MY CHURCH

MY CHURCH is many things. Some think of the church as merely a building; but, though my church consists of brick and wood and steel and concrete and windows and doors and pews and land, it is much more.

My church is people with saving faith in Jesus Christ and hope and heart and love and kindness. My church is Christ’s Spirit in a man’s heart, comfort and assurance in a woman’s soul, and faith in a child’s eyes.

My church is sometimes housed in small, plain, unadorned buildings nestled in valleys and on hills in the near and faraway places of the world, sometimes in large city buildings with their spires pointing to the heavens, and sometimes in tiny hamlet chapels. But wherever it is housed, it is my church, vibrant and wonderfully alive.

My church is eternal, for Jesus said, “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). My church’s foundation is Jesus himself, the “chief corner stone . . . which the builders disallowed,” and it is held together by the mortar of faith of believers in Him. Its walls and superstructure are composed of “lively stones,” the great company of believing and redeemed Christians who love Him with heart and soul. My church can be crippled by bombs, blackened by fire, shaken by earthquakes, threatened by bigots and zealots both from within and without—but it still stands and lives on.

My church is the place of prayer where hearts burdened and sometimes broken reach out to have audience with God. It is the place where God’s Word is preached and confirmed and attested to in the pew. It stands night and day as a beacon to lost mankind, and as a haven to all who are buffeted by the storms of life.

My church is the echo of a hymn on a summer Sunday morning. It is the music of pealing bells calling people to prayer in the early morning hours of a new day. It is the resounding tones of an organ, calling men to worship.

My church sometimes knows laughter; at other times tears. Sometimes it passes through troubled waters, but always coming through victorious and shining bright.

My church is Christ in the hearts of His people who reveal Him in daily living—caring, lifting, and winning.

This is my church!
INFLATION has become a continuing nightmare as it affects such daily necessities as food, clothing, fares, and fuel.

In the light of these facts it seems like a foolish statement to say that some prices are too low.

Jesus asked what it would profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul. He gave illustrations to show how a man can price his soul too low.

There is the story of the rich man whose ground brought forth plentifully while at the same time he planned his future without God. The divine sentence pronounced upon him was, “This night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”

We cannot put a monetary value on the human soul. God created the soul to live in heaven with the holy angels, to eat the fruit from the tree of life, and to drink the water from the river of life. The soul was created to be an equal heir with Christ, to sit upon a throne and judge angels. It is eternal and will never know an end.

The highway of life is strewn with the wreckage of the lives of men who sold their souls too cheaply. Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of pottage. Achan bartered his for a few trifles of time. These are only a few representatives of men who had their price tags marked too low.

It is time we carefully evaluate the various areas of our lives. The prodigal son's greatest mistake was his misjudgment of values. He wasted that which had been his heritage and came to woeful want. How easy it is for us who have received so much in the way of spiritual benefits to cast them aside carelessly in order that we may waste our substance in foolish living!

Gerald Kennedy tells of a wealthy student at Williams College who was accused of defacing college property and was sent to see President Mark Hopkins. He came in arrogantly, took out his purse, and asked how much were the damages.

This was too much for President Hopkins, who asked the young man to sit down.

“No man,” said Dr. Hopkins, “can pay for what he receives here. Can you pay for the sacrifice of Colonel Williams who founded the college? Can you pay for the half-paid professors who have remained to teach here when they could have gone elsewhere? Every student here is a charity case.”

When checked in the light of eternity, some price tags of life are far too low.

By ROSS W. HAYSLIP
Tucson, Ariz.
ONE LIFE

I have but one life to live,
One season on this earth.
My time is short, my life is frail,
And dust is all they're worth.
I have but one soul to give,
One spirit offered high
To thank Him for the drops that fell
That I might never die.

—Cora L. Scott
Myrtle Beach, S.C.

SUNSETS

I am fortunate to live in a section of California which offers some of the most beautiful sunsets I have ever seen.

It has not always been this way. During much of my life I lived in the San Gabriel Valley of California where smog and haze marred so many sunsets that beautiful ones became a rarity.

In contrast, 50 miles north of Los Angeles where I now live, the beauty of the sunsets is astonishing and they occur so frequently that they often go unnoticed.

The last several sunsets were dull, however, because of clear skies; but tonight numerous clouds are on the horizon and the sunset is particularly impressive and inspirational. Clouds always make a sunset more beautiful.

Really, is not the same true throughout our lives? Think back to those moments of greatest joy. On those occasions, what may have made the moment especially beautiful was the presence of clouds.

Many times God would reveal to us beautiful sunsets, but because of the clouds we fail to recognize His presence or the joy of the moment.

Next time the sun sets in your life and clouds seem to make things difficult, remember—the beauty of a sunset is far greater with clouds.

By Dennis Lee Adams
Fillmore, Calif.
EVERYBODY gets scared sometimes. That is no sin. The sin comes in reacting wrongly to our fears.

Some people are more easily frightened than others. They are by training or circumstance less secure. They do not trust their ability to make decisions and are inclined to see dogs as lions and molehills as mountains.

Many people would be capable of greater progress if they were not afraid to make decisions and be identified with those decisions and ideas. They want success and progress, but when growth demands responsibility for some innovation, they prefer to run and hide.

It is natural to enjoy the comfort of traditional situations. We prefer the familiarity of the known. It is simpler to draw upon past experiences than to grab the cold hand of the unfamiliar.

Insecure people tend to retreat and cover their withdrawal under the virtues of the familiar past. They call it orthodoxy and conservatism when it may be fear of emergence into the strange presence of a new idea.

It demands greater maturity to venture into an unexplored new responsibility than to guard the familiar archives of yesterday. It takes more courage to act upon a new responsibility than to react when others are inclined to innovate.

Many fine men settle for mediocrity when they might excel if they were more challenged by unexplored horizons. A lone figure going beyond traditional trails feels and is very conspicuous.

The world and the Church have always been forced to wait for men daring enough to walk beyond the map and into the fog of the unexperienced. History writes the epitaphs of churches who were nobly and justly true to great doctrines but died in the security of their own walls.

Nations have disappeared or languished for centuries for want of leadership which would direct their people into wider horizons of thought and industry.

Businesses by the scores have failed because owners were not ready to accept the risks of innovative methods. They died rather than expose themselves to the demands of a new situation.

When "growth" means moral or spiritual compromise, it is not growth. When "progress" means lessening the depth of devotion and moral values, it is not progress. However, when integrity is measured only by its identification with the past, it ceases to be integrity. When the "good old days" become the sole model for the morrows, then leadership needs to examine itself ruthlessly.

Neither the Christian nor the Church dares to be content merely to replicate the past. No matter what board or what level of the board, there is no merit in merely meeting to read the minutes of the last meeting. Reviewing the glorious performances of the past may feed our ego but not favor our future.

Churchmen must read history and learn lessons from past performances. Any man in leadership would be a fool to ignore the lessons of history. However, he who uses history as a fence around his world will suffocate in proud futility.

Each generation must produce and free its brave young generation of new adventurers. They must find ways to push into the world of their times. They must push the influence of the Church up the canyon walls beyond its former circumference.

Progress does not demand a new purpose nor a rejection of past values. It does demand the courage of great convictions and the excitement of daring dreams. When great convictions and daring dreams are mated, the church gives birth to a greater progeny.

Our Bible teaches that our God is creative and innovative as well as immutable. When He assigned man the responsibility of dominion over the world, He placed within man those eager qualities. When He commissioned Christians to go into all the world with the gospel, He knew they would need every sanctified innovation they could possibly develop.

There is a difference between climbing up on a rock and having a millstone tried around one's neck. They are both stones but must be used according to their design. He who is too fearful to climb will likely become a prisoner of his fears.

He who fears to trust the future and waits to see the rain clouds before he plants his field will likely spend his time watering last year's crop failure while eating the grain he should use as seed for this spring's planting and next year's bread.
MICHAEL COLLINS played a key role in what Charles A. Lindbergh called one of civilization's greatest accomplishments. He piloted the command module of Apollo 11 which landed a man on the moon.

Collins called his fantastic adventure Carrying the Fire—borrowing his title from the mythological story of the Greek sun-god Apollo, who purportedly rode across the heavens with the sun in his chariot.

The astronaut said that in 17 years of flying he never sweated out a flight like this one. His secret terror was that something might happen that would leave Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the moon. He alone carried the fire for the quarter-million-mile return trip home.

We are not astronauts. It may be hard for us to put ourselves in the position of Michael Collins but we carry a fire that is more crucial than his. We carry the fire that Jesus left in the hands of His followers. If the fire in our hearts dies, Christianity is dead.

At the dedication of the Temple, Solomon prayed and "the fire came down from heaven ... and the glory of the Lord filled the house." Discussing this, someone said, "Whatever happened to the glory that we old-time Quakers and you early-day Nazarenes used to see?"

I replied, "Nothing has happened to the glory. There may be fewer hearts open to receive it."

Dr. P. F. Bresee, founder and first general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene, said, "Nazarenes must keep the glory down!"

What is the glory?

Many think of it as some kind of demonstration.

The glory is the glory of the Lord—the manifestation of His divine presence. There may or may not be demonstration.

In Old Testament times God made His presence known in many instances by fire.

It was the bush that burned without being consumed which confirmed God's marching orders to Moses.

The pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire were the constant signals to the Israelites in the wilderness that God was with them.

When wicked Queen Jezebel subverted Israel with Baal worship, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Elijah and he challenged the false prophets to meet at Mount Carmel for a showdown. He said, "The God that answereth by fire, let him be God."

After a frantic day of trying by the prophets of Baal, there was no answer. Then at the time of the evening sacrifice Elijah prayed, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant." And the fire of the Lord fell.

In the New Testament, John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah, said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I . . . he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

After His death and resurrection Jesus met
with His disciples and in effect said to them, I am going away but this is best for you because I will send the Holy Spirit to be with you forever. Wait until you receive Him.

They did wait and pray in the Upper Room. Finally on the Day of Pentecost, suddenly there was a sound like a windstorm. Then there appeared and sat upon each head what seemed to be flaming tongues of fire.

