For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it” (Proverbs 2:21 NIV).
CAPTIVES OR CAPTAINS

Sooner or later every person will sit down to partake at the banquet table of consequences. Our consequences are always the result of our own choosing. This is inescapably true.

Several months ago I attended the 50th anniversary of my high school graduating class. Out of a class of 72, 44 of us were reunited. It was interesting and rewarding to see and visit with people most of whom I had not seen since graduation. When the day was over and we were on our way back to our homes and our separate lives, I reflected back upon it all. The rather astonishing and revealing fact to me was, though we had changed in appearance, the basic characteristics and qualities which possessed many of these classmates back in high school had remained very much the same across the intervening years. Some of them could have made choices in the earlier years of their lives which could have altered the whole course of their living and made their lives worthwhile. Instead they had missed it.

We are not the captives of some blind fate forcing us into life's mold, but we are the captains of our own destiny. We have the power to select our way of life, the road that we shall journey; but once having made our selection, we have no power to dictate or alter the results of our choosing.

Regardless of where we travel life's road or of our achievement or lack of success in life, through Jesus we can know the perfect plan and pattern of God for our lives and have the inner assurance that we are following that will and pattern. To me, this is the acme of living. With Christ in our hearts and the Master of our lives we believe we can overcome every obstacle and achieve our goals in life.

The sanctified heart produces sterling character, loving, dedicated purpose, and continual seeking after God's will for His glory. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who on December 10, 1979, was given the Nobel Prize for Peace award for her outstanding work among the poor in the slums of India, in a recent magazine article is quoted as saying, "At the hour of death, when we come face-to-face with God, we will be judged on our love—on how much love we put into action, not on how much we have done." The magazine article further quoted her, "No one thinks of the pen while reading a letter. They only want to know the mind of the person who wrote the letter. That's exactly what I am in God's hand—a little pencil. God is writing His love letter to the world in this way through works of love."

The apostle Paul closed his great chapter on love by saying, "And now abideth Faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (1 Corinthians 13:13).
May 24, 1978

Dear folks:

I have to tell you about one of our recent services in College Church. Paul [Cunningham] did the preaching. We were seated together as a family. The altar call was given and several responded. Cathy tugged at my sleeve and said, “Daddy, could I go up there and pray?” We were about three rows from the front so the girls could see everything that was happening.

I said, “Sure,” not giving too much thought to it.

Then Cathy said, “I want to go up and pray.”

I decided to ask one further question . . . not at all to discourage her, but I have seen children go forward in a very glib way and I did not want her to do this. I then said to her, “Cathy, what would you do at the altar?”

She said, “I would ask Jesus to forgive my sins and come into my heart.” Well, don’t you know I broke into a smile and said it would be all right.

Then she thought a bit longer and said, “Daddy, would you go up and pray with me?” I thought, what more could a father ask to hear from a child? Isn’t this what living here is all about?

We walked up quietly together and knelt. Cathy looked at me and asked me to help her pray. I smothered her in my arms and began to verbalize the process, not as much for the Lord’s benefit as for hers. I knew He had drawn her already. I could barely get the words out. Cathy cried as I prayed. It was a beautiful moment.

Soon the service was ended and Paul came over and asked Cathy if the Lord had helped her tonight. She said yes and that Jesus had forgiven her sins.

When I looked around, Lois and Jennifer were behind us. Jennifer was all eyes and looked about as curious as a little kitten. I started to think about a lot of things as we returned to our seats. What if I had not been able to afford the time to attend the service? What if I had not insisted that the family sit together instead of letting the kids play in church with their friends? What if I had casually brushed aside her questions during the altar call?

I am sure Cathy will go to the altar many more times, but this particular moment will live in my memory forever. For weeks I have been bothered by the fact that Cathy is over eight years old. I knew that I had even joined the church at that age. I was beginning to wonder if Cathy would grow up in the church, remain a sweet little girl, attending all the services on schedule, while all along acquiring a coolness to the real issue of salvation. I knew you would want to know how it all happened.

Love,
Keith

Editor’s Note: Dr. Keith Bell is the registrar at Mid-America Nazarene College in Olathe, Kans. We wanted to share with readers this letter he wrote his parents two years ago, for it speaks to the most important issue in the life of a father and child.
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A LITTLE BOY'S "Jesus kind of love" for an old man has really touched my life. It was an example so precious I must pass it on to you.

Week after week, Jean—a little, sickly, unlovely, sometimes angry, eccentric old man—would walk into the sanctuary at the Lamb's, usually after the service had already begun. In a perfunctory manner, he would put out his cigar on the heel of his shoe and jam the butt into his coat pocket.

With noticeably labored and exaggerated gestures, he would then tuck his Sunday newspaper under his arm and navigate his way with awkward movements down to the first row and across the front of the church.

With an almost salutary gesture, he would acknowledge the pastor's presence and then be seated. The service generally had to pause until the ritual was complete, but Jean didn't seem to know any better.

During prayers, Jean would stand to his feet with a jerk and recite the Lord's prayer loudly. His speech was unrecognizable by those who were not already familiar with the words.

One Sunday, Jean arrived early at church, but failed to put his cigar completely out before sticking it in his coat pocket. It wasn't long before we all smelled smoke and saw circles wafting upward from Jean's smouldering jacket.

After the fire was out, my husband had reached his limit. We had all tried to be tolerant of Jean's disabilities and lack of social graces, but this was the last straw for the pastor.

Paul took Jean down to the lobby and escorted him out the door. He said sternly, "Jean, I want you to take a walk and think about what you did and how serious it might have been." He went on, "And if you're going to be allowed to enjoy our company, you'll have to learn how to behave. Now don't come back unless you get it all together."

As he was speaking those words, Andy Jesser, a little nine-year-old, pled for mercy on Jean's behalf.

"Pastor, please don't kick him out! I'll take care of him. He's my friend. If he sits with me, he'll be quiet."

A little boy's plea softened a big man's heart—and soon Jean was back inside. "Greater love has no one than this," Jesus said, "that one lay down his life for his friends."

Andy was truly Jean's friend. He showed him "Jesus kind of love." Jean's only coat was ruined by the fire so Andy and Cathy (our 10-year-old daughter) took him down to the Crisis Care clothing room in the basement and picked him out a "brand-new" used coat.

In the weeks following that traumatic Sunday, Andy would always save Jean a seat on the front row,
sit with him during the service, and keep him quiet—a man-size task for one talkative little boy.

I’ll never forget the week Andy invited Jean to come to the Lamb’s Christmas theatre production. Andy had bought him a ticket and saved him a seat in the balcony, only to wait and see the show alone. Jean never showed up. He was like that sometimes. Maybe Jean misunderstood, didn’t hear, or simply forgot.

But that didn’t change Andy’s “in spite of” love that Jesus taught.

In spite of the fact that Jean was old, couldn’t hear well, spoke loudly, got angry easily, walked funny and looked different—Andy really cared.

Christmas was coming and Andy knew there would be plenty of presents for him under the big family tree in the warm Christian home of the Jessers. Andy decided he could have a Christmas party for his friend.

He bought a pair of socks for Jean, lovingly wrapped them up, and held a party for him during the coffee hour after church the week before Christmas. Not many were invited—just Jean and a few kids from the church. No big deal, but it was special for Jean . . . and Andy.

Jean knew the Lord, in his own personal way. When he had been asked to receive Christ as Savior, he responded with the Lord’s prayer—the only prayer he knew. It may not have been the conventional “sinner’s prayer,” but God heard him alright. “For­give us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.”

Christmas Day at the Lamb’s was special dinner for 120 street people and senior citizens. There were presents for all, a roaring fire, and a delicious meal—and that “Jesus kind of love.”

But where was Jean? We were soon to find out. Christmas Day, Jean suffered a heart attack. A few hours later, Jean died—alone—in his room. Jean was with the Lord.

One week later, the memorial service took place at the Lamb’s. Andy was there on the front row. He shed quite a few tears over his friend. The “Jesus kind of love” is just that way. You miss the person you laid down your life for, but you know that you’ll one day see your friend again.

Andy, although only nine, had this hope in the midst of his sorrow.

What I’ve told you is not just a moving story, but an incredibly true one that has made a major impact on my life. It has affected others in our church as well. A significant thing for me was the simplicity of “Jesus kind of love” as shown through this little boy. What an example for the rest of us!

“Jesus Kind of Love”

You who have suffered long with faltering faith,
Dreading even the birdsong at the break of dawn,
While stinging tears roll down at just the thought
That hours more of misery must go on!
Be sure, dear friend—God is not dead, He lives!
His heart is touched—His healing balm will save!
For I’ve seen powers of darkness take their flight
When I touched God, and found the peace He gave!

—FRANCES B. ERICKSON
Lake Park, Florida

GOD IS NOT DEAD

JULY 1, 1980 5
I HAVE GIVEN YOU the greatest of all things, and you ask me to give you little things," wrote George Bernard Shaw. What is the greatest of all things? Let's ask someone who knows.

"Paul, what is the greatest of all things?"

"Well, there are three great things which are eternal: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of all things is love."

Love? Well... Maybe I should've asked someone else. Let's do that.

"Lord Jesus, what is the greatest of all things?"

"You may remember that a brilliant young lawyer asked me that same question, and I told him as I tell you now, the greatest of all things is to love God with every fibre of your being. And the second greatest is to love people as you love yourself. So then, the greatest of all things is love."

That's it! On the authority of the greatest Book, which quotes the greatest Person; and on the authority of the testimony of multitudes of God's people, plus my own personal experience, I believe that the greatest of all things is love.

A gentleman in Saskatchewan, who had reached his 100th birthday, is quoted as saying, "If you love people, you'll live for a long time." Now loving is living, and the more people really love, the more they really live. But we sometimes have to learn how to love.

I've heard people say, "If you don't have it, forget about it." That's wrong! For if you don't have love, you can learn how to love. Dr. J. Allan Peterson affirms, "Love is the only emotion that can be learned." Without it life just doesn't have meaning.

A young woman recently left this world, after walking through the dark corridor to self-destruction. To explain her suicide she left a note saying, "I'm killing myself because I've never sincerely loved any human being in my life." That's the kind of world we live in: where people are killing themselves because they've never learned how to love.

Frederick the Great was seen one day whipping one of his servants; at the same time he was shouting, "Confound you, I want you to love me." But love is not something which can be commanded. If people are ever going to love, they must receive love and see love in others, so that they can learn to love.

I was raised in a home where very little love was ever expressed. I can't remember ever seeing my parents hold hands, or embrace, or even be nice to each other. And because I didn't see love, I didn't really know how to love. I knew how to be bitter... how to be sarcastic... how to hate. But when it came to loving, I had to start from scratch—I had to learn how to love.

