truth and depend upon the power of God.



While we do not usually make a clear-cut distinction between preaching and teaching, the New Testament does. (See February and March *CONTACT*, 1977, "The Local Church Under Review," Parts V and VI). I would like to quote a summary of this distinction from the February, 1977, issue.

In preaching, one proclaims what he considers to be clearly true based on divine authority. He declares it as truth to be obeyed. In teaching, one seeks to persuade a person that what he says is a correct interpretation of a divine message. In teaching, it is assumed that the person accepts the truth of Scripture. The only question centers around interpretation. The preacher seeks to get a response from a command or invitation. The teacher seeks to get the student to reach an understanding through his own thought processes in the light of the available data (p.28).

We preach the gospel and the basic moral teachings that are clearly spelled out in the Bible. When it comes to finer points of application of moral truth, we resort to teaching. We must persuade people.

In teaching Christian liberty, which assumes the right of a Christian to apply Christian values and principles to things not specifically mentioned in the New Testament, the New Testament does not mean to teach disrespect for the true leadership of the church. It does place a heavy responsibility on the leadership of the church.

Leaders cannot depend upon the authority of their office to accomplish their goals. They must truly earn the respect of the church. They must with full recognition of what it means to be a person seek to persuade others of what they understand to be ethical truth.

However, though we may try to persuade, when it comes to the fine points of application, we must say with Paul, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" (Romans 4:5). The liberty of the person who is so exercising his own mind will be *Christian* liberty only when he is fully committed to Christian values and principles. ▲

## OUR WOMEN SPEAK



# Me, A Disciple?

By  
Linda Harvey

I've always gone to every service at the church—Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night and any special service we might happen to have.

But is this really enough? Is the Lord really satisfied with that? I think not. God expects more from me than just warming a pew.

It is my duty to go door-to-door and witness of Christ (this is more than just inviting someone to church). As a Sunday school teacher, I must stress the importance of personal commitment to God for each student, not just church membership.

As a Christian I must have a kind of dedication so visible to others that it will be a shining light. This is true witnessing. My light shines when I keep my conversation honest in order that I will not be looked upon as an evildoer.

My witness shines when I am patient and display a meek and quiet spirit. Christian testimonies glow when they are accompanied by compassion and courtesy. Jesus said Christians were to love one another because that was the one way everybody would know we were His disciples.

According to Ephesians 4:32, the Lord's disciple must be a tender-hearted person. We forgive one another as quickly as the Lord forgives us. This is what it means to be a disciple.

You see, everyone who came in contact with Jesus carried news about Him. When He healed the sick or the lame or made the blind to see, they all left with shining words about Him. Jesus has saved me, healed my soul—am I not to be His disciple like they were? I have as much to share as any of them did. I, too, can walk in love as the disciples of old.

I think the Lord expects me to carry to others the verses (Galatians 5:22-26) about His Spirit producing love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, faith and temperance. People who have their hearts and lives filled with Galatians 5:19-21 really need someone to tell them of the rest of that chapter.

They can be changed. They can be different. And I know how to make it all happen, for I am one of the Lord's disciples.

*ABOUT THE WRITER:* Linda Harvey teaches the Intermediate Sunday School Class at Pleasant Valley Free Will Baptist Church, Warren, Arkansas. She is the mother of two children (ages 13 and 10). Her husband, George Harvey, Jr., is a deacon. ▲



## OUR READERS COMMENT

### NOVEMBER COVER IN BAD TASTE

We're writing to say we don't appreciate the cover on November CONTACT, the baby held head down with a gun to his head. The printed words are okay but the printed picture is not.

We don't think God is pleased with that cover. Children that aren't old enough to read words can read pictures even though they can't interpret correctly.

We don't want our children or grandchildren to view such violence on TV. Then we get this through the mail from our National Association of Free Will Baptists.

