Do you remember the words your pastor spoke when you joined the church? "Dearly Beloved: The privileges and blessings which we have in association together in the Church of Jesus Christ are very sacred and precious. There is in it such hallowed fellowship as cannot otherwise be known . . . ."

This hallowed fellowship is worthy of special mention. All who are a part of such a fellowship know that they are experiencing a bit of heaven on earth.

That heaven is a place of hallowed fellowship there is no doubt. Indeed, it is that fellowship that helps make it heaven. If the people who are going to populate heaven are part of the church today, then it is reasonable to expect that the church fellowship experienced here on earth will also have heavenly aspects to it.

And yet, occasionally a congregation is marred by dissension, even division. This tragic possibility has been a part of the church from the beginning. It was present in Corinth. When the problem was faced honestly in Christian love, a solution was found. Peace and harmony returned to that church. The same solution is effective today.

Where there is a problem, it must be faced. Paul did this with the Corinthians. When their wrongs were pointed out to them, they did not retaliate or ignore the warnings. The contrast between 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians vividly displays the "before" and the "after:" Of course, the remedy was the cleansing, purifying, sin-destroying fire of God applied to the church. 1 Corinthians 3 makes plain the necessity of drastic steps so that "envying, and strife, and divisions" might be eliminated and the hallowed fellowship restored.

There is nothing more destructive to the fellowship than the presence of carnality being expressed in negative and destructive tones, more often than not cloaked in garments of piety. When this happens, let the church fellowship close ranks in united prayer so that all who are unsanctified will submit to the purifying fires of God. The need must be met head on. The privileges and blessings we have in association together in the Church of Jesus Christ are very sacred and precious, too sacred and precious to allow anyone or anything to mar them. Let us preserve, protect, and cultivate the hallowed fellowship and see that it is indeed a bit of heaven here on earth.
I remember my first political election all too clearly, but it will be words spoken loudly and crisply by a crippled old woman that will resound in my conscience forever ... I pray.

It was just a local town election. Fortunately for me, I was the Republican endorsement in an area of suburban Philadelphia that had forgotten long ago that this country has thrived on a two-party system. "It's in the bag," party members had told me, yet I felt the responsibility to charge full steam ahead with full campaign spirit.

I arrived at the polls in time to see the judge of elections open the door. The registry was checked, and I was ushered on my way to vote. I don't know how long I stayed inside the booth after the curtains were pulled, but I remember closing my eyes and wondering why everyone says that politics and religion don't mix.

Later that day, I was standing in a nearby area, desiring to attract the voters' questions, attention, and votes. A hearty discussion was underway with incumbents when Dottie walked into the hall, shaking her cane and snapping, "Where's that Christian?" The handkerchief I thought I saw her waving in her other hand turned out to be my campaign brochure. Against the advice of colleagues I chose to inform the constituents that I was a Nazarene school principal, and listed school board and church committee work as viable experience, worthy of trust and, ultimately, votes.

Dottie persisted with her verbal demand until the local constable pointed at me and said, "I think she means you." Dazed with visions of a red, white, and blue future, I caught his cue and approached Dottie. "Hopefully I am the Christian you're looking for," I whispered to her. She looked me in the eye and took my hands. She insisted bitterly that I was too young to attempt a political future, and she did not believe that my Christianity could remain as it was that day. Stalwartly I insisted that the challenge of this new endeavor could only fortify my Christian life. Once again Dottie looked into my eyes, but this time she saw right through me. She saw faith yet intimidation, a love of Christ yet naivety, and she wasn't the first one to question this potential conflict.

The desire to be a Christian politician has haunted me since I was saved at 25 years of age. Only after I had ended my phone conversation with the Republican party chairman did I realize that accepting the party's endorsement might mean leaving the security and protection of a calling to Christian education, nestled within the confines of the church.

Only after I had heard the name of the backup candidate did I stamp my feet and declare that the Lord never intended the pagans to govern and legislate over the masses.

As precisely and clearly as I heard my call to a humble altar, and later to a ministry with Nazarene schools, I heard the Lord directing new paths for me on ground seldom tread by the most capable—the Christians.

Dottie pressed on and reminded me of all the parties, with dancing, drinking, and carousing associated with politics. She reminded me that politics was an opportunistic arena for deals, trades, and dishonor. She tried to scare me with accounts of colleagues' insidious natures and greedy minds. Finally she relented and moved closer to my face. "I'm sorry," she said. "I don't know if the Lord or Satan sent me to you today, but you're looking at a Bible college graduate who failed at what you're trying to do." Apparently this concerned, crippled, new friend once had been pulled into a quagmire and now came to warn a stranger. I made my first deal as a politician that day and told old Dottie that if she prayed daily for me, I would pray for His continued will in both of our lives.

When Dottie left the polls, I felt confident of her vote and promised that the next person wondering "Where's that Christian?" need not seek further. By God's grace, I will avoid sin and obey His will. This Christian intends to be obvious. □

DONNA L. MENGEL is the principal of the Lansdale Christian Academy and Preschool in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.
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Please keep your letters brief (50-150 words). Letters responding to other letters are not printed. We cannot reply personally to letters not selected for this feature. Address: LETTERS, Herald of Holiness, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

PENIEL MISSIONS UPDATE

As the current executive director of Peniel Missions, I want to thank you immensely for the article by Stan Ingersol about your Nazarene roots and debt to Peniel Missions.

I am glad to report that Peniel Missions is alive and well, still is a part of World Gospel Mission. We presently have inner-city ministries in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, and Los Angeles, with our emphasis diversifying from just ministries to homeless men, to urban churches, community centers for children of many ethnic backgrounds, including East Indian, Chinese, and Hispanic. At present we have a missionary staff of 23 with many employees at the local stations and multitudes of volunteers, including members of the Church of the Nazarene, who especially participate in our evening evangelistic services at our rescue missions.

As Peniel enters her 101st year in November, we are trusting God to use us as a tool to help open new missions in growing interdenominational inner-city ministries in other places on the West Coast.

NOT ON A TRACTOR!

The picture of the beautiful little boy on the tractor (June 1, 1986) prompted me to write. My first thought was, "Train up a child in the way that he should go ..." (Proverbs 22:6), but not on a tractor!

That picture is a temptation to other boys and girls to climb on machinery when they know they shouldn't. There are many farm accidents and not only adults get hurt or killed but sometimes children. Children should be taught to stay off farm machinery.

Bea Peterson
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

REVIVAL ADVOCATE

I appreciated Dr. Eugene Stowe's editorial in the April 1 issue.

Indeed there is a danger in "making not only too much of externals but also in making too little." Let us remember that God's Word includes its "thou shalt nots." It hurts me deep inside every time I overhear people ridicule the scriptural foundations upon which the Church was built.
Purposeless existence is intolerable to the rational mind. Even the trees of the forest have a purpose for their growth. In the great scheme of nature, a lower form of life sustains and nourishes a higher form so there is purpose in the existence of each. The beautiful and defenseless gazelle will feed alertly and peacefully near the roaming cheetah. It is not until the cheetah makes her frenzied dash for a meal for herself and her young that the gazelle really goes into flight. The weak and sickly are taken first to give cleansing and added strength to the progeny. As Solomon, who was given wisdom by the Lord said, “To everything there is a purpose under the sun” (Goodspeed).

But this article is not about the plant and animal world. It is about the human family, God’s highest creation. Why do senseless, purposeless “accidents” happen to members of the human family? Especially, why do they happen to good, God-fearing people? Why do debilitating illness and excruciating pain come to God’s children, who all their lives have lived in righteousness and holiness and have served God and their fellow human beings in unfeigned love and self-sacrifice?

The more we come to understand God, the more we are convinced that purposelessness cannot long exist in His universe. Romans 8:28 is a great proof text of this truth that broadly wends its way throughout Scripture. Read the Bible in 28 different translations and that verse comes out virtually the same. For our comfort and instruction, let’s take Goodspeed: “We know that in everything God works with those who love Him . . . to bring about what is good.” Does this not say to us, whether in life, or death, or illness, or accident, or estrangement, God is continually at work to give it all purpose?

On the underside of life we cannot often see the beauty of the tapestry God is weaving on the upper side. I am convinced that health and healing do not come as often as the Lord would like to bring it to us because we are struggling with the human purposelessness of it all.

Let’s step into a higher level of faith and believe consistently, tenaciously, that God knows what it is all about and that by His grace, presence, and power, He is able to bring about His perfect will, in spite of Satan’s temporary dominance. Even the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and forever, according to Revelation 11:15.

Paul said in Philippians 3:21 that the Lord Jesus Christ is subduing all things unto himself. This includes the inequalities, the injustices, the pain, sorrow, and suffering of the temporary segments of this life—even the purposelessness. God is always in the business of making a purpose. He takes what the devil means to destroy us with and turns it into stepping-stones toward heaven, and into blessing for our fellows here. Let’s give Him faith and time to achieve His purpose.

KENNETH VOGT is a former district superintendent who resides in Abbotsford, British Columbia.
The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth in his second Epistle, chapter 1:19-20, “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you. . . . was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

The call of God to His people is one of saying yes to Him. Miss Fairy Chism, longtime missionary to Africa, used to say keep nodding your head to God and saying yes to Him.

The commands of God call for a yes from every believer. The great command to go into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature continues to call every believer to do his part in the fulfillment of this commission.

The Church of the Nazarene has a valiant record of taking the “message” to the whole world. From the beginning of the Church of the Nazarene, the holiness groups that came together already had a missionary effort to fulfill Christ’s commands.