People who live in an environment where there is lots of love are very fortunate, and have much for which to be thankful. But in our world there are so many homes where love is missing. That means that many people will have to learn how to love. To learn to love, people need to know that someone loves them.

I can remember how I lived in my late teens and early 20s—I was going through life convinced that no one loved me. How could any person love an alcoholic... a criminal... an ex-convict? My own father would cross the street to avoid me when he saw me. Neighbours were telling their children to keep away from me, or they'd end up on the scrap heap of humanity. I was absolutely unloved!

Then something happened! In an evangelistic service, I had the most wonderful revelation that any person could ever have. In that service God revealed himself to me in love. There I learned for the first time that Jesus loved me enough to die for me on the middle cross on Calvary. That revelation of the love of Christ transformed my entire being. What wonderful love!

Do you remember how the rich young ruler approached Jesus? He came out of his mansion dressed in beautiful clothes, fell down in the dirt of the street at the feet of Jesus, and looked up into His face. Jesus looked into the eyes of that young man, and the Bible tells us, "Then Jesus beholding him loved him" (Mark 10:21).

That night in the evangelistic service, Jesus looked down upon Hugh Gorman, and beholding him, He loved him. That love changed my life. The love of Jesus can do that for any person.

How on earth is it possible for people to really love? The Bible tells us, "We love him, because he
first loved us” (1 John 4:19). We love because He loves. We have love because He has love. God is love! And wonder of wonders, He wants to give that love to us, and He wants us to give that love to others. That’s the way that love goes around the world. In fact, that’s what makes the real world go round—God sharing with people, and people sharing with others.

A little girl sat in a rocking chair hugging her doll. She kissed the doll, then hugged it, and then spoke words of love to it. But from time to time, she’d look longingly at her mother who was working at the sewing machine. When the mother finished what she was doing, the little girl ran to her, climbed onto her knee, and said, “I’m so glad you’re finished, Mum; I wanted to love you so much.”

“Did you, darling?” the mother asked, “But I thought you were having such a wonderful time with your doll.”

“I was, Mum,” the girl explained, “But I get tired loving her because she never loves me back.”

Love—God’s love—can change the world! And Jesus wants to teach us how to love. He said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me” (Matthew 11:28-29). Let me teach you how to live, by first of all teaching you how to love. He will teach us how to love God with every fibre of our being.

Jesus also wants to teach people how to love themselves, how to have a healthy self-esteem. He did say that we’re to love others as we love ourselves. I can vividly remember having a deplorably low self-esteem. I became a recluse, hating the person I was . . . the things I did . . . the way I treated people. I remained that way until Jesus came and gave me love and showed me how to use it.

It is the will of God for everybody to have a proper self-esteem. We are all unworthy, but not one of us is worthless. We were made in the image of God, and so precious in the eyes of Jesus that He died for us. We are all VIPs—very important people—in the sight of God. He loves every one of us and has a beautiful plan for our lives. That plan includes loving others.

Love makes people feel good, and the more we love others, the better we’ll all feel. That means we’ll love those whom some call “unlovable.”

“Do you like dolls?” a little girl asked the house-guest.

“Why, yes, very much,” the man responded.

“Then, I’ll show you mine,” replied the girl, and presented her whole family of dolls one by one.

“Which one is your favorite doll?” inquired the visitor.

“I don’t have her here, but I’ll go get her,” said the girl, as she ran from the room. In a moment she returned with an old tattered and torn doll. It was without hair, its nose was broken, its cheeks were torn, and an arm and a leg were missing.

“Well, well,” said the visitor, “and why do you like that one the best?”

“I love her most because if I didn’t, nobody else would.”

Today, in our world, there are very precious people who will never really be loved unless we love them. Remember, loving is living!

For today, just be content
To take the moments as they fly;
Once you’ve given them to Jesus,
Accept what comes—not asking why.

Know the bliss of simply trusting,
Know the joy of resting free.
Faith—not in the way I travel—
But in the Guide who’s leading me.

—AMY MACUMBER
Winnipeg, Manitoba

SIMPLY TRUSTING

There is a way through the wilderness,
There is an answer to your cry;
Trust the Lord; leave all with Him,
You’ll see His answer by and by.

For today, just be content
To take the moments as they fly;
Once you’ve given them to Jesus,
Accept what comes—not asking why.

Know the bliss of simply trusting,
Know the joy of resting free.
Faith—not in the way I travel—
But in the Guide who’s leading me.

—AMY MACUMBER
Winnipeg, Manitoba
THE DAY BEGAN ROUTINELY. I was working at the Atomic Power Plant in Shippingport, Pa. I was working temporarily in a little shanty, made of plywood and 2 x 4s. The building itself was no bigger than 3’ x 4’ in dimension, with room for one chair and wastebasket. I had a small cabinet nailed to a shelf in the corner, which made it even smaller inside.

My job was to issue passes for any equipment that left the jobsite, and log the passes in a logbook. I had written a few passes on that 28th day of June, 1976 and had logged them in, when I glanced out the window of the shanty. I saw 27 years of my life passing before my eyes! An 80-ton crane with caterpillar tracks was headed straight for me at a high rate of speed.

I attempted to run up a small, rocky grade just outside the door of my shanty, when I slipped and hit the ground. Then I felt the worst pain I had ever experienced in my life, which at this time was very sinful. I remember screaming and thinking that I was about to die. The runaway crane was resting on my legs from the knees down, which felt like they were being amputated. I felt a deep burning sensation, and I asked God to save my legs, because I had a five-month-old baby boy at home with his mother, whom I thought I’d never see again.

I remember two men trying to dig my legs out from under the crane. While they were digging out my left leg, a ground crew was attempting to lift the crane off me. When the left leg was out, the cable broke, sending the crane down on my right leg again. In the second attempt to raise the crane, they finally got my leg out from under it. I know that God had His hands on me that day because even though my legs were crushed and broken, they were still attached.

I was rushed by ambulance, along with the plant nurse and paramedic, to the nearest hospital—about 15 miles away. In the emergency room nurses and an orthopedic doctor began to work on me.

The doctor ordered me to be taken to X-ray, then on to surgery. While going down the hall to surgery my wife, mother-in-law, mom and dad, and brother arrived. I had been heavily sedated, but couldn’t tell they had all been crying. I asked my wife where our baby was, and was told a neighbor was keeping him.
by LARRY LAWSON
Midland, Pennsylvania

I kissed my wife and mother and was taken into the operating room, where surgery lasted over four hours.

I knew there was another doctor present besides the one who operated—the Lord Jesus Christ. When I awoke hours later, still drowsy, I was informed that my legs were still intact.

Two weeks later I was released from the hospital and taken by ambulance to my parents’ home. I could only leave the bed when someone lifted me into a wheelchair.

When I returned to the hospital to have my casts checked, the doctor discovered that the bone in my right leg had slipped out of alignment. Surgery was performed to insert a rod in the bone, and I spent another month in the hospital. While there they taught me how to use a walker and crutches.

All this time I was not a Christian. My heart was bitter toward the people at fault in my accident. My mother, a Christian, explained to me that it was wrong for me to hold a grudge against them and that I would have to forgive those who were responsible.

In January, 1977, I was informed that still another surgery was needed to shorten my left leg, because the accident had left it an inch longer than the right leg. This time I was in the hospital a week. In May I was informed that I would have to have surgery again. My nerves had been slowly deteriorating. I broke down and wept when I was told this. I was sent to Pittsburgh, where a pressure plate was placed in my leg, and I spent a week in the hospital there.

We had moved back into our own apartment. I had been receiving compensation checks every two weeks since the accident. The money wasn’t much, but God made sure my family had food and shelter and clothing, though I had not given my heart to Him. I smoked, and also drank because of the anger I held in my heart against the people responsible for the accident.

In November an infection formed around the plate in my leg. A fifth operation was needed to remove the plate so the infected tissue could heal.

In May of 1978, the little Nazarene church my wife and mother attended was having revival services and they asked me to go. I refused, until the last day of the revival, which fell on Mother’s Day. My father and I both went and were saved. I still had the smoking problem, but in October, during another revival, the Lord delivered me.

In November I entered the hospital for my fifth operation, but this time the Lord was with me. A week later I was released. In another week I was able to return to church with my wife and son. I still have a bad limp, but thank God I still have my legs! And thank God I found the Lord and am now a Christian. With Him, I can face all life’s problems.

PEN POINTS

CHANGING LABELS

Today we use many psychological and sociological excuses to cover up or to dodge a serious confrontation with human sin. Liberals blame circumstances and conservatives blame the devil. The fact is, we are sinners who need to be saved. This is what psychiatrist Karl Menninger writes in his book What Ever Became of Sin?

We want to avoid facing our condition, so we seek to speak of sin in ways which seem to make it less serious. Bishop Roy Nicholas told about a man who was very proud of his accomplishments and decided to delve into his family tree to discover the reason for his achievements. While studying his history he stumbled on some disgraceful information concerning a certain Uncle Josh, who was put in prison and electrocuted. When he wrote the account of his family history, he glossed over the behavior of Uncle Josh by saying, “Uncle Josh occupied the chair of applied electricity at one of the leading government institutions. He was attached to his position by the strongest ties and his death came as a great shock.”

Thus we seek to gloss over sin great and small. We use terms which soften sin rather than using the biblical language which speaks of sin as exceedingly wicked. We refuse to face up to what sin really is.

W. E. Sangster, in one of his sermons, spoke of a meeting of psychiatrists, doctors, social workers and ministers. There was a great deal of discussion about premarital and extramarital sex. An old rural pastor was present and he was confused by the more technical terms. Trying to get into the discussion he said, “Premarital and extramarital sex—are you talking of fornication and adultery?”

Dr. Sangster said, “I can still see the astonishment those plain biblical words created in that assembly.”

When we gloss over the seriousness of sin we do not help people. Rather we grease the path to hell.

—JOHN M. DRESCHER
Scottdale, Pennsylvania
HAVING LIVED all of my life on the west coast of the United States prior to entering the army, I was not aware of the regional prejudices that prevailed in my country. During basic training I met men from New York, Texas, and California. Each one was prejudiced in favor of his own area of the country. This was not unusual or unfounded. Each from his perspective was right but, needless to say, this regional identification led to many heated discussions with nothing ever being resolved. This was not unlike the situation in Jesus’ day. Jesus found prejudice against the city of Nazareth. It was the town where He had been raised and He had come to accept many of its natural advantages. It was strategically located; several main trade routes ran through the town. Geographically, it rose above the plain, producing a certain loftiness. As a result, Nazareth was looked upon with much suspicion by the surrounding people. The Jews consider Nazareth as rather insignificant because there were no Old Testament prophecies regarding Nazareth nor was there any hint that the Messiah would come from there.

Nathanael concurred in this assessment even though he lived only 10 miles from Nazareth in Cana. There was a natural rivalry between these two towns, but there existed a much stronger regional rivalry between Galilee and Judea. The religious experts of the day believed that the Messiah would surely come from Judea. Even Nathanael, who came from Galilee, accepted this.