Peter arose and said, This is it! This is what the prophet Joel predicted long centuries ago. The Jesus whom you crucified is Lord and Christ and this that you see is the fulfillment of His promise to us. This is His Spirit at work in us.

No wonder 3,000 were converted. The fire from heaven had come. The glory of the Lord was resting on His people.

One writer has said, “It was the doctrine of assurance [Wesley’s ‘witness of the Spirit’] that gave the early Methodists their tremendous influence on their generation.”

A testimony is based upon a knowledge of facts. Wesley insisted that his followers know for themselves that they were born of the Spirit and subsequently sanctified by the Spirit. Class meetings were held to check up on personal experience.

Lecky, who has been called the best-known historian of the eighteenth century, said, “It was the Wesleyan Revival of the 1740s that saved England from a bloody revolution like that which swept over France.” British Prime Minister David Lloyd George quoted this statement at the bicentenary celebration of the Methodist church.

If we are to be “carriers of the fire,” we must be born-again, Spirit-filled Christians (Romans 8:15-17).

Then we must see to it that we do not lose the fervor of our first love (Revelation 2:4).

We need the Holy Spirit’s help in prayer (Romans 8:26-27). James says, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

We live in a time of great pressure and cynicism but we do not need to lose the glory and the glow (Romans 5:2-5).

Our relationship with others is a vital factor in keeping the glow and the glory. A fire in the fireplace needs new fuel and we have to keep drawing the embers closer together to keep them all from burning to ashes.

Victorious Christian living is fundamental. Jesus gave the seven churches of Asia many warnings but the promises to each were based on one condition: to him “that overcometh.” Living in the Spirit is a life of victory. There will be many tests but there are constant infusions of blessing and joy and spiritual optimism and at times new outpourings.

There are problems that have to be “prayed through.” There were 3 times in my personal experience in 53 years of ministry when it was a “life or death” situation. I had to lock my doors and take the telephone off the hook and fast and pray until God answered my prayer. The miraculous things that God did are still the inspiration of my soul. I know from experience that “there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets.”

There are many signs in our day which seem to indicate that the coming of Jesus is drawing near. But He himself warned us that no man knoweth the hour—only His Father in heaven.

In the meantime we must be sure that we are carrying the fire. The Church of the Nazarene has a wonderful heritage. The founding fathers have left us a rich heritage of dedication to the doctrine and life of holiness.

What kind of a church will our church be by the year 2,000—if Jesus tarries—if every member is just like me? We are the ones who are carrying the fire.

But life caved in.
Gone the glory; gone the wonder;
Trouble now where joy had been.
Yet with trouble’s crashing thunder,
Peace he had in spite of care.
His God was there.

Then life was done.
Called to leave this earth and travel
Upward now, a ransomed son.
Angelic host greet his arrival:
But this the word he held most dear:
“Your God is here.”
—Laura Forinash
Lucedale, Miss.

God Is Here
He stood so tall,
Sure that life was made for living.
It was his; he claimed it all—
Working, playing, loving, giving.
Joy he had without a care.
His God was there.

JUNE 18, 1975
Standing before a Sunday evening congregation was a young man who was comparatively new at the Monte Vista Church of the Nazarene in Phoenix, Ariz. Yet the church bulletin had announced that he would be bringing the evening message in the absence of the pastor.

As Jim Hayne unfolded the story of his transformed life, the minutes ticked by unnoticed. Divine leading was very apparent.

He began by explaining that when he first was asked to speak he wrote his first sermon, complete with subject, text, notes, and illustrations. The Lord then intervened, reminding Jim that there was another subject with which he was much more familiar—the miracle that had transformed his own life.

He read a text from Galatians 5:19-21, stating that Paul was describing Jim's own life before he found the Lord. At the end of his message, he read verses 22-25 from the same chapter as a description of life with God in control.

Jim's first encounter with the cruelties of life

By PEARL BURNSIDE McKinney
Phoenix, Ariz.
came at the age of 16. A school dropout, and mourning the death of his father, he sank deep in the quicksands of self-pity. Because of financial pressures his mother was forced to take a job. Jim was left alone and despondent.

“I couldn’t do anything right,” Jim said. “Even attempting to ‘end it all,’ I shot a bullet through my foot instead of a vital spot. That added not only another heartache but a hospital bill to my mother’s burdens.”

Months dragged by for the embittered, lonely boy. With no direction in life, he soon found himself arrested on a minor charge and thrown into the “drunk tank,” then into the county jail.

“Even in the ‘drunk tank’ the Lord was knocking,” Jim said, “but I didn’t open the door.”

Married shortly after a brief period of service in the air force, Jim faced the realities of supporting himself and a family. Drifting from place to place, looking for something easy, and never really satisfied, the young couple was caught up in the sins of worldly living.

Looking, looking, and never finding, they moved from place to place. From a good job to financial collapse, and drifting “back home to Mother.”

Finally Jim reached the place where he felt he could no longer bear the responsibilities. He got into his car and drove away, leaving his family in New York.

Realizing his mistake, Jim phoned back across the miles, only to learn that divorce proceedings had already begun. Conviction flooded Jim’s soul.

For the first time in his life, he was drawn to church. He knew nothing about churches but his wife had been a Catholic. Jim seldom had attended with her and their boys but now he felt that he must go to church.

“So I went to the Catholic church,” Jim told the congregation that Sunday evening, “but I didn’t understand the Mass, and when I left the church my heart was still empty.”

Jim had found employment in Phoenix and when a fellow worker sensed a spiritual need, he asked Jim if he would like to talk to his pastor, Rev. Tharon Daniels of the Monte Vista Church.

A breakfast meeting in a restaurant was arranged. For the first time in his life, Jim heard—for two and one-half hours—the wonderful news of saving grace. It was all so new, too wonderful to grasp, and Jim left the restaurant with a feeling of amazement that a Bible had been pressed into his hands.

He got into his car and drove without any real destination. He longed to discuss with his father who had left him many years before, the things he had just been told. The idea of praying to a Heavenly Father was new to Jim and he didn’t know how to begin. But if he could only talk to his father!

He found himself in a cemetery. Getting out of the car, he sat down on the ground. He talked, and read, then talked again, and read, and read, and read.

Finally he looked up into the clear Arizona sky, and no words other than Jim’s could tell what happened next.

“Lord, I can’t go on any longer,” Jim had prayed. “I believe You are there. I believe there is a reason, and I’m asking You to forgive what’s happened in my life, what I’ve done. And please help me. Come in, and help me.”

Then Jim continued:

“And He did come in. Right there. Not at an altar, not with the pastor, not on my knees. Right there, sitting on the ground in the middle of a cemetery. I got up from there knowing that my life was different, truly different. I was a new creature. I cried, I shouted, I hollered, and that’s really not an appropriate thing to do in a cemetery. But I did it.

“I came to church the next day and after the service I talked again to my fellow worker. He reminded me that we had worked together on another job seven years before, and he said, ‘I thought many times of saying, “Hey, Jim, do you know Jesus?” I didn’t because I thought you would laugh at me. What would have happened, Jim, seven years ago, if I had told you then?’

“We will never know, but let’s not turn our back on someone because they might laugh at us or call us fanatic.”

Within a few weeks, Jim made plans to return to New York. Not that he expected to be able to return to his family, but at least he wanted to be as near them as possible, and make whatever restitution the Lord directed.

Then came the word that Jim was coming back to Phoenix—with his family! Jim’s explanation could be contained in a few words, “We have a great God!”

Jim, his wife Lynn, and their two boys were regular attenders of every service at Monte Vista. Within a month, Lynn too, had found the Lord, and in another month the Holy Spirit came in His fullness to make their home truly Christian.

How their faces glowed with their newfound joy!

A friend made it possible for them to attend the Arizona District Family Retreat in Prescott. It was there, alone with God, that Jim answered a call he had been trying to ignore—to full-time Christian service.

Today he is in Nazarene Bible College preparing for that service.

When Monte Vista had a farewell afterglow honoring Jim, Lynn, and the boys, Jim made this request:

“Words cannot express our love and appreciation at this point, but I do have one request . . . that you find someone else who needs the Lord, and love them as you have loved us.”
Personal Holiness Is Our Privilege

By IVAN A. BEALS
Kansas City, Mo.

ONE of the inspiring songs of Bill Gaither makes the wonderful declaration, “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.” It is typical of the living hope by which we may exercise faith in God’s personal salvation.

If God can overcome death—He can do anything for anybody. It is our privilege to reach out to a God who is able to supply our individual needs.

Indeed, the encouraging word of the scripture is, “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8, NIV). This specific promise certainly directs us to trust God and say, “Because God is able, I can live a holy life.”

There is really no reason why you and I cannot live such a life of obedience unto God. But many people apparently avoid the issue of personal holiness because they think their particular situation is beyond God’s help.

They neglect the divine command with His enabling promise which is made to every person. Instead of enjoying the privilege of holy living, they make excuses.

Some will sadly say, “Well, I’ve tried, but I just can’t live a Christian life—the bad habits are too strong—the temptations are too great.”

Failure is what one should expect if his effort to live in loving obedience to God depends upon his own resources of strength and ability. So God wants us to take His boundless resources into our account.

Again, many will neglect the offer of God’s support and haltingly confide, “I’m not ready—I’ll wait until I can fix up my life a little before I try to live the way God wants me to live.” Yet the fact remains that we must seek God’s transforming grace from where we are, just as we are—amidst our desperate need. If Satan has his usual way, we will never hurdle the first obstacle to holy living. By ourselves, we cannot overcome the sin that so easily besets us.

Then, others will comfort themselves in their failure using a shoddy defense of familiar words, “Nobody’s perfect anyhow—I’ll just do the best I can.”

The trouble is—man’s best never has been and never will be acceptable to God. If it were, Jesus Christ was sent in vain to be our Saviour. He suffered and died for our sins in vain. In vain He sent His Holy Spirit to be our Comforter. Surely our salvation is not of self but only of the Lord.

Both the world and the Church have seemingly envisioned a god that is too small to supply vital needs. In so doing, mankind has lost sight of the God who is abundantly able to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (cf. Philippians 4:19). Consequently, the privilege of living a holy life here and now is viewed as a hopeless dream or an overrated pretense.

