WHAT is a “square”? Now and then when I hear or read the word as used in this modern day I have the idea that I fall into this category.

The tone in which I heard it spoken the other day gave me a vague uneasiness. I thought I might even get a complex over being one.

The person who used it couldn’t enlighten me much when I sought a clarification of his meaning. I did gather that he didn’t consider himself a “square.” Since I certainly don’t want to be like him, I decided to ascertain if I am one, and if so, do I still want to continue to be one?

So here goes for the dictionary.
Square: “In a fair and honest manner.” “Direct, fair, just, equitable, honest.” These are the words used to define it as related to a person.

Since this is true, we need more of this kind of folks today. Give us a lot of “squares” for this hour. We can use them! We need them in politics. We need them in business. We need them in our educational institutions. We need them everywhere!

Squares sound like people with whom we can build a nation. I like to have them for my neighbors.

Why did we let this generation push that word over into the area of the undesirable?

Honesty, fairness, justice, equitability are always desirable anywhere, anytime—in fact everywhere and all the time.

We should get busy making more people “squares.”

Sin, Sabbath desecration, stealing, divorce, crime, lying, cheating, fraud, war would all diminish to the extent that more people join the ranks of the “squares.”

Let’s challenge the world that challenges the values indispensable. We must meet the world with old-time religion, and its impact through “square” people.

The virtues and attributes which the dictionary ascribes to a “square” person are vital to society, to communities, to nations, to all the world.

The eroding evils of this hour will retreat only before the marching Church with its “square” people and its redeeming faith.
There was a strange restlessness which crept over me in the early hours of the morning. Something was wrong.

I stirred sleepily and then roused to the sound of popping, crackling noises which sounded like gun reports or small explosions. Occasional flashes of light shattered the darkness. Sirens were wailing throughout the city.

There had been radio and TV warnings for the past two days and reports of similar conditions in nearby states and communities but nobody expected it to happen here.

Getting out of bed and pulling the shades open, I peered out of the window. It had indeed happened here!

In southeastern Nebraska, fully two months earlier than usual, a wet, heavy snow had fallen. Not only limbs but tree trunks were snapping and breaking beneath their heavily laden boughs. Wires were down all over the city. Flashes of lightning lighted the sky now and then, but homes and streets were in total darkness.

Recalling a small perfume lamp on a whatnot shelf in the kitchen, I groped through the darkness and found the lamp and some matches. I tried lighting the lamp, but the wick had not been trimmed and would not light.

Fumbling in a drawer, I found a pair of scissors and managed to snip off the charred end of the wick. Now it would light. It did, but only for a momentary flicker. The oil level was too low.

Lighting another match, I found the bottle of oil, filled the lamp and tried again. This time the tiny flame survived. It was a small light, to be sure, but in total darkness, even that was welcome.

What were the radio reports of the conditions throughout the city? Should I try to get to work or would it be a fruitless or even dangerous effort? I inserted a battery into a small transistor radio but the battery was dead. Thus the lines of communication with the outside world were broken.

Waiting for the daybreak, my thoughts were turned to the spiritual analogy of this unexpected event.

Jesus described an experience akin to this in the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25. Although warnings are being flashed before us day after day in the rapid fulfillment of prophecy, people in general—including many professing Christians—are quite unconvinced that the coming of the Lord is near. It won't happen yet, they conclude.

But if it should, they would find their wicks untrimmed (unconfessed sins), the oil of the Spirit depleted, and the lines of communication dead. Their souls would be engulfed in total darkness.

For those who miss the rapture and seal their doom in the abyss of the damned, there will not be even the slightest glimmer of light such as that given by a miniature lamp. There shall be outer darkness there and no hope of a daybreak.

“IT can't happen to me,” you may say. “I won’t be taken by surprise when the trumpet blows and Christ returns. I'll never allow the oil to get too low. I'll not be overcharged with the pursuit of material things and lose my contact with the divine.” Yet even now you may be too busy to have a family altar. You don’t have much appetite for the Word. You find it quite easy to absent yourself from the assembly of the saints.

No, it couldn’t happen here. Not yet anyway. But it did!
NO CLOISTERED VIRTUE

THERE was a sign in a jeweler’s window: “Artificial gems set in real gold.” But the “divine Jeweler” proposes just the opposite—to put real gems in an artificial setting.

Few would deny that much of modern life is artificial, and might be described accurately by Thomas Hobbes’s words—“solitary, brutish, and nasty.” And, unfortunately, too few would affirm that individual men can be intrinsically different from their cultural and social environment.

But it was precisely for this qualitative distinction that Jesus prayed for His disciples: “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil” (John 17:15).

To be conqueror over the Evil One in this kind of world of malign enemies and influence is unquestionably miraculous. But Jesus registered no fear but that, given the aid and grace of God, such conquest can be won.

Indeed, Christ’s confidence in the keeping power of God is so great that He does not allow His followers to shrink back into a secluded corner of life—refusing to take part in the game, fearing its rough and tumble, keeping anxiously out of the heat and dust of things.

John Milton had little admiration for “a cloistered virtue.” Jesus had none. The Master did not ask for our release from responsibility; nor will He permit our withdrawal into seclusion. To coo up one’s soul in isolation is to frustrate the Lord’s purpose for His followers.

REAL GEMS in an artificial setting. This is Jesus’ design and demand!

There is an abundant supply of artificial gems. One sees them on the job, in the office, at school, in the neighborhood, sometimes even at home. But there is an alarming shortage of real gems. And their scarcity makes them all the more desirable and precious.

Much current protest claims to be against the false and shallow aspects of modern life. Ironically, there is a great deal of “phoniness” in some forms of the protest against phoniness. Hippie communities are being forced to break up because of dishonesty within the communes!

Reality is a Christian virtue! Jesus’ immortal intercessory prayer for His disciples—His Church—is that they will be real. John Wesley spoke often of “real” or “true” Christians.

To be a real Christian gem involves more than being kept from the evil and artificiality of contemporary life—in a mere negative sense. Positively, it is to sparkle, to add radiance and lustre and beauty to an artificial setting. To accomplish this, the gem must be in the setting, though distinct from it.

Thus, Jesus prayed for those who bear His name: “As thou, Father, hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world” (John 17:18).

The true Christian refuses to “cop out.” In fact, he cannot! He is a “new creature,” and his new likeness to Christ will not permit him to do so.

Granted—living a holy life is not easy. Finding and following the wise mean between the two extremes of not even being “in the world” or being “of the world” may not be simple. Yet it is possible, for what is impossible with men is possible with God!

Jesus supported His supplication with His suffering. He prayed that His followers would be real “saints”—“sanctify them” (John 17:17). And He died willingly for the same end: “Wherefore Jesus also that he might sanctify the people with his own blood suffered without the gate” (Hebrews 13:12).