The Devil does do his work, but it makes us very sad.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Smith  
Rinard, Illinois

### COMMENDS NOVEMBER COVER

The November issue was in many ways the most professional CONTACT I've seen. The cover art was arresting. The artist actually got two messages across with one drawing. Abortion and euthanasia are clearly linked.

Susan Burgess  
Sesser, Illinois

### SHOCKED, APPALLED AT COVER

I regret that the first letter I write to you is not one of praise. Upon receiving the November issue today I put aside all other mail and sat down to read it. I was shocked and appalled by the cover. Such poor taste I never expected to see on the cover of this magazine.

I hope we readers will not be subjected to this type of art in the future. I do not advocate avoiding important, controversial issues. They must be dealt with by Christians. But, good taste can be as instrumental as exploitive illustrating.

Verla Fletcher  
Norwalk, California

### 71-YEAR-OLD HAS SOLUTION

I am 71 years old. I love the CONTACT.

I am going to talk with our church members about subscribing. The men can give up smoking one week. The women can stay home and do their own hair one week. Then they'll have enough money to pay for CONTACT.

Mrs. A. B. Bennett, Sr.  
Millen, Georgia

### MORE LAY WRITERS, PLEASE!

I would like to see some new writers, especially from the laity, published in CONTACT Magazine.

It seems I am reading quite frequently articles by the same preachers! The laity has as much to offer as the ordained where current issues are concerned.

Name withheld at request

### READS ARTICLE WHILE AWAITING HEART SURGERY

I wish to express thanks to Mrs. Pursell for sharing her experience with others through the article in the November issue of CONTACT.

I am awaiting open-heart surgery. I have been a Christian for approximately 20 years and have heard many sermons preached and read many articles on this same subject. I am a member of East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church and have been active in all phases of God's work at this church. However, it doesn't seem to involve you until you are personally faced with the question "why me?"

I found Mrs. Pursell's article to be exactly what God wanted me to know through her words and the Scripture she made reference to.

I just wanted to let you know the comfort this article has been to me in a time of personal need.

Harold D. Baker  
Nashville, Tennessee

### APPLAUDS RETURN TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I really appreciated the article "Why Johnny's Friends Still Attend the Public Schools" in the August issue. I'm not against Christian schools, but I'm tired of people acting like others are second-rate Christians if their children go to a public school.

Our son will start school next fall so my husband and I have discussed schools quite a bit. We just couldn't see putting ourselves in a financial bind to send our son to a Christian school 20 or 30 miles away when he could go to public school behind our house.

Most preachers live on a meager salary and I don't see how so many can afford private Christian schools. I think Mr. Nicholson's idea of getting Christians back into the schools is a much more practical solution.

Mrs. Rhonda Thomas  
Concord, California

### PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER RESPONDS

We enjoy CONTACT very much—every issue in fact, but particularly the August issue regarding public and private schools.

I have heard several sermons the last year or two that made me feel "guilty" for not teaching in a Christian school when all this time I felt like I was in the will of God.

I'm sure there is a great need for teachers in Christian education, but I'm concerned that over-zealousness may deter some from entering the teaching field.

I am concerned about the lack of Christian educators in the public school system, but conversely I have always been concerned about the misconceptions held by many of our brethren as to the degree of freedom public school teachers have in exercising Christian influence.

For instance, it is often held that prayer is not allowed in the classroom. The Supreme Court ruling from which this belief is derived only states we cannot have a child recite a prayer written by another party. We can pray our own prayer anywhere anytime.

Also, learning situations can be created in which the Bible may be used as a source of information in teaching many subjects. The area of conflict is in the teaching of doctrine. This we cannot do (nor should we want to). It is the basic principle underlying separation of church and state which I feel we must support for the simple reason that some heretical group could gain dominance and subsequently destroy the freedom we now enjoy.

Another factor involved is so few public school teachers are qualified to teach biblical doctrine. Can you imagine the heresy that might develop if doctrine were made a part of the public school curriculum? I think that this facet of instruction should be left in the hands of the church.