A skeptical response on his part was therefore to be expected when Philip told him that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah.

I would suspect that most of us, when we read Nathanael’s question, “Can anything good come from there?” (John 1:46, NIV), would put contempt in his voice and a sneer on his lips. But Jesus’ reaction to His question was to praise His character. Jesus called him “a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false” (John 1:47, NIV). In the words that are so familiar to us, “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile” (KJV), we find that Jesus did not accuse Nathanael of being prejudiced. There was no contempt in Nathanael’s response according to Jesus. Jesus’ two-pronged evaluation of his char-
There was prejudice against the city of Nazareth. Nathanael was skeptical when told that Jesus was from Nazareth; “Can anything good come from there?” Knowing Jesus changed all that.

acter was that Nathanael was one of God’s chosen people who lived a life pleasing to God, and there was nothing false in him. That is to say that there was an openness about him that revealed a sincere character. He had no selfish ambition to conceal, no wrong motives to suppress, and no secrets to hide.

This evaluation of Nathanael was indeed high praise. It was praise that is reserved for true believers (Revelation 14:15) and for Christ himself (1 Peter 2:22). No one else in all of the New Testament was said to be without guile.

Nathanael’s transparent character was further revealed by his response to Jesus’ evaluation. He asked Jesus, “How do you know me?” Note, no form of address was used. He used no title of respect in addressing this stranger from Nazareth. He was cautious and would not be fooled into believing in a false Messiah. However, following Jesus’ answer, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you” (John 1:48, NIV), Nathanael addressed Jesus as “Rabbi.” He acknowledged Him as a teacher and submitted to His authority. He made this profession of faith, “you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel” (John 1:49, NIV). Nathanael had found the Messiah, the Savior that he and all Israel had been waiting for. His hopes and dreams had been fulfilled. He now had no qualms about becoming Jesus’ disciple.

Nathanael had a simple yet profound encounter with Jesus. His openness and honesty made it easy for the Lord to gain access to his heart. Prejudice was no longer a problem; his preconceived ideas regarding where the Messiah should come from faded away. He was not only a true Israelite but also a true disciple.

Could it be that Jesus is hindered from gaining access to our hearts because of our prejudices? If we are to be true disciples, shouldn’t we be without guile—without selfish ambition, wrong motives, and secrets?

Lord, help me to be more open and honest with You.

What is this richness,
Fulness of blessing,
Sense of God’s presence
Wondrously near?
What is this sunlight
Beaming upon me,
Piercing my darkness,
Stilling my fear?

What is this music
Ringing around me,
Sweetness celestial,
Concord divine?
What is this pleasure,
Exquisite beauty,
Joy overflowing—
Why are these mine?

Where is the darkness
Lately about me?
Where are the heartaches
Not understood?
This is God’s promise—
He is in all things,
Silently planning,
Working my good!

Working His purpose—
Joy in earth’s sorrow;
All His good pleasure—
Peace in earth’s pain;
Praise to the Savior,
Sovereign Recycler,
Working through all things
Heavenly gain!

—MARGARET CLARKSON
Willowdale, Ontario
CHRISTIANS live in four dimensions: experience, character, personality, and culture. If our Christian witness is going to count, all four must be compatible and mutually supportive.

Our Christian experience is basic, of course. This is that personal relationship with God through Christ which gives us the right to call ourselves Christians. It includes not only justification and sanctification by faith, but a daily walk with God in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit desires full access to every cranny of our being, to cleanse, teach, and mold us.

Character is the moral quality of our personhood. Surely if the Holy Spirit is within us our character will basically be good, not evil. We will be pure, honest, and loving. However, our character needs to be strong as well as good. Just as the body needs to be “in shape” through proper exercise and wise eating, so our character needs to be firm and disciplined. If at any point we allow moral flabbiness to creep in, we become needlessly vulnerable to temptation. Our integrity must have iron in it. We build ourselves up through prayer, Bible study, the reading of good books, and obedience.

Personality is that composite of personal traits which we communicate to others. How do we affect people around us? Do they enjoy us, or shun us? Some people are depressing, others stimulating. Personality makes the difference. It is possible to have good character but bad personality, without knowing it. We may be abrasive and irritating, or perhaps overpowering. As Christians we desire a personality which reminds people of Jesus. Our motive for improving our personality should be better to serve our Lord, not just to attract people to ourselves.

But what about culture? Perhaps this is the Cinderella of the Christian life—often despised and neglected, but in the end beautiful and winning. We are much more accustomed to giving attention to Christian experience and character than we are to culture. This is proper, for they are more important in the total scheme of things. But it is time that Christians began to take more seriously the cultural side of life. For this, too, affects our influence on the unsaved around us. If we are ignorant, crude, and boorish, our light will not shine as far as it will if we are knowledgeable, refined, tactful, and mannerly. The improvement therefore of our culture is simply a matter of good stewardship.

There are perils in becoming culture-conscious. One is that we will become snobs. We may be trapped into putting on airs and affecting artificial tones and fancy speech. This is the result of trying to impress people with our “culture.” But when we become pretentious and theatrical, or mincing and simpering, we only make ourselves ridiculous and cause amusement. Truly cultured people are natural, simple, and genuine. And they never consider themselves above others. They do not despise the “rabble” around them. No one was more cultured than Jesus, yet all felt at ease in His presence. The ability to make people feel at ease is one of the surest marks of true culture.

Another peril of becoming concerned about culture is putting on a sudden fanfare of interest in the fine arts which is way beyond either our knowledge or real interest. We may attend concerts and visit art galleries, yet our culture remain only skin deep. There needs to be an inner development, a real understanding and appreciation of the finer things.
What music do we really prefer when the mask is off? Too many of us as Christians like the cheap and garish, whether we are thinking of clothes, art, or music, and have too little real desire for the best. Some friends went with us one night to hear the Messiah. On the way home they raucously imitated the arias, making great sport of the whole thing. It was beyond them. They were true Christians (that's experience), had good character, and fairly good personalities; but a missing dimension was their perception of the beautiful. They were the poorer for it. Sadly, many are like them. Even in religious music there is not just a "good, better, best," but abominable, fair, and best. Unfortunately, in many circles the abominable prevails.

But even good taste in the fine arts is not the whole of culture. A cultured person has a well modulated voice, uses correct grammar, is aware of proper social conventions, dresses with propriety and good taste (no faded jeans in church!), practices good manners, is unfailingly courteous. Recently I read: "Class is grace under pressure." And that is culture.

Culture, to be Christian, must be from the heart. The heart is gracious. This means that politeness is unfailingly courteous. Recently I read; "Class is grace under pressure." And that is culture.

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The Bible teaching is that we are not to toss aside the proprieties in the name of Christian freedom, when by so doing we misrepresent the church and create a grotesque image. This has something to say to us today about trying to shock by being outlandish in manners or getup. This is pride and vanity, not Christian good sense. It also has a bearing on whether or not Christians should identify with a subculture, especially if that subculture is deliberately seeking to affront parents, the church, and the "establishment" in general.

Another biblical guideline is the counterbalancing need for nonconformity. "Be not conformed to this world is the command (Romans 12:2). Phillips' rendering is especially apt: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould." Don't let a sensual, sex-ridden, materialistic, ladder-climbing world write the fine print for your lifestyle. At times Christians should conform to the prevailing culture, when that culture is morally neutral, and when to do so affords a bond of friendship and communication. But the Christian soon reaches the limit of such useful conformity. Beyond that limit conformity becomes betrayal. Christian culture demands at times a clean-cut break with the "in" thing. The Holy Spirit will give us discernment, if we sharpen our minds along these lines, and clean the wax out of our ears.

As needed as these precepts are, in the end they point us to Jesus, the Great Exemplar of Christian culture. To visualize Him, we cannot trust the artists of our day. Many of their conceptions are sheer fantasy, without any basis in historical fact. All the evidence suggests that He was a typical man of his day, in dress, speech, and manner. Yet He had that plus about Him which drew children and women, and inspired instant respect and admiration in men. All who came within the magnetic field of His personality felt His warmth, compassion, tenderness, and strength. We can be absolutely sure He used no slang or crudities of speech or made questionable wisecracks. He did not guffaw at the expense of others. He was not loud or boisterous. Yet His voice, while gentle, carried a ring of authority. We cannot match Him, but we can at least see Him as our model.

It is, then, a Christian duty to become cultured. It is our duty to become the best kind of person we can be, in mental powers, aesthetic tastes, professional skills, parenthood, and churchmanship. This will require reading, study, going to school perhaps, self-discipline, much prayer, and time with the Word. But the culture must be Christian—which means it must be not a means of personal display, but an instrument of service, for Jesus' sake.
White water rafting is fun! There is nothing quite like the thrill of charging through the water powered by a good stiff river current that is brought under control by lots of "know how."

White water rafting can also be devastating. There is nothing more embarrassing than attempting to swim back to an overturned raft that bucked you off like an untamed stallion, because of a rushing, swirling rapid, and a lack of "know how."

The very same rapid can bring "the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat." The difference is the person who knows what he is doing as opposed to the one who doesn't. To have a good white water raft adventure, you need lots of fast water, plenty of rapids, loads of courage, and plenty of "know how."

For instance, I watched a couple of rafting parties last summer on the American River in the heart of California's Mother Lode Country, as we too enjoyed an all-day adventure. These two groups of novice rafters had to humbly admit they did not know much about rafting, but only after a series of hidden rocks and rough water took the wraps off their courage and laid bare their lack of "know how." They had just enough knowledge to be dangerous. They were convinced they could handle the raft in a series of rapids and quick turns that was only safe for experienced sailors. Somehow they had convinced the instructor also.

They started out great because the water was calm where they "put in." But the current soon took control as they rushed along in the churning river. Just as they attempted to paddle abruptly to the side of the river to avoid protruding rocks, disaster struck and over they went. They lacked the skill to take on the river at the peak of its power. They simply couldn't bring the raft under control.

Now the instructor and guide had to go quickly to their rescue. Their courage suddenly collapsed into fear and they admitted their lack of ability. At this point, they willingly followed his leadership. Their pride yielded to need, as they reached out for help. The raft was quickly righted, and a humbled crew of would-be rafters allowed someone with "know how" to give further instruction, and guide them safely on down the boiling, white water river.

This is so much like our Christian life. All too many want instant success, but are too proud to admit their need for continuing help and instruction. Many followers have started well, going with the current in its more placid state. They are robust, enthusiastic, have loads of courage, and they think everything is under control until they enter the real force of the river as it narrows into a twisting canyon. Before you know it, over they go.