Real gems in an artificial setting! That is the supreme concern of our Lord for us. May it also be our concern for ourselves, and for all who profess to be a part of Christ’s Church!
What is a TEEN-AGER?

Between the learning of childhood and the dignity of adulthood we discover a remarkable creature called a teen-ager. He comes in assorted sizes, weights, and colors, but each has the same creed: to assert his freedom and independence, to preach against conformity, while at the same time dressing and acting like everyone else.

Teens are found everywhere—in front of record players, on top of Mom’s best furniture, inside of automobiles, and underneath piles of schoolwork given by teachers who “think their subject is the only one.” Moms and dads throw up their hands in despair, younger brothers and sisters “bug” them, newspapers squelch them, and God loves them.

A teen-ager is truth with a questioning mind; beauty with the shirttail out over his Levi’s; wisdom with the response, “You tell me to grow up and act my age. then you tell me I’m not old enough”; and the hope of the future carrying a picket sign protesting the “status quo” with the word misspelled.

When you need a teen-ager, he is never around. When you call him, he never seems to hear you, even from the next room, and the telephone is just never yours when he is home.

A teen-ager is a collage—he has the appetite of a horse, the digestion of a disposal, the energy of an overripe banana, the curiosity of a cat, the lungs of an orator, the imagination of Walter Mitty, the shyness of a violet on his first date but the confidence of an astronaut on his second, the enthusiasm of the fourth of July, and when he reaches for something—look out!

He likes french fries, cokes, hamburgers, hot rods, the beach, lunchtime, the opposite sex, and summer vacations. He is not much for visiting relatives, English class, study hall, dressing up on weekends, music lessons, coats, or getting up in the morning.

Nobody else is so early for nothing and so late for everything. Nobody else gets so much out of one record and a piece of bubble gum. Nobody else can respond when questioned, “I don’t have any homework.” or “I’ll do it in study hall.”

A teen-ager is an amazing and wonderful creature. You can tell him once and you can count on telling him again. You can expect a child one minute and an adult the next. You might as well give up. He’s your Mt. Everest, your joy, your life, and really probably much like you when you were his age.

But one day any worries or anxieties will evaporate when his own child runs to your arms carrying with him those two magic words “Hi, Grandma.”

*Minister of Youth, Detroit First Church
SHOULD you draw a picture of God, what would He look like? How big is your God? What kind of God is He?

The great danger is that we shall never really know God for himself. There are so many warped, twisted misconceptions of Him.

For a great many people any picture of God would necessarily be black and dark. He is almost a Mr. Scrooge type personality. For these, He is a tightfisted God who is slow to grant favors.

Thus, Christians are urged to “pray harder” and God will answer. One preacher suggested to his wife that they “pray harder.”

Her answer was, “No, not harder, but easier; for it is not your prayer but God who will do the work.”

Some believe God delights in sending hard things into their lives. Then they conceive Him as saying, “Accept this as my will!” Arbitrarily He is supposed to do what He wants even if it makes everyone miserable. Then He expects His children to accept it “without question.”

Satan invented all such concepts of God. He started this game with Eve in Eden. Said he, “God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5, RSV). This was to say that God just forbids everything that you want or could enjoy! Arbitrarily, He is withholding something good from you.

Eve “stretched the truth” and said God had forbidden touching as well as eating the fruit. That’s like the child who is told not to do one thing and his retort is, “You won’t let me do anything!”

One minister tells of visiting a little church in West Virginia. He invited the people to come hear him preach in a nearby camp meeting. One day they did come. The minister began his sermon on the love of God. Two or three in the group sniffed and huffed aloud. After a few minutes, they got up and left the service.

When asked why, they answered, “We wanted him to preach the gospel. We wanted him to tell sinners they were going to hell. And he preached about love!” As if the love of God were not the gospel! They conceived the gospel as “telling ‘em off!”

And so some have wished God dead! They hate Him and want nothing to do with Him. How pathetic! They never really knew Him. They only knew misconceptions of Him. I suppose I could wish such a God dead, too. But the God I know and serve has open hands.

The assurance in God’s word is, “No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly” (Psalms 84:11, RSV). How wonderfully different from the tightfisted God! What a tremendous contrast to the God who says, “Pray harder”? How different from the vengeful, retaliating God. He has open hands!

That is His promise: no good thing will He withhold.

We need to realize that God loves us individually. He is not a “managing director” as J. B. Phillips points out in his little book, Your God Is Too Small. The bigger the group gets, the less direct contact with his employees the managing director can have. We don’t have to understand God’s omnipresence nor His omnipotence, or how He can hear all our prayers at one time. We can just know that He does indeed love and care for us individually.

It’s a wonderful idea once it gets hold of you, that God really loves you. He loves you for yourself. You are precious to Him. He loves you so much that He wants you to be happy. His great desire is to give you all the good things of life. God’s wish for you is that you have a life that is full, rich, abundant, and free.

Yes, God wants the best for you! He wants the best for you materially. Who can believe He is pleased to see you struggle, struggle, struggle? Jesus said, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

God wants to give us a full, abun-
dant life. He is not satisfied for us to lead a bored, dull existence.
Surely holiness is more important than happiness. But who has the right to say they are mutually exclusive? Happiness was designed by God as a gift for His children. No good thing will He withhold! How badly people—and that means Christians, too—need to learn to laugh!

Why should God's people be anxious, nervous, and jittery? God wants to give us peace, calm, and tranquility. He would much rather that we be radiant than depressed and lonely.
Surely it glorifies God more to have us healthy and happy than for us to be sick and depressed. Sickness should be seen as a frustration of God's higher will for us. He promised to withhold no good thing. That includes prosperity, meaningful life, health, and success.

Yes, of course, success! Maybe you have heard the words of the old hymn—

Oh, to be nothing, nothing,
Only to lie at His feet,
A broken and emptied vessel
For the Master's use made meet.

Surely the writer meant well. But God does not want His sons and daughters to be "nothing, nothing." God's hands are open to pour out the best of everything on His children.

Why don't we have more of these good things? Because we are so sure we can run our own lives. God is not taken into account. We don't enjoy most of these good things because we fail to align our lives with His will.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Our lives become closed to Him and His will for us. Then we wonder why the good things don't come our way. We fail to believe God's promise.

"No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly." How many blessings we miss because we don't take that promise seriously!

Let us dare to open our lives to a God of open hands—withholding no good thing!

Another dare—introduce someone else to Him.

I want to put in a covert plea for the closed mind. An ever-open mind, like an ever-open drain, can become the receptacle of much rubbish. If any real progress is to be made in the life of the individual, or the life of the race, there must be some clear measure of value; some definite body of belief; some fixed standard of behaviour.