Few will deny the need of Christian education especially the Christian public school teacher. There are many of us who feel we are obeying a "call" to this profession just as surely, and in the same sense, that God calls His servants to the ministry.

Our task is immense. But regardless of the relative restrictions/freedoms inherent in our duties, there is no power that can prevent us from allowing our Christian beliefs to permeate every area of our lives, even to the teaching of readin', writin' and arithmetic.

Arlie Miller  
Kerman, California

**Editor's Note:** Not all correspondence has been positive. Some negative response to the August issue of CONTACT was registered.

Two letters critical of the article on public schools were received in the office but both writers requested their letters not be printed in CONTACT.

# DIRECTORY UPDATE

## PASTORAL CHANGES

### ARKANSAS

Steve Gregory to Pleasant Valley Church, Warren  
 Lester Harp to Farmer Church, Hindsville  
 Raymond Hunton to Hickory Flatt Church, Springdale  
 Jim Spurlock to Hope Church, Fayetteville  
 Dennis Artman to Mt. Zion Church, Hindsville  
 Johnny Allen to New Sulphur Church, Prairie Grove

### CALIFORNIA

Mike Criswell to First Church, Salinas

### FLORIDA

William Smith to First Church, Quincy from Mother's Home Church, Colquitt, GA

### GEORGIA

Willie C. Martin to Double Branch Church, Hawkinsville

### ILLINOIS

David Shores to Blue Point Church, Cisne

### MISSISSIPPI

Charles Davis to Eggville Church, Tupelo

### MISSOURI

Kevin Francis to Eastern Gate Church, Springfield from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, OK  
 Gil Mertz to First Church, Kirksville  
 Boyce Williams to Hazel Creek Church, Kirksville  
 Joe Braddy to First Church, Lebanon from First Church, Fredericktown  
 Johnnie Land to Kings Way Church, Springfield from Grace Temple Church, Phoenix, AZ  
 Dale Blackwell to First Church, Sikeston from Malden Church, Malden  
 Lester Davis to First Church, Cabool from Mountain Valley Church, Mountain Grove  
 Eddie Day to Mountain Valley Church, Mountain Grove  
 Gene Terry to Union Grove Church, Norwood from Kings Way Church, Springfield  
 Gary Hutsel to Happy Hill Church, Lebanon  
 Troy Burney to First Church, Belton from First Church, Kansas City

### NORTH CAROLINA

J. E. Floyd, Sr., to Friendship Church, Wilmington from Adwolfe Church, Marion, VA

### OHIO

Jack Blackburn to First Church, Pique

Wendell Combs to First Church, Springfield

### SOUTH CAROLINA

Steve Cannon to Fellowship Church, Florence from Salem Church, Scranton

### TENNESSEE

Tim McDonald to Oakwood Church, Woodlawn  
 Roy Woods to Lavergne Church, Lavergne  
 David Williford to Bethel Church, Ashland City  
 Buddy Bell to Lebanon Mission from Union Hill Church, Slocomb, AL

### TEXAS

James Amick to First Church, Grand Prairie from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, OK  
 A. F. Ferguson to Mt. Olive Church, Laneville

### VIRGINIA

Redford Meadows to Central Church, Norton

## OTHER PERSONNEL

P. A. Barton to First Church, Ardmore, OK, as children's church pastor from Lone Grove Church, Lone Grove, OK, as pastor

## COMING NEXT MONTH

- ERA: Saga of Super Amendment
- Why Jonestown?
- Nepotism in the Local Church
- How To Grow A Friendship
- All Right, I Forgive You

## MOVING TO A NEW ADDRESS??



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**The occult is . . .**

# TV's New Menace

By Carol McGinnis

**T**elevision is filled with violence and sex. It steals time and drains creativity. Now there's another threat.

Last season Starsky and Hutch were chased by Satanists, the Bionic Woman communicated with the dead, and a ghost rode Flight 401. Sometimes subtle, sometimes blatant, these references to the occult should be of concern to every Christian.