Well-meaning people have challenged the actual ability of God to enable them to reach a holy standard of living. Dubiously they have asked, “Is it possible that God can help us to live and love without committing willful sin against Him, in this world, in this situation, under these circumstances?”

If God’s salvation is truly victorious, we may enjoy the privilege of personal holiness—in spite of any evil power.

God’s almighty power makes the difference. We have only to reach out in faith and draw from His sufficient supply of grace. Claiming the scriptural promise, Annie Johnson Flint was inspired to write: “He Giveth More Grace.”

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,

When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,

When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,

Our Father’s full giving is only begun.

Whenever we are frustrated with our own hope-
less lack, we should immediately turn to God. Then, receiving His fullness to fill our emptiness, we see the vanity of all our past excuses.

It is everyone's privilege to live a God-empowered life. This is why God sent His Son. This is why Christ consented to die on the Cross for our sins. This is why the Comforter is ready to come and indwell every believer.

Our Christian birthright is indeed a rich inheritance. It provides the knowledge of sins forgiven. And it affords the full privilege of drawing from the abundant resources of God to apply His love to our problems. God never intended that His children should fail in the grip of trial or the snare of temptation.

Rather, the way is open to vibrant communion with God and fellowship with other Christians. God invites each of us to experience the favor and the authority of His own abiding presence. Sharing His sufficiency lifts our manner of living to a holy plane. Because of this high calling and relationship—personal holiness is our privilege.

No gadget, large or small, is safe in the hands of a man whose heart and mind have not been taught the ways of right, who has no knowledge of human worth, and who is steeped in selfishness.

Once a group of citizens sent a plow to Africa. No instructions accompanied it and there was no plan to train men how to use it.

The plow fell into the hands of a primitive tribe in the interior, who had never seen such an instrument. Not knowing what it was for, they set it in the midst of their tribe and worshiped it. Each day they stopped their work to gather around it for prayers.

Of course, the plow was designed to till the soil and make ready a harvest. But because they did not know how to use the plow to make life better, it added to their burden.

The responsibility of training and teaching is a priority for parents, the Church, and the institutions of society that envision a better tomorrow.

Only when nurture of the heart and mind is attended to faithfully will our inventions and accomplishments bring pleasure and profit to us.

By C. NEIL STRAIT

Racine, Wis.
My father and my older brother both died at the age of 76. I am now 66, so 10 years may well be my life expectancy, barring the unforeseen. I’ve gone like a steam engine for over 65 years. Now I still have plenty of steam, but the engine is beginning to show the wear of the years.

Unquestionably these are my vulnerable years. I had never had the flu in my life, though people died like flies in our little town and everyone in our family had it during the great epidemic. Yet this year I took the flu and went down for the count. I am back in good health again but have been thinking soberly about my lifestyle for the next 10 years.

**THESE MUST BE THE MOST FRUITFUL YEARS IN MY LIFE.**

The Lord called me to preach over 40 years ago, and working with Him has been a thrilling and rewarding adventure. These have been fruitful years in many ways, yet not nearly fruitful enough.

I can see so many areas where my life and ministry have come short, and I don’t feel good about meeting the Lord until I am used of Him in a greater degree.

One has said a painting is a real work of art when it expresses the full intent of the master, and I will not be satisfied unless during the little time allotted me my life will “express the full intent of the Master.” Total retirement is unthinkable while people need the Lord and doors continue to open for my ministry. As I begin the countdown and realize my years of service will soon be over, I am determined to have the anointing of the Holy Spirit on my life and ministry as never before.

**UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH MY LORD IS MOST IMPERATIVE.**

As Jesus was aware of the presence, the strength, and guidance of His Heavenly Father, this must be my experience. John said, “As he is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17). This is made possible through the abiding presence of Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Unquestionably in the next few years there will be problems to solve, difficulties to encounter, and heartbreaking situations to face. My Lord will have already anticipated each one, and as I lean on and fully trust Him, I will be

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By LYLE K. POTTER
San Bernardino, Calif.
aware that He is in complete control and will be enabled to meet every life situation in the power of the Spirit.

This intimate, abiding relationship insures the fruit for which I am asking, for Jesus said, “If ye abide in me . . . ye shall ask what ye will”! I believe He meant exactly what He said, that He wants us to ask largely, and to begin to live in the realm of the spiritual and supernatural.

MATERIAL AND ETERNAL THINGS MUST BE KEPT IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

I must not get disturbed about things which happen that really will not matter 20 years from today, and I will not if I keep a right perspective. My relationship with Jesus is all that really matters.

Before too long I will have to leave every thing I have in this world, and this realization has given me a new incentive to lay up all I possibly can to become part of my inheritance when I move to the eternal city.

I INTEND TO REALLY LIVE AND ENJOY THESE FINAL YEARS.

Kathryn Peck wrote a poem which I have memorized and used in sermons and lectures. One verse goes something like this: “When I have time I’ll do so many things that today I have no time to do. / I’ll stop and marvel at a moth’s bright wings; I’ll pause in wonder at the sunset’s hue / . . . when I have time.”

I now have to admit my guilt along this very line. While my wife drank in the beauty of the sunset and captured its glory on film, I gazed for a moment, commented on its beauty, and returned to my book or sermon preparation on how to get people out to church or some related subject.

This is all changing. It’s a bit late, but I’ve quit dashing through life, missing many things God placed here for me to enjoy. I’m slowing my pace, not because I am tired, but because I want to live a fuller life and be like Jesus who said, “Consider the lilies of the field.”

DO I, DO YOU, HAVE 10 YEARS TO LIVE?

Maybe not. These bodies for some reason may quit functioning long before that . . . or Jesus may come! I don’t know about you, but I am going to live every day like it may be my last.

ABIDING IN CHRIST
PRINCIPLES OF IDENTITY AND INTEGRATION

ABIDERS AREN’T FRUIT PICKERS

Many try to find a way to fit God’s Word to their lives. Jesus’ followers are known by their commitment to fit their lives to His Word.

When the Apostle Paul wrote Galatian Christians concerning the fruit of the Spirit, his call was to cultivate it all—"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23, NASB). In fact, he wrote of fruit, implying a unity, rather than fruits, suggesting separate life qualities.

How much easier it would be if we could pick by preference or choose the characteristic we find easiest to express because of learned emotions, habits, and motives within our human personality.

As abiders in Jesus, the whole cluster of fruit grows from the seed of His love, the beginning of our balanced production of the Spirit’s fruit.

It must all grow in us—not just the qualities easiest to master, for that would be too readily explained as human rather than divine farming. Certainly the work of His Spirit in fruit growing is more evident for those qualities we were never able to cultivate effectively by our own effort.

One of the most beautiful experiences in life is to appreciate the balance in God’s world—from sun to sea—from heaven to herd—from Him to me.

What perfect proportion Paul finds in the fruit cluster. From the exuberance of joy to the solemnity of self-control, the fire of love to the coolness of patience. This is truly God’s fruit for all to see—the Spirit’s union with us to produce Christ’s balanced life in us.

Father, I don’t want to be a fruit picker. I want You to grow it all in me while I abide in You.
YOU MEAN unfounded fears? Yes, and there are many of them.

We live in the beautiful forested area northeast of Colorado Springs called the Black Forest. We have a few goats, a pup, some blue jays, robins, sparrows, woodpeckers, and other birds. We have some black squirrels, chicken hawks, and once or twice a bobcat.

Now the only livestock that really belongs to us are the goats and the pup. The rest exercise squatter’s rights.

This morning when I went to pray out by Ol’ Bill’s bunkhouse (his horns are seven inches in circumference at the base, and two feet long), two goats followed me and the pup.

Suddenly one of the goats became aware of the dog’s presence, and the pup, in the same instant, aware of the goat. Both stood stock-still in tense anxiety at the other’s presence.

It was a beautiful morning. There was no cause for fear. The pup was too small to harm the goat, and certainly the goat was not about to attack the dog.

By J. V. WILBANKS
Black Forest, Colo.
Where There Is No Cause

I objectively surveyed the situation and realized that that is exactly the plight of so many of our human circumstances. We tie ourselves with fear when there is no reason to fear. And we do it when all the surrounding circumstances are sunny and favorable.

This kind of fear and reaction phenomenon has been going on for a long time. Take a case in point: In the seventh chapter of 2 Kings the Syr i ans had Samaria locked up in a tight siege.

But in response to the prophet Elisha’s prediction that the siege should be lifted (verses 1-2), God caused the Syrians to hear the thunderous noise of a great army of footmen and cavalry. The Syrians fled in panic, leaving all their goods and equipment behind.

There was no cause to fear. The Syrians lost not only the opportunity to sack Samaria, but their own possessions as well.

Individuals have made the same mistake. A Christian woman had an ideal husband who was somewhat younger than she. Their marriage could have been peaceful and harmonious.

Two characteristics, peculiar to the human race, spoiled it. She wore the pants (bad thing to do, girls! Read 1 Peter 3:1-6). And being much older than he, she was extremely jealous. Consequently, the poor man led a henpecked existence.

I knew both people well. The woman had no cause to fear the unfaithfulness of her husband, though she constantly taunted him about entertaining wayward affections.

Her verbal abuse, instigated by unfounded anxieties, forced the unfortunate man to leave. He never returned. There was fear where there was no cause to fear, and the woman lost what she had.

Anxiety is one of the greatest problems today. It matters not whether the worry and fear are well founded or not. The havoc is the same. Neurotics have suffered the deteriorating effects of worry to such an extent that they are unable to accept the benevolent gestures of others in good health.

God doesn’t want His people to be afraid of imaginary bugaboos. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

What’s the best way to combat anxiety? Faith. Plain and simple faith.

The Philippians in Paul’s day had their worries too. The apostle gave them the formula for overcoming anxiety. He said, “The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:5-7, RSV).

That wonderful therapy for harasssed minds worthy of brief exposition:

1. “The Lord is at hand.” That is, the Lord is available right now for every believer. Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of the Father to make intercession for every one of us (Hebrews 7:24-25).