—William Sangster

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**Faith at Home**

**SWEET SIXTEEN**

Dear Susan:

With this birthday you've turned an exciting corner on the rugged road of life.

I meant this to be a super special day—"Groovy!" you'd say—but it wasn't.

The dryer broke down again. Michele dumped her lunch down her front. David careened into the door, while trying to go through it, and needed first-aid (a kiss and gentle rocking). Steve was—well, just Stevie!

While frantically mixing your cake, I thought (for the thousandth time) that our own five children are enough. Those extra six I baby-sit split my time into tiny slivers scattering in every direction.

Of course I am home, but am I the best Christain mother I can be? A lot of lives are depending on the answer to that.

I was reassured somewhat when I asked about your ambitions. You replied, "I want to help children in some way." Then you applied for volunteer work at Children's Hospital. Whatever lifework you choose, I know it will be done in Christ's name for others.

We've always communicated well. I remember when some of your sixth-grade classmates began sneaking off with boys, experimenting dangerously. I told you frankly about the heartaches of the wrong kind of "popularity," and you listened, really listened.

You saw through my eyes then. Now you've begun seeing life through your own, making decisions, solidifying your own convictions.

You've observed firsthand, through some children we've cared for, the tragic results of "have to" marriages, soon ending—the children fatherless (except for their heavenly Father).

I'm not afraid of your behavior when you begin dating. I know your heart. You have Jesus and you have values. You understand that control and respect come from self, not from a pill.

Why am I writing this instead of giving you another of "Mother's lectures"? It's because I realize if I haven't said it all by now, it's too late—unless you come to me for advice (and I'm glad you still do).

This marks a sort of graduation. Consider it a diploma saying: I'm proud of you, Susan. I appreciate and admire you as a person and I trust you. Above all, I love you.

Welcome to the threshold of adulthood.

Mom

P.S.: Please forgive me for the world's worst cake—and anything else I've ever done wrong as your mother.

By Rosemary Lee

Worthington, Ohio
THE CRITICAL HOUR

Man’s intelligence commands admiration, but character demands respect. Intelligence is the product of the brain power, whereas character is the product of the heart power. And in the long run it is the heart that rules in life.

Character is man’s most noble possession. Simple honesty of purpose in man’s life is founded on a just estimate of himself. Purpose, in addition to being honest, must be inspired by sound principles and pursued with God-given intelligence.

Without principle, a man is like a planet out of orbit. He is without law.

Character is molded in form by a variety of circumstances, and every action, thought, and feeling contributes amiably or injuriously to his character. Thus the constant change, for better or for worse, to elevate or degrade character, is revealed by crisis.

Some things are done in a critical hour which cannot be undone, and some left undone which cannot later be done.

A well-known New England essayist, as he looked at Rinaldi’s beautiful group of the wise and foolish virgins in marble, noticed the pathetic entreaty of the foolish virgins. Their hands were lifted upward as if to receive oil from their wise sisters.

The wise virgins also had raised hands as if to guard their treasure, and there is the look of deep sadness as they refuse their sisters’ request. Said the essayist, “They should have given their oil.”

He would not have made this remark if he had not failed to see in both the story and statue of the wise and foolish virgins, the subject in character, and that character is not transferable. You may give a man money or material aid in his hour of need but to give him character is not possible. Character is a personal achievement and cannot be acquired in a moment.

The critical hour may seem harsh in its dealings with men, but it is never unjust. It never makes or unmakes any man. It is simply an hour of revealing an inescapable spiritual law that the unworthy are by their own act excluded from the highest achievements when life’s greatest moment comes.

The really critical hour is, therefore, not the hour of the emergency, but the unobserved hours preceding. —Ralph Ferrigoli, Philadelphia

A Prayer For a Christian

Guide me, heavenly Father,
In the paths that lead aright:
May I never walk my way
And be lost in darkest night:
May I ever truly trust Thee,
Never doubting, come what may,
May my ears be ever open
To the words that Thou dost say.

May the trials that befall me
Only prove Thy power and might,
For with Thy hand to guide me
I shall surely win the fight.
Trials soon will turn to blessings,
Thou wilt fill my heart with song.
I shall ever want to thank Thee,
As I’m travelling along.
Help me truly to be grateful
For the love that Thou hast shown;
Keep me ever close beside Thee
With my hand clasped in Thine own.

—Louise M. Bauer

Our Disposition

Oswald Chambers has said, “Happiness is not a sign that we are right with God; happiness is a sign of satisfaction.” And I know of some who are satisfied at a pretty low level. But when Christ is “formed” in us as Paul wrote, we have a disposition which desires only God’s will and which delights only in God. Such is the appetite of the sanctified life. The way in is the full surrender of the whole man—body, soul, and spirit. This for you is the will of God.

Forrest W. Nash
Plugging the Leaks

A young man struggling to learn to live the overcoming life made the unusually honest comment: "Things began to go wrong in this matter of being filled with the Holy Spirit. I leaked!"

If this were but a single case, it might not be worth mentioning. Unfortunately, it describes an experience that is all too common.

Ideally, the Spirit-filled life is what the Bible calls "the grace wherein we stand" (Romans 5:2). It is above all the establishing grace.

Christ's great promise of Pentecost in John 14:15-17 was not that the Comforter would be just a visitor, but that He would abide—a word that means a fixed and settled dwelling—and that His abiding would be forever. This is no "breathing out" in confession of daily sin and "breathing in" the Holy Spirit—as if God's Spirit were as transient as a man's breath!

Yet the facts of life are that many who start bravely to live in the fulness of the Spirit discover that they leak. It isn't usually the sudden blow-out through which the spiritual life goes flat. It is by the almost unnoticed process of the slow leak.

That a man may decisively "quench" the Holy Spirit, "vex" or "resist" Him, and thus drive Him out in a moment, is true. Deliberate and conscious sin always has this result unless and until it is honestly confessed and forsaken (I John 2:1-2).

Usually, however, the process is not so sharp and clear-cut. Usually the soul drifting away from God does not cross a line in a moment. Usually he drifts into a sort of "twilight" zone in which there is neither clear light nor complete darkness, but a shadowy uncertainty marked by a vague and ill-defined spiritual uneasiness.

While the translators may not have pictured clearly the figure of speech behind Hebrews 2:1 in their marginal note, they left us a vivid description of what may very well happen: "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should run out as leaking vessels."

IT ONLY MAKES GOOD SENSE then to ask what the leaks are, and to set about plugging them. Some are so obvious they scarcely need to be named: reneging on items of consecration, walking behind light, prayerlessness, preoccupation even with legitimate and proper concerns, and failure to bear fruit.

There are others that are not so evident and that may not do their deadly work as fast.