## THE INFLUENCE OF TELEVISION

Television is virtually everywhere. Approximately 96 percent of American homes have at least one television set. Many homes have two or more.

More time is spent in TV viewing than in school or church. Some estimates say that almost all of the nation's 12 million preschoolers spend 60 hours a week watching television. One source says a member of today's generation can expect to spend nearly 10 years watching TV during his lifetime.

Television is a teacher. In 1969 Rev. John Culkin, director of the Center for Communications at Fordham University, concluded that today's child learns more from television than he learns in school because TV is a more effective teaching medium.

In many families children like TV better than they like their parents. In a Longwood College (VA) study, children's emotional attachment to television were examined. Of 156,

four, five, and six year olds surveyed, they found 44 percent preferred TV over their father, 20 percent preferred TV over their mother.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

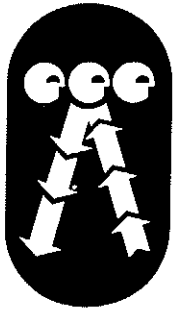
Recent prime time TV has dealt with occult themes such as witchcraft, voodoo, UFO's, ESP, ghosts, Satanists, time travel and more. In many areas cable TV brings viewers first run, uncut movies such as AUDREY ROSE (reincarnation), and EXORCIST II. Even some cartoons contain occult matter. (See Eugene Richards' "Satan's Salient Saturday Symposium," CONTACT, November, 1976).

The Bible predicts an increased interest in the occult during the endtimes. Today there are Satanic churches, parapsychology classes at colleges and black magic book stores.

Pamela Urfer writing in MOODY MONTHLY (October, 1977) reported that "incidents of contact with the supernatural that once were told only by missionaries returning from the 'dark continents' are becoming common occurrences in the U.S." It shouldn't be surprising when occultic matter appears on TV.

"One Step Beyond", a half hour drama of psychic phenomena tales viewed from 1959-1961, was revived in late 1978 as "The Next Step Beyond." The reason according to host John Newland, "The credibility factor for psychic

*(Continued on page 8)*



### NIV SALES OVER ONE MILLION

GRAND RAPIDS, MI (EP)—Pre-publication sales for the New International Version Bible have now reached 1,060,000 copies, according to Ronald N. Haynes, Executive Vice President of Sales for Zondervan Publishing House.

"This pre-publication sales figure is a record for Zondervan, and certainly a milestone for the publishing industry," remarked Haynes. "Selling one million copies of any title is extraordinary, but to realize that the millionth copy of the NIV Bible has already been sold several weeks before the official publication date of October 27 is phenomenal." The New Testament in the New International Version was published in 1973, and more than two million copies have been sold.

### DEPENDENCE ON GOD STRESSED BY KENYA'S NEW PRESIDENT

NAIROBI (EP)—Kenya's new President, Daniel Arap Moi, has acknowledged his dependence on God for the success of his rule. During his service as transitional President following the death of Jomo Kenyatta in September, the former Vice President declared, "All Kenyans, including ministers and civil servants, are answerable to me, but I am answerable to God. If I do not rule fairly, I will be judged by God."

According to a report by Beverly K. Hubble in Christianity Today magazine, the 54-year-old Mr. Moi "has been deeply influenced" by the Africa Inland Church, one of Kenya's largest Protestant denominations. Addressing an AIC memorial service for the late President Kenyatta, he urged his audience to "continue preaching the Word of God to maintain peace, love and unity."

### MAKE EVANGELISM A LIFESTYLE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTISTS URGED

TORONTO (EP)—Leaders of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF), representing nine conventions and conferences, were urged here to make evangelism a lifestyle rather than a specialty.

"We need a Christian mind in everything we do," Archie R. Goldie of Canada told some 64 Baptist leaders attending the NABF annual meeting here. "We must train ourselves to think Christian—not to think secular and add a Christian veneer."