2. He says to pour out all your troubles before God. Explain the whole lot to Him. And when you do, give thanks to Him for the blessings you already enjoy. The process itself may clear away some of the cobwebs of doubt that are giving trouble.

3. Finally, leave all to Him. Relax and rely on God. The effect will be, first, that your heart will be relieved. You are not bothered about your problem now because you have fully committed it to God. This, in turn, eliminates the constant turmoil and endeavor of mind to contrive a way out of your problems.

When I was a lad of 18, I was constantly bugged with the demons of doubt. Though my health was excellent, I had a good Christian home, plenty to eat and wear, yet I was addicted to worry.

So chronic was this mental (and spiritual) ailment that even during the intervals between assaults of doubt, when I enjoyed some brief recess, I would begin to worry about the next attack!

After years of leading such a melancholy life, I solved the problem by beginning to believe God. It may not be easy for a chronic worrier to practice the formula of faith. But it is the only way and success can be achieved by beginning with what faith we have.

There’s the story about the infidel who came under conviction for sin. His doubts harrassed him terribly. But he decided to use what faith he did have or could muster up. So he prayed, “O God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul!”

The report is that it worked! Even “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief” reaches the Master’s ear.
I was tremendously moved as I saw John in the commencement line ready to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in religion. That day was the culmination of a lifelong ambition—an ambition that no one thought he could achieve except himself. It was a miracle of God's grace!

John lost his parents as a child and was raised by an aunt. At 12 he was in a tragic automobile accident that nearly took his life and left him with brain damage. There was little hope for the future or a future! His neurosurgeon told him, "John, you will never be able to finish high school," but the doctor saw his brain and did not weigh his heart. John was already called by God to go to college and preach the Good News.

With great discipline and superlative resolve he finished high school and came to Bethany Nazarene College. It wasn't long before he fell in love and married a lovely young lady and together they set their minds toward a common cause. With long hours of work and study and very little play, they moved toward that elusive goal.

On the last week of finals in his senior year he faced two great obstacles. One was in Greek and the second was in philosophy. Neither instructor, I learned later, had much faith that John would pass the examinations. But he made a B in philosophy and a C in Greek and was eligible for graduation.

He was in my office the day the grades were posted. His face was radiant with a sense of achievement.

"You know, Prof., I studied 50 hours for that Greek examination and 25 hours for the philosophy final." And then I knew the answer to the impossible possibility. The power of grace through motivation had made the difference—and I was humbled.

Let me introduce to you Rev. and Mrs. John Hooper of LaVerne, Okla. They serve a tiny church in a tiny community, but great things have come from LaVerne including a Miss America and some of the finest Christian farmers you will find anywhere. One never knows what can emerge through grace by the power of God.

When I am discouraged by my own limitations in
service and insight, I think of John and pray:

O Lord, take my capacities and multiply them through grace and discipline for Thee.
Help me not to see as I see, but as Thou canst see.

May I somehow instill in my students a great faith in God, a positive belief in their capacity through Him to serve, and enough steel in the marrow of their bones to see it through.
Extend their potential to the limits of their ability—and all through Thee!

The most agonizing of cries among people is that caused by pain. If you could have walked with me this evening through the hospital and witnessed the suffering of children and adults, you no doubt would have shared my sadness.

A little child of three lay moaning as a result of a painful debridement of wounds caused by fire.

A 43-year-old man was experiencing excruciating pain of rheumatoid arthritis, making each movement a crisis.

A young mother was suffering from recent surgery, which left her face horribly disfigured. “Why do these things happen?” “Why must an innocent child be subjected to pain?” “For what reason does a man have to dread each movement of his body?” “What possible purpose could there be for an attractive woman’s face to be transformed into a nightmare?” “Why does God (if there is a God) allow such circumstances to occur?”

I have observed that non-Christians and Christians alike ask these questions at times. Sensitive people cannot avoid wondering now and then why the Lord does not intervene and alleviate such terrible conditions.

Thankfully, Christians can look to the Word of God for answers. While there are no clear-cut solutions to specific incidents in our lives, we are provided with enough light so that we can look ahead with trust and assurance. We can know that God loves us with an everlasting love and will fulfill each of His promises, both for the present and the future.

The Scriptures establish that suffering is a part of human existence as a result of man’s sin (Genesis 3). But God takes our pain and uses it to teach us spiritual truths and to guide us into a deeper walk with Him.

I invite you to read about Pharaoh, King Nebuchadnezzar, Job, Paul, and Lazarus. Each of them knew extreme suffering. They all reacted to their afflictions in a different way. Those who sought the will of God received His blessings. Those who defied His will met disaster.

It is comforting to know that those who experience pain or who assist others to bear pain can be assured that “when thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” (Isaiah 43:2).

Suffering and affliction can be used to bring glory to His name. Romans 8:18 tells us that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Perhaps you are in pain and are rebelling. Or maybe you have a friend or loved one who is stricken and you have become bitter. I urge you to trust God completely. There are some things we will never understand in this life. It is written in Isaiah, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord” (55:8).

Examine your life for impurity. Be assured that you are in communion with God. Then treat your body well.

Avail yourself of every legitimate means open to you for the reduction or alleviation of your pain. Then trust Him implicitly, knowing that He “took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses,” and He will do all things well.
SPEAKING

The Seven Deadly Sins

Various lists have been compiled of the evils to which people are prone. One of the most famous is that attributed to Gregory the Great, who lived in the sixth century of the Christian era and who named what he called the “seven deadly sins.”

Each of us could probably draw a list of his own. We would no doubt include such items as immorality, theft, drunkenness, blasphemy, lying, idolatry, irreverence, or many more.

Of course, in a sense all sin is deadly. There are no “little sins” because all sin is defiance of God and there is no little God to sin against.

Yet Gregory’s list of the seven deadly sins has particular meaning even for our day. He named pride, envy, anger, sloth, avarice, gluttony, and lust.

One fact immediately noted is that most of these sins are what we would now call “sins of the spirit” as opposed to “sins of the flesh.” While gluttony and lust have direct physical expression, none of the others are necessarily fleshly or bodily at all.

PRIDE, which heads the list, is said to be the source of all the other deadly sins. A swelled head, “Uncle Bud” Robinson used to say, is the one disease that makes everybody sick but the person who has it.

Pride is the more dangerous because it takes so many forms. It may show itself as pride of appearance. It may be pride of possession. It may be pride of performance. Abraham Lincoln once remarked that if a certain general had known what a big funeral he was to have, he would have died much earlier!

Actually, most pride of these kinds is sadly mistaken. Someone recalls the two hoboes trying to sleep in a small-town railroad station. The stationmaster gave them a rough time as he threw them out. One of the tramps said to the other, “Have you noticed that the smaller the station, the bigger the stationmaster?” Nine times out of 10, the most conceited have the least for which to be proud.

But there is no pride so deceitful as religious pride. Some people are proud of their sinfulness. An unknown rhymester has written:

Once in a saintly passion,
I cried, with desperate grief,
“O Lord, my heart is black with guilt;
Of sinners, I am chief.”
Then stooped my guardian angel,
And whispered from behind,
“Vanity, my little man,
You’re nothing of the kind.”

Other religious people are proud of their humility. Like the fellow who said, “I used to be conceited; but not now. Now I am perfect.” They forget that it is to the humble and contrite spirit the Saviour comes.

But it is always true, “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6). Because pride robs us of God’s grace, it weakens the soul and paves the way for its destruction.

Envy, the second of the deadly sins, is said by the Apostle Paul to be one of the evidences of a carnal heart (1 Corinthians 3:3). Like pride, envy is the more dangerous because its victim may be completely unconscious of its existence.

Oscar Wilde once told a fable that illustrates this truth. The devil, crossing the Libyan Desert, came on a group of small fiends tempting a religious hermit. They tried him with all the seductions of the flesh. They sought to sow his mind with doubts and fears. They taunted him that his sacrifices and austerities were worth nothing. It was all to no avail. The hermit yielded not an inch.

Then the devil stepped forward. He said to the imps, “Your methods are too crude. Permit me for one moment.”

Going up to the hermit, Satan whispered in his ear, “Have you heard the news? Your brother has been made bishop of Alexandria.”

At once, the fable says, “a scowl of malignant jealousy clouded the serene face of the holy man.” What is indeed but a fable still speaks a tremendous truth. Envy destroys the soul in which it finds lodging.

Following envy is anger. This is not the clean, pure wrath of a holy heart in the face of blatant evil, as the anger of Jesus.
That the seven deadly sins are an ancient list with a modern ring to it is a point to ponder. Much about human life has changed since the time of Gregory the Great, 1,400 years ago. Gregory would be a complete stranger in the external trappings of the modern world. But he would be quite at home in the area of man's deepest needs.

This is the bitterness and hostility, whether explosive or smoldering, of a self-willed soul. “Love,” said Augustine, “can be angry, with a kind of anger in which there is no gall, like the dove's and not the raven's.”

While some moral indignation may indeed be, as H. G. Wells once said, “only jealousy with a halo,” yet the capacity for holy wrath must never be lost. Some people are never indignant, not because they are saintly, but because they are morally flabby.

But the man who gives way to rage because he does not get his own way is only a step from disaster. It takes sanctifying grace to purge the heart of the selfishness that lights the fuse of carnal anger.

SLOTH is more than laziness. It is really spiritual sluggishness, apathy, and indifference. The cure for sloth in this sense is not a shot of vitamin B-1. It is to follow the counsel of the Apostle Paul: “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord” (Romans 12:11).

AVARICE is greediness, covetousness. It is a sin of the spirit that destroys contentment. Sometimes it develops so far as to become miserliness. It would gain all it can, save all it can, and contrary to Wesley's famous third point, it would hoard all it can. But the facts are that miser and misery come from the same root word. They have even more in common than that fact might indicate.

The Bible throughout warns of covetousness. Covetousness is idolatry. It edges out devotion to God with devotion to gain.

The surest cure for covetousness is a strong sense of stewardship. When, like the Christians of the Early Church, we clearly see that the things we possess are not our own but are held in trust for our Lord, money and things lose their power to enslave.