A diminishing obedience brings a diminishing harvest. A lack of response brings a breakdown of concern and, therefore, spiritual as well as numerical decay.

For over 15 centuries the aqueducts of Rome brought fresh water from the mountains away beyond the city to supply the need of that great capital. Then modern pipelines were laid to replace the wooden and stone aqueducts. Almost immediately the long-standing aqueducts began to crumble and decay. A few years of idleness ruined what centuries of service did not destroy.

We are made to be active channels. God calls us to consistently reach out to others as channels of His love and with His message of redemption.

Taking the message is a personal call to every Christian. Do you claim to be a Christian? If so, then you cannot ignore the call of Christ to give and to go. One is not a substitute for the other, but giving is an appropriate response. None of us are below, above, or beyond this personal obligation. The traditional appeal to the people of the Church of the Nazarene has been one of sacrificial giving to the missionary endeavor.

The reward of seeing the gospel reach thousands of new people each year is thrilling to a church dedicated to world evangelism.

Joy comes to those who give to God. All that we do, we do for Him. It is for His glory that we are obedient to His commission. It is for His glory that our young people respond to His call to leave family and homeland to spread the gospel of full salvation to the ends of the earth.

The Thanksgiving Offering for World Evangelism is a tremendous opportunity for the members and friends of the Church of the Nazarene to rise up in gratitude and thanksgiving. The best way to give thanks is by giving to the evangelization of the multitude of seeking people around the world.

I pray that this will be our largest offering in the history of the Church of the Nazarene.

WILLIAM J. PRINCE is president of Mount Vernon Nazarene College, in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

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The Woman at the Well

The promise is . . .
The parching ground
Shall be a pool,
The wilderness
Break out with waters
Sweet and cool,
In desert places
Streams shall flow,
And in the place of dragons
Reeds shall grow.

W. Armstrong Roberts

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HERALD OF HOLINESS
Because You Gave...

PEOPLE ARE FINDING CHRIST IN TEMUCO

by SANDY SISLER

I woke at 5 A.M. on Sunday morning, for a missionary the busiest day of all. A look in the mirror at the bags under my eyes confirmed that I looked as tired as I felt!

About two hours had been spent reading, studying, and praying when I heard the first birds begin to sing. I felt as though they were singing praises to their Creator. Their song was more beautiful than usual.

The sun soon began to shine brightly. In Temuco, Chile, the sun forgets to shine on us during the wet, cold winters. I could tell that today was going to be different!

My husband is opening a pioneer district and the first work in Temuco. At 10 A.M. the first Chilean Nazarenes began to arrive at our door. We worshiped and studied together, but it was different. Love and trust is blossoming into something beautiful.

That afternoon we drove two hours to the port city of Valdivia, where we also have a new work. There was not a cloud in the sky, and the volcanos all had new blankets of snow. During the worship service Claude preached to the young congregation about seeking first the kingdom of God, and our responsibility as “debtors” to the gospel of Christ.

We were a few miles outside the city when I looked up and saw the star-filled sky. The view was awesome. Claude pulled to the side of the road. As we stepped outside the car, the first thing we saw was Halley’s Comet. Then a star fell. Why does a falling star cause a strange feeling deep inside your being? Passing the volcano Villarrica, we could see its red blaze glowing. Yes, the day truly has been different!

While I was thinking of all the beauty I have seen today, the car’s tape recorder was playing a song that told about Jesus’ return to earth. I looked at the sky and thought, Oh, yes—He is even on the way now! The very stars are proclaiming His coming!

But what about all the Chileans who haven’t had an opportunity to hear the gospel and respond to its message? What work we have to do—before it is too late! God is giving the victory. I think of Luis, our first convert in Temuco. His soul is worth more than all the beauty I have witnessed today.

Now, four days later, the gray, cold rains have set in again. I am behind my familiar desk, piled high with correspondence, lesson plans, and much more. This is all part of the work, the humdrum alongside the beautiful. Days like today cause me to ask, “Why am I here?” “God called” and “you gave.” The answer always gives me identity and makes me want to do more. First, God has called us to Chile. Second, because you gave, we could go! The only way we missionaries can go into all the world is that you make us your extension through your General Budget giving. We carry the message “that they may know” because you sacrificed. Thank you! I am a “debtor” to God who called and to you who gave. Even the paperwork is important!

When Nazarenes are good stewards and give their lives and money that God has entrusted to them, the missionaries’ tearful cries for workers and needed funds to build churches turn to shouts of joy! □

—E. RUTH GLOVER
Pasadena, California
The Perry family

The God of Abraham and Sarah

by BARBARA JONES

Not long after we moved to Nashville, we were invited to the home of some members of our congregation. We enjoyed a delicious meal on the patio. After supper we all split up, kids in the pool, men beside the pool, and the ladies in the den. As Celeste, Sibyle, and I conversed, I sensed that Celeste was experiencing sorrow because she and Roger had not been able to have children. Roger, in his early 30s, and Celeste, almost 30, were struggling with the reality of our society where many who do not want children have an abundance and others who have a strong desire for children are unable to have them.

Roger and Celeste are humble, dedicated Christians. At the altar they committed their childlessness to the Lord and reminded Him of their desire to have children. They also praised God in the midst of their pain. When Celeste sang, you knew her life was totally committed and God was in control.

Roger and Celeste had been saving money to adopt a child, but when we began our Capital Stewardship Program to liquidate the $1,000,000 debt of our church, Roger shared, with tears streaming down his cheeks, that God had asked them to give their adoption money plus $30,000 over a three-year period, to the church. There wasn't a dry eye as the committee heard the testimony of complete obedience to the will and leading of God.

The million dollars was pledged, and the church rejoiced that we would soon be free from so large a debt. Charles and I also prayed about our pledge. It seemed that God wanted us to pledge an impossible amount. We did, and we have learned that God can provide for our needs in ways we never dreamed of. My parents and grandparents had sacrificed to have a church and ministries for me, and we felt that we must build a bridge for those who would follow us.

Soon after our Victory Banquet in March of 1983, Roger called Charles on the phone and asked if he could come by and see him. It was urgent. There was excitement in his voice. They met at the office and Roger made my pastor-husband sit down. He would need to be braced for the news. A pregnancy test had revealed that Celeste was expecting a child. They cried and laughed and rejoiced as they realized that God had asked them to give all they had to His work, but then had so quickly poured out these blessings.

Soon it was discovered that Celeste was not to have one child, but three babies were due in the fall of 1983. My husband shared this miracle with the whole congregation, and we all praised God for His ways of providing more than we can ever ask or think. Others began to tell how God was already blessing their families as a result of their obedience. One elder in our church teasingly warned that if making pledges would result in him and his wife having more children, he would withdraw his pledge.

The faith of Roger and Celeste would be tried and tested over the next few months. By June, Celeste was admitted to Vanderbilt Hospital, and because of premature labor pains and other complications she remained bedfast until the births. The doctor, the family, and our entire congregation realized that a greater miracle was necessary or Celeste would not be able to carry the babies until it was safe to deliver them. Though some of us grew discouraged with each emergency, Roger and Celeste never doubted God. They believed that they would see their dream come true.

Celeste finally made it to August, and the doctors felt they must take the babies by the end of the month for the safety of the mother. They were not sure how many babies would live. Celeste never doubted. The delivery day was set for September 2, but Celeste felt God speak to her about September 3 being the proper day. Well, the doctors changed their minds and decided

BARBARA JONES is the pastor's wife at Grace Church of the Nazarene in Nashville, Tennessee.
September 3, Saturday, was the best time, so that everyone would be free to help in case of any emergency. Celeste smiled, for she knew God was in charge of everything.

As we slipped into the room to be with Celeste a few minutes before she was taken into the delivery room, we saw that God had truly been her strength. You could not tell that she had been bedfast for three months. Charles asked me to pray, and I sort of felt it my duty to remind everyone in my prayer that we were to pray for strength to accept God’s will, whatever the outcome might be. That didn’t discourage Celeste for one moment. She confidently rested on God’s promise to her.

As she left the room I jokingly informed her that there was a slim possibility that in a few moments she could be the mother of three boys just as I am.

We all waited in the hall outside the delivery room, extremely excited and somewhat apprehensive. It wasn’t long until a nurse came out the door on the other hallway and said, “Have you heard the good news? We have three little boys!” Immediately we learned that all three were doing so well that no breathing assistance was necessary. Soon a nurse walked out the door with Jonathan DeSha Perry, weighing 4 lb. 5 oz., then little Joshua Dale, 2 lb. 15 oz., and the largest of the three, Joel Douglas weighing in at 4 lb. 9 oz. We “oohed” and “ahhed” and adoringly crowded up as close as they would allow.

The triplets are now three years old. We continue to praise the God who so miraculously provided these precious gifts, and to remember that we can never out-give God.

A NEEDY BOY, A CARING CHURCH

Forty years ago a boy was born in Kentucky. His mother and father separated shortly afterward. Soon a stepfather entered the family, and they moved to southern Indiana. The stepfather ran a small furniture moving business, and the boy’s mother worked in a factory. An environment developed that allowed the town drunks, bums, and ex-convicts to hang around the home. The stepfather’s friends became friends and playmates of the little boy. Their names read like a movie script. There were alcoholics named “Bull,” “Bunny,” “Soup”; a shifty character named “Herb”; and a three-time convicted check forger named “Bill.” The stepfather was involved in dishonesty, drinking, a little bootlegging, and arson but was never in any serious trouble. What would become of the little boy?