The smugness and complacency that borders on spiritual pride is one of these less obvious leaks that empty the life of spiritual power and finally of the Presence. There is more than a bit of the Pharisee in the attitude that takes undue satisfaction in the feeling, "I thank Thee, Lord, that I am not as other men are."

Sometimes we find a self-conscious sort of "humility" that results in pride in the fact that we are not as proud as we used to be. Any comparison of spirituality—"we are more spiritual than . . ."—smacks too much of the carnal to be comfortable.

There is a pride of spiritual ancestry that parallels the common pride of physical ancestry. In a group of women discussing their family trees, one said, "Oh, yes, we can trace our ancestors back to . . . to . . . well," as she became a bit flustered, "well, I just don't know exactly, but we've been descending for a long time!"

The "descent" comes fast when it is religious ancestry that is involved.

Closely akin to smugness is legalism as a leak that empties the soul. Legalism may actually spring from a sound motive, a real desire to please the Lord. At its best, it demands commitment to principle above preference, and duty before desire.

The problem is, legalism rarely stays at its best. It soon degenerates into greater concern for what is done than for why it is done. It forgets St. Paul's dictum that "the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life" (II Corinthians 3:6) and falls into the trap of one of the devil's most useful devices (II Corinthians 2:11).

Part of the attraction of legalism is that one evades the limitless demands of grace by hiding behind the simple and reasonably easy requirements of law. The facts of the case are, it is easier to follow the Pharisees than it is to follow Jesus. It is easier to live by the love of law than the law of love.

W. E. Sangster put it well: "Duty will make a soldier, but it takes more than duty to make an apostle. Duty is cold: love is warm. Duty mea-
sures its giving: love gives with prodigality. Duty will make a good man: love of Jesus will make a good man a winsome man as well."

ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE of the vessel, and to keep the record in balance, there is the leak of compromise with evil.

If legalism separates the what and the why of conduct in order to put its major weight on the what, compromise goes to the opposite extreme and holds too little regard for the what. Acts and motives are both important, and if we escape the devil of legalism, we may get lost on the deep blue sea of sentimentalism.

There is a kind of compromise that is necessary. Every successful marriage represents a measure of compromise, mutual surrender of individual plans and desires in the interest of the home. People work together successfully only as they are willing to "give and take" in the matter of methods and programs.

But where biblical principles of morality and truth are concerned, compromise is catastrophe.

As human beings, we are so made that we react with alarm to sudden changes, but are almost unconscious of changes that are gradual. They say you can put a frog in a pan of cool water and gradually heat it until he is literally parboiled. Because the change is slow the frog will never know what is happening and never make an effort to escape.

Erosion takes longer than explosion, but the effects can be just as devastating.

This is one reason God gives us the unchanging Word about the unchanging Christ. That Christ is the same "yesterday, and to day, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) is not reaction but relevance. He is the great fixed Point of Reference by which we can evaluate the changing scene.

Nature, we have learned, abhors a vacuum. So does human nature. It is not a question of being filled or not. It is a question of what we shall be filled with.

The soul that is not filled with the Spirit tends to fill up with self, with money or job or property or status, with anxiety, concern, nameless fear, loneliness, suspicion, irritation, faultfinding—or with the utter meaninglessness of life apart from God.

How much better then that we be filled with "the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ" (Romans 15:29) and "filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). The way to keep filled is to plug the leaks and stay where the fresh supply is always at hand (Acts 4:31-33).

This is not the situation of one who fails in what he sets out to do. It is the situation of one who succeeds but finds out he has been doing the wrong thing.

This is not the problem of the one who does not get what he wants. It is the far more common problem of those who get what they want only to find out they have been wanting what was not for their best.

To strive and not succeed is pathetic. To strive and succeed in the wrong endeavor is tragic. It is better not to get what one wants than to get it and wind up at the top of the wrong wall.

Many of the goals people set for themselves are not worth the effort it takes to reach them. Status, money, pleasure, popularity, rank, or position more times than not turn out to be empty husks that cannot satisfy.

One has but to think of the tragedies that come to people not at the bottom of the ladder but at the top of the wrong wall. The names of Carole Landis, Marilyn Monroe, Jimi Hendrix, and Janis Joplin come readily to mind.

Newsweek reported that the suicide rate for physicians is almost twice that of the general population, and the suicide rate among psychiatrists is double that of the other doctors. Whatever explanation there may be for these statistics, part of it is undoubtedly the discovery that reaching goals without God just does not satisfy.

There are worthy goals, indeed. To find and do the will of God, to serve one's own age, to invest life in the biggest business on earth—the business of bringing the good news of eternal life to dying men—these are walls worth climbing.

The question that needs first consideration is not, "Will I make it to the top?" but "Am I climbing a ladder set against the right wall?" The answer is not alone concerned with happiness here. It is concerned with eternity hereafter.

David’s Brother John

The name of David Livingstone is one of the most illustrious both in the story of Christian missions and in world history in the nineteenth century. No man made a greater contribution to the penetration of Africa with the gospel and the stamping out of the barbarous slave trade than this renowned Scot.

Although he was raised in poverty and hard physical labor, Livingstone gained an education in both medicine and theology. The record of his 32 years in Africa is a record of unparalleled sacrifice and heroism.

When at last his work was done and his spirit went to God who gave it, loyal converts buried his heart in the soil of Africa and carried his worn body 3,000 miles through wilderness, jungle, marsh, and

(Continued on page 13)
needed 500

LAY MISSIONARIES

who care... to share... to love...

to lift... to build... to transform...

for God's Glory
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**Target Cities 1971... Where lay missionaries are needed!**
Dr. John Stark, a biochemist with the International Paper Company, is really a missionary to Warwick, N.Y. The son of a commercial fisherman, John Stark worked his way through Eastern Nazarene College shellfishing. In 1969 he received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Purdue University and shortly afterward took up his present position.

Dr. and Mrs. Stark understood the opportunities of home mission outreach and purposefully sought out a new and struggling home mission church as a place to participate in the challenge of holiness evangelism. They “chose” Warwick, N.Y., because it was a new church and had young adults who had pioneered the work under adverse circumstances.

The baby church had begun in the basement of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crawford. Mr. Crawford is a member of the New York State Police Force. District Superintendent Rev. Jack White writes, “Dr. Stark and his wife have been the means of reaching many other young couples for Christ. They were the help we needed in putting Warwick over the top.”

“Putting Warwick over the top” included purchase of three acres of land and the construction of a beautiful church building dedicated on Christmas Sunday, 1970.

The 29-year-old “lay missionary” is very much involved in the work of all the church. He presently serves his district as young adult director, NWMS teen director, a member of the church school board, and a member of the home mission planning board. In addition to these district offices, he serves the local church as Sunday school superintendent, NWMS study secretary, and a trustee. He also serves his alma mater as a member of the Alumni Association Executive Council for Eastern Nazarene College.