GLUTTONY is one of the seven deadly sins rarely mentioned. It is nonetheless real and nonetheless dangerous. One of the difficulties connected with gluttony is that it is a matter of degree. Because it concerns what is necessary for all life, it is hard to nail down in precise terms.

Different people differ in the amounts of food they require. The laboring man needs a diet that would kill his sedentary neighbor.

There is no doubt that many people dig their graves with their forks. There is even less excuse for this today than ever before, since studies in nutrition and its relation to health are well known and readily available.

In the intake of food, as in a great many areas of the legitimate, the biblical norm is temperance or self-control. The capacity for self-control is part of the fruit of the Spirit. But its exercise falls within the scope of a necessary discipline of life.

SOMewhat akin to gluttony but even more pervasive is the sin of lust. It also relates to a natural instinct of the human species. It deals with an area of life that has its place in God's complete design for His people.

One of the critical factors in the moral decay of our times is the incredible commercialization of sex. It is used to sell automobiles, toothpaste, and tickets to the South Seas. It is paraded across the pages of newspapers and magazines, billboards, and movie and television screens.

Other ages in history have been notorious for immorality. Few if any have flaunted it in the face of man and of God as has ours.

The fires of lust are fed by the imagination. No one is safe from almost overwhelming temptation unless he systematically heeds the warning, “Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.”

The fact that this is an ancient list with a very modern ring to it is in itself a point to ponder. Much about human life has changed since the time of Gregory the Great, 1,400 years ago. Gregory would be a complete stranger in the external trappings of the modern world. But he would be quite at home in the area of man's deepest needs.

The sins Gregory listed have lost none of their deadliness. Nor can modern methods bring about their cure.

As in the sixth century, so in the twentieth: “Life is short, death is sure; sin the curse, and Christ the Cure.”
**CHURCH NEWS**

Calgary First Church, Alberta, Canada, had a unique dramatization of the Easter story. John W. Peterson's cantata "No Greater Love" was presented, March 28-30, to capacity crowds of approximately 2,500.

The pageant, directed by Music Director Dave Parton, is presented each year with colorful costumes, elaborate staging, and special lighting.

This sixth annual production had a new dimension. The choir was accompanied by members of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

The presentation is anticipated each year by the community. Rev. Bob Lindley, senior minister of Calgary First, acclaims this presentation as a "tremendous outreach opportunity."

**NEW CHURCHES REACH 154**

Eight new Nazarene churches bring the total of new churches for the quadrennium to 154.

The Cleveland Spanish Church was organized on the Akron District, where Dr. Forrest Nash is superintendent. The Peninsula Church, Palos Verdes, Calif., was organized February 23 with L. R. Bottemiller as pastor. Also, March 16, the Palm Springs, Calif., church was organized with R. Wallis Kornegay as pastor.

The Baltimore Inner City Church was organized on the Washington District, March 23. Superintendent Roy E. Carnahan reports that Ivan J. Roberts is the pastor.

Rev. Gene Fuller, superintendent of the Virginia District, reports that the Suffolk, Va., church was organized, April 6, with William Henry Horton as pastor.

On the North Carolina District, Superintendent Terrell C. Sanders, Jr., reported two new churches.

The Hickory, N.C., church was organized, March 30, with Richard L. Jordan as pastor. The Winston-Salem Faith Church was organized, April 6, with Jack N. Wolverton as pastor.

Eleven new Nazarene churches have been organized in 1975. □ —Home Missions Department

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**CENTRAL AMERICAN NAZARENE SEMINARY EXPANDING**

With the opening of the seventh school year, February 24, construction of a new men's dormitory also began. The building is designed to house 36 male students, with laundry space and a large recreation area for Ping-Pong, reading, and other activities.

The estimated cost of the building is $50,000, to be paid from Alabaster funds.

Architect Ladson K. Saylor, a missionary with C.L.A.M.E., who has designed all of the buildings on the seminary campus, has also designed this one to be both beautiful and functional.

Pictured (l. to r.) are: Mr. Miguel Mejia, business manager in charge of construction; and W. Howard Conrad, director of the seminary. Mr. Gary Zimmerman, Nazarene missionary now in San Jose in language study and a builder by trade, is technical advisor.

The dormitory is a much-needed addition and when finished will free other areas for more classroom space. The administration, staff, and students wish to express their gratitude to all Nazarenes who have given generously in the Alabaster offerings.

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**PASTOR GEORGE PRIVETT RECEIVES DOCTORATE**
Pastor George Privett, of the Charlotte, N.C., Plaza Church, has been awarded the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree from Vanderbilt University. In the upgrading of its graduate program, the Divinity School and the University Board of Trust adjudged the holders of the earned Master of Sacred Theology degree, received January 26, 1968, had fulfilled the requirements for the new Doctor of Ministry degree.

Dr. Privett is an honor graduate of Trevecca Nazarene College (A.B.) and Nazarene Theological Seminary (M.Div.). He pastored churches in Lenoir City, Tenn.; Ballard, Mo.; Atlanta and Donelsonville, Ga.; Birmingham and Selma, Ala., before going to North Carolina. He was founder and first pastor of the Huffman Church of the Nazarene in Birmingham. Prior to going to Charlotte he was minister of the Concord First Church for seven years.

Dr. Privett has served as secretary of the North Carolina District Church of the Nazarene since 1972. He pioneered retreats for church laymen in Alabama and North Carolina and has coordinated eight of these events in all. He was president of the Trevecca Alumni Association in 1972 and served as trustee for five years.

He has contributed articles to the Herald of Holiness, the Preacher's Magazine, Come Ye Apart, the Nazarene Weekly (Nashville, Tenn.), and Conquest.

In community affairs he has served as March of Dimes chairman and as president of ministerial associations in two cities where he labored. In Concord he was president of both the Ministerial Association and the Bible Teaching Association.

Pastor Privett and his wife, Martha, have three boys: Johnny, 14; David, 11; and Ronald, 7. In addition to being a homemaker and children's church director, Mrs. Privett is a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Cabarrus Memorial Hospital.

**CHAPLAIN IN SELF-HELP PROJECT**
Recently Capt. L. W. Dodson (Chaplain, USN) and seven other chaplains donated their talents over a three-week period to refurbish facilities used for Navy dependents' assistance.

The do-it-yourself chaplains completed work on four counseling offices, a comfortable waiting room for dependents, an office for the yeoman, a chaplains' reading room and library, a typing room with desks and phones for "duty" chaplains performing official business, and a chaplains' office.

Chaplain Dodson is force chaplain for the commander of the Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He is the highest ranking Nazarene Navy chaplain.

Pictured is Rear Adm. W. Haley Rogers, USN, deputy surface force commander, cutting the ribbon to officially open the new facility at the 32nd Street Naval Station in San Diego. Chaplain Dodson is on the left.

**PASTOR GEORGE PRIVETT RECEIVES DOCTORATE**
Dodie Haller, the nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Walters, is congratulated by her pastor, Rev. C. W. Roach, for winning a 10-speed bicycle in a recent Sunday school contest at the Lake Jackson, Tex., church. Sonny Lopez, her neighbor, happily looks on. Dodie turned the bike over to Sonny, who didn’t have one of his own.

The mortgage-burning service on the educational building of the Church of the Nazarene, Assumption, Ill., was held Sunday morning, April 13. Rev. James E. Hunton, district superintendent of the Illinois District, was the guest speaker and assisted the pastor, William B. Kelly, in burning the mortgage. Officials of the church are pictured (l. to r.): Mrs. Eugene Fathauer, trustee; Wilma McDonald, trustee and church treasurer; Rev. William B. Kelly, pastor; Rev. James E. Hunton, district superintendent; John Hubner, trustee; Mrs. John Hubner, church secretary.

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District: Los Angeles
Children: Craig Wesley, October 5, 1954
Larry Bradford, November 20, 1954
Robert George, June 15, 1952

George: January 20
Born in Los Angeles, Calif.
Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Rench
Education: Pasadena College, A.B.
Nazarene Theological Seminary, B.D., 1959
Ordained: 1964, Northern California District
Missionary work: Preacher—Teacher

DONNA: June 30
Born in Lansing, Mich.
Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Allen Storey
Education: Pasadena College, A.B.
Missionary work: General

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Yuma, Ariz., First Church conducted its mortgage-burning service on January 12, 1975. This climaxed a 10-year effort to pay off the indebtedness on their new sanctuary located on a five-acre plot. The property is valued at $200,000. Pictured are Rev. J. Paul Tucker, pastor since 1965; Francis Raebel, treasurer; Ralph Bailey, trustee; M. G. Miniken, charter member; Homer Lee, trustee and contractor for the building; Bob Lee, Charles Taylor, and Zelma Moore, trustees. Speaker for the mortgage-burning service was District Superintendent M. L. Mann. Liquidation of the debt has allowed the beginning of construction of an additional educational unit and fellowship hall.

ONC STUDENT RECEIVES LINCOLN ACADEMY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mr. Bruce Banks of Normal, Ill., was selected to receive the Lincoln Academy Achievement Award. This award is given to one member of the graduating class at each institution of higher education in Illinois represented by an academic trustee of the Lincoln Academy Board. President Harold W. Reed is a trustee of the Academy.

Mr. Banks received the Order of Lincoln (a special medallion) in recognition of his unique accomplishment. Bruce is a senior at Olivet Nazarene College, Kankakee, Ill., and is president of the Associated Students. He has received previous special recognition as high school letterman, recipient of Rotary International Award, American Legion Award, elected to Who's Who in high school and college, has served on college committees, and was elected chairman of a college faculty-student committee.

A convocation for granting the award took place in the House of Representatives in Springfield, Ill. Following the convocation, President and Mrs. Reed and Mr. Banks were guests of Governor and Mrs. Dan Walker in the executive mansion at a luncheon in honor of the awardees.