When the boy was 13, a providential event occurred that would change the course of his life. The Church of the Nazarene erected a new church building right across the street from his house. Soon there were people from the church calling and visiting. The mother, the boy, and his brother and sister began attending that church and liked the warm, friendly people. Even though the boy was attending another Sunday School, he would leave that Sunday School and slip into the Nazarene Sunday School 15 minutes late. Soon he quit attending the other Sunday School altogether.

A caring pastor, Sunday School teacher, and Christian people were doing their job. Even when the boy did not want to attend and would try to become an absentee, someone from the church would come to his home and compel him to get ready and go to church. There was no place to hide on Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, or even on revival nights. With that kind of persistence, it wasn’t long before the teenage boy knelt at an altar and accepted Jesus as his Savior.

At the age of 16, the boy was elected youth president and struggling with his first church responsibility. After a while, he began to feel God’s call to the preaching ministry. By 18, the boy was driving the church bus and teaching a junior boys’ Sunday School class. After high school graduation, his pastor urged him to attend Trevecca Nazarene College and eventually he graduated from Nazarene Theological Seminary.

A lot of things have changed now. The stepfather, Bull, Bunny, Soup, and Herb have all passed into eternity. Someone else lives in the house on the corner. The Church of the Nazarene has relocated to a better site. What happened to the little boy? He is now pastor of the Grace Church of the Nazarene in Mansfield, Ohio. He owes everything to God and the church. His life was changed and given a new direction because of a small group of caring Nazarenes.

I was that boy!

WILLIAM D. REID is pastor of the Mansfield Grace Church, Mansfield, Ohio.
AN INHERITANCE IN THIS LAND

by RANDY BECKUM

In six short years, Christ built His church among the 30,000 Cambodian and Lao refugees living in Long Beach. What started in 1980 with a handful of children on a Nazarene bus coming to Mrs. Letha George’s Sunday School class has grown to two congregations whose combined average attendance is 600, the largest Sunday School on the Southern California District. Six Cambodian and Lao men are locally licensed ministers. One young man, Physa Chanmany, feels called to be a missionary. Plans are now in progress for a Bible college extension center.

Like the New Testament Church at Antioch, Long Beach First Church of the Nazarene has become a sending center and an example for churches all across the denomination in church planting. Sensing God’s unique timing in making this church building available, Long Beach First put off their own much-needed building expansion plans, which they had been working on for 10 years, and stepped out in faith to provide facilities for a group of people who,
“Much, pro and con, has been said regarding the destructive wars now raging in the countries of Europe. We have said but little. After studying the subject thoroughly we are convinced of a few things, and submit the more important for your careful consideration.

“I. It is the Work of Satan. While Gen. Sherman’s statement that ‘war is hell’ would not stand under concrete analysis, the fact cannot be denied that it originates in that region, is inspired by the emissaries of Gehenna and its merciless work is carried forward for the sole purpose of populating the domains of the eternally damned.

“II. Responsibility Cannot be Traced to any Single Nation. . . . The real war is in the hearts of a God-hating and Christ-rejecting generation, and the breaking out is a natural consequence. The pillars of civilization are undermined and human aspiration bludgeoned by no power, but by all powers; by no autocrats but by all autocrats . . . all, in a mad stampede for armament, trade and territory have sowed swords and guns and nourished harvests of death-dealing crops, making ready the way . . . .

“III. The Bible Foretells These Wars. The text says, ‘Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.’ ‘For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.’ Can this picture ever be more perfectly presented by living actors than is now being done . . . . Although deeply in debt already, all leading nations have been appropriating millions of dollars annually for the manufacture of dreadnought battle ships and fortifications. While the majority of those who have effected these appropriations have no doubt paid but little attention to these prophecies and were prompted by no faith in the Scriptures, they nevertheless felt the tenseness of the situation and prepared for the inevitable.

“IV. A Greater Calamity is yet to Come. Now let us read the entire verse: ‘. . . and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.’ So you see this is but the beginning of the end.”

These reflections by Rev. Oscar Hudson show how the millennial hope of early Nazarenes helped them interpret the advent of world war in 1914. Hudson, whose ministry began in 1897, enjoyed a long and varied career as evangelist, pastor, and editor. At the time he wrote this, he was office editor of the Pentecostal Messenger, organ of the Rest Cottage Association in Pilot Point, Tex. (The Pentecostal Messenger, Oct. 1, 1914: 1-2)
I attended a funeral service in our church recently, and as I was helping the wife of the local funeral director remove flowers and other equipment from the sanctuary, the conversation turned to the absence of her husband during the service. She told me about the death of their nephew the day before, due to a gunshot wound. The mother of the boy had asked her husband to come and help with the arrangements.

As she talked a few minutes, my heart broke again as memories flooded back to the day, 15 years before, when my son died. I hurt for the family of this boy. I wanted to express the hurt I felt then, and the victory I know now, so that others might understand there is life after tragedy. We had to lean on the grace of God.

I had been a police officer three months that June afternoon and had purchased a new service revolver. It had been taken apart, cleaned, adjusted, and reassembled. My three-year-old son played across the room; I would not allow him near me while I had the gun. Part of checking the gun was called “dryfiring.” This consisted of pointing an unloaded weapon at the corner of the ceiling and pulling the trigger. I was just finishing and had loaded the pistol when the phone rang. I took the gun with me and answered the phone. When I returned to my chair, forgetting the gun was loaded, I again started to dryfire. My son started to crawl up on my lap just as the gun fired. I drove with him in my arms to the hospital, carried him in and laid him on the emergency room table, crying that I had killed him. The nurses assured me he wasn’t dead, but I had seen that type of wound before and I knew the seriousness of the situation. A friend brought my wife to the hospital very shortly. Soon the doctor came out to tell us what I already knew.

A number of friends gathered, and we also found support from people who did not know us except through association with our tragedy. One such expression came from a railroad detective in northern Kansas. He said that I would never be rid of the memories and I would always be reminded of them through various happenings; however, he said not to allow those memories to possess me, but for me to possess them.

After the final services, we had to return home and to life without a son. The house was especially lonely. I worried about Karen. She was told by her family to be “strong for David;” and I had been told the same for her. Today I realize it was God’s grace that held us together, as we turned to each other. We didn’t talk about the accident, but we were able to renew almost a courtship relationship as we threw ourselves into each other’s life.

I recall being angry with God and wanting to shake my fist at Him for letting this happen to me. But I also held onto the idea that if I ever wanted to see my son again, I had to keep a relationship with God. Today I realize what a thin thread that was, and I serve God for far deeper reasons. But yes, I will see my son again. I have some questions to ask of God, but I find that today they aren’t as urgent as they once were.

Karen and I attended a Nazarene Marriage Enrichment Retreat approximately four years ago. We found ourselves communicating on a deep level, far
deeper than ever before. We learned that weekend to get in touch with our feelings and actions and to own them and believe them. We quickly discovered that one weekend was not enough time to talk about our deep-seated feelings. We had built walls around us, and so on a very special night in a small restaurant over dinner, we were able to talk about what we had felt during that tragedy. Karen had forgiven me years ago, but I still carried blame. When I was a child, I sang a song about “every burden of my heart rolled away.” And it happened that night as we opened up and shared our feelings. Today Karen and I lead those retreats, and we share our story of how God took something ugly and made our lives more beautiful and useful because of it.

Currently our family includes a 14-year-old son that God brought to our home through adoption. We cannot see how he could have come into our lives without this tragedy. Also we are blessed with a 12-year-old daughter. We were sure she was going to be the son that we had lost, but on that evening God delivered us a girl who has captured our hearts. How we praise God for His wonderful blessings!

For those of you that are reading this and hurting, we would share Romans 8:28. Look it up in your favorite translation and share with us the testimony that it brings to the amazing love and grace of our God. □

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**HEART’S REQUEST**

I dearly wanted more of Christ from day to day,
His guiding light upon my road to show the way.
I loved the thought of knowing more,
of growing wise;
Of answers chasing mysteries before my eyes.

God knew my prayer was most sincere,
but His design
Of answering my heart’s request was far from mine.
Instead of light, the darkness fell,
the path was dim;
But oh, how beautifully I saw much more of Him.

—VIOLA JACOBSON BERG

Malverne, Long Island, New York

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**AN EFFECTIVE CURE**

by CARL B. HADDIX

Years ago, at the Big Run School near Mingo, W.Va., there was an epidemic of what was known then as “summer sores.” The teacher, Miss Ota Marple (later Mrs. Robert Bell), stayed with my Uncle Adam and Aunt Eva Wamsley while school was in session. When she shared the problem at the school with them, they agreed that a cure had to be found for the troublesome sores.

Not having the benefit of a knowledgeable pharmacist with a well-stocked pharmacy, Miss Marple and Aunt Eva proceeded to concoct a home remedy of their own. I need not tell you that it had not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration or endorsed by the American Medical Association. But in those days up Big Run Hollow, no one knew such agencies existed, or thought they were even necessary. And those agencies probably would have had little concern about Big Run and its school anyway.

Anyhow, Aunt Eva and Miss Marple, in their kitchen “laboratory,” drew up a chemical formula designed to cure the worst case of summer sores. They began with a supply of Vaseline, and added to that a calculated quantity of sulphur. To those ingredients was added a generous amount of sheep-dip.

Now, those of you who have never been around sheep at sheep-dipping time, cannot appreciate the finer smelling things of life. Sheep-dip had an aroma that shocked your nostrils, cleared your sinuses, and killed all the ticks and whatever other critters may have tried to live in a sheep’s wool. It was potent stuff, indeed.