Just think of how frequently the Word of God used rough waters to teach some big lessons. On more than one occasion, turbulent water stripped away outward courage and laid bare inner inadequacies. Even those who were confident that they knew the art of successful navigation, were rapidly brought to the place of admitting their lack of "know how."

Courageous men of the sea had to give up the fight against the angry sea (Mark 6:48). They called out in fear because they were at the end of their resources. Old Jonah, caught in rough waters, was forced to admit his true feelings about God's will. He surrendered to the high sea and jumped overboard. The seasoned sailors of the prison ship that was transporting the apostle Paul to appear before Caesar were ready to listen to God's man only after they realised their own inability to ride out 14 days of high seas (Acts 27:21). James reminds us that the lack of faith can cause us to be tossed about as a wave of the sea (James 1:6).

Perhaps we need to understand, again, our inability to navigate the waters of life. The Spirit of Christ, our Instructor and Guide—who controls rough and calm water alike, who speaks peace in the midst of fear and panic, who rights our vessel—is the only One who has the ability to turn us around and take us safely through the events of life. Talk about "know how"! Remember, He made the waters. He commands, "Peace, be still," and all obeys. As the waters rage, He says, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Let Him use His "know how" to guide your life. Let Him instruct and be in control. There is simply no "know how" like His. Mine is inadequate. Only through relinquishing my "know how" can I fully benefit from the only adequate instructor and guide... the Spirit of Christ!
This was an unusual statement for the writer to make in an age that had so much moral impurity within its social order. Yet in Titus 1:15 we find this declaration. Another translator renders it, “Everything is pure to the pure-minded.” The man who is pure in heart can behold the impurity around him and yet keep his own spirit uncontaminated. There is a marvelous preserving power that accompanies purity of heart. This is what Tennison meant when he said of Sir Galahad, “His strength was as the strength of ten because his heart was pure.”

Kierkegaard describes purity of heart as a singleness of purpose. This singleness of purpose must be a desire to do the whole and perfect will of God. At times our problem in finding the will of God is greater than the problems raised by our following this will, but the man who has purposed in his heart to do it can eventually find this perfect will.

Purity of heart is produced by a crisis spiritual experience, but is maintained by daily disciplines. In reporting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles, Peter says that God “put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.” The infilling of the Spirit of God brought a wonderful cleansing to the people who were with one accord and in one place. Their singleness of purpose could well be described by our word “consecration.” The heart that is open before God will receive both a cleansing by, and a filling of, His Holy Spirit. This wonderful experience has been received by countless souls across the centuries.

To maintain this purity, the sanctified man looks at his environment through the lens of a pure heart. Where evil is concerned, he beholds as a spectator rather than a participant. The bacteriologist looks through the microscope to see the virus of a fatal disease. He inspects germs that hold dreadful potentialities. He has prepared himself by antiseptic procedures, however, so that this bacteria can have no contact with him. His own aseptic character is so strong that as far as its reaction to him is concerned, the impure can do him no more harm than if it were pure. Kierkegaard said, “Purity of heart is to will one thing.” By this he meant that the desire for purity must be uppermost in our desires.

Moral decay is all about us today. The loosening of traditional standards of conduct is appalling. That which once we abhorred we are now urged to accept. Moral failures among youth reared in Nazarene homes are far too many. The glorification of the sex act as a source of pleasure, and the materialistic philosophy that anything that can add to your own satisfaction is ethically right, has led many who were once spiritually minded to turn aside for baser pursuits.

There is only one solution to the perplexing problems that plague us—first to make the surrender to God that brings to us that deeper cleansing, and then to keep Him and His purposes preeminent in our lives so that, like the saints in Caesar’s household, we can be in the world but not of it. We can, like Daniel, dwell in Babylon but not defile ourselves with the king’s meat. To the pure, thank God, all things can be pure!
BROTHER PASTOR, I am sorry to hear you are leaving. I once asked a pastor why he was leaving and he told me. I was shocked by more than I wanted to hear. So I will not ask you.” That is the way one thoughtful woman, now gone to Glory, responded to the announcement of my resignation of an unnamed Nazarene pastorate.

A change of ministers always creates crisis for a church. Most human organizations flounder without a leader; but the church suffers more because a pastor is more than just an organizational leader. Pastors stand with persons in times of immense personal loss, they bury our dead, marry our children, and support us in times of great spiritual need. Very often congregations experience grief, guilt, and disappointment when a minister moves; losing a pastor causes pain.

Both fear and hope are present in a congregation’s response to a pastoral change. Hope rises that this change will lead to the resolution of old problems and result in renewed ministry. Fears emerge that the change will be for the worse. Some folks think the change is a good idea; others believe it is both undesirable and ill-timed.

But how does the moving look to the pastor? What factors led to the pastor’s conclusion that he should change assignments? What is the impact of this moving on his family? Why do pastors move?

Divine Direction. In the Church of the Nazarene, we believe strongly in a God-called ministry; this divine leadership in the lives of spiritual leaders means our preachers are trusted totally with the content of their preaching; their testimony of a personal call to ministry is accepted as the will of God; and the final decision regarding their place of ministry is to be settled by them alone before God. Confidence in divine direction is exceedingly precious to Nazarenes everywhere, including pastors, parishioners, and district superintendents. May it always be so.

Opportunity. Some churches are going somewhere. When you talk to lay leaders in those churches, you just know that their church is on its way to effective ministry. For the prospective pastor, this sense of opportunity is not salary, housing, facility, or even personnel. Most often it is a sense of enthusiastic congregational commitment. Trivia, legalism, and retrenchment are nowhere to be seen. These congregations impact a preacher with the notion that they are eager to live under the authority of the Word of God, serious about soul winning, solid in stewardship, and willing to build a church.

Sometimes ministerial opportunities come as duty assignments from God. For example, at least two home mission churches in our denomination are shepherded by veteran pastors in their late 40s who resigned much stronger churches because they sensed this as a special assignment from God, filled with ministerial adventure. Sometimes such duty assignments are extended by a local church and/or district superintendent to serve troubled churches where the survival of a given church appears to depend on the unique skills of a given pastor. Ministers sometimes move because they are convinced that a new assignment is a duty assigned them by God.

Economics. Nearly every pastor either has been or is presently involved in some economic sacrifice.
related to his ministry. Of course, salaries are up these days, but so is everything else. I know a church which gave a $5.00 per week raise every year for 10 years. In those 10 years the church’s annual income increased about 900 percent and membership increased 500 percent. Those increases brought rejoicing to all involved, but the ratio of pastor’s salary to progress only led the pastor to believe that his ministry was not adequately valued by his congregation.

Maybe every pastor is willing to live with a sacrificial salary level as long as he knows a congregation is doing its financial best.

Silent Majority. In most organizational groupings of people, the negative remarks are much more frequently expressed than positive comments. In a family, parents correct the children much more than they compliment them. Taxpayers criticize the government with little thought for the benefits of government. Even our newspapers report more bad than good news. Regrettably, it is also true in the church. Most of us talk more about what needs changing than about the plus factors in the congregation where we worship. One gossip working on presumption without information can depress a preacher and sometimes cause him to resign. Imagine the conditions of the relationships with your spouse, parents, or children if the only words were corrective and critical. The confidence and loyalty of the people he pastors are needed by every minister.

Have you personally obeyed this scripture: “We beg you, brothers, to acknowledge those who are working so hard among you, and in the Lord’s fellowship are your leaders and counsellors” (1 Thessalonians 5:12, NEB)?

Hold your pastor in the highest possible esteem and affection for the work he does. Show your understanding and love in tangible ways. You will discover a treasured friend and expand his ministry.

Maybe the moving vans or the U-Haul trailers will be seen less frequently at the parsonage door.

WHERE YOU ARE

God cannot use you where you’re not
Or where you’d like to be.
Don’t murmur or bewail your lot;
Don’t wish that you were free
To go where others have been sent,
To travel near or far.
Just fill your place and be content
To be used where you are.

—CHRIS GRAUMAN
Peoria, Illinois

**PAPA’S NEIGHBORS**

ALICE J. KINDER, author

“As a child,” reminisces Alice J. Kinder, “I scribbled verses and stories on incidents that happened to our family. My father was a writer, and the longing to write was as natural to me as eating and breathing. As I grew older, I appreciated my father, not only for his writing ability, but more for his living the ‘Good Samaritan’ life and helping everyone.”

That’s the papa of author Kinder’s book, *Papa’s Neighbors*—15 glimpses into the Justice family of Pike County in the Kentucky hills.

“Before papa died in 1968, I had written several of the papa stories and had a few accepted by Christian magazines. As he lay dying, papa kept talking to me about my writing. At his bedside, I promised I’d continue to write and not give up, despite rejections. After he settled my writing, he spoke of heavenly music and feared the neighbors might be needing apples.”


Here is a book that extols the simple life. Papa’s activities were diverse: farmer, teacher, Good Samaritan, dispenser of counsel, philosopher, and warm, loving parent. To him Christianity meant going out of his way to help people—going the second, third, and even fourth mile. He vigorously implemented his faith in human nature, “Virtues lie waiting to be developed in everyone,” he insisted. And seldom was he proven mistaken.

It’s a beautiful story of a fast disappearing way of life in the Kentucky hills—and it’s inspiring. Papa’s influence was limited geographically, but his ministry spread like the eddies in a pond. Doubtless many shall arise in the day of rewards to call him blessed.

Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City
To order, see page 23.

CHRIS GRAUMAN
Peoria, Illinois

JULY 1, 1980 17
FREEDOM AND MISSIONS

This month two great nations, Canada and the United States, celebrate their political freedom. Think about the thousands of people who fled from Viet Nam, from Cambodia, and from Cuba, and you will have some idea of how precious such freedom is. Democracy has its flaws, but it does permit a larger measure of personal liberty than other forms of government. Communism has its strengths, but it strips away freedom and reduces people to slaves of the state.

If Communist countries allowed their citizens freedom to emigrate, people would spill over their borders like water over a broken dam. The human spirit craves freedom. Those who barter away liberty for the promise of bread soon come to realize that a full stomach is too great a price tag for a chained spirit.

Free nations have shrunk in numbers during this century, but precisely these free countries attract those who can manage to escape from Communism. Defectors aren't fleeing from Russia to Cuba! You don't trade hornets for wasps.

Christianity is not identical with democracy or capitalism. But Christianity has certainly flourished better under those political and economic system than under dictatorships. Christianity will endure under the worst of circumstances. The gates of hades shall not prevail against the Church of Jesus Christ. But the church has a greater opportunity for mission and evangelism where political freedom is extended to all citizens. No Canadian and no United State citizen should be more grateful for this climate of freedom than are the Christians in these two great lands.

When Dr. George Coulter visited Cuba recently, he found the church bravely persevering in ungenial circumstances. But the Cuban church has not been able to export its product! It has not been free to send missionaries and witnesses to other world areas. Neither has the church in China or in Russia been able to do this. Survival has been the name of the game behind Communist curtains. That should make us deeply grateful for free nations which can serve as bases for global missions.