He was married to Patricia Ann Reed of Paterson, N.J., August 17, 1963. They have three children: Brenda Jo, four years; Douglas Jon, two; Michelle Rae, eight months.

These busy young adults who are totally committed to Christ are exemplary of the spirit of the 500 “lay missionaries” whom we seek to help us open new home mission frontiers throughout our districts.
Laymen with a "speciality" are needed...

“I am thankful for the opportunity to take time from my regular business duties to help the Kingdom in any way I can and He blesses me for it in so many ways. We truly cannot outgive our Lord,” writes Mr. Vern S. Ward, president of Town and Country Electric, Inc., of Nampa, Idaho.

Mr. Ward donated labor and expenses for the electrical contract for the Church of the Nazarene in Elko, Nev. Soon after receiving the building blueprints, he sent his helper, Terry Page, on a quick trip to deliver a truckload of material and to check out the job. Later he made his first of four 265-mile trips from Nampa to Elko. With the help of his three sons, the entire main floor and service panel were wired and light fixtures installed.

“Lay missionaries with a specialty” such as architects, builders, engineers, electricians, plumbers, and others, are occasionally needed by home mission churches on a short-term basis. Your specialty can become a real missionary channel.

I AM INTERESTED... in giving assistance to a home mission church in my area.
Please send more information.

NAME

ADDRESS

I ATTEND (local church) (district)

OCCUPATION

Department of Home Missions
6401 The Paseo Kansas City, Mo. 64131
**EDITORIAL**

(Continued from page 10)

Four weeks ahead of Thanksgiving, the Bakersfield (Calif.) First Church took pledges—using a unique method. Nine different types of plastic fruit were used —each represented pledges in designated denominations. A pineapple for $1,000 represented the highest pledge and the purchase of a plum for $1 was the lowest. Avocados, pomegranates, oranges, apples, bananas, peaches, and pears were in the middle range. The fruit was returned on Thanksgiving Sunday with checks and bills attached. The offering totaled $3,046. From left to right are pictured Mrs. Evelyn Hodges, NWMS president; Pastor L. Wayne Quinn; Mrs. Venetta Ferguson, NWMS treasurer; Mrs. Wanda Almgren, Central California District missionary president.

"Grief is a deep wound of the soul. Like other wounds, it will heal. This is not to forget the loved one whose absence is the source of the grief, but rather to accept that which life presents."

Homer J. Adams

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(Continued from page 10)

desert to the sea whence it was taken by ship to England and buried with Britain’s illustrious dead in Westminster Abbey amid the honors of the nation and the world.

What is not so well known is the fact that David’s older brother John strongly opposed the younger man’s decision to be a missionary doctor in Africa. John had become an engineer.

“Canada is the land of opportunity,” he argued. “Come with me to Canada where we will both find fame and fortune.”

John went to Canada while David went to Africa. John did achieve a measure of fortune in his adopted land.

The same encyclopedia that devoted several pages to the life of David Livingstone also mentioned his brother John. The entry was brief: “Livingstone also mentioned his brother John, it is true, may have lived out his destiny fully as much in the will of God as did David. Angels, it is said, would as soon sweep streets as gild stars if their Lord so wishes.

But David might easily have lost his true destiny had he taken the easier way John asked him to take.

In any case, only when life becomes a pilgrimage and not merely a profession is it worthy of the name “Christian.” With Jesus, not the way out but the way through is what matters. □
Chastened by his sufferings and therefore filled with the mind of Christ, he can readily see why the political, economic, and international orders are dissolving—because there is so much injustice, so much falsehood, so much deception, so much guile, so much cunning, so much cleverness, so much callousness, so much inequality, so much arbitrariness, so much inhumanity, so much hypocrisy, so much pharisaism about them: in short, because they do not conform to the mind of Christ, and what does not conform to the mind of Christ must dissolve and disappear.—Charles Malik.

NEWS OF REVIVAL

THE ARKANSAS CITY, KANS., CHURCH recently completed a revival with Rev. Louie Owens of Colorado Springs. Many received definite spiritual help.

The revival spirit continues in the church. Four new members have been received by profession of faith.

Richard L. Handy is pastor.

THE PITTSBURG, CALIF., CHURCH had record crowds nightly for a recent revival series. The evangelist was Fred R. Lester. He brought doctrinal and holiness messages.

Pastor George E. Evans reported that many souls received help. The entire church was strengthened spiritually.

SAMOAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP has doubled in the last two years to the present total of 86 members. Although some have been lost by death and transfer, productive revivals have been the key to added members.

Rev. and Mrs. H. L. Frye, Sr., from Racine, Wis., conducted revival services in November. Rev. Jerry Appleby reports that 125 average attendance

Eleven Lenten-Easter messages focusing attention on the eight most spectacular and eternally significant days of all times

Eight Days of Glory

by Leslie H. Woodson

"Dr. Woodson has something to say and he says it in a most attractive and persuasive manner."

CHARLES L. ALLEN, Author of God's Psychiatry

Each chapter emphasizes a different day of activities of our Lord from His triumphal entry to the Resurrection. Though events of some 2,000 years ago, Dr. Woodson finds in them pertinent truths vital to Christian living today. Of added interest is the harmony of the Gospels related to this historical week, the author's apologetic of Judas, and the account of Christ's supposed activities on Saturday while He was ostensibly in the tomb.

136 pages, paper $1.95

Time spent reading this book during the season of Lent can do much to prepare your heart and mind for a glorious Easter.

Write TODAY for Your Copy

North Platte (Neb.) First Church held a dual mortgage-burning service indicating that all church properties were free of debt. Mr. Joe Geise and Mrs. Flora Weekly, representing the "old-timers" in the church, each held a mortgage to be burned. Bruce Miller and Beverly Kugler, representing the youth and tomorrow's church, ignited the documents. Behind them, Mrs. George Grover, church treasurer, is shown handing a check for $200 and necessary papers for starting a savings account to Mr. Leslie Weil, president of the Mutual Building and Loan Association of North Platte, which established a building fund for future expansion. Pastor Edward J. Johnson read the names of the original signers and described the meaning of the ceremony.
was realized in the Nu’uuli services with 15 seekers. Lefaga had record-breaking crowds with an average attendance of more than 200. Fifty-five adults sought the Lord besides many children. Eleven new members joined the Lefaga church on profession of faith following the meeting.

The Thanksgiving offering broke all records for the two congregations.

—DEPARTMENT OF HOME MISSIONS

OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

MISSIONARY FRANCES VINE, PHILIPPINES, narrowly escaped when her compact car burst into flames as she turned on the ignition. An explosion, followed by a fire which destroyed the interior of the car, gave Miss Vine only a short time for escape. She was able to secure some of her valued contents.