Well, Miss Marple took that non-prescribed medication to school and proceeded to apply it as needed. Its cure was 100% effective. No doubt, in the United States today, there are a number of healthy people who suffer no side effects from that treatment—except perhaps the lingering aroma of sheep-dip!

To some this may seem to be a rather drastic remedy. Perhaps, but Miss Marple was dealing with a drastic situation. And you cannot argue with the success of the treatment.

Centuries ago, God saw a terrible situation and decided upon a formula for the cure. Many have considered it drastic. Many others praise its efficacy. The condition God saw was the sinfulness of His creation. Man was in desperate need of a remedy for his sin. To provide that remedy, God allowed a Calvary. There the God-man, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, made the full and perfect sacrifice for my sin and yours. God so loved us that He gave us His Son. In Christ, He identified with us “in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people” (Hebrews 2:17, NIV).

I want to assure you that I have found God’s cure for sin to be effective!
by J. GRANT SWANK, JR.

Today 1.1 million elderly Americans, that is, 4 percent of the country’s aged, are being abused each year by their children, according to a House of Representatives subcommittee report in May 1985.

The problem has been “largely a hidden one. Out of fear of, or dependence on, their abusers, older victims are reluctant to admit their abuse,” stated Representative Claude Pepper, 84-year-old Democrat from Miami, who is the chairman of the House of Aging Health Subcommittee, which conducted the hearings.

Disguising himself with tinted glasses and thick gray wig, an elderly Massachusetts man told how his own son tormented him with a hatchet while in drunken rages. While television cameras recorded his testimony, the man (using the alias Mr. Smith) related how his 42-year-old son had verbally and physically abused him and his wife for years. When the son had become intoxicated, the father then feared for his life. “But you can’t go to the police and tell them you think he is going to kill you,” he remarked.

Representative Pepper underlined that the “horror stories” are not isolated cases.

What can be done to avoid parent abuse?

(1) The church particularly can recognize the issue. Then it can begin to address it from the pulpit, in Bible studies, talk-out groups, and other church gatherings that engage in serious dialogue.

Persons within the church are not exempt from the problem. There are church people torn by the ways they hurt their own. They therefore feel guilty, alone, and frustrated.

(2) Children of the aged can have their own well-thought-through plans for avoiding parent abuse. Too often the elderly show up at the house—either for short-term or long-term stays—and there is no blueprint for dealing with the situation.

When visitors are going to arrive, there is a plan set forth as to accommodations, meals, recreation, and the like. This must be done with the elderly as well.

(3) The “host family” must accept personality changes within the aged. Mom may be different. Dad may have developed some quirks. But so have the younger members; they just don’t have to give an account for them yet.

Accept the changes in the parents as normal passages in growing older. Some of them may be revamped through talking things out; but many will remain.

One daughter said that her mother was not as loving toward other people as she had been throughout her life.

The daughter was reminded that the mother had been saddled with an ill husband in her later years. She reasoned that old age should not have dealt her such an unfair hand. So the mother was setting up walls of self-protection laced with a strand or two of pity.

The daughter tried to point out to her mother the personality change that had taken place. The mother, however, could not see it. Consequently, the daughter learned to live with it, avoiding some of the stimuli that brought about negative responses.

(4) The host family should take time out. The host family needs relief from caring for aged parents. When tension rises, get away for a while. Upon returning, the tension will have eased considerably.

If a “sitter” must be engaged, have someone there to watch over the elderly. But no one should play the martyr by being with the aged 24 hours every day. The elderly will get better care if the host family has frequent breaks.

(5) Provide changes of schedule for the elderly. Frequently, they want the security of the familiar and do not hanker for many interruptions. However, some want to be on the go as much as their bodies will allow.

The host family should see it that older persons get out. They need a change of scenery. Possibilities include senior citizens’ luncheons, entertainments, excursions, and special events. Provide them with transportation, money if needed, and moral support to see the whole thing through.

Also, recommend that they have their own friends in to visit. Give them privacy and freedom to entertain on their own turf from time to time.

(6) Do more than talk. There is the time for talk. Seasons are needed when the younger must open up with the older and get some things straight, hopefully in a loving manner undergirded with Christian care.

But when all is said and done, more is usually said than done. So when talk comes to a halt, give the oldsters hugs and kisses. Communication may pick up after that.

Mamie Eisenhower was asked what she missed most after Ike died. She said that she missed having someone kiss her on the cheek. After that, when son John came to visit her, he would be sure to kiss his mother on the cheek. It made her day.

An unexpected gift can help an
aged person. Just out of the blue, hand her a flower, give him a box of candy, or take them for a ride through the country.

(7) Refuse to be in bondage to what “society” thinks. While visiting in a home one day, I noticed that the younger daughter was embarrassed by things her older mother was saying to me. However, I came to feel more uncomfortable with the daughter than the mother. I wanted to tell the younger one to relax, to enjoy.

Later, the daughter apologized for her mother’s talkative ways. She herself was weary with listening.

Actually, the old woman’s tales were interesting. I told the daughter that I found her mother quite enchanting. “She has lived a full life and therefore has much to share.”

(8) Talk to young children in complimentary terms concerning the aged. Take opportunities to sensitize them in loving care toward the elderly. They will pick up your frequencies and absorb them, whether negative or positive. See to it that they are positive.

Refuse to allow prejudice against the elderly to sneak into your own household. Instead, educate the young to understand the pluses and minuses of every passage in life.

(9) Talk out the care of the elderly with other people in like situations. Be honest about your feelings. Tell the truth with those whom you trust. This is good therapy, for it awakens one to the fact that there are common feelings of frustration, anger, and even hostility experienced by those who care for the aged.

Life comes full circle. Just as parents, now old, took care of their children with mixed emotions, so the children now care for their parents with mixed emotions. This is reality. Caring for the aged is not always what Hallmark paints on a Mother’s Day card.

(10) Recognize that you yourself are getting there—quicker than you think. We are all getting older. One of these days, you will be in that rocking chair. You will need that walker and cane. And someone will have to count your pills, make your bed, read to you aloud, see that you have an extra blanket in winter.

Be kind in the meantime. Your own children are watching how you care for your parents. Do you want them to treat you as you are treating your mother and father?

J. GRANT SWANK, JR., pastors the Walpole, Massachusetts, Church of the Nazarene.

Book Brief

LET ME KEEP LAUGHTER

AUDRE PITTS  
author

I carry a package of laughter  
In the pocket of my heart  
In case I get the “Pity-mes”  
And feel the teardrops start.

Charles Shultz, originator of “Peanuts,” has said, “I’m always astounded at the way mankind has survived terrible things and still is able to laugh.” Laughter through tears has carried Audre Pitts a long way, and in this her fourth book she shares some of her choice moments.

Her writing is homey, a collection of punch lines wrapped in stories told just as she would chuckle through them to a neighbor or friend. Often she adds postscript comments to explain, or to share deep feelings as she reflects on the incident. The title reflects the theme. We all need a glimpse of those four words, “Let me keep laughter,” to pull us through the average day!

It goes without saying that the book contains excellent inspirational verse. “Lord, Hold Me Steady Under Pressure” is applicable to most lives; “No Birthdays in Heaven” touches the heart of anyone who has survived a loss through death, but carries a large vacancy in the heart for the one long gone. I especially like the poem in the chapter “Little Things in Life,” which points the reader to small joys such as “I Heard a Robin Sing.”

The book contains wonderful thoughts drawn from simple things, thoughts that can be quoted in eloquent speech, passed along in a letter, or just tucked in the heart:

I know God’s victory will be mine:  
He’ll bring an end to strife,  
If I keep His music in my soul  
And His laughter in my life.

—Evelyn Stenbock Ditty

Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City  
Paper. 112 pages. To order see page 21.
COURAGEOUS COMMITMENT

During World War II the “suicide legions” of Japan fought to the death rather than surrender. With the tide of battle flowing inexorably toward an Allied victory, men became “bombs, torpedoes, and missiles” in desperate hope of snatching victory from imminent defeat. Denis and Peggy Warner tell their story in The Sacred Warriors.

Into a makeshift hospital on Saipan walked a soldier from an antiaircraft battery. In his left hand he carried his right hand, which had been blown off by a bomb. He requested simply, “Please put my hand back on, Doctor. I want to be able to hold a gun again.”

I hold no brief for war and its senseless waste of life. Nevertheless, I cannot withhold admiration from that sort of courageous commitment to what that soldier believed duty, honor, and country required of him.

I am engaged in a far worthier cause. I have sworn allegiance to a far nobler Ruler. From me, Christ serves a commitment to His kingdom’s uncompromising warfare against evil that will not hesitate to give life itself to raise His banner aloft.

The courage, and even the carelessness, with which men have tossed away their lives for dubious causes ought to challenge the apathy of Christians. How eagerly many cling to comfort and pleasure when only heroic sacrifices can achieve our Commander’s goals. Beside a soldier asking that a severed hand be restored so that he can resume the fighting, I blush with embarrassment and shame at how little I risk for the kingdom of God.

Even more, beside the record of Calvary in the Gospels, I want to cover my face and pray, “O Christ, let Your spirit of sacrifice and service possess my heart until I will dare and bear without complaint or self-pity anything You ask of me!”

The noblest of causes, the greatest of Rulers, calls for the deepest of commitments!

EDUCATIVE MISTAKES

Let me share with you another of my maxims: “There’s no use making mistakes if you aren’t going to learn from them.”

Have you seen the television commercial where a man sits beside a copying machine doing nothing? The machine is supposed to be so sophisticated and efficient that it grinds out perfect copies for as long as you want them. The operator has nothing to do but wait and wonder at the endless quality repetition.