SOME OF OUR ROOTS

"I know where you're coming from." These words are used frequently nowadays. They are shorthand for, "I understand the forces and events that have shaped your attitudes and actions." Behind them lies a simple truth, that people do not know who they are or why they are without some awareness of their roots. Which brings me to a book you should read.

In 1974, Charles Edwin Jones's book Perfectionist Persuasion: The Holiness Movement and American Methodism, 1867-1936 appeared. It was soon out of print but has remained in demand, so The Scarecrow Press, Inc., of Metuchen, N.J., has issued another printing.

Mr. Jones, a native of Kansas City and an alumnus of NTS, delves into the roots of the modern holiness movement, including the Church of the Nazarene. He describes his book as "social commentary." It views the holiness movement within the context of the sweeping changes produced in America during that period, as thousands left rural and small-town settings for the rapidly growing industrial cities.

I found the book valuable and delightful. Valuable because of the insights furnished into the beginnings of the many holiness groups that splintered Methodism, and delightful because it is readable and understandable, not bogged down with technical jargon that only erudite experts can decipher.

Among the intriguing features of the book are early photos of people and places important to the holiness movement (including one of Dr. Phineas Bresee auctioning lots in Olivet!), and brief personality sketches of holiness leaders.

The faith of our holiness pioneers, the persecutions they endured, and the successes they achieved are recounted, along with their failures and foibles.

Those whose interest will carry that far will find the appended tables of information and statistics fascinating. But the general reader will appreciate the wealth of fact and comment which is compressed into 142 pages of narrative and illustration which helps us to know where we are coming from—and could help us to know where we ought to be heading.
If Communist countries allowed their citizens freedom to emigrate, people would spill over their borders like water over a broken dam. The human spirit craves freedom.

**ALERT TO OPPORTUNITY**

British scientist R. V. Jones, in his book *The Wizard War*, not only details some fascinating history of World War II but also shares some delightful insights into a number of interesting personalities.

One of them is a scientist named Roy Piggott, who proved to be exceptionally alert to opportunity. Piggott and his wife had a problem with their baby. Whenever they tried to trim its nails the baby howled in such vigorous protest that the effort had to be abandoned. One day they heard a thump from the baby’s room and rushed in to discover it had fallen from its crib and was knocked unconscious. They hurried the baby to the doctor, but not until Piggott got the scissors and cut its nails!

Whatever we think of Piggott’s action, alertness to opportunity is a very desirable thing.

Peter was a man alert to opportunity. When a crowd was attracted by the leaping and the praises of a healed cripple, Peter preached Christ to them. Before displeased authorities could hustle the apostle off to jail, hundreds had heard the message and many were converted. You can read about it in Acts 3.

Philip was a man alert to opportunity. He saw a man in a chariot reading the Bible, and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The man confessed his need for an interpreter and invited Philip to ride with him. The Spirit-led hitchhiker “began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus” (Acts 8:26-40). As the happy consequence, the Ethiopian official was converted, baptized, and “went on his way rejoicing.”

We never know when the Lord will create an opportunity for us to help others and to bear witness for Christ. What looks like a chance happening will be providential, set up by the loving wisdom of the Lord. Unless we are alert to the Spirit’s guidance, we can easily forfeit these priceless opportunities. We can rush by them, caught up with lesser matters, and never know—until the judgment—what might have been achieved for Christ.

May the Lord keep us watchful and eager, sensitive to human needs and alert to divine promptings!

**A PRECIOUS FRIEND**

had a phone call the other day from a very precious friend named Flora Belle Britt. It was my privilege to be her pastor for eight years in Atlanta, Georgia. What makes her so special and precious is this—she has prayed for me, and for my family, every day for the past 19 years! Not a day goes by that she does not call our names and set our needs before the Lord. How much of the blessings and achievements of my ministry owe to her faithful intercession, only God knows. It is a humbling and heartening thing to know that someone prays for you every day.

She is herself an evidence of the power God releases through prayer. When I left Atlanta in ’69 she was very ill with cancer. I thought she would soon be dead. Twice while I was teaching college in California I received telephone messages alerting me to the probability of her imminent death. But when she called the other day she said, “I’m feeling better than I have for the past 12 years.” She had spent that day working in the yard!

Her prayers to be spared were not selfish. She was raising her grandchildren, and she asked God to let her live to see them grown and on their own. God brought her back from the very gates of death more than once. And just think, even in her days of awful sickness and intense pain she prayed for us! She put me and Doris, our children and their children, before the Lord in fervent intercession. No one could deserve such a friend, but how much it means to have one!

When I hung up the phone, I thought, “Everyone should have a friend like Flora Belle.” What a difference it could make in anyone’s life to have the daily support of the prayers of a believing Christian. And then I thought, “Everyone should be a friend like Flora Belle.” For it is more blessed to give than to receive, to serve than to be served, to pray than to be prayed for. Her spirit has grown in Christlikeness by her unselfish love and prayers for undeserving people like me.

Choose someone who needs help, and begin today to pray for them, and don’t miss a day for the rest of your life.

*JULY 1, 1980*
R. GEORGE COULTER is first and foremost a servant of Jesus Christ, minister of the gospel of the grace of God. He was a beloved pastor. As a district superintendent he established something of a denominational record in church planting. He gave dynamic, creative leadership as executive secretary of World Missions. And for 16 years he has added grace and strength to the general superintendency. This outstanding record speaks for itself. Yet none of these achievements seems to be very important to George Coulter; he remains what he was when he began his ministry in a small church in western Canada—a genuine, Spirit-filled, unaffected preacher of the unsearchable riches of Christ. George Coulter is a great human being, graced by the Spirit of Christ. Possessed of a boundless wit and personal charm, he is always the same. Gifted with keen intelligence and fluency of speech, he is never bested in a battle of words. Yet I have never seen him use these gifts to belittle another; he is unfailingly courteous, kind, and considerate. Consistently his spirit and life say to all, “Follow me, as I follow Christ.”

Doctor Coulter, you have now come to what is called retirement. You are laying down your official assignment as a general superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene. But you remain the man and the preacher we all have come to love and appreciate. We pray that you and Irene will find with Robert and Elizabeth Browning, “The best is yet to be!”

—William M. Greathouse

General Superintendent

I BELIEVE in divine leadership over those whom God calls to do His will. The life and ministry of Dr. George Coulter confirms this in my mind. I have known him many years, and in all his decisions concerning his ministry he sought for and, I believe, found the guidance of God. The Church of the Nazarene has been the benefactor of this. His service and leadership under God have been for the strengthening and enlargement of the church he loves so much.

In this churchman have been the strengths that have qualified him for the leadership assignment given him by the church. He brought stature, dignity, and judgment to the Board of General Superintendents. It has been for me a personal privilege and enjoyment to be a colleague of his in this capacity. I am made better and strength-
Mrs. Stowe joins me in this expression of appreciation for Dr. and Mrs. George Coulter on the occasion of his retirement from the office of general superintendent which he has served with distinction for 16 years.

Our acquaintance with the Coulters spans a period of 40 years, beginning with a visit to their church in Denair, California, when I was a member of a college quartet. I was impressed then with his pastor's heart. He was my second district superintendent, and I found this same warm, personal interest in his "congregation" of young and older pastors, and laymen of all ages. Missionaries testified to the pastoral care which they received when he was executive secretary of the Department of World Missions. And thousands of Nazarenes have been encouraged and edified by Dr. Coulter's shepherding as a general superintendent.

Mrs. Coulter has effectively implemented his ministry as a model minister's wife—gracious, gentle, and supportive. And their children, Colleen and Gary, are beautiful Christians and a credit to their parents' exemplary lives and influence.

We shall miss Dr. Coulter's sound judgment, dedicated churchmanship, and ever ready Irish wit from the Board of General Superintendents. Everywhere I have gone our people have expressed their shock at the news of his retirement in these words: "Why, he's much too young to retire!" He really is too young in spirit and outlook. But he never really will retire. He's just changing his assignment. May God give him and his wife many happy, rewarding years of continued service to the church to which they have contributed so much by their dedicated lives and ministry.

We love and appreciate you more than we can express—Dr. and Mrs. George Coulter.

—Eugene L. Stowe
General Superintendent

I BECAME ACQUAINTED with Dr. George Coulter during his administration as district superintendent of Northern California District. Later I knew him more personally in his administrative role as executive secretary of the Department of World Missions. His warm spirit, his sense of humor, his executive talents, and his approachable nature greatly endeared him to all who serve the church in foreign assignments.

Dr. Coulter brought all of these great qualities into the general superintendency. He became my sponsor at Nazarene Bible College during a quadrennium which became a formative period in the building of the school. His advice and inspiration helped to formulate the policies of the college during this important period.

I have known him more intimately since 1972 when I became a member of the Board of General Superintendents. At the first meeting of the General Board in which I had to preside, Dr. Coulter called me aside and with his typical warmth and humor calmed my fears for that meeting. He did this again at the General Assembly. In meetings of the board and in committees, his spirit has eased the periods of strain and helped all of us to see the issues more clearly.

We shall long appreciate the impact of this great man and his leadership in the church. All of us are most grateful that his ministry will continue to bless and inspire our people everywhere.

—Charles H. Strickland
General Superintendent
Quebec District Organized

May 11 marked the first district rally for the Canada Quebec District. It was held at Montreal First Church in Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec (a suburb of Montreal). The service was bilingual, with over 100 people present representing each of the five churches.

Dr. George Coulter brought the message.

The Quebec District was organized by General Superintendent George Coulter on May 12, in Montreal First Church. This pioneer district is composed of five churches and one mission, and comprises all the territory of the province of Quebec. Three churches were transferred from Canada Central District (Franklin Centre [English], Montreal Armenian [Armenian], and Montreal First [English]); and two churches are recent organizations of the Canada French mission (L'Eglise du Nazareen de Laval [French] and Centre Evangelique du Nazareen [Haitian]), sponsored by the Department of Home Missions.

All activities were conducted bilin-gually in English and French. Rev. Roy Fuller, who has been working in Quebec since June, 1977, with the French work, was appointed district superintendent.

Elected to the District Advisory Board were: elders, Lee Holder and Jerry Morris; laymen, Serge LaPalme and John Forget. Other officers appointed by Dr. Coulter were: district secretary, Lee Holder; district treasurer, Ruth Copeland; chairman of the Board of Christian Life, Harry Schell; district NYI president, Dave Holtz; district NWMS president, Nina Fuller.

Also present for the occasion were Dr. Raymond Hurn, executive director of the Department of Home Missions; and Rev. and Mrs. Lorne MacMillan, superintendent of the Canada Central District.
SEX FILM POLL

Petitions are being circulated requesting people to protest plans to film a story purported to depict Jesus involved in a sinful sex life. The petitions are addressed to Modern People News, which published a magazine announcing such plans several years ago.