Recently two “five generations” of Nazarenes were present at the home of Pastor and Mrs. M. Eugene Myers of the Ashley-Hudson Church, Hudson, Ind. In the picture to the left, in back (l. to r.) are Mrs. Janice Myers of Hudson, and Mrs. Betty Fagan of Findlay, Ohio. In front are Andrew Myers of Hudson; Mrs. Leona Businger of Payne, Ohio; and Mrs. Gladys Karrick of Findlay, Ohio. In the picture to the right, Matthew Fagan and his baby, Heather, of Findlay, Ohio, are shown in place of Mrs. Janice Myers and Andrew. All are members of Findlay First Church except Mrs. Myers.
**TWO NEW PIONEER DISTRICTS ANNOUNCED**

Creation of two new Pioneer Mission districts to be developed through the Department of Home Missions has been announced by Dr. Charles H. Strickland, secretary of the Board of General Superintendents.

The two districts were officially formed by the division of the former Northwest European District into the districts of Scandinavia (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland) and the Netherlands (Holland and Belgium), during the visit of General Superintendent Rev. Edward Lawlor, in jurisdiction.

Rev. Murray Pallett will continue to serve as district superintendents of both districts.

District officers were elected in Scandinavia, and Dr. Lawlor appointed them to an advisory council. In the Netherlands, district officers as well as the district advisory board were elected.

Currently we have two churches in Denmark and one in Holland; services are being held in a second location in Holland, and property for a third work has been purchased.

While in Europe, Dr. Lawlor conducted a "mini-assembly" in each of these two territories with services held in Copenhagen and Haarlem, near Amsterdam. In each place, inspirational rallies were held and some business procedures were conducted.

Previously an assembly was held to encompass all of these countries, and because of the number of languages involved, it was difficult to operate business. It is felt that each of these two distinct cultural and language areas will grow faster as a separate district organization.

European Nazarenes in both areas have reported to the Department of Home Missions great delight with this new pattern.
In each place there was a large attendance of visitors, as well as Nazarenes. Previously, when all came together from the various countries, only a very few attended from the visiting countries because of language problems.

Rev. Cor Holleman, now completing a year of intensive study at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, will be returning to the Netherlands where he will open a new work in Rotterdam, the city of his birth.

For the past seven years, Rev. Holleman has been our pioneer pastor in the Netherlands, opening the Church of the Nazarene in Haarlem and seeing it grow into a large, responsible "mother church," having already launched a daughter church at Zaandijk and now expecting further growth in Rotterdam.

Outreach opportunities in these two new districts are challenges to prayer by Christian people everywhere.

MOUNT VERNON PROFESSOR EARNS DOCTORATE

David Halverson, a Mount Vernon (Ohio) Nazarene instructor, had the Ph.D. degree conferred upon him March 20 during graduation exercises at Ohio State University, Columbus.

Dr. Halverson, chairman of the music department at MVNC and director of the Singing Collegians, began his doctorate in the spring of 1972. His 200-page dissertation for the doctor's degree in music education is entitled "A Biometric Analysis of Eye-Movement Patterns of Sight Singers."

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Melbourne Halverson, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Dr. Halverson is a native of Swift Current, Saskatchewan. His formal education began at the Canadian Nazarene College, Winnipeg, Manitoba, in pursuit of becoming a pastor. "But I soon felt the ministry was not my calling and that music might be. I had always liked music so with the encouragement of a professor, I transferred to Olivet Nazarene College, Kankakee, Ill." There he earned a B.S. degree in music education.

Halverson's teaching began as an elementary music specialist in Clio, Mich., during 1962-63. Returning to Canada, Dr. Halverson was music department chairman at Canadian Nazarene College and in 1966 he moved to Ohio where he was a church music director in Marion.

Eventually Halverson attended the University of Oregon at Eugene, where he received a master's degree in music.

After teaching in public school in Oregon, Halverson and his wife, Beth, and their two children: Lisa, 10; and Todd, 8, made the move to MVNC in 1971.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Pictured (l. to r.) with District Superintendent Bert Daniels and General Superintendent Orville W. Jenkins are Rev. and Mrs. Carl Green and Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Guntle.

WASHINGTON PACIFIC

The thirty-second annual assembly of the Washington Pacific District was held at Kent, Wash., First Church. District Superintendent M. Bert Daniels gave his twelfth report, and he was reelected to a four-year term.

General Superintendent Orville W. Jenkins ordained Carl Green and recognized the elder's orders of Joseph Guntle.

The following were elected to the advisory board: (elders) Winston Ketchum and Paul Anderson; (laymen) Jack Coonrod and John E. Wordsworth.

Mrs. Corleen Litsey was reelected NWMS president. Rev. Tom Campbell was elected NYPS president, and Rev. Steven Fletcher was elected chairman of the church schools board.
Recently the Newberg, Ore., church purchased a portable dental unit with faith-promise funds. It will be sent to Rev. Terry Read and fellow missionaries in Haiti.

This “Mission Air” pneumatic unit, complete with chair and light, is manufactured by the A-dec Corporation of Newberg. A compressor is also being shipped with the unit. The complete assembly is valued at $2,415.

Pictured from left to right are Mr. George Bertwell of the A-dec Corp.; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Edgerton, outgoing missionaries to Swaziland and members of the Newberg church; Rev. Mark Rudeen, missionary from Peru, who accepted the gift on behalf of the Department of World Missions; Pastor Robert Quanstrom; and Mrs. Elmer Gardner, local NWMS president.

This project followed the overpayment of the general budget and a gift of $1,000 to the Edgertons.

REV. HARRY E. GRIMSHAW TAKEN

Pastor Harry E. Grimshaw of the Spokane, Wash., Shadle Park Church, died April 12 at the Veterans’ Administration Hospital in Portland, Ore., following a three-month hospitalization with a malignant brain tumor.

After teaching in the Ohio public schools for eight years and serving in the armed services during World War II, he answered the call to preach and graduated from ONC. For 27 years, Rev. Grimshaw served the Church of the Nazarene at Freeport, Ill.; Litchfield, Minn.; Hobart, Ind. (First); McMinnville, Ore.; and at Shadle Park. During his ministry he was a member of several district boards and a delegate to two General Assemblies.

Survivors include his wife, El­leen; son, Rev. Michael E.; grand­son, Michael II; his stepmother, Ellen Grimshaw; and 14 brothers and sisters.

His funeral was conducted April 17 at the Shadle Park Church by his district superintendent, Dr. Raymond Kratzer. Assisting were his two brothers-in-law, Rev. Wendell Wellman, pastor in Monrovia, Calif.; and Rev. W. Donald Well­man, pastor of Denver First Church. Rev. Arthur Bates, member of the Shadle Park Church, also assisted. Vocalists were Rev. Har­rell Poarch of Ritzville, Wash.; and Rev. and Mrs. David Sullivan of Portland, Ore. Interment was April 18 at the Evergreen Memorial Mausoleum in McMinnville, Ore.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY INFORMATION


NAZARENE CAMP MEETINGS


June 23-29—KENTUCKY. Wesleyan Heights Methodist Church, 1215 Scherum Road, Owensboro, Ky. 42301. Dr. and Mrs. James Main. evangelists. Trevadores Quart­et (Trevcca), singers. Aleck G. Ulmet, dis­trict superintendent.


June 29—July 6—TENNESSEE. Garner Creek Road in Dickson County, Don Pfeifer and Roy T. McKinney, evangelists. Rev. and Mrs. Phil Shomo, song evangelists. H. Har­vey Hendershot, district superintendent.


The Malden, Mo., church was flooded in front and over the parking lot on Easter Sunday. Yet all records were broken with an attendance of 745. Rev. M. Ray Snow is the pastor.
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VITAL STATISTICS

DEATHS

HELEN F. CARLSON, 83, died April 25 in Elmhurst, Ill. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Robert Smith. She is survived by her husband, George; two sons; Edward, daughter, Mrs. Lewis (Virginia) Reerox; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

REV. WILLIAM OSCAR FELTS, 84, died May 10 in Siloam Springs, Ark. Rev. Felt's funeral services were conducted by the Revs. Bill F. Lambert, Paul Watson, and Melvin Gene Wilson. He is survived by his wife, Mildred; three sons, and two daughters. Rev. Felt's family at the church in 1959 and served the North Arkansas District for a number of years.

EUGENE RAY HAYS, 48, died Nov. 13, 1974, in Venice, Fla. Funeral services were conducted by Dr. Miles A. Simmons and Rev. Gordon Weitmore in Colorado Springs. Survivors include his wife, Wilmah; daughter, Mrs. Lewis (Virginia) Reerox; two sons; and one daughter. FELSIE ROSE HAYNS, 48, died April 25 in Elmhurst, Ill. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Donald Freese. Interment was in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Dryden, Mich.

MOVING MINISTRIES

PAUL BICKES from Lakeland (Fla.), South Florida Heights to Orlando (Fla.) Central

JOSEPH D. DISCOTT, J.R. from Ferndale, Mich., to Williams Lake (Drayton Plains, Mich.)

LAWRENCE O. BIGHT from associate, Caro, Mich., to Arlington (Va.) Calvary

EDWARD CLARK, JR., from Nazarene Bible College, Colorado Springs, to Greensburg (Ind.) First

CURTIS B. COX from Monroe (La.) First to evangelism

MARGARET CUNNINGHAM from Nazarene Bible College, Colorado Springs, to Arleston, Ore.

FRANCIS LEE DEISHER from Sidney, Ill., to Monroe, Mich.

MERRILL E. DEWEY from Vero Beach, Fla., to Seminole (Fla.) Lake Seminole

G. TIMOTHY DRISKELL from Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, to Mason City, Ia.

LONZI ELLIS from Shivelyville, Ky., to Jamestown, Ky.

JAMES FOLLOM from associate, Roanoke, Va.

BURT GILL, JR., from Forrester City, Ariz., to South Pittsburg, Tenn.

MICHAEL E. GRIMSHAW from evangelism to Spokane (Wash.) Shadle Park

JOSEPH WAYNE GUNTLE to Van Zandt Park

JOHN M. HAYES from Nazarene Bible College, Colorado Springs, to Palmetto, Fla.

LARRY W. HINDMAN from Hutchinson, Kan., to Eastbridge to Roxana, Ill.