Some people are like that with their mistakes. They seem never to learn, never to change. They just keep repeating the same blunders throughout life, as unwise at 60 as they were at 16.

A mistake has one positive value—its possibility for education.

Sol Linowitz, former chairman of Xerox Corporation, when xerography was being developed urged his group to “latch onto the laboratories of the great companies.” His rationale: “Even if what they tried didn’t work, we would have the side products—and especially the knowledge of what would not work, which is very expensive to find out.”

Yes, mistakes are costly. If we don’t learn from them we are wasting tuition. Thomas Carlyle said, “There is precious instruction to be got by finding we were wrong.” We must not let pride or despair keep us from benefiting from this high-priced instruction.

It’s sad when a fellow cannot learn from his mistakes. It’s even sadder when he will not learn. Two people never profit from their blunders, those too insecure to admit them, those too indifferent to correct them.

Hugh Prather said, “When I have listened to my mistakes, I have grown.” We retard our mental, social, and spiritual growth when we refuse to pay attention to our mistakes. To keep repeating them is destructive to ourselves and to others. To learn from them is to insure a better future.

Don’t make mistakes if you aren’t going to learn from them!
It’s sad when a fellow cannot learn from his mistakes. It’s even sadder when he will not learn. Two people never profit from their blunders, those too insecure to admit them, those too indifferent to correct them.

HELP WANTED

George Gaines, an elder on the Southern California District, is a big man. Seldom in his life has he hollered "help."

He needs help now. With his wife, Ann, he conducts a ministry to death-row prisoners throughout the U.S.A. He sends letters, tracts, and books by the thousands to these lonely, condemned prisoners. Since he began this work many of these inmates have found Christ.

Volunteers are needed to expand this ministry. Some are helping, and God is blessing them as much as the prisoners. Bill Wall, a businessman, writes to 50 prisoners and visits three prisons regularly. He insists that his participation in this work has transformed his own life. Gaines’ pastor, Larry Brooke, supports the ministry. A number of senior citizens are involved around the country.

Should you be helping? Do you live near a prison that houses death-row inmates? They need personal visits, they need letters, expressions of caring love. Some exist in lonely cells for years without even a letter—abandoned by families, forgotten by society. Someone must let them know that Christ died for them and a new life is possible in Him.

As these prisoners find Christ they need to be discipled. Christians who can do so need to teach them Bible doctrines and help them mature in their spiritual lives.

A senior citizen in a wheelchair has begun a ministry to prisoners on 37 death rows. The work and its results have grown so fast that other helpers are urgently needed. If you will share the mission of bringing life to death row, write to Life Row Ministries, Box 6295, Canyon Lake, CA 92380, and let George Gaines know.

As George says, “Read Matthew 25:31-46 and do what the Holy Spirit directs you to do.”

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR OFFERING

October 26, 1986

Early response has enabled the Division of Christian Life and Sunday School to award $50,000 to Africa Nazarene Publications and $10,000 to the Asia-Pacific Region for the development of new literature.

Africa Nazarene Publications is responsible for the preparation of materials in 18 languages. The $50,000 is in addition to their regular literature budget and will be used to meet critical literature needs for which they have not had money.

The funds given to the Asia-Pacific Region will be used to develop new Sunday School material for adults in the Philippines.

All monies received in the October 26 offering will be used in the development of literature in languages where little or no materials currently exists. The Church of the Nazarene is working with more than 50 language groups.

The denominational goal for the International Sunday School Offering is $250,000. It would be wonderful if we could double this amount. Please pray about the offering and boost the project in your local church.

Offering monies may be sent directly to Dr. Norman O. Miller, General Treasurer, Church of the Nazarene, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131. Please be sure to identify all money for the "International Sunday School Year Offering.”
“My Kivers Are Too Short”

by MACK ARMSTRONG

I had the privilege of knowing Gus during the last six months of his life, but felt like I had known him for ages. Our friendship began while I was a hospital chaplain and checked on the new residents in the intensive care unit. During the rest of his life, I saw him as often as I could, visiting his room in the nursing home where he lived or in the hospital where he was often admitted. Gus always cheered me up. His quick wit, his faith in Christ, his ability to think of others always made my day. I’ll never forget him.

Gus was a third generation descendant of an ex-slave. Sorrow was no stranger to him; he lost his wife a few years back; his son deserted him prior to that; his daughter died of leukemia when she was 14, and then Gus was alone. He survived 71 years of hot summers and blustery winters. His passing made a great impact on me and on those who cared for him.

I returned from a vacation and was notified that Gus Lumford was in the intensive care unit of the hospital and was asking for me. I hurried to meet him. I sensed that he was clinging to life long enough to tell me goodbye. He seemed to be swallowed up by the machines that stood around him like silent sentries on a fatal mission. The room was quiet save the heart monitor, the IVs, and other devices that beeped and hummed. Gus looked at me through eyes that seemed to say, “I won’t last long.”

I asked Gus how he was doing and he quipped, “Parson, I’m doing fine, cept my kivers are too short!” I laughed in spite of the situation. Sure enough, there he lay, six foot-four inches, and his covers weren’t long enough to keep him entirely covered.

I told him that I knew he was in pain, and I’d like to pray for him. He promptly informed me that he was beyond pain, thanks to all of the medication he was receiving, and that I wouldn’t know anything about his pain because I wasn’t his doctor. We both laughed again. Finally I took his gnarled hand and bowed my head to pray when he broke in to say, “Parson, listen! I hear some singin’; it’s sweet singin’; it’s a kind I’ve never heard before.” I’d never heard Gus sing until that moment. The song he began to sing was one of the prettiest I’ve ever heard—the melody, clarity, and emotional impact of it was simply beyond this world.

Gus was dying. He knew it and I knew it. The monitoring machines began to chirp and beep in an un-rhythmic pattern. Quickly, Gus rallied and spoke with urgency to me. “Parson, I see Jesus and He’s a comin’ for me. I’ll meet you in heaven”—and Gus died. I was stunned. Within seconds, the room was full of medical professionals. Robotlike, they began to remove the hook-ups from Gus’s body. As I turned to go, I noticed one of the nurses crying. In an unsteady voice she told me how that Gus had suffered severe pain but never complained. All he did was sing “Tell It to Jesus” and pray. She said, “He died like he lived. And if I could die like that, I would be happy.”

I quickly explained the secret of his happiness. I told her about Jesus’ ability to help, even in the time of death, and assured her that Gus was always that way. He lived and died that way. I told her she could have what Gus had. There in the room where death had come, she found new life in Jesus.

Gus, your “kivers” may have been too short, but you cast a long shadow for Jesus.
C. V. SPAULDING, JR.
NBC Board of Trustees/Pastor
First Church of the Nazarene
Pasadena, Texas

“The years I spent at Nazarene Bible College helped provide a solid foundation for ministry in the Church of the Nazarene. The spiritual commitment of the professors and their modeling of Christ and the Word provided an example that I have tried to follow in my own ministry. The emphasis upon prayer and the Word have given me solid direction as a pastor. I believe in Nazarene Bible College!”

JOHN B. LEITZEL
1986 Graduate/Pastor
Hillsboro, Indiana

“I am thankful not only to be a graduate of Nazarene Bible College, but I am also grateful for the rich heritage I received from the committed men and women of God who taught me with loving concern for my spiritual growth.”

From left to right: Rev. John Leitzel, Tamara Jo, Kelli Renee, and Mrs. Deborah Leitzel

STUDENTS, FACULTY, ALUMNI, AND STAFF ARE A
EDWARD T. RECKNER
Student

“I left a growing pastorate in Pennsylvania for Nazarene Bible College to prepare to be the best minister possible. I am convinced that if we are to win others for Christ we must be willing to sacrifice, prepare, and be the very best God has to offer to this lost and dying world.”

Clockwise from right: Rev. Edward T. Reckner, Mrs. Bertha Reckner, Helen Ruth

CARL B. CLENDENEN
Professor

“Being a faculty member of Nazarene Bible College, where men and women are being trained for ministry in growing churches, has become one of the most enriching experiences of my life.”

Dr. Carl B. Clendenen
JOIN US IN “FAITH WALKING!”

Nazarene Bible College is a faith venture institution—a community of believers walking by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Faith Walkers!

Our students are predominantly adults (average age 31). They have sold homes, left the security of jobs, and moved their families to Colorado Springs to train for Christian service. The call of God upon their lives has compelled them into a faith-walking mode.

The God who called them is faithful to help them through their years of preparation and sacrifice. Hundreds of our alumni continue their faith-walking venture in pastorates, missionary assignments, lay and associate positions throughout the church.

The Church of the Nazarene has been supportive of Nazarene Bible College. I encourage you to join us in our “faith-walking” venture. Perhaps you know an adult who was recently called to ministry. Encourage him to join us in “faith walking.” Help your local congregation have a record annual offering for Nazarene Bible College.

Your church’s continued support makes it possible for Nazarene Bible College to offer high quality academic/practical training for our students.

Join us in “Faith Walking!”

Jerry D. Lambert, President
Nazarene Bible College

I am interested in training for Christian ministry at Nazarene Bible College.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City ________________________________
State __________ Zip __________
Phone ________________________________

Please send me the following information
☐ Admission Packet ☐ Scholarships/Financial Aid
☐ Catalog ☐ Other __________

The area of ministry I am thinking of is
☐ Biblical Studies ☐ Church Music
☐ Christian Education ☐ Lay Ministries
☐ Women’s Studies

Send to:

nbc Nazarene Bible College
POST OFFICE BOX 1045
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901
Shortly before 6:30 on the morning of August 20, Michael Bigler parked his car in the lot at the Edmond, Okla., post office. Immediately to his left, Patrick Sherrill parked his compact, got out, and began walking toward the building. Sherrill carried his mailbag, recalls Bigler. "He always carried it around instead of leaving it at the post office. That morning I noticed he had blue postal service raingear in it. I never suspected that he had several handguns and rounds of ammunition underneath it."