Injuries were slight—only minor burns, singed hair, and initial shock. The new car had been driven only two weeks before the mishap. It will be replaced through warranty or insurance.

Two people told Miss Vine later that they felt a special burden of prayer for her that morning. One was the pastor's wife at Baguio City.

REV. THOMAS YOUNCE, Nazarene pastor as Kingston, N.Y., was recently elected president of the Hudson Valley Evangelical Ministerial Association. Kingston has a population of over 30,000.

MISHAWAKA (IND.) SOUTH SIDE CHURCH has been reaching new people for Christ through a Thursday night personal soul-winning effort. Soul-winning teams are sent into the community with special assignments for soul winning.

Pictured in an informal session is one of the church teams. Left to right are Pastor Richard Fisher; Sunday School Superintendent George Fowler; and Dean Chizum, adult teacher.

Let us beware of self-made crosses. We need never go out of our way to find them, and those which we make for ourselves are double crosses, because being outside the will of God, they bring no strength, consolation, or fruit. Such are all crosses which arise from uneasy fears about the future. We have no right to anticipate His dispensations, or attempt to supply the place of His providence by a providence of our own.—John Gregory Mantle
**VITAL STATISTICS**

RUTH KIRKWOOD KOSTIS died Oct. 13 in Holly Hill, Fla. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Comer Johnson. She is survived by a brother, John S.; and her mother, Mrs. Willie Kirkwood.

RUSSELL EMRICH, 57, died Sept. 13 in Bradenton, Fla. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Robert H. Spear, Jr., and Rev. William Norris. Surviving are his wife, Mary; a daughter, Nancy; two sons, Harold J. and Donald R.; his mother; a brother and a sister.

MRS. VIOLA BAUGHMAN, 84, died Sept. 14 in Kankakee, Ill. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Dallas Morris and Rev. Fred MacMillan. Survivors include one daughter, Ruth Morgan; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

MRS. MAXINE HICKS died Dec. 12 in Washington, D.C. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. R. W. Cres. She is survived by her husband, Glenn; and two sons, David and Steven.

WESLEY F. HERMAN SCHWARTZ, 64, died Sept. 15 at Troy, Mo. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Ralph England and Rev. Eldon Kirk. He is survived by his wife, Malinda; one sister; and one nephew.

GRA C. BARRICK, 79, died Nov. 14 in Peoria, Ill. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Floyd Pounds. Surviving are his wife, Edith; two sons, Harold and Rev. John; three daughters, Mrs. Robert (Mary) Woods, Mrs. Glendon (Helen) Stroud, and Mrs. Ray (Mae) Holkins; 16 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

MRS. EVA SLONIKER, 62, died Dec. 7 in Terre Haute, Ind. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Ralph Brown and Rev. Milton Leidig. She is survived by two sons, four daughters, and 12 grandchildren.

OTTIS E. SMITH, Sr., 78, died Dec. 15 in Warren, Pa. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. John M. Gardner. He is survived by his wife, Amelia; three sons, Leslie, Ottis, Jr., and Paul; and two daughters, Mrs. Virginia Houck and Mrs. Amelia Zbendin.

**BIRTHS**

—To Rev. and Mrs. Albert L. Remmenga, Craig, Mo., a boy, Paul Albert, Dec. 15.
—To Mr. and Mrs. T. Leslie Shelton, North Highlands, Calif., a girl, Kara Suzanne, Nov. 25.
—To Richard L. and Alice (Stetson) Langley, Great Falls, Mont., a boy, Ronald Paul, Dec. 14.
—To Rev. Gordon and Irma Lou (Henbest) Ingle, Manila, Philippines, a girl, Sheleen Rae, Nov. 16.

**DIRECTORIES**

BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS—Office: 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, 64131. George Coulter, Chairman; Samuel Young, Vice-chairman; Edward Lawlor, Secretary; Orville W. Jenkins, V. H. Lewis, Eugene L. Stowe.

The mass mind, its prevailing mood, its goals, must be resisted quite as zealously as the threat to personal morals. We may be much more aware of the temptation to obvious moral sin— theft, adultery, covetousness, and the like—that is the insidious temptation to do wrong to everyone else; to buy what others buy, seek what they seek, praise what they praise, and condone what they condone.—Cecil Osborne.

**NEWS OF RELIGION**

You Should Know About . . .

**STUDENTS SEEN TURNING TO CHRIST "BY ELIMINATION."** Questioning students looking for solutions to world problems are turning to Christ by the process of elimination, a Campus Crusade for Christ representative said in Chicago.

Josh McDowell, speaking to about 180 people at a monthly reception for the campus-oriented ministry, attacked the belief that man is a product of his environment.

"In our universities, in our high schools, and even in our grade schools, we are taught that we are the product of our environment," he said.

Therefore people seeking solutions reason that the problems of society must be due to the environment, McDowell concluded, adding: "The solutions they come up with as a result make changes in the environment."

But the problems are "individual problems," he stated. "To be effective, solutions have to go to the root of the problem and change the individuals."

**PRAYER ROOM ESTABLISHED IN PENTAGON.** A small room in the Pentagon has been dedicated as a quiet place for meditation and prayer by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird.

Mr. Laird explained that the meditation room "is an affirmation that, though we cling to the principle that church and state should be separate, we do not propose to separate man from God . . . ."

"In a sense, this ceremony marks the completion of the Pentagon," he said, "for until now this building lacked a place where man's inner spirit could find quiet expression."

**DRUG ABUSE: NEW YORK'S DEATH RATE UP 10-FOLD DURING 15-YEAR PERIOD.** The nation's growing drug abuse problem is reflected in statistics released by federal narcotic agencies and officials in New York City—where the drug problem is the most serious.

Figures of the New York City medical examiner's office indicate that the death rate attributed to "chronic" use of narcotics has increased in New York more than 10-fold—from 102 in 1954 to 1,006 deaths in 1969.

The 1970 death toll as of November 15 was 745—171 adolescents (aged 14-19) and 574 adults.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE WATCHES POSTAL PORTENDINGS.** A strong possibility that non-profit second- and third-class rates will be increased 33 1/3 percent by April 1 has been indicated by James W. Hargrove, assistant postmaster general. This step probably will be taken as a temporary measure under the provisions of the new law creating the U.S. Postal Service.

The new law, fortunately for non-profit Christian publications, recognizes the special franchise of non-profit publications and organizations, but they must pay rates (within 10 years) which will reflect "attributable costs." (This is an accounting term now used by the postal service to mean out-of-pocket expenses and specifically excludes overhead costs of the service.)