### GIVING TO 10 DENOMINATIONS OFFSET INFLATION'S EFFECT

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—While 10 major Protestant denominations decreased in membership, their membership giving increased enough to outstrip the inflation rate from 1977 to 1978.

A National Council of Churches survey reports that contributions to those denominations increased 6.6 percent while the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index averaged 6.5 percent nationally. The survey included a total of 45 church bodies reporting total contributions of \$6,765,567,251.

The 10 major denominations identified in the survey are: the American Baptist Churches, the American Lutheran Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Episcopal Church, the Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church and the United Presbyterian Church.

These denominations have an aggregate membership of 25,474,133, down from 25,590,032 in 1976.

### AMERICANS' ECONOMIC LIFE STYLES RAPPED AS 'MURDER BY PRIVILEGE'

GREEN LAKE, WI (EP)—A noted evangelical social activist told a conference of members of historic Peace Churches here that Americans "participate in murder by privilege" through their economic life styles. Dr. Ronald J. Sider, associate professor of religion and history at Messiah College (Grantham, Pennsylvania) and author of *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, made this assertion in a Bible lecture at the "New Call to Peacemaking" conference held here by Brethren, Friends and Mennonite groups to discuss proposals for the future of peacemaking.

The scholar, a member of the Brethren in Christ, declared that "in the last 50 years, especially the last 20, the Brethren in Christ, the Church of the Brethren, the Mennonites and the Friends have moved more and more into the economic mainstream of our society. Unfortunately it is not true that our society's wealth is simply the result of God's blessing and our hard work. To a significant extent, our affluence depends on unjust economic structures that make us rich and Latin Americans hungry."

Dr. Sider also charged that "we have talked about peace and then gladly enjoyed the fruits of violence. Claiming to believe that it is the peacemakers who are blessed, we have to a terrible degree happily accepted the benefits of a violent status quo."

The scholar affirmed that "simple personal lifestyles are extremely important now—both as visible albeit imperfect models pointing to the coming kingdom and as an authentication of our call to government for sweeping systemic change."

### FEDERAL TASK FORCE RECOMMENDED TO PROBE ALLEGED ILLEGALITIES OF 'MOON ORGANIZATION'

WASHINGTON, DC (EP)—A subcommittee of the United States House of Representatives has recommended that a federal interagency task force be set up to investigate what it says are apparent illegal activities of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church and its related operations.

Referring to what it describes as "the Moon Organization," the report issued (November 1) by the Subcommittee on International Organizations of the House Committee on International Relations cites evidence pointing to violations of United States tax, immigration, banking, currency and foreign agent registration laws.

The 447-page report is based on an 18-month investigation of Korean-American relations and charges of "influence peddling." Chairman of the subcommittee which issued the report is Representative Donald M. Fraser, who charged that Mr. Moon's followers worked for his defeat in last spring's Minnesota Senate primary.

At a news conference in New York, Neil A. Salonen, president of the Unification Church of America, charged that the report was "inherently biased." He said the Church is preparing a point-by-point rebuttal of the charges made in the Congressional document, and that it will be ready "in a couple of months."

### NORTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS DEFY COURT ORDER TO FILE REPORTS

RALEIGH, NC (EP)—A member of the North Carolina State Board of Education said Christian schools that refuse to comply with state requirements to file reports should lobby in the state legislature for a change in the law.

Larry Harding of Charlotte said, "I believe the board majority certainly would want to be as lenient as possible with the Christian schools. Nobody wants to see anybody put in jail when that person or that group is standing up for principles or matters of conscience or conviction."

The Christian schools contend the requirement that church-related schools file reports with the state infringes on their constitutional rights of freedom of religion and they have refused to file the reports for more than a year. The State Board of Education, which contends it has a responsibility to see that all children get a quality education, in both public and private schools, then sued the protesting schools. In September, a Wake County Superior Court judge directed the schools to file the reports, as required by law.

The schools still refuse to file the complete reports and have given no indication that they ever intend to do so. In fact, their leaders have said they will go to jail, if necessary, to stand up for their religious convictions.