Thirty minutes later, 15 persons (including Pat Sherrill) lay dead, and Michael Bigler was one of the eight wounded in what is considered one of the worse one-day massacres in the United States.

Mr. Bigler is a third generation Nazarene who attends the Harrah, Okla., church with his wife, Karen, and children, Matthew Aaron and Kristiana Michael. By "playing dead" after being wounded in the back, Mike was able to escape by bolting out the back door of the post office while Sherrill was reloading his .45-caliber automatic pistols.

"I had been in my area sorting mail when I started hearing a 'pop, pop, pop' sound. At first I thought it was some kind of mock drill, but when I saw Mike Rockne lying on the floor in a puddle of blood, I knew this was the real thing."

Seconds later, the Southern Nazarene University graduate felt the sting of one of Sherrill's bullets, which entered his right shoulder and skipped across the concave portion of his back, missing his spinal column before piercing the left shoulder blade.

"I began saying, 'By His stripes I am healed,' over and over. I then sensed the Holy Spirit say to me, 'Mike, play dead.' At this point Sherrill was attracted to another worker. When I heard him reloading his weapons, I fled out the back while another coworker fled out the front."

The Nazarene postman said he tried to comfort two other injured workers as they waited to be transported to a local hospital. Bigler was one of the three persons treated and released. Five others were admitted.

The 36-year-old Nazarene has been a letter carrier since 1981. Prior to this, he worked at Nazarene Publishing House and Mid-America Nazarene College while he took courses at Nazarene Theological Seminary. He returned to the Oklahoma City area in 1979.

Mr. Bigler read the scripture at a mass memorial service for his slain coworkers at Central State University football stadium, Sunday, August 24, which was declared an official day of mourning by Oklahoma Governor George Nigh. The memorial service attracted 3,500 persons from the community of 34,000 people, including Governor Nigh, U.S. Postmaster General Preston Robert Tisch, and Edmond Mayor Carl Reherman.

Members of the Harrah church were very supportive of Michael and his family. They brought in food and flowers, and one person helped by answering the scores of phone calls that the mailman received from well-wishers and the news media. —NN
ARCHER, D. "Concerts in Indiana, Wisconsin, and Ohio, October 14-19: Springfield, OH (Westminster). October 28—November 2".

ARMSTRONG, LEON, LINDA, & FLOMINO: Bloomington, IN (Zion), October 7-12; Lowell, MI October 14-19: Colonia, IL (Green (Westminster)). October 21-26; Eau Claire, WI October 28—November 2.

BAKER, RICHARD C.: Craigsville, WV, October 7-12; Mannington, WV, October 14-19; Martinsville, IN (Trinity). October 21-26.

BATES, ROBIN: Barberton, OH (First), October 14-19; Ashland, OH October 28—November 2.

BELZER, DAVID A.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 28—November 2.

BELL, MARY L.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 12-19; Manning, SC (First). October 28—November 2.

BENTON, JAMES: Troup, TX (Martins Chapel), October 4-9.

BEERY, CHARLES AMILDRED: Farmington, IA, October 7-12; Council Bluffs, IA (First), October 28—November 2.

BICKFORD, BARRY A.: Pueblo, CO (Belmont), October 1-5; La Fontaine, IN (Ridge Road), October 26.

BODDEN, ALFRED V.: Bartow, FL, October 7-12; Marion, IL, October 21-26; Rocky River, OH (Parkside), October 21-26.

BONNELL, FORD L.: Chattanooga, TN (First), October 7-12; Chattanooga, TN (East Ridge), October 14-19; Decherd, TN, October 21-26; Lexington, KY (Lafayette), October 28—November 2.

BROWN, FRED D.: Olathe, KS (Westside), October 7-12; Hot Springs, AR (First), October 25-30.

BREWINGTON, JANE A.: Grafton, WV (Blueville), October 3-12.

BUNNELL, DANNY & APRIL: Bucyrus, OH, October 8-12; Clarksdale, MS, October 21-26.

CASTEEL HOWARD H.: Benton, AR (Valley View), October 7-12; Little Rock, AR (First), October 25-30.

COFFER E REV. ARMS. RUSSELL: Redkey, IN, October 7-12; Morenci, MI, October 14-19; Alpena, MI, October 28—November 2.

COOKE, LEONARD: Redkey, IN, October 7-12; Morenci, MI, October 14-19; Alpena, MI, October 28—November 2.

COVINGTON, NATHAN A.: Miami, OK, October 7-12; Harrah, OK, October 28—November 2.


DENCE, CHARLES W.: Minot, ND, October 7-12; Minot, ND (Conference), October 17-18.

DEGEO, RICHARD: Blythewood, SC, October 7-12; Blythewood, SC (First), October 28—November 2.

DENOUE, JORDAN: Lancing, MI (Woodrow) October 28—November 2.

DOUGLAS, MARY L.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

DORSEY, JERRY: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

DOUGHERTY, WILLIAM: Georgiaville, AL, October 28—November 2.

DOWNS, AI: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

DUERR, JAMES C.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

EBEY, H. R.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

EBITZ, JOHN: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

EICHER, GLEN: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

EICHER, IAN: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

EICHER, JOHN: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

EVANS, JAMES H.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

FADEN, WES & MART: Frederick, MD, October 7-12; Virginia Beach, VA (First), October 14-19; Parkersburg, WV (Evangelical Methodists). October 21-26; McKeesport, PA (First). October 28—November 2.

FISH, RONALD: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

FISHER, C. WILLIAM: Prairie Village, KS (Kansas City Nazarene), October 1-5; New Florence, OH (Cincinnati Nazarene), October 14-19; Hanover, PA October 14-19; New Florence, OH (Cincinnati Nazarene), October 21-26; Knoxville, TN (First). October 28—November 2.

FORTNER, ROBERT D.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

Foster, Allan: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

FREEMAN, JOHN R.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

FREDERICKSON, RONALD: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

FREY, RALPH: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

FRODGEM, HAROLD C.: East Liverpool, OH (Lacroft), October 14-19; Edinboro, PA (First), October 21-26.

FULTON, E. L.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 29—November 2.

GARDNER, JOHN M.: Terra Alta, WV, October 7-12; Spring Hill, FL, October 14-19; Highland, MI, October 21-26; Sparks, NV (First). October 28—November 2.

GAWTHORP, WILKARD: South Pittsburg, TN, October 7-12; Milton, KY (Norfolk Holiness). October 14-19.

GIBERT, TIMOTHY E.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; North Bloomfield, OH (Green). October 14-19; Sheboygan, OH October 21-26; Highland Heights, OH (Cleveland First). October 28—November 2.

GOUDE, LOREN W.: New Bethlehem, PA (Community Independent). October 7-12; Fredericksburg, VA October 14-19.

GRAF, C. PAUL: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; Parkersburg, WV (First). October 14-19; Goodland, KS, October 22-26; Rocky River, OH (Parkside), October 28—November 2.

GREEN, JAMES & ROSEMARIE: Crystal Lake, IL, October 1-5; Canton, SD, October 13-19; Fortuna, CA October 22-26; Rocky River, OH (Parkside), October 28—November 2.

GUERRINI, JAMES E.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; Parkersburg, WV (First). October 14-19; Minot, ND, October 28—November 2.

HANCE, S. RAY: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; Parkersburg, WV (First). October 14-19; Minot, ND, October 28—November 2.

HAYES, ALVIN B.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; Henderson, TX, October 7-12; Reserved, October 13-19; Goodland, KS, October 21-26; Arkwood, KS October 28—November 2.

HEATON, KENNETH D.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; Columbus, OH, October 14-19; Weiland, MI October 21-26.

HELMIS, MIKE & GLORIA: Crystal Lake, IL (Bethel), October 7-12; Armona Park, IL, October 14-19; Orland, IN October 21-26.

HENDESSON, L. A.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; Fort Morgan, CO (First). October 28—November 2.

HILL, L. W.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; Elkhart, IN, October 28—November 2.

HOGAN, RAYMOND: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; New London, CT, October 28—November 2.

HOPE, R. C.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; Madison, WI, October 28—November 2.

HUFF, RONALD R.: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; Reserved, October 13-19; Goodland, KS, October 22-26.

HUGHES, A. JOYCE: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; East Liverpool, OH (Lacroft), October 14-19; Youngwood, PA (First). October 21-26; Martins Chapel, OH (First). October 28—November 2.

HUGHES, R. EDWARD: Crystal Lake, IL, October 7-12; East Liverpool, OH (Lacroft), October 14-19; Youngwood, PA (First). October 21-26; Martins Chapel, OH (First). October 28—November 2.
A retired Nazarene minister recently sent two checks to the Pensions office with the request that the money be applied to the Pensions and Benefits Fund for his home district.

Dr. Dean Wessels, director of Pensions and Benefits Services USA, reports that contributions from members of the "Basic" Pension Roll are not unusual. "The Pensions and Benefits Fund exists to serve these people during retirement years," he says, "yet gifts to the fund from retirees are frequent."

Chances did not participate in the "Basic" Pension Fund until 1971, yet thousands of years of service credit had been earned previously. Since the "Basic" Pension Plan honors those years of service credit earned before 1971, full participation in the Pensions and Benefits Fund is needed to maintain adequate reserves.