An ad hoc committee made up of representatives of the Evangelical Press Association, the Associated Church Press, the Catholic Press Association, Protestant Church-Owned Publishers, and the National Catholic Development Conference met in Philadelphia November 30 to discuss means of representing non-profit religious mailers before the postal service. It was agreed that a questionnaire would be sent out to member organizations requesting certain postage figures which would aid in the continuing battle to maintain equitable rates for non-profit mailers.

Fortunately, the specific regulations of the new postal law guard non-profit postal customers from inordinate rate raises.—RUSSELL T. HITT

16 ■ HERALD OF HOLINESS
**Music to make the heart sing!**

NEW!

**TWO-PART STYLINGS**
Thrilling new arrangements of 9 selections for tenors and baritones, sopranos and altos. See Choral Collections, page 8, for additional description.

**SACRED DUETS No. 1**
R. W. Stringfield has compiled 28 effective duets into this songbook, which has been used by thousands across America. Selections include "Christ Is Not a Disappointment," "I'm Going Higher," "I'm Glad I Heard Him Call." 75¢

**SACRED DUETS No. 2**
Second book of this series includes 31 beautifully harmonized duet arrangements of well-known favorites, such as "Beyond the Sunset," "He Giveth More Grace," "Down from His Glory" and "Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know." 75¢

**SACRED DUETS No. 3**
Newest addition to this popular series. Harmonious duets with uplifting messages of faith, comfort and cheer! 31 numbers, including "He's Coming Soon," "Jesus, I Come," "I Speak the Name of Jesus," "God Is Love." 75¢

**SINGING! Vol. 2**
26 unique gospel songs by evangelist Chelsea J. Stockwell. Excellent lyrics set to original music by the writer of "So Little Time and So Much to Do" and "The Glory of God," which appear in this collection. Solos, especially for medium range voices. $1.25

**THE SINGING EVANGEL**
29 selections compiled by Paul McNutt especially for choirs for evangelistic services, for mixed quartets or soloists. Includes selected favorites, such as "Hark! I Hear My Name," "I Sing of Thee," "The Song of the Soul Set Free," as well as a number of sparkling new songs. 75¢

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**The Answer Corner**
Conducted by W. T. Purkiser, Editor

The word "Ghost" occurs in the New Testament perhaps 32 times, always after the word "Holy." There are perhaps 44 times the word "Spirit" is used. Some people are dropping the word "Ghost" and using "Spirit." My question is, Is the word translated "Ghost" and the word translated "Spirit" the same in the original language?

The answer is, Yes.

The Greek word Pneuma occurs a total of 385 times in the New Testament, according to my Greek concordance. When used with the adjective "Holy" it is translated "Ghost" 89 times in the King James Version, as well as twice without the adjective "Holy."

The King James Version translates it 'Spirit' four times with "Holy," and 284 times it is translated "spirit" or "Spirit" without the adjective "Holy." It is translated "wind" once, and by cognate terms the other few times.

The question is merely one of usage. "Ghost" and "Spirit" meant precisely the same in the English of 1611 when the KJV was published. They do not mean the same now.

Present usage requires "Spirit." The only thing, when quoting the King James Version, do it accurately. Otherwise, it is better to speak of "Holy Spirit," just as we properly speak of "God's Spirit," "the Spirit of the Lord," or "the Spirit of God."

I have been a Christian for some time, but have just recently come across the Scripture in Hebrews 6:4-6, "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and been made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." Does this mean that if we once backslide, we are eternally lost?

No, it does not.

Falling away is not backsliding but apostasy. It means rejecting the whole message of Christ, and in the case of those to whom the words were originally addressed, going back to the rites and ceremonies of Judaism in hopes of salvation thereby.

There is a further point. The margin of the ASV accurately translates the original in verse 6, "while they are crucifying the Son of God afresh and putting him to an open shame."

Inability to repent lasts as long as any backslider goes on in willful sin and rebellion.

The backslider should be warned, also, that beyond backsliding is the ever-present danger of apostasy. The human heart has a way of becoming hardened until it is no longer moved by the convicting Spirit.

Until that time comes, the way back is open to all who have once walked with God. This is the promise of Isaiah 55:7; Luke 15:11-24; and I John 2:1-2.

What were the jasper and sardine stones of Revelation 4:3?

"Jasper" (iaspis in the Greek) comes from a Phoenician word that seems to have meant "a translucent stone of various colors." The wall of the city in Revelation 21:18 was of jasper.

"Sardine" should be "sardius," a stone that came in two varieties, one yellowish brown and the other transparent red. It was highly prized by the ancients for its special beauty. It is the sixth foundation of the wall of the city in Revelation 21:20.

Revelation 4:3 uses jasper and sardius to describe the One sitting upon the heavenly throne. I suspect these two may have been mentioned for either of two reasons: John was impressed with the surpassing beauty of God; and these are the two stones that were the first and last stones on the breastplate of the high priest in the Old Testament (Exodus 28:17, 20).

JANUARY 27, 1971 ■ 17
MRS. GERTRUDE MORRISON observed her ninety-eighth birthday at her home in Beebe, Ark., on December 16. Her father was a Confederate soldier.

She became affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene at Vilonia, Ark. She worked at Peniel University, Tex., from 1915 to 1918 during the presidency of J. B. Chapman. She has known many of the church leaders of the early days in the denomination.

Since 1918, she has been a resident of Beebe, Ark. She maintains a keen interest in the church and looks forward to visits from senior members and Pastor Paul LaChance.

DR. AND MRS. DEAN BALDWIN have received a warm welcome to the Kentucky District. Each zone has received them with a dinner and a nice gift.

The Lexington Zone presented Dr. Baldwin a Commission of Kentucky Colonel from Governor Louis B. Nunn.

ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED YOUNG ADULTS who expect to graduate from Nazarene colleges in June, 1971, received during January a challenge from the Department of Home Missions to take their first job in a place where they can help start a new church, or strengthen a weak church.

It is hoped that 500 young adults will accept the challenge for home missions for 1971.

Gamaliel was the first, in Christian times, to utter a maxim too often forgotten by Christians—that there is no need to be too ardent against other people on behalf of the Omnipotence.

—Charles Williams

REPORT ON LEADING SUNDAY SCHOOLS—1970

Early in January, the Department of Church Schools announced the Sunday schools reaching the highest enrollment and attendance for 1970.

TOP 25 SUNDAY SCHOOLS—ASSEMBLY YEAR ENDING 1970

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The Ottawa (III.) First Church was dedicated in November. General Superintendent Samuel Young was speaker for the service. The 15,000-square-foot building is located on a five-acre tract just north of the city where it is visible from Interstate 80. The facility has space for a Sunday school of 300. A new parsonage is also located on the property. The total property value is near $300,000. Rev. J. W. Silvers is pastor.