### PTL TELEVISION NETWORK ON VERGE OF COLLAPSE

CHARLOTTE, NC (EP)—A tearful Jim Bakker, president of the PTL evangelical television network, has told viewers of the daily PTL Club talkshow that the network is facing ruin and has pleaded for an immediate increase in financial contributions to keep the network and its religious programming on the air.

He made his appeal on the day the network's 800 employees were scheduled to be paid, but would not, because the \$500,000 needed was not available. "We're within days of the network ceasing," he stated on the television program. "I realized when I came to the studio today this was my last opportunity to see this ministry survive. I'm not crying wolf. I'm facing facts. I need a desperate miracle today."

Mr. Bakker spoke on the final day of a two-week telethon aimed solely at raising money to help the network out of its financial difficulties. He urged supporters to send cash or use their credit cards to make donations. Mr. Bakker told PTL Club viewers that his financial department has been receiving as many as 200 to 300 calls a day from creditors seeking payments.

Earlier, the PTL network had claimed that a computer problem has prevented it from receiving at least \$13 million in donations from its viewers and supporters and was responsible for its \$4 million debt. Bakker said the problem resulted in more than 200,000 letters going unanswered and in failure of supporters to receive envelopes in which to mail in their monthly pledges. He had said discovery of the problem would enable PTL to eliminate its indebtedness within three months.

The biggest part of PTL's reported indebtedness and financial problems has been its projected \$100 million campground and university complex just across the state line in York County, South Carolina, work on which was halted in August by the general contractor because PTL was more than \$500,000 behind in its payments.

### ATHEIST WORRIED HER SO MUCH SHE LOST HAIR, WOMAN TESTIFIES

AUSTIN, TX (EP)—Susan Stroble, a former employee of Madalyn Murray O'Hair's American Atheist Center here, testified that her hair started falling out last year after Mrs. O'Hair accused her of theft. Mrs. Stroble, 28, testifying in her \$50,000 libel suit against Mrs. O'Hair, said: "I was worried constantly and I began to notice my hair falling out . . . There were times when I would just have to go into my room or go out for a walk and just cry."

Mrs. Strobel said her husband told her a police sergeant had called concerning a complaint by Mrs. O'Hair that Mrs. Strobel allegedly stole a data cartridge from the Atheist Center where she worked as a computer programmer.

Mrs. Strobel said after that she feared arrest and having her children see her taken away in a police car. Stating "I'm not a criminal," she said she made a statement to police and passed a lie detector test.

### GAY RIGHTS AMENOMENT REJECTED BY VOTERS OF FLORIDA COUNTY

MIAMI, FL (EP)—Voters of Dade County, which includes Miami, have for the second time in 17 months refused to include protection for homosexuals in the county ordinance barring discrimination.

The vote against the measure was 189,033; 135,705 voters supported it.

But the margin of defeat dropped considerably below the earlier rejection of the measure. Bob Kunst, a gay rights activist, who headed the drive for the necessary 10,000 signatures required to place the issue on the ballot, hailed the closing of the gap as a victory. Mr. Kunst vowed to have the issue back on the ballot in the 1980 election.

As in the earlier campaign, the chief opponent of gay rights was singer Anita Bryant. She described the results of the voting as "a victory for God." She said she is not worried about Mr. Kunst getting the proposed ordinance amendment on the ballot again. "This is a moral issue," she said, "If they do it again, we'll beat them again."

Ms. Bryant and her husband, Bob Green, say they plan next month to open what they said will be the first of several counselling centers to help homosexuals change their sexual orientation to heterosexual.

### FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS "WORSE THAN PORNOGRAPHY"

WHEATON, IL (EP)—Pornographic magazines such as *Oui* and *Hustler* are no more explicit than much of the materials being used in public school sex education and family planning programs, according to a Washington spokesman of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE).