Over 2,700 retired Nazarene ministers and widows depend on the monthly "Basic" Pension check that the fund provides.

**Connecticut Pioneer Area Report**

The annual tent meeting of the Manchester, Conn., church was the site of the second miniassembly of the Connecticut Pioneer Area. It was held July 10-13.

The Rev. Alexander Cubie is the area leader. He reported a growing interest and concern among the people to make the Church of the Nazarene known in Connecticut. He announced the organization of the Cromwell church. Future targets for new churches include Groton, Rockville-Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, and Columbia.

The tent meeting speaker was Ron Miller, with various churches providing music under the direction of Kathleen Peck. Many sought the Lord for salvation, sanctification, and healing. Rev. Phil and Margery Chatto pastor the host church. Rev. Neale McLain is superintendent of the New England District, which is sponsoring the pioneer concept in Connecticut.

**Central Florida Space Coast Pioneer Area Assembly**

The Central Florida Space Coast Pioneer Area held its second miniassembly June 29-30. The assembly was held at Melbourne First Church. Pioneer Area leader, Rev. Tom Pound, was joined by Dr. Bill Sullivan, Church Growth Division director, speaker to the assembly. Dr. J. V. Morsch, district superintendent, acted as the presiding officer in this second miniassembly.

The 6 established churches have been joined by 12 newly formed churches and missions. These new churches, in one year's time, have a combined average attendance of 632 per Sunday, and are now raising over $19,000 per month. One of the churches had an average of 74 in less than 3 months. The largest of the new churches is averaging 126 after starting 10 months ago. In the concluding service, a resolution was presented to the assembly, requesting regular district status to be effective June 1987. The resolution was received and a unanimous vote was followed by songs of praise and faith.

**FOR THE RECORD**

**District Assembly Reports**

**Canada Pacific**

At the Canada Pacific district assembly, District Superintendent Charles Muxworthy, completing the third year of a four-year term, reported two new churches: Vancouver Island Cowichan Valley and Vancouver Agape (Chinese). Dr. William M. Greathouse was the presiding general superintendent.

Robert Collier, Robert McCormick, Wes Campbell, Warren Brower, and Cecil Geiger received Outstanding Churchmanship awards. The district showed a 4 percent increase in membership, with 71 new Nazarenes.

**Eastern Kentucky**

At the Eastern Kentucky district assembly, Dr. John W. May, district superintendent, completed the second year of an extended term. The following churches earned the Great Commission Fellowship Award: Ashland Plaza, Burlington, Canonsburg, Catlettsburg Southside, Covington Eastside, Flemingsburg, Heritage, Inez, Ludlow, Newport First, North Middletown, Paris, Turkey Creek, and Waco.

The Great Commission Leaders Awards were presented to: Category I—Flamingburg, Rev. Tom Jackson, pastor, Category II—Inez, Rev. Arthur Hobbs, pastor, and Category III—Newport First, Rev. Dan Jackson, pastor.

Dr. Raymond W. Hurn, general superintendent, ordained Paul Crisp, Paul Holder, William Randall, Don Nelson, Gary Maynard, James Smith, Terry Gregory, and Glenn Stoos (credentials recognized).

**Indiana**

At the Indianapolis district assembly, Dr. Raymond W. Hurn, general superintendent, ordained (elders) Nathan P. Ward; Donny Hargis, Joe Talhelm, Steve Bohall, and Robert Fannin; and (deacon) Don Neal. District Superintendent J. R. Hay presented Great Commission Fellowship Awards to Greenfield First, Hagerstown, Indianapolis Nazarene Chapel, Knightstown, Madison, Martinsville First, Shelbyville First, and Southport. The Great Commission Award winners were: Category I—Knightstown, Category II—Southport, and Category III—Martinsville First.

**New England**

At the New England district assembly the theme announced for the new assembly year is "100 Years of Holiness Witness in New England." The first recorded meeting of a band of holiness people was in Providence, R.I., May 1886. District Superintendent Neale O. McLain, completing the first year of an extended term, reported a new church organized at Cromwell, Conn. Great Commission Fellowship Awards were presented to the following churches: Demnsport, Mass.; Cape Cod; Falmouth, Mass.; Cape Cod; Fitchburg, Mass.; Johnson, Vt.; Lowell, Mass.; First, New Bedford, Mass.; First, New Bed-
At the Intermountain district assembly, Dr. Jerald D. Johnson, general superintendent, was reelected to a four-year term. He reported the new Fort Worth Liberation Community Church organized this year. Dr. Raymond W. Hurn, general superintendent, ordained David Earl Combs and Alton Wayne Mixon. Pictured are the pastors of churches that were “Blue Ribbon” in 1985-86: (front row, l. to r.) Kenneth Frey of Levelland; J. R. Smith of Post; W. E. “Bud” Curry of Cleburne; C. W. “Bill” Ray of Borger Trinity; Steve Ratlief of Fort Worth Westridge; Billy Hodges of Clarendon; Robert Fulling of Olton; James Tapley of Arlington First; (second row, l. to r.) Allen Schlegel of Abernathy; Dallas Yetter of Abilene Southwest; Dean Ferguson of Vernon; Mark Fuller of Arlington East Park; Dal Newberry of Fort Worth First; A1 Mixon of Dodson; Bob Ferguson of Grassland; (third row, l. to r.) District Superintendent Gene Fuller; Terry Roediger of Fort Worth Meadowbrook; Bob Huffaker of Hereford; Bill Bowers of Fort Worth Wedgewood; Jim Southworth of Fort Worth River Oaks; Clifton Wooldridge of Fort Worth Northside; and Bruce Chamberlain of Denton Taylor Park.

At the West Texas district assembly, Dr. Gene Fuller, district superintendent, was reelected to a four-year term. He reported the new Fort Worth Liberation Community Church organized this year. Dr. Raymond W. Hurn, general superintendent, ordained David Earl Combs and Alton Wayne Mixon. Pictured are the pastors of churches that were “Blue Ribbon” in 1985-86: (front row, l. to r.) Kenneth Frey of Levelland; J. R. Smith of Post; W. E. “Bud” Curry of Cleburne; C. W. “Bill” Ray of Borger Trinity; Steve Ratlief of Fort Worth Westridge; Billy Hodges of Clarendon; Robert Fulling of Olton; James Tapley of Arlington First; (second row, l. to r.) Allen Schlegel of Abernathy; Dallas Yetter of Abilene Southwest; Dean Ferguson of Vernon; Mark Fuller of Arlington East Park; Dal Newberry of Fort Worth First; A1 Mixon of Dodson; Bob Ferguson of Grassland; (third row, l. to r.) District Superintendent Gene Fuller; Terry Roediger of Fort Worth Meadowbrook; Bob Huffaker of Hereford; Bill Bowers of Fort Worth Wedgewood; Jim Southworth of Fort Worth River Oaks; Clifton Wooldridge of Fort Worth Northside; and Bruce Chamberlain of Denton Taylor Park.

At the Alabama North district assembly, District Superintendent B. J. Garber reported two new churches organized, Fayette and Huntsville St. John’s. Winners of the Great Commission Leaders Awards were: Category I, Rev. H. B. Corely, of Sumiton Community; Category II, Rev. Sam Wood, of Birmingham Center Point; and Category III, Rev. Ralph Brown, of Huntsville First. Dr. William M. Greathouse, general superintendent, ordained (elders) Wilburn L. Clark, Frank Crutcher (credentials recognized), Gregory Story, and Charles Yell; (deacons) David Pitts and Kenneth Smith. Pictured (l. to r.): District Superintendent B. J. Garber and Dr. William M. Greathouse with the four church posters representing the “Faith and Sacrifice” goal achieved to plant four new churches in the 1986-87 assembly year. In the home mission service, $101,000 was raised spontaneously for this purpose.
At the East Tennessee district assembly, District Superintendent Doyle C. Smith completed the fourth year of his four-year term. Rev. Smith resigned to reenter the evangelistic field. Rev. John Andrus, pastor of Chattanooga First, was elected district superintendent on the 10th ballot, but declined. Dr. Eugene L. Stowe, presiding general superintendent, ordained Ben Middendorf, Charles Guinn, Lynn Riddle, and Timothy Peal. Twenty-four churches gave 10 percent or more for World Evangelism. Forty-one churches paid all budgets in full. Two pastors received the Great Commission Leaders Award, seven the Great Commission Fellowship Award, and five the Evangelistic Honor Roll. Shown in the group receiving awards are Rev. Virgel Crisp of Morristown; Rev. Jimmy Hodge of Tullahoma First; Rev. A. J. Alderman of Pine Haven; Rev. Ben Middendorf of Smyrna; and Rev. Paul Hilliard of Knoxville Faith.

G. Williams, pastor; Greenwood Church, Rev. Leslie Alder, pastor; Hot Springs Lockhavens Church, Rev. Ron Richmond, pastor, and Pleasant Grove Church, Rev. “Buzz” Lassiter, pastor.