Gamaliel was the first, in Christian times, to utter a maxim too often forgotten by Christians—that there is no need to be too ardent against other people on behalf of the Omnipotence.

—Charles Williams
STUDENTS SURVIVE CAR CRASH

Four of six Northwest Nazarene College students, involved in a two-car crash while homeward bound for the holidays, resumed classes the week of January 4 at Nampa, Idaho, one of them on crutches.

Two of the young women injured remained in hospitals—Jennifer Harris, 18, Springfield, Ore., in Sacred Heart Hospital, Eugene, Ore., unconscious but showing some response; and Coleen Hoeckle, 18, Independence, Ore., at Salem, Ore., hospital, broken pelvis and other injuries.

The accident happened Friday, December 11, at 6 p.m., when a car driven by Louis Lenker, 19, Coquille, Ore., suddenly encountered a herd of deer on U.S. 20, 30 miles from Bend, Ore., and then struck another car head on. Six in the Lenker car and four youths in the second car were hospitalized.

Joyce Lenker, 18, also of Coquille, was injured but will resume classes on crutches. Two other youths in the Lenker car also returned to classes.

FORTY NEW CONGREGATIONS ORGANIZED IN 1970

During the calendar year of 1970, 40 new congregations were officially organized. Almost 1,000 adult lay missionaries are represented in these baby congregations.

One hundred two new churches have been organized since the beginning of this quadrennium (July 1, 1968).

Dr. R. W. Hurn, executive secretary of the Department of Home Missions, stated that high cost of land and high prices for new first units have forced districts to spend more largely and to plan more wisely than ever before in planting new churches.

Stronger, more vigorous home mission units will mean full-grown, self-supporting churches in a shorter length of time, with less infant mortality.—Department of Home Missions

ESCAPE FIRE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fire which broke out in fellowship hall at the Kansas City (Mo.) Grace Church during the Sunday school hour January 3, endangered the lives of pupils but all escaped.

Ramiro Valdez, 24, seminary student and translator in the Nazarene Radio League, was in charge of classes in the building. He directed evacuation in a “fire drill.” Several children were treated for smoke inhalation.

A defective furnace was listed by firemen as the probable cause of the blaze.

Windows in the building were blocked and sealed because of previous break-ins and vandalism. This hampered firemen because the dense smoke filled the building.

Rev. B. Winfred Ritter, pastor, estimated damage at $20,000, and he said the building will be restored as soon as possible.—N.I.S.

NEW CHURCH IN ALASKA

A telephone call from Rev. Roy Yeider, Alaska District superintendent, indicates that a new church held its first services at Eagle River on January 4, with 34 attending worship services held in a public school building.

Thirty-one were present for Sunday school. Sixteen adults have indicated that they will be charter members. The first Sunday's offering totalled $300.

Official organization is set for February 10. Some property has been secured on which a new building will be constructed.

Rev. John Vaughn, veteran Alaska pastor, is the home mission pastor at Eagle River.—R. W. Hurn, executive secretary, Department of Home Missions

RETIRED MISSIONARY PASSES TO REWARD

Miss Dora Carpenter, retired missionary from Africa, passed away Saturday, January 2, at Casa Robles, Temple City, Calif., where she had lived since her retirement in 1948.

Funeral services were conducted from the Temple City, Calif., church, Tuesday, January 3.

Miss Carpenter went to Africa in April, 1922, and was there until 1947 with only one furlough—from October, 1934, to April, 1936—during her 25 years of service.

She was born January 7, 1883, in Pope County, Ark.

She graduated from Chicago Evangelistic Institute, and earned her R.N. at Chicago Osteopathic Hospital.

Miss Carpenter served as a nurse in the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital at Manzini (then Bremersdorf), Swaziland, and carried on Sunday school and children's work and outside clinics, and visited in the homes of the people.

RECENTLY the Oak Harbor, Wash., church celebrated Navy Sabbath, with the Navy personnel of the congregation conducting the entire morning worship service, including the preaching of the sermon. Navy Sabbath is sponsored by the Department of the Navy and is celebrated each year in the Oak Harbor church in this manner. The men pictured here are from the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. Rev. Steven Fletcher is pastor.
We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in the same measure as we have received it.

—PHINEAS F. BRESEE

“By All Means...

WANT TO HEAR A REAL FISH STORY?

It all started Saturday morning when I rose early, drove down to the Observer office to put in some church news, then scooted for a little while to a fishpond before getting into the work of the day. The pond yielded up a good “eating size” bass of about three-fourths of a pound, and a good fighter that went three pounds (I weighed him). Now that’s nothing to boast of for some people, but for me that was a real catch!

But that wasn’t all. The thrill of catching the bass was completely overshadowed by the success God gave me in fishing for men. Archibald Hospital in Thomasville was the large “lake” in which the Master Fisherman, the Lord Jesus, helped me to land a big one!

C. B. Smith had paid little or no attention to God’s “lures” for many years. He confessed that he had thought only of himself and what he was achieving, and had not given thought or consideration to God and his spiritual welfare. Now that ill health had forced him from an active life of business into a hospital room that afforded plenty of time to reflect on his life (past, present, and future), he began to see himself, life, and God in a different and clearer perspective than ever before.

With the prayers of many people (and the Christian work of some), this man began eyeing God’s “lures” and recently I got some good “strikes”—but failed to really land him until that Saturday afternoon. Brit had prayed and tried but said that he just couldn’t “get the door open” until then. With a sincere, humble, contrite heart he audibly confessed his undone state and his selfish, sinful life to God and implored Him for mercy and forgiveness and to “save my soul!” God heard that prayer; a soul was saved (he gave definite testimony to it); the devil lost an ardent follower; and this heart of mine rejoiced in this glorious victory.

The next fishing point that same day was a small “pond” (a neat, little frame house) where different ones of our people and I had been “fishing” for some time for a splendid young couple with a new baby.

Among others of our church workers, our Cradle Roll supervisor and her husband (Connie and Andy Rhodes) had been “casting in this pond.” God had been preparing the way for a successful catch; for Randall Bivins told the pastor that Saturday afternoon that he had been thinking lots lately about how he and his wife needed God, especially now that they have this fine little baby boy to raise.

When I “cast the net” for a personal decision then and there, Randy said to his wife, “Louise, I think we should; don’t you?”

Then, that was it! They prayed through in their living room, and came to the altar Sunday a.m. to confirm their experience with a public confession and acknowledgment. They were back Sunday night taking Communion and rejoicing in the Lord.

I thank God for the best day of soul fishing I have ever had. Jesus said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” There are many who will share in the blessings and rewards of these three people’s salvation. We are workers together, the Bible tells us. Let’s go fishing more and more—the Holy Spirit will help us.

DOYLE C. SMITH
Moultrie, Ga.