The project has long since been abandoned by its promoter. Inquiries to Modern People News all receive the explanation that no such project is in the making. Further questioning of the film industry reveals no evidence that such a film is to be shot in the United States this year. To sign the petition is to protest something that is not being planned.

—NCN

MANC PRESIDENT RECEIVES EXTENDED CONTRACT

The Board of Trustees for Mid-America Nazarene College voted unanimously during their May 19, 1980, meeting to extend the contract of President R. Curtis Smith.

Dr. Smith, MANC's first president, has been leading the college since it began operation in 1966. During that 12-year period, the college has grown from 263 students to a record enrollment of 1,292, now the largest private college in Kansas.

Dr. Smith previously served as the assistant to the president in charge of development at Bethany Nazarene College with both the A.B. and Th.B. degrees, and holds the M.S. degree in public relations from Boston University. In 1965, Bethany Nazarene College conferred on him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

Ordained in 1938, Dr. Smith pastored in Dallas, Corpus Christi, Greenville, and Port Arthur, Tex.; and in Tulsa, Okla., before beginning his work at Bethany.

Dr. Smith, elected as president of Mid-America Nazarene College in May, 1966, has the longest current tenure as a Nazarene college president. The Board of Trustees' vote extends President Smith's contract for 4 years beyond the current September 1, 1981, term, to September 1, 1985, a possible term of service of 19 years.

KANKAKEE FIRST CHURCH HOLDS VBS OUTREACH

Kankakee First Church's teen home mission project was to have an outreach vacation Bible school in the Braidwood, Ill., church. Another purpose was to find prospective families in the area.

Linda Robinson, co-director of VBS at First Church, and Doug Runyan, youth minister, met with Pastor Robert E. Johnson of the Braidwood church. They discussed materials to be ordered and the canvassing plan. It was planned to have four departments: nursery, kindergarten, primary, and junior. Five children per department were estimated, with a few extra in the Kindergarten and Primary Departments. The Saturday before the Bible school was set to canvass the town, and First Church would run one of its buses during the school.

Puppets would be used as much as possible in storytelling and singing.

The materials were ordered, and the teens were enlisted. The first of the two-hour training sessions was held three weeks before the VBS. The workers learned the songs they would use, how to tell a story, and to overcome some fears of public speaking. Reading and putting life into the Scriptures was also emphasized.

Each person was assigned to a department or area of work. Crafts were planned for each department and materials were collected. Mrs. Barbara Crowder, a member of the host church, served as co-director so the new children would have someone familiar in the church after First Church workers left.

The next meeting with the teens was the Sunday before the VBS. Materials were distributed and prepared, and the VBS songs were reviewed. Then the schedule of the VBS was discussed.

On the Saturday before, Doug Runyan took 15 teens to canvass Braidwood. In about four hours, 275 homes were contacted. Literature was left in 175 of these homes, resulting in 10 new families and a bus route for Monday morning. The high for the week on the bus route was 25 children.

The first day in Braidwood, the estimated number of children (20+) was shattered when 39 attended. By the third day, the Kindergarten Department was divided into two classes of 10 children with one group using materials from a previous year. By the end of the week, 49 children were bulging from the four small rooms that opened off the sanctuary.

The music was done as a total group with the puppets helping the children learn the new songs. Competition was often deafening as they divided to sing "Praise Ye the Lord." The puppets also performed "Noah and the Ark." This humorous version of the biblical story made a great impression on even the youngest VBS attender.

The project ended on Sunday morning with the children sharing their VBS songs and scriptures along with a craft display. Nineteen people filled Braidwood church to enjoy the message of both the children and Pastor Johnson.

Outreach VBS at the Braidwood, Ill., church, held by Kankakee First Church teens.

[Image of a book cover and a form for ordering a book titled "PAPA'S NEIGHBORS" by Alice J. Kinder at $2.50 each.]

See page 17 for description.

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JULY 1, 1980 23
NEWS OF EVANGELISM

Amarillo, Tex.: First Church had a revival with Evangelist C. William Fisher. He preached under the anointing of God and the people responded to the invitations. Service after service, altars and front seats were lined with seekers, with over 100 people finding definite answers to prayer. Mrs. Marge Fisher conducted an excellent weekday program to encourage "Creative Directions," with approximately 25 ladies attending.

—Jerome Hancock, pastor

Abilene, Tex.: Trinity Church had a revival with Evangelist George Steckenson. The church experienced an outstanding Holy Ghost revival. New converts were at the altar every service. Sunday evening the revival closed with a very unusual service—an old-fashioned love feast.

—Don Tegue, pastor

At the heart of evangelism is a compelling concern for others.
“God will give you much so that you can give away much . . . Those you help will be glad not only because of your generous gifts . . . but they will praise God for this proof that your deeds are as good as your doctrine.”

(2 Corinthians 9:11, 13, TLB)*

Discover joy. Satisfaction. Blessings. Financial returns. Love. These elusive rewards can add an exciting new dimension to your life as you Discover Giving. Every Nazarene is being challenged to increase his/her giving during this two-month period. Take this opportunity to test God's Word.

DISCOVER GIVING

A challenge to increase your level of giving for two months

SEPT.-OCT. '80

Sponsored by the Department of Stewardship, Church of the Nazarene
INTERSECT LAUNCHES SUMMER MINISTRY

As part of its "Youth in Mission" program, the Department of Youth Ministries is sending 16 college students to various cities in the United States to serve in local church and inner-city ministries. The InterSect teams will work in the various areas of church ministry, personal evangelism, outreach, vacation Bible schools, Sunday School visitation, and children and teen activities during the summer months. They will also be involved in supportive efforts to those who work in the church, helping them meet the needs of those whom they serve.

The 16 InterSect participants joined 60 other collegians in an extensive training camp for "Youth in Mission" held at Mid-America Nazarene College, June 21-29. During that time they attended a wide range of workshops and seminars on ministry and discipleship, were engaged in an in-depth Bible study course, and worked with their team coordinators in ministry equipping. They embarked on their summer's journey on June 29, after a special commissioning service, for seven weeks of serving, learning, and growing.

The churches sponsoring an InterSect team this summer are: Buffalo, N.Y., First Church, Rev. William Wiesman, pastor, Kim Richardson, associate pastor; Syracuse, N.Y., First Church, Rev. Newell D. Smith, pastor; Manhattan, N.Y., Church, Rev. Paul Moore, pastor, B. J. Webber, ministry coordinator.

"Youth in Mission" participants were chosen from hundreds of applicants from colleges across the United States and Canada. Students minister in world mission areas, in home mission and inner-city churches, in children's ministries, in personal discipleship training, and in traveling music and drama ministries, giving of themselves and their summer to serve others. The total summer ministries effort is under the direction of Rev. Mike Estep, general program director of the Department of Youth Ministries. InterSect is coordinated by Bruce Oldham, assistant director of special ministries.

Pray for these students during their summer of mission.
Superintendent Roy E. Carnahan completing the second year of an extended term, reported. Ordained by Dr. Orville W. Jenkins, general superintendent were James David Garrison, Donald Richard King, and Richard Allen Wilson.

Elders Quentin C. Caswell, John S. Cramer, and Harold A. Parry were elected to the Advisory Board, along with laymen Paul Freese, David Krutenat, and Merritt Mann.

Mrs. Roy Carnahan was reelected NWMS president; Rev. William Nielsen was reelected NYI president; and Lee R. McIver was reelected chairman of the Board of Christian Life.

MISSISSIPPI

The 67th annual assembly of the Mississippi District met at Jackson. Miss. Emmanuel Church District Superintendent W. Talmadge Johnson gave his fifth and final report before moving to the Tennessee District. Rev. J. W. Lancaster was appointed district superintendent.

General Superintendent George Coultor ordained Terrell Don Earnest.

Elder Board. Laymen elected.

Mrs. Retha Lancaster was appointed NWMS president; Rev. Jerry W. Smith was reelected NYI president; and Rev. Mickey G. Smith was reelected chairman of the Board of Christian Life.

HAWAII PACIFIC

The 28th annual assembly of the Hawaii Pacific District met at Honolulu First Church. District Superintendent Darrel B. Teare was reelected for a four-year term. He announced the organization of a Filipino mission in Wahiawa and a mission in Samoa. Both are pastoring

Pictured (l. to r.) with General Superintendent V. H. Lewis are Hawaii Pacific District ordinands and wives: Rev. and Mrs. Patricio Valenzuela, Rev. and Mrs. Vaimaino Pomele. Rev. Valenzuela was converted through Nazarene missions in the Philippines; Rev. Pomele was converted through Nazarene missions in Samoa. Both are pastoring churches in Hawaii, ministering to their own people in their own languages.

WASHINGTON PACIFIC

The 37th annual assembly of the Washington Pacific District convened at Kent, Wash. District Superintendent Kenneth Vogt was reelected for a three-year term.

E. Joe Childs was ordained by presiding General Superintendent Charles H. Strickland.

Elders elected to the Advisory Board are Steve Fletcher, Winston Ketchum, Tharon Daniels, and James Tharp. Curt Bottenfier, Robert Wooton, John Wordsworth, and Don Eby were laymen elected.

The following were reelected to their respective positions: Mrs. Corleen Litsky, NWMS president; Larry Miller, NYI president; and Elvin Hicks, chairman of the Board of Christian Life.
SAN ANTONIO
The 67th annual assembly of the San Antonio District met at San Antonio First Church. Rev. Harold B. Graves was reelected district superintendent for a four-year term. He reported the organization of a new church, Corpus Christi Fleur Bluff.

Presiding General Superintendent George Couter ordained Michael Sellars and Doug Yates.

Elected to the Advisory Board were elders W. E. Rhodes and Don Boesel and laymen Robert Jones and Dale Yates.

The following were reelected to their respective positions: Mrs. Betty Graves, NWMS president; Terry Roediger, NYI president and Randall Wyles, chairman of the Board of Christian Life.

CENTRAL FLORIDA
The seventh annual assembly of the Central Florida District convened at the South Florida Heights Church in Lakeland, Fla. Dr. J. V. Moroch completing the first year of an extended term, reported the organization of a new church, Markham Woods.

Larry Paul Baker, Larry Austin Atig, and James Wesley Spear were ordained by the presiding general superintendent. Dr. Orville W. Jenkins.

Elders Robert L. Cook, John M. Gardner, and Larry E. Leeper, and laymen Fred Casciek, Lew Hail and Joe Love were elected to the Advisory Board.

Sue Price was reelected NWMS president; Rodgers D. DeVore was elected NYI president; and James H. Erickson was reelected chairman of the Board of Christian Life.