BILLY J. JORDAN from Pearl River, La., to Monroe (La.) First

CHARLES KETCHUM from Caro, Mich., to Arlington (Va.) Calvary

JOSEPH WAYNE GUNTLE to Van Zandt Park

JAMES FOLSOM from associate, Roxana, Ill., to associate, West Carrollton, Ohio

ROY HENCK, from Ferndale, Mich., to Arlington (Va.) Calvary

FRANCIS LEE DEISHER from Sidney, Ill., to Monroe, Mich.

MALCOLM CUNNINGHAM from Nazarene Bible College, Colorado Springs, to Altona, N.Y.

GARY WARCHOL from associate, Colorado Springs, to Altona, N.Y.

RICK WILLIAMSON to Iowa Falls, Ia.
V. F. KELLY, 83, died May 6 in Anderson, Ind. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Dexter Westhafer and assisted by Rev. Richard Veach and Rev. Blankenship, district superintendent of Northwestern Ohio. He is survived by 9 children: Chas., Mrs. Francis Gasho, Rev. Alva, Rev. William, Rev. Keith, Mrs. Raymond Cain, Mrs. Richard Bollenbacher, LeRoy, Richard, 29 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

FLOYD LOGAN, SR., 67, died March 21 in Nashville, Ga. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. E. L. Starkey. Survivors include his wife, Dollie (Southerland); two daughters; one son; and four grandchildren.

RUBY E. MOORE, 79, died Feb. 18 in Arcadia, Calif. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. C. Marshall Bowes. She is survived by 3 sons, George, Harold, and Raymond; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

DEWEY L. SPROGUE, 76, died April 30 in Hastings, Neb. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Francis Runyon. He is survived by his wife, Faye; three daughters, Mrs. Avis Weitmer, Mrs. Phyllis Watts, Mrs. Sharon Bierman; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one brother; and two sisters.

PAUL TSUNEYO YAMADA, 50, died March 2 in Hilo, Hawaii. Survivors include his wife, Pauline; one daughter, Mrs. Chester (Christine) Leialoha; three grandchildren, parents, Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Tomokichi Yamada; one brother; and two sisters.

BIRTHS

to MICKEY AND JANICE (JOHNSON) BLAKELY, Valbycia, Calif., a girl, Liane Danielle, Apr. 2.


to WELDON AND MARY LOU (STRICKLAND) MCCLOY, Natchitoches, La., a boy, John David, May 14 to QUENTIN L. AND NANCY (GARTIN) SMITH, Pine Bluff, Ark., a boy, Matthew Leslie, Apr. 21 to RANDALL AND JANET (STUMP) TIPTON, Albuquerque, N.M., a boy, Matthew Leslie, Apr. 21 to CLIFFORD L. AND BARBARA (LEE) VANDERBURGH, Bradley, Ill., a girl, Coral Lee ("Corrie"), May 6.

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BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS—Office: 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, Mo. 64131. Eugene L. Stowe, Chairman; Orville W. Jenkins, Vice-Chairman; Charles H. Strickland, Secretary; George Couther, Edward Lawlor, V. H. Lewis.
I was born and raised a Roman Catholic. Twelve years ago, at the age of 29, I was born again in a Nazarene tent revival. My father is Catholic but gradually beginning to see some light on the Scriptures and is real receptive. He's confused about purgatory. He says he really doesn't believe in purgatory, but Matthew 18:34-35 implies that there will be a provision that when you've burned long enough your debt will be paid. I'd appreciate your view.

I'm grateful your father is receptive. It is only fair to point out that Matthew 18:34-35 is the conclusion of the parable of the two debtors (verses 21-35).

The verses you cite are, "And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

It is always a mistake to extend the meaning of a parable beyond the main point it teaches. You cannot, as the saying goes, "make a parable walk on all four."

The point of the parable is unmistakable: Those who have been forgiven must forgive. To refuse forgiveness to others is to imperil one's own forgiveness.

Even so, if the statement be taken literally, the debtor who owed what was the equivalent of $10 million could never pay his debt. Were he imprisoned until he paid, he would be in prison until he died. Verse 26 shows that. His only hope of payment was to be free to work.

Evangelical Christianity holds that no self-suffering, here or hereafter, can earn the forgiveness of sin or "pay the debt." Christ alone can do that, and He did it on the Cross for all who in penitent faith receive the merits of His atonement.

In terms of the parable itself, since the king forgives those who ask him, what sense does it make to "burn in purgatory" instead of seeking and receiving forgiveness here and now?

I realize that there are nuances in the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox doctrine of purgatory that neither the question nor the answer touch. But the important thing to see is that eternal life is not the reward of those who pay for their own sins, but "the gift of God . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

A friend hinges his salvation on Acts 16:31, which says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." He says he believes in God and it doesn't matter how he acts; he is still saved. Wouldn't this same reasoning, if true, hold for John 3:16 also?

It would; but the reasoning is patently false.

Your friend apparently confuses mental assent to the truth "There is a God" with evangelical or saving faith. "The devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19), but they are demons still.

James 2:17-26 shows that mental assent is quite worthless by itself. "Faith without works [obedience to God's will] is dead."

The New Testament in its entirety makes it clear that saving faith involves obedience. Paul writes of "obedience to the faith" (Romans 1:5), which is really, as A. M. Hunter says, "the obedience which faith is."

The New Testament speaks both of believing the gospel and obeying the gospel (Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 4:17), and they mean the same thing. One Greek word means both "unbelief" and "disobedience," and may be translated either way (John 3:36). They amount to the same thing.

John nails it down tight: "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4).

In Mark 4:12, Jesus is explaining why He is speaking in parables, so "that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them." That sounds very strange to me. Is it worded wrong? Why should the people not be converted and their sins be forgiven? Did not Jesus come for that purpose?

Jesus did indeed come "to seek and to save" those who are lost (Luke 19:10).

The problem is partly one of translation and partly one of interpretation.

This is a quotation from Isaiah 6:9-10. Paul quotes the same passage in Acts 28:26-27, "Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: for the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see . . ."

It was not that they could not see; they would not see. "Their eyes they have closed." As a result of refusing to see and hear, they became unable to see and hear.

This is precisely what happens today when people persist in their refusal to respond to the gospel. Unwillingness slowly but surely turns to inability.
The contractor holds a special box to go in the cornerstone of the new Brasilia Church of the Nazarene.

**BRASILIA CORNERSTONE LAID**

The church building now being erected in Brasilia, Brazil, is a miracle.

When the Church of the Nazarene first requested land for a church in the Brazilian capital, the city itself was just in the construction stage. The population was mostly construction families who lived in a suburban satellite city. The Church of the Nazarene started services there with the people.

Costs of building in Brasilia were high. Other difficulties arose. For more than 10 years, the church land in Brasilia lay idle. Each year the mission hoped to build, but could not.

In January, 1975, the church was informed by the government that its land in Brasilia was being taken for some other use. Nazarenes all over Brazil and the U.S. prayed.

The next week the Nazarene pastor, his wife, and his local church board met with the governor. The pastor's wife took an Alabaster box with her. She told the governor how Nazarene churches all over the world took Alabaster offerings for building churches, hospitals, and schools. She told him that the church in Brasilia would be built from this offering.

The governor was so impressed that he asked for an Alabaster box for his office. He wanted to share in the offering.

The conversation ended by the governor picking up the phone and calling the president of commission to ask him to give special consideration to the Church of the Nazarene.

A day later, the pastor was informed that the property could be kept to build the church.

The contractor was so impressed by this miracle that he provided a special box for the cornerstone. He said he knew Jesus was a carpenter, and this box was a symbol of the Lord's work.

The construction is moving ahead, and the Brasilia Church of the Nazarene should be completed by November.—Robert Collins, Brazil.

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Pastor Michael B. Ross, of Miami First Church, participated in the church renewal clinic sponsored by the Evangelism Explosion Foundation at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., April 18-23.

Nearly 1,500 Greater San Diego Nazarenes converged on the Point Loma College Golden Gymnasium Sunday evening, April 20, to hear Paul Mickelson's "This Same Jesus." The musical, songs of Jesus' promised return, was presented to the county-wide "Come Together Celebration" by the combined choirs of 11 Nazarene churches, Point Loma College students, and the PLC-Community Orchestra. Participating churches were: Chula Vista, Claremont, El Cajon, Escondido First, Las Flores, Linda Vista, Pacific Beach, San Diego First, San Diego University Avenue, Spring Valley, and Vista. Dr. Reuben Rodeheaver, PLC professor of music, directed the presentation. PLC President W. Shelburne Brown briefly addressed the congregation following the musical.

The Eagle, Ida., church reports a centenarian in the Nazarene family. Mrs. Leah Isabel Pittam celebrated her one hundredth birthday May 3. "Grandma" Pittam was born in Nebraska City, Neb. She has 87 living descendants: 8 children, 20 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren. She lives with her son, Herbert. Testifying to the goodness of God, "Grandma" Pittam says, "My family and my church have been my life."

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Good Friday, March 28, the Port Glasgow, Scotland, church had a banquet to commemorate their fiftieth anniversary. It was also the occasion of burning the mortgage on the new church sanctuary and fellowship hall, completed in 1966 at a cost of $70,000. Among the invited guests were Mrs. J. B. Maclagan (widow of the first pastor); Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Robertson and Rev. and Mrs. D. Tarrant (British Isles North district superintendent), former pastors; and Dr. and Mrs. George Frame. The church presented a gold watch to Mr. William Barclay in gratitude for completing 31 years as church secretary. Weekend anniversary services were conducted by Pastor W. B. Kelly with British Isles South District Superintendent T. W. Schofield as the guest preacher. Viewing the mortgage burning are the members of the church board with Mr. William Barclay (l. front) and Rev. W. B. Kelly (r. front).
Cecil was a good man, a fine husband, and a devoted father to his only child. But Cecil was not a Christian. Over the years his wife and daughter and the Pana, Ill., church prayed for his conversion.

When his daughter was married, Cecil reluctantly came to church, but only because he had to give the bride away. When his daughter moved to Decatur, a distance of about 35 miles, two congregations prayed for him.

At every revival campaign in the Pana church, his wife requested, "Pray for my husband."

In the Decatur church, his daughter requested, "Pray for my dad."