Floyd Robertson, associate director of NAE's Office of Public Affairs, said that there exists today a definite trend toward the use of materials which give false or misleading information about birth control, abortion, promiscuity, and homosexuality. He further noted that the contents of many of these books, films and pamphlets deal primarily with illicit sex acts and abnormal sexual behavior.

Robertson indicated further opposition to the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare's (HEW) active role in the production and funding of these programs. A 90-page HEW document (HSA No. 75-16607) entitled "Practical Suggestions for Family Planning Education" lists resource materials relating primarily to sexual activity.

"It is ironic that this program is called 'Family Planning Education,'" Robertson said, "when nothing could be more destructive of the Christian concept of the family. The possibility of a Congressional investigation into this whole sorry mess is not out of the question. It is long overdue."

### GROUP WITHIN CHURCH SUES TO OUST BAPTIST PASTOR

WAHNETA, FL (EP)—A Southern Baptist pastor here has had six people ousted from his church for filing a lawsuit against him. The dispute began in late August when Polk County deputy sheriffs were called to quell a domestic disturbance at the home of the pastor of First Baptist Church, the Rev. Paul Huling. No one was arrested, but several parishioners witnessed the disturbance and a vote was taken the following Sunday on whether to dismiss the pastor.

According to the persons bringing the lawsuit, the first ballot adopted a motion calling for the pastor's resignation. They say that the minister then called for a second vote, which he also lost, by 31-30. But, the plaintiffs charge, Mr. Huling then declared himself moderator of the meeting, threw out one vote against him and cast a vote in his favor to break the tie.

Six parishioners then filed suit in Polk County Circuit Court asking for an injunction to prohibit Mr. Huling from "interfering with church business." Mr. Huling threatened to oust them unless they dropped the legal action. When they refused, they were told that they had been voted out of the church by a ballot held after a regular Sunday morning worship service.

Mr. Huling has described the persons bringing the lawsuit against him as "the scum of the earth" and "hypocrites." ▲

**Why not ask God to give you a year verse for 1979?**

**First installment of a five-part series by retiring FWBBC President L.C. Johnson who retraces his steps and the events surrounding Free Will Baptist Bible College since 1935.**

# Over My Shoulder

## PART I

### Pre-Bible College Days

**By  
L. C. Johnson, President  
Free Will Baptist Bible College**

The Free Will Baptist denomination has a very checkered history. Merger with Northern Baptists in 1910 left the denomination in a fragmented state. Even though the southern branch of the denomination was not directly affected by this merger, I feel certain that the affects of it were felt in non-obvious ways.

From 1910 until 1935, there was no national organizational structure to unify the churches that did not go into the merger. What organizational structure existed was local—which in most instances meant any projects of a denominational nature were often doomed to failure because the strength of the local structure was most often very weak.

To illustrate this point: During the years in question there were several educational efforts undertaken which had local sponsorship. But

because of the weak base of support which these educational efforts had, they all failed to survive. During this period, the lack of trained leadership began to take its toll.

It was also during this same period that other denominations began making great strides to establish colleges and seminaries, turn out leadership and build great churches. Free Will Baptists, in contrast to this, had no training institutions. Any young man receiving training for the ministry had to look to these other denominational schools for his training. And most of them who did ended up finding a place of service within the denomination that had trained him.

A spirit of hopelessness became our greatest enemy in those lean years. After a number of educational failures and instances when other denominations preyed upon our churches and siphoned off many of them into their movements, we came to a point where the main

ministerial force of our denomination was made up of older men who could not meet the pastoral needs of our churches due to their age and a changing society.

However, God did give us enough men of vision to realize we must have a denominational structure that would pull together isolated pockets of Free Will Baptist churches into a united, working force. Thus the National Association was born in 1935.

A new wave of hope swept over our denomination and out of the encouragement of that hope, movements were set in motion to undertake an educational program on a national level.

It took a number of years for this hope to be realized, but the beginning point of any movement is a spirit of hopefulness and some people who will dedicate themselves to its realization. ▲

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