NORTH FLORIDA
The seventh annual assembly of the North Florida District met at Panama City First Church. District Superintendent J. T. Gassett, completing the second year of an extended term, reported.

Carroll Agner was ordained by General Superintendent Eugene L. Stowe. Elected to the Advisory Board were elders Henry P. Cooper and Samuel Pickering, and laymen Jim Herndon and Bill Birtley.

NWMS President Grace Pickering was reelected; as were NYI President Stanley Wade and Chairman of the Board of Christian Life H. G. Snellgrove.

NAZARENE CAMP MEETINGS
August 1-10—SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA District campgrounds, Anadarko. Okla. Special workers: Dr. Orville W. Jenkins, Dr. Mendell Taylor, Dr. and Mrs. Jim Main, music. M. Bert Daniels, district superintendent.

August 2-10—EASTERN MICHIGAN District Center, 6477 Burkhardt Rd. Howell, MI 48843. Special workers: Don Pfeifer, Gary Haines, and David and Dana Blue. Donald J. Gibson, district superintendent.

August 3-10—AKRON, District Center. 8020 Nazarene Ave., Louisville, OH 44644. Special workers: Stuart McWhirter, Alex Deasley, and Leonard and Joy Wisdom. Floyd D. Fieminger, district superintendent.

August 3-10—CANADA WEST (ALBERTA) Camp Harmattan. 14 miles west of Olds. Alberta Special workers: Bill Vranian, Arnold Strain, Dr. and Mrs. George Dunbar, song evangelist. Alexander Arndt, district superintendent.

August 4-10—CHICAGO CENTRAL Nazarene Youth Center, 1 1/2 miles south of Aroma Park, Ill. Special workers: Dr. John L. Knight, E. W. Martin, Jim and Rosamay Green, Forrest W. Hash, district superintendent.

August 4-10—NEW MEXICO, Nazarene Campgrounds. Ruidoso, NM 88345. Special workers: Dr. Harold Daniels, Raymond Hurn, Jim Both, singer. Harold W. Morris, district superintendent.

August 4-10—WEST TEXAS Camp Arrowhead Glen Rose Star Route. Cleburne, TX 76031. Special workers: Harold Graves, Chuck and Mary Jackson, singers. Gene Fuller, district superintendent.

August 6-10—KANSAS First Church, 1400 East Kellogg Wichita, KS 67211. Special workers: Dr. Edward Lawlor, Marilyn Knight, district superintendent.

August 8-17—ARIZONA Prescott, Arizona Special workers: W. E. McCumber, Dr. Willard Taylor, Ron Lush, Sr., Jeanine Van Beek, Crawford T. Vanderpool, district superintendent.

August 9-17—PHILADELPHIA Campground North East Ml. Special workers: Richard Howard, Dwight Neuenhans, Richard Ron Johnson, singer Paul D. Mangum, district superintendent.


MOVING MINISTERS
CHARLES BELZER from Larimore, N.D., to Fargo (N.D.) South
RUSSELL W. BRANSTEDTER from Houston (Tex.) Sun Valley to Batesville (Okla.) First
RALPH E. BROWN from Wichita (Kans.) Westside to Huntsville (Ala.) First
MICHAEL DEAN BUETTNER from Colorado Springs Central to Hugo, Okla.
R. ERWIN BUSH from evangelism to Phenix City, Ala.
MACK L. CLARK from Creve Coeur, Ill., to Wellington, Kans.
BRENT COBB from Kness to Dallas (Tex.) Bruton Terrace
CLOCHE CUNNINGHAM from Ritzville, Wash., to Moses Lake, Wash.
PAUL L. DANNER from Houston, Miss., to Anchorage, Alaska
RON D. DEWITT from Long Creek, Tenn., to Chapman's Chapel, Tenn.
JIMMY D. DU FRIEND from Yuma (Ariz.) First, to Carlisle (Calif.) Las Flores
CHARLES L. ELLIOTT from Colorado Springs Central to Henryetta, Okla.

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W. LOFTON HARWELL from Nashville (Tenn.)

ROBERT E. GRIFFITH from Pasadena (Calif.)

BILLY C. GOODPASTURE from St. Bernice.

GREGORY KELLER from Rock Hill (S.C.) Grace

RICHARD D. GUIZAR from Hopewell, Va., to

RICHARD A. KONING from Shippensburg, Pa.,

WILLIAM A. MARTIN from Chaplain, Fort Myer.

W. LEE MANSVELD from Conejo Valley, Calif.,

PAUL RAY NESMITH from Tillamook, Ore., to

R. ELWOOD NEGLEY to Rome, N.Y.

C. KENNETH SPARKS from Buchanan, Mich., to

J. W. SOUTH to Collegeville, Ark.

DAVID W. STRACK to Carthage, Tex.

WALTER WINGER from Kinsley, Kans., to re­

WILLIAM C. WESCOE from student, Nazarene

MOVING MISSIONARIES

DORYTHY AHLEMAN, Argentina. Stateside Ad­dress: c/o Ethel Strickland, Rte 3, Oakland

MILTON HUXMAN from Henetta, Okla., to

CHISHOLM to association. Denver First

JULY 1, 1980

29
SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION IN AFRICA SHOWS HUGE LEAP.

Scripture distribution in Africa by the Bible societies in 1979 increased by nearly 25 percent over the previous year, according to a report issued by the American Bible Society. Throughout Africa, the Bible societies distributed 18,376,000 Scriptures, 3.5 million more than in 1978. This represents an increase of more than one-fourth, making Africa the fastest growing region in the world in terms of Scripture distributions.

This corresponds with the rapid and dramatic increase in the number of Christians in Africa. According to Bible society observers and missiology experts, the rate of Christian growth in Africa is twice that of the general population. There are now an estimated 200 million Christians in Africa today—approximately 40 percent of the total population.

EAST-WEST BIBLE TRAFFIC IS TWO-WAY. Americans are importing Bibles from Eastern Europe.

This situation, which may surprise people who have assumed that the traffic in Scriptures was only one-way, was highlighted by the executive secretary of the Bible Society in Poland in an address to the 164th annual meeting of the American Bible Society in New York. Barbara Enholc-Narzynska reported that “we are able to send thousands of Polish Scriptures to many other countries and Bible societies. The highest supply goes to your country, where the Polish population is still great.”

From 1946 to 1979, Mrs. Narzynska said, more than 7 million copies of the Scriptures were distributed in Poland. “It’s quite a lot for as small a country as we are,” she commented. The Bible society official said that “thanks to the benevolence and permission of the Polish state authority, all our imported Scriptures in Polish and those in more than 70 other languages are free from custom.”

RELIGIOUS GROUP ASKS EFFORT TO HALT FAMILY FARM DECLINE. Fifteen national religious leaders have called for efforts to save the “family farm system” and reverse the trend toward “fewer and larger farms” which they say threatens the nation’s source of strength. “Four million farms have vanished over the past half century, and America is still losing 30,000 a year,” said the interfaith statement by ranking leaders of 13 religious groups.

The statement was issued during the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s final hearings on the “structure of American agriculture and rural communities.” “As religious leaders, we view the deterioration of the family farm system with alarm and pain,” the statement said. “It saps the strength of rural communities. And it creates a situation where control of food production could be concentrated in the hands of a few. We cannot stand by and see this happen without protest.”

RIGHTS GROUP LISTS 400 HELD IN SOVIET PRISONS. The Soviet Union has jailed or punished more than 400 dissidents since it signed the Helsinki agreement of 1975 endorsing human rights. Amnesty International (AI) has charged. In a 200-page report entitled “Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR,” the London-based human rights organization also said dissidents imprisoned for religious or political beliefs “endure conditions undreamt of in the Western world.”

The report, a revised and updated version of an AI report published in 1975, includes what AI said was “much recent evidence of the abuse of psychiatry for political repression.” Dissidents are interned in psychiatric hospitals and treated with powerful drugs to punish them and force them to renounce their views, AI said. Amnesty believes there are many more “prisoners of conscience” in the USSR than those it knows of.
If a church has a board of nine and two leave the church, do we have enough to carry on the work of the church when four or five are there besides the minister when having a board meeting? Do you go according to the nine or the seven for judging the number sufficient for a quorum? I have a suggestion. Why not replace the two who left, according to the principle of "dynamic equivalence." The meaning of the original writers does not change, but the words of any language change, so that a word which means one thing today may come to mean a different thing in the future.

The Answer Corner

Conducted by W. E. McCumber, Editor

Was Joseph married before he married Mary?
If so, did he have children by that previous marriage? Did Mary and Joseph have children after Jesus?

There is no evidence to support the tradition that Joseph was a widower with children by his former wife. This tradition became popular after the doctrine of Mary's perpetual virginity arose. Mark 6:3 mentions brothers and sisters of Jesus. Jerome, a great Bible scholar in the fourth century, insisted upon regarding them as cousins, but anyone familiar with Jerome's exaggerated value upon virginity and celibacy readily understands why he strained so to make this identification. There is not a scrap of biblical evidence for Mary's perpetual virginity, and it is more natural to interpret these brothers and sisters as the children of Mary and Joseph who were born after Jesus.

Someone has told me that the Old Spanish Balera Bible, the Luther German Bible, and the King James Bible were all translated word for word. How could this be?

It couldn't. It is not possible to make a "word for word" translation from one language into another, because any language contains words for which no precise equivalent exists in another language. Translation, to be effective, depends upon a principle of "dynamic equivalence." The meaning of the original is determined, and then this sense is given, not in words that exactly correspond to the words of the original, but in words that convey the same meaning.