A new pastor came to the Pana church who determined that he was going to win this hitherto unreachable man.

Cecil had retired early because of physical disability. He was able to do only very light work, but the pastor began calling him for advice and assistance for work around the church.

Out of Cecil’s hearing, his family joked that if the pastor needed a wastebasket emptied, he would call and convince "C.C." he was needed. Sometimes the pastor took Cecil with him on his calling rounds. Occasionally the two of them went fishing.

The change in Cecil was gradual. One day he called the pastor and said, "We’ve worked together and fished together. How about praying together?" The pastor came immediately to the house to pray, but Cecil did not find God.

On Saturday evening he called his daughter and asked her if she would like to have an early birthday present. When she assured him she would, he told her, "I want you to know I’m praying."

However, the lack of a religious background hampered Cecil in his honest search for God.

The following day was the vacation Bible school program in the Decatur church. Of course, "Paw-Paw" had to see his grandchildren in the program.

The VBS presented a program based on the parable of the lost sheep. Little Greg was to be the lost sheep.

The kindergarten children came crawling out on the platform in white robes portraying the sheep in the fold. Some looked scared, some giggled, and some rose up from their "sheeply" pose to wave to relatives in the congregation.

The young man portraying the shepherd walked up one aisle and down another looking for the lost sheep. When he came to Greg, the baby went to him with a gleeful smile. He enjoyed this new game! The program ended with the song "The Ninety and Nine."

Over the congregation came the sense of the presence of God. The Great Shepherd had walked the aisles that day. Tears were shed, and there was a hushed reverence. People left the church still moved by the wonderful spirit of the service.

Grandma hurried to the platform to get her grandson. As she returned to her seat, she held him close and said, "Oh, that made me feel bad. Grandma’s baby must never be a lost sheep!"

Many who were sitting near Cecil said later they could see he was greatly affected by the service. It was when he returned to Pana that he showed how much, for he called his faithful pastor to come to pray. Kneeling by the living room sofa, Cecil found his way to the fold.

He had only six months to testify of the grace of God before the Lord called him home. He took every opportunity available, and always his testimony was, "I was the lost sheep and the Shepherd found me."

When he went to the hospital, as long as he was able to talk, no doctor, nurse, or visitor left the room until he had told them about the Great Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep.

If you or I were to plan Cecil's conversion, we would probably have an interested layman win him to the church, where he would be converted under the mighty preaching of the minister or evangelist. We routinely expect that children’s programs will draw adults to the church, and preaching will convict them.

Apparently God likes variety in His conversions just as He does in His creation. In this instance, the roles were reversed. Cecil was won to the church by the minister in one town, and convicted of his need by a children’s program in another town.

We can ask with the prophet Zechariah, "Who hath despised the day of small things?" Whether it is friendship or a children’s program, or some other church effort, if it is done in Christ’s name, He can use it for His glory and the salvation of souls.

By Elsie E. Buckmaster

Decatur, Ill.
Paul E. Wells

Succumbs to Injuries

Prof. Paul E. Wells, 48, faculty member of Mount Vernon Nazarene College, died May 18 in University Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, from head injuries from a fall at home.

He was a professor at MVNC for five years and chairman of the department of business administration.

Mr. Wells was a 1949 graduate of Olivet Nazarene College. He received a master's degree in accounting from Ohio State University in 1951 and a General Electric business degree in 1954.

For 11 years he was business manager at Eastern Nazarene College, and he served as vice-president in charge of financial affairs from 1966 to 1969. He was regional NYPS representative for the Eastern Zone for 4 years.

The funeral service was held May 21 in Mount Vernon, Ohio, First Church, where he had been director of music for five years. Pastor Jack Archer officiated. Dr. Leslie Parrott (president, ONC) prayed and Rev. Gordon Wetmore (Columbus, Ohio, First Church) read the obituary.

Three tributes were given: by Mr. Dale Tier, vice-president of the Mount Vernon Branch of Peoples Federal Bank; by Dr. John A. Knight, editor-elect, Herald of Holiness, and past president of MVNC; and by Dr. Edward S. Mann, executive secretary, Department of Education and the Ministry.

Mr. Wells is survived by his wife, Violet Jean; two daughters, Carol Rose (Mrs. Richard Parrott), Nazarene Headquarters, Kansas City, and Joy Marie at home; a son, Paul Randall, a junior at MVNC; his mother, Mrs. Richard Wells, Newcomerstown, Ohio; a sister, Mrs. Bessie Noel, Cumberland, Md.; and a brother, Wayne, Kankakee, Ill.

Instead of flowers, gifts to a scholarship fund at MVNC were suggested.

Paul Benefiel Elected to Los Angeles District Superintendency

Rev. Paul Benefiel, pastor of the Los Angeles First Church for the past two years, was elected district superintendent of the Los Angeles District, at the twenty-fifth Annual District Assembly, May 16. The meeting was held at the Bresee Church in Pasadena.

Rev. Benefiel was preceded in this position by only three other men: Dr. A. E. Sanner, Dr. W. Shelburne Brown (now president of Point Loma College in San Diego), and Dr. L. Guy Nees. Dr. Nees recently resigned from his superintendency of 11 years to become president of Mount Vernon Nazarene College.

Rev. Paul Benefiel said many thoughts came to mind during the voting to fill the vacant position.

“I never asked the Lord to help me be elected,” he said. “Rather, I prayed, ‘Lord, I am Yours. I belong to You. I am Yours to command. So, if this is Your will, I will accept if elected.’”

In addition to having served as pastor of Los Angeles First Church for the past 2 years, Rev. Benefiel has been pastor or assistant pastor of four churches in California for a total of 25 years.

Benefiel has served his communities as president and/or officer of various ministerial associations and service clubs. He has been a member of the district advisory boards of both the Southern California and Los Angeles districts. He has also worked with youth as NYPS president for the Southern California District, and Los Angeles District Junior High Camp director. He was, at the time of his election, a member of the Point Loma College Board of Trustees and the district advisory board.

Born in Oklahoma in 1925, Paul Benefiel married Pearle Elaine Anderson in 1948. They have five children. Rev. Benefiel graduated from Pasadena College with the A.B. and M.A. degrees, and also earned an M.A. from USC.

Dr. Lawrence B. Hicks Resigns

District Superintendent Lawrence B. Hicks, of the Eastern Kentucky District, resigned, effective July 1, because of poor health. He has been superintendent for four years.

The district assembly will select his successor when it meets the first week in July. Dr. V. H. Lewis will preside.

Before his election as superintendent, he pastored at Ashland, Ky., First Church and Chattanooga, Tenn., First Church. He has also been known as a Bible preacher and evangelist.

 ENC ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Rev. Don Irwin, 53, superintendent of the New England District since 1973, has accepted election as president of Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, Mass.

Rev. Irwin began preaching at the age of 18. He graduated from Asbury College in 1943 and Asbury Theological Seminary in 1946. He has also done graduate work at the University of Southern California.

His pastorates include: St. Petersburg, Fla., First Church, from 1946 to 1951; Orlando, Fla., Central Church, from 1952 to 1956; Miami, Fla., First Church, from 1956 to 1957; Pasadena, Calif., Central Church, from 1957 to 1964; Nashville Grace Church, from 1964 to 1968; and Olivet College Church, Kankakee, Ill., from 1968 to 1973.

He has served on the advisory boards of the Florida, Tennessee, and Chicago Central districts. He was elected to the General Board in 1972, where he has served on the general education and home missions boards.

Rev. Irwin and his wife, Lillian, have two children. Linda is a teacher at Massachusetts Fields Elementary School in Quincy, and Donald Lee will be a senior at ONC.

Rev. Irwin will assume the post in August, succeeding Dr. Leslie Parrott, who resigned to become president of Olivet Nazarene College.
Rx For “NERVES,” by Pauline E. Spray. Mrs. Spray discusses her own battle with “tension” and the long struggle to stability. She speaks with confidence on the causes, the complications, the cures, and the challenges of emotional stress. She draws material from recognized authorities in the field. Gives you workable solutions. Paper. $1.95

TIME OUT #3. A devotional written by collegians for the college age. Contains about 90 devotionals to cover three months. Designed to combat spiritual lethargy. Each devotion contains verse, scripture to read, and devotional illustration. Give as a gift to college or high school student. Paper. $1.25

A SECOND BASKET OF CRUMBS, by T. W. Willingham. Your thinking will be challenged anew as you read this sequel to Willingham’s first book, A Basket of Crumbs. New thoughts are expressed on such topics as “Fruitful Suffering,” “Love Produces Enemies,” “Leave It to God and Go On,” and others. Will make you think about the fundamentals of your faith. Paper. $1.00

MOMENTS, by Hoyt E. Stone. This series of “reflections” from the author’s life will help shape your philosophy and personal faith. As the author bares his soul about his own life, you will want to make the same honest inspection. This book will help you accept your shortcomings and not try to excuse or rationalize them. Paper. $1.95

THE TEEN TEMPO, by Irene Aiken. Here is straight talk to teens by a “hep” mother who wants to help but not intrude. She deals with teen hang-ups and problems teens face day by day. Geared basically to girls, but fellows will gain from reading also. Is a positive book—full of the vibrancy of life. Paper. $1.00

THE CONQUERING CHRIST, by C. Neil Strait. As you look toward Easter, you will want to read this inspiring book of Lenten meditations based on the sufferings of Christ. Strait uses Isaiah’s vision of the “Suffering Servant” as his basis for the meaning and purpose of Christ’s passion. Good for general reading or for minister looking for illustrations and useful outlines. Paper. $1.25

LOVE IS THE GREATEST, by Audrey J. Williamson. A devotional gem. You can begin reading at any point and learn practical ways you can put your love into action in everyday life. The illustrations are taken from the author’s life, and the entire book is based on First Corinthians 13. Paper. $1.00

MIRACLE OF JOY, by Richard S. Taylor. Do you want an inner joy and peace that will lift you above the turmoil of our day? Dr. Taylor will guide you toward a joy which goes deeper than the gaiety of this world. Dr. Taylor does not suggest a gimmick but directs you toward a lasting joy related to righteousness and peace. Paper. 75c