We have Luther's own testimony concerning his method as a translator: "Whoever would speak German must not use Hebrew style. Rather, he must see to it—once he understands the Hebrew author—that he concentrates on the sense of the text, asking himself, Pray tell, what do the Germans say in such a situation? Once he has the German words to serve the purpose, let him drop the Hebrew words and express the meaning freely in the best German he knows." Words serve to convey meaning. And the translators seek, not exactly corresponding words, but exactly equivalent meanings. This is why fresh translations become necessary. The meaning of the original writers does not change, but the words of any language change, so that a word which means one thing today may come to mean a different thing in the future.
If they know it by heart
They've got a head start

BIBLE MEMORIZATION PROGRAM
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LEADER'S GUIDE
Vital information on the value of Bible memorization and the responsibilities of directors and sponsors in organizing and carrying out this memorization program. Here the leader will find the verses for each age-group, techniques, games, and other activities for helping children understand and memorize, and a description of the incentive plan. Progress report form, sample letters to parents, and bulletin board ideas are also included. 8½" x 11"; 48 pages. Paper. 
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Explains on the child's level the importance of memorizing scripture. Gives tips for memorizing and the rules for receiving awards. Each book contains the verses to be learned with space to check when memorized. Verses are printed in both the King James and New International versions. To be used at home by the child and parents. 6½" x 8½". Paper.
CD-20 Kindergarten (8 pages) 
CD-24 Primary (16 pages) 
CD-28 Middler (20 pages) 
CD-32 Junior (24 pages) 
Each, 95c

BIBLE MEMORY CERTIFICATE
Every pupil will want this certificate and be challenged to fill it with award seals and honor bars. Designed with gold border and printed on parchment with space for child's name and signature of Bible Memorization director and pastor. 8" x 10". 
CD-21 Package of 10 for $1.75

AWARD SEALS
For adding to the certificate as girls and boys progress in the Bible Memory program. 1" diameter. Pressure sensitive. Come in sheets of 40 of each color.
CD-22 Red 
CD-26 Blue 
CD-30 Green 
CD-33 Silver 
Each sheet, 75c

BIBLE MEMORY BUTTON
Buttons for everyone! An exciting way to publicize this new program and build group identity. Two-color designed with "Bible Memorization Program" and open Bible. 1" diameter. 
CD-25 Package of 25 for $2.50

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R-6 45c; 12 for $4.85 
R-43A with 3-D sunburst/amp emblem $1.70; 12 for $18.50

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Fourth level award. Gold plated cross/Bible emblem solidly mounted on a walnut base. "Bible Memory Award" engraved on front plate, 2 x 3½; 3½" high. 
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Order Right Away and Get Your Program Under Way!
THE CHURCH SCENE

The Sylvia, Kans., Pleasant Hill Church celebrated its 70th anniversary April 20. A former pastor, Rev. T. E. Emmert, brought the morning message, and Dr. Marselle Knight, district superintendent, spoke in the afternoon service. Pastor Robert Bar-

Dr. William M. Greathouse recently dedicated the totally renovated sanctuary and the new Family Life Center of Marietta, Ga., First Church. The sanctuary, which seats 400, and the Family Life center, which consists of seven classrooms, offices, kitchen, and gymnasium, were constructed for $250,000. The value of the buildings is $600,000. Dr. Lewis Pennington, first pastor; Dr. Mack Anderson, former district superintendent; and Dr. Jack Lee, district superintendent, assisted in the dedication. First Church was organized in 1952 and presently has a membership of 250 with a day-care center and kindergarten with an enrollment of 160. The total value of all properties is $1 million. Rev. Lowell T. Clyburn has been the pastor since July, 1974.

WRITERS' CONFERENCE UPDATE

In less than one month, pre-registration for the August 11-13 Nazarene Publishing House Writers' Conference has reached 88. This may be the promise of an all-time record for the event.

Located on the campus of Mid-America Nazarene College, the conclave will feature writing professional resource persons: Russell T. Hitt, editor and book author; Elaine Wright Colvin, writer's consultant; Harold Ivan Smith, author; Lee Roddy, best-seller author; Larry Richards, curriculum consultant and author; Garry Warner, editor; journalist, and author.

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MILTON AND RUBENA POOLE

NEW MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CONTACT COUPLE NAMED

Milton and Rubena Poole have been appointed the Northwest Church Zone contact couple for Nazarene marriage enrichment.

Milton is full-time counselor on the
staff of Salem, Ore., First Church. Rubena is on the same staff as director of women’s ministries. Salem First has a variety of specialized ministries and is shepherded by Senior Pastor Rev. H. B. London.

The Pooles’ academic credentials are extensive in the fields of counseling and pastoral ministry, having served churches in California, Texas, and Massachusetts. They are a certified leader couple for the Association of Couples for Marriage Enrichment (ACME) and have been given full certification status by the Nazarene Committee on Selection, Training, and Certification.

As contact couple, Milton and Rubena will assist inquiring Northwest pastors and laymen on how and where to contact trained marriage enrichment leader-couples. If you need their assistance you may write them at: P.O. Box 7505, Salem, OR 97303.

Information of a general nature regarding Nazarene Marriage Enrichment, such as training, scheduling, format, and costs, may be directed to the Marriage and Family Life Office, Directors, J. Paul and Marilyn Turner, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131, (816) 333-7000, Exts. 364-365.

by JOE CHASTAIN
Twin Falls, Idaho

**A RIGHT WRONG NUMBER**

HE DIALED THE COURTHOUSE, he thought, but the voice said, “Christian Bookstore.”

“Sorry, wrong number,” he said. But a voice seemed to say, “Or was it a wrong number?” He got information and found the number, dialed the Christian Bookstore again.

“Do you sell Christian books?” he asked.

“Yes, we do,” the lady answered.

“Are you a Christian?”

“Yes, I am. Are you?”

“No, but I sure want to be. Where do Christians meet and when do they meet in this city where I can find out how to become a Christian?”

The little lady started to tell him over the phone, but the still small voice whispered, “Give him your pastor’s phone number,” and she did. This young man, so under conviction and filled with spiritual hunger, called and made an appointment with the pastor. He stopped at another church enroute and talked with the pastor. But after a while, he said, “I must go and see the other fellow I talked to on the phone.”

He came to the pastor’s study so distraught and said, “I visited an old friend in California the other day and he recently found Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, and he is so happy and contented. I just must find the Lord for myself.”

The pastor said, “Let’s look at John 3:16.” They read it together. “Can you understand that? That God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Can you understand that?”

Looking up quickly this young man said, “That is the scripture verse that my friend gave me when he told me that he had found the Lord, and I have memorized it. But how can I make it work for me? It seems that God will not hear me.”

“Just believe it as we pray together,” said the pastor. Then the two of them prayed. “Lord, You see the hunger in the heart of this, my new friend, and You have loved him all his life to this very moment, and You have waited for him to turn his face to You. Please forgive his many sins and come into his heart, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.”

Next, the seeker prayed, asking simply and earnestly for forgiveness. “This is wonderful,” he said. “I feel so clean. I feel so much better. I believe that He did hear us as we prayed.”

The pastor reminded him of Romans 10:10: “With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” He suggested that they go to the Bookstore and tell the lady what had happened to him. They did, and there was a great time of rejoicing. Returning from the store this young man said, “I want to tell someone else: I want to tell my grandmother.” Off they went to the grandmother’s house, where he told her that he had been saved. What a happy time!

He was to have left on Wednesday morning for Denver, but a change of schedule in his trucking business kept him in town until Thursday. On Wednesday night he came to prayer meeting, and testified of his newfound joy and peace. “Last night,” he said, “before I was asleep. I was thanking and praising God for answering my prayer and coming into my heart. I began to laugh and I began to cry. God just filled me just so full, I thought my chest would burst.”

Praise God for answered prayer!

**“By ALL MEANS... Save Some”**
NEW CONFERENCE CENTER OPENED AT NAZARENE HEADQUARTERS

The Leo and Mattie King Conference Center, a $500,000 building, was officially dedicated and opened with a brief ceremony June 16 at noon at its location on the Church of the Nazarene’s International Headquarters property located at 63rd and The Paseo.

Situated to the east of the main office buildings, the Conference Center contains 19 motel-type rooms, 2 large conference rooms, a lounge, a patio, and a manager’s apartment.

Major funds for its construction were provided from the estate of the late Leo King. His widow, Mattie King, was present to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new Conference Center will provide needed housing for continuing education classes for pastors, evangelists, district superintendents, and laypersons as well. It will also be used for seminars on retirement for senior ministers.

The activities of the brief ceremony took place outside the front (east) entrance. Dr. Charles H. Strickland, chairman of the Board of General Superintendents, presided. Dr. V. H. Lewis led in prayer, Dr. William M. Greathouse read the scripture, Dr. Eugene L. Stowe and Dr. Mark R. Moore, executive director of the Department of Education and the Ministry, spoke briefly about the building’s use. Dr. George Coulter, and Mrs. Mattie King participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. This was followed by a tour of the building led by Mr. Paul Spear, executive administrator, and his staff. A luncheon was served in the conference room to all who attended.

—NCN

NAZARENE EDUCATOR HEADS LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS

Rev. Jonathan Salgado, president of the Bible Institute in Guatemala, was elected the president of the Latin American Association of Theological Schools for a two-year term at the annual meeting of the association in Costa Rica in May.

The Latin American Association of Theological Schools is an organization of 57 theological schools in Latin America which includes all of the evangelical theological colleges throughout Latin America.

—NCN

STAFF CHANGES AT DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Department of Youth Ministries announced May 20 that Mr. Mike Estep has been appointed general program director for campus and post high school ministries of Nazarene Youth International.

Mr. Estep will head campus relationships dealing with both the Summer Ministry programs of Nazarene International Student Ministries and North American Ministries such as: Intersect (Inter-City work), CONTACT ministries with Nazarene children, and Discovery (music ministries). He will also contact the campuses of Nazarene colleges in North America that are involved in their own summer ministry programs.

Director of the Department of Youth Ministries, Gary Henecke, also announced that Miss Debbie Salter, editor of Bread magazine and editorial director of the Department of Youth Ministries, is the new editor of ONE magazine, a periodical for Nazarene college students around the world, and Nazarene singles in the local church.

Miss Salter left her responsibilities with Bread magazine for her new editorial assignment, June 1. While editor of Bread magazine, she authored One Is More than UN, a book communicating with young singles. Previous to her assuming the post of editor of Bread, Miss Salter was professor in the Fine Arts Department of Olivet Nazarene College. She is a graduate of Bethany Nazarene College.

Gary Henecke also announced that Mr. John Denney, senior high editor of the Department of Youth Ministries, is the new editorial director of the Department of Youth Ministries. Mr. Denney was elected to this post by the Department of Youth Ministries of the General Board.

—NCN

NEW YORK CHURCH CELEBRATES DOUBLE CEREMONY

June 1 was a historic day for Fulton, N.Y., First Church. It marked the 30th anniversary of the local church and the organizational meeting of a new daughter church.

Thirty years ago, on May 28, 1950, the Nazarene church in Fulton was organized with 18 charter members, 3 of whom are presently members. Since that time, the group has constructed a parsonage and two church buildings, one of which was relocated to its present position. Six pastors have served the church. In the last eight years, the church has sent out nine of its families to pastor other Nazarene churches. Present membership numbers 105. Rev. Dennis M. Scott is the pastor.

On September 1, 1979, 17 members of the congregation began a new work in Parish, N.Y. The work continued to operate as an extension of the Fulton church. The Parish congregation presently numbers around 40 and was officially organized at the June 1 meeting. Pastoral arrangements are presently being made for the Parish church.

Rev. J. Wilmer Lambert, superintendent of the Upstate New York District, was the guest speaker at the 3 p.m. historic service. Special music featured a combined choir from the two churches.

—NCN

CORRECTION

A news item concerning Dr. Charles Isbell appeared in the May 15 issue which is misleading. For the record, Dr. Isbell did not resign from the faculty of NTS because of illness. My apologies are here with extended to my friend, Dr. Isbell, and to all others concerned.

—W. E. McCumber, editor
PANORAMA

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