MOVING MINISTERS

MARK ALLIS, student, to Knightstown, Ind.
PHIL BALDWIN to Royal City (Wash.) First
GARY L. BALL from Battle Creek (Mich.) West Michigan Avenue to Venice (Fla.) First

DONALD BANCEL from Tacoma (Wash.) Lakewood to Post Falls (Idaho) First
DENNY BANCROFT from Temple (Tex.) Grace to Holdenville (Okla.) First
WAYNE F. BEARD from Ironon Elm Street (New Boston, Ohio) to New Boston (Ohio) First
DAVID BECKER from Palouse, Wash., to Oakes, N. Dak.
THOMAS BELL to Indianapolis (Ind.) Ritter Avenue

Laymen's Tape Club

November Selections

Side One
Bible Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-10—Kirby Brumfield
Bible Study: John 14:12: What About Miracles Today?—C. S. Bowles
Hymn Story: “My Wonderful Lord”—Patricia Bolerjack
Pause of Spiritual Refreshment—Mendell Taylor
Devotional Nuggets

Side Two
Psalm 139 (Part I)—Audrey J. Williamson
“He’s Ever Interceding”—Lenny and Joy Wisehart
Sunday School Reflections—Gene Van Note

Yes! I, too, want to be a member of the Laymen's Tape Club. Unless providentially hindered, I commit myself to a full year's subscription and understand that unless I indicate a cancellation in writing, my subscription will continue indefinitely. Cassette tapes are $3.98 per month, but will be billed quarterly at $11.94 plus 4% for handling and postage. All cassettes are guaranteed.

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POST OFFICE BOX 419527, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64114

Phil Balwin

Harold Ivan Smith

A unique selection of prose-verses complemented with delightful pen and ink sketches by a widely recognized author and speaker.

Refreshing meditations of the first Christmas reflect hope and peace for today's world.

Ideal as a greeting card or a gift booklet.

16 pages, striking red, gold, and black cover. 5 1/2” x 8 1/2”
Gift mailing envelope.

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE
Post Office Box 419527, Kansas City, Missouri 64141

Prices subject to change without notice.

Nestled among holly and ivy, this unique Christmas card features 16 pages of meditations by popular Christian author and illustrator Marion Allen Smith. The card includes a unique selection of prose-verses and beautiful pen and ink sketches by the author. The card is perfect for sending as a greeting card or as a gift booklet. Its striking red, gold, and black cover makes it a memorable Christmas card for family and friends. The card is available at Nazarene Publishing House.
The Charleston, W.Va., Campbells Creek Church raised $2,800 to pay its General Budget. Pictured is NWMS President Daphene Richard, with the map box Evangelist Richard Baker built to light up the world. According to statistics, it costs $40.00 to support the missionary program for one minute. Sunday morning, June 29, the congregation gave an offering to support the entire missionary program of the Church of the Nazarene for 70 minutes. Rev. William Sheridan, Jr., is the pastor.

STEPHEN P. HARVEY, student, to Clermont, Fla.

JAMES E. HUGGINS to Columbus (Ga.) West Broadway

JACK McMAHON to Indianapolis (Ind.) South Irving

JAMES R. LAYMON from Lexington (Ky.) First to Pine

MICHAEL L. KESLING from Hayesville, Kans., to

LLOYD HUGHES from Ponca City Nazarene Mission

STEPHEN P. HARVEY, SR., student, to Clermont, Fla.

JONATHAN PRIVETT, student, to Pierce (Idaho) First

LOREN L. MARNER to San Bernardino (Calif.) First

RAY LANE to Spokane (Wash.) Crestline

ERNEST A. HINSON from Bainbridge, Ga, to Fairview (Rossville, Ga.)

KENNETH T. MITCHELL from York, Nebr., to Little Creek Church (Camby, Ind.)

KENNETH PIERSON to College Corner (Ohio) First

CHARLES ROBERTSON, to Ironton (Ohio) Elm Street

BOBBY D. PIERPONT to Newark (Ohio) East

KENNETH PERDUE from student, to Ludlow Hill (Lawrenceburg, Ind.)

LARRY M. PETERSON from LeMars (Iowa) to Lyons, Kans.

Bobbie D. PIERPONT to Newark (Ohio) East

KENNETH PIERSMAN to College Corner (Ohio) First

STEPHEN OGLEVIE from Pilot Rock, Oreg., to Rupert (Idaho) First

RICHARD A. OSBORNE from Corey (Three Rivers, Mich.) to Reed City (Mich.) First

BATHURST PEACHY, student (Tennessee) to Statesville (N.C.) First

MICHAEL S. PERCELL to Plymouth Heights (Franklin Furnace, Ohio)

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MICHAEL S. PERCELL to Plymouth Heights (Franklin Furnace, Ohio)
WHO CAN YOUR PASTOR TURN TO?

Your pastor. He's always there when you need him, ready to help in any way he can. He's been your counselor, adviser, confidant, and your friend.

But who can he turn to for confidential help in dealing with the unique problems associated with the ministry? Where can he go when he’s hurting? And to whom can he confide in times of crisis in the parsonage?

The Board of General Superintendents and Pastoral Ministries have recognized the need for a place for ministers and their families to go in times of need. They, along with Christian Counseling Services (CCS) of Nashville, have developed CoNET Heartline to provide just such a place.

CoNET Heartline is a telecommunications link between your minister and CCS. A toll-free number puts your pastor—or his family—in touch with a caring staff of resource and support professionals. All information shared between the caller and the counselor, whether it be for his own or his family’s problems, or for consultation to help you, is held in strictest confidence.

Now your pastor has someone he can turn to—someone who is committed to facilitating wholeness for him and his family within a biblical orientation. Encourage him to use the Heartline. He can get more information on CoNET from Pastoral Ministries, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.
of Redlands assisting. Burial was in Long Beach, Calif.

DEATHS

MRS. NELLIE B. BROWN, 92, July 9, Denver, Colo. Survivors: daughters Grace Turner and Dorothy Cope; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one sister.

WILLIAM C. CROFT, 61, July 31, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Survivors: wife Juanita (Eby); sons Rev. Jeffrey and Cleveland; two grandchildren; one brother; one sister.

MRS. LETA V. DERBY, 85, Jan. 22, Burlington, Ont. Survivors: daughter Phyllis K. Spriggs; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother.


MRS. AWALEEN LAMBDOIN, July 24, Ablene Tex. Survivors: husband James C.; son Bruce A.; one sister; and one brother.

LYSTER A. NEAL, 83, July 12, Bethany, Okla. Survivors: wife Lacie; son Robert; daughter Mrs. Mary Frances Gassett; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one brother; one sister.

SARA PLATT, 65, May 1, Ridgway, Pa. Survivors: husband William; daughters Evelyn Green, Eileen Hubbard, Bonnie Cagiano, Naomi Platt; son William, Jr.; five grandchildren; two sisters; two brothers.

MARGARET H. RANKIN, 51, Feb. 9, Waterford, Pa. Survivors: husband Rev. Dean E.; sister Peggy Haladay; two grandchildren; her parents; four brothers; and four sisters.

FORMER DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S WIFE DIES

Eva L. Sheppard, 66, Anchorage, Alaska, wife of Dr. Robert W. Sheppard, former superintendent of the Alaska District, died August 13 following more than six years of cancer therapy.

The memorial service was held in Anchorage First Church with Rev. Roger J. Wegner, district superintendent, officiating. Survivors include: husband Robert, daughter Robin, son Frank, and two sisters.

VETERAN NAZARENE MINISTER DIES

REV. RAY LESLIE MAV was born in Kansas and began his ministry pastoring on the Kansas City and Kansas districts.

He had an extensive radio and television ministry. He served on the Orders and Relations Board. His ministry covered a span of 40 years. He served as president of the Ministerial Alliance and was a member of the Kiwanis Club in El Centro, Calif. He married his childhood sweetheart, Mabel Tabor. Their daughters are Helen (May) Severid of Pasadena, Calif., and Ruth (May) Wagner of Redlands, Calif. He is survived by her wife and daughters, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

He went to be with the Lord April 16, 1986. Dr. Paul Benefiel officiated at the service with Rev. R. Gammill.

When should you plan your will?

(choose any 4)

- After the birth of your first grandchild.
- When one of the "old gang" expires suddenly.
- During your pastor's next sermon on heaven.
- Other ____________________

Any of the above may serve to remind us that time is still marching—and today is a very good time to prepare your will, so that your heirs won't be at loose ends "tomorrow."

Your church, too, can benefit—or Christian education or missions. You can put the whole world in your will through a special bequest to the work of Christ.

HOW TO START: Use the coupon at right to request our free booklet, "How to Make a Will That Works." There's no obligation.


FLOYD CLAY RUSSELL, 71, June 14, Thaxton, Miss. Survivors: wife Marie; daughter Mrs. Lou Gas ton; sons Bobby Clay, Billy, Freddy, and Gerald; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; three brothers; and one sister.


HOWARD R. THOMAS of Brawley, Calif., July 30, Florence, Ala. Interment: Riverside, Calif. Survivors: daughters Donna Mae Brown and Norma Ushman; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother; and four sisters.

CORRECTION

In the birth announcements appearing in the Sept. 15 issue, the name of baby boy Kelvan Zane Stoker was spelled incorrectly as Kevin.

BIRTHS

TO RON AND DIANA (SCUTT) ASBURY, Little Rock, Ark., a boy, Jonathan Scott, Jan. 7 to DAVID AND CAROL (HERRING) CARELLE, Atlanta, Ga., a boy, Stephen David, July 8 to LAWRENCE J. AND LINDA (BODNAR) CARROLL, Saint John, Ind., a girl, Lindsay Marina, July 26 to STEVE AND SHARON (AX) CHANSLER, Hespera, Calif., a boy, Bryan Andrew, May 4
ANNIVERSARIES

LaVELLE AND DELLA CARTER of Kuna, Idaho, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 27 at an open house hosted by their children: Lee, Gary, Karen (Hiner), Dennis, and Gayle. The Kuna church gave them special recognition in the morning worship service. Raised in the Methodist church, Mr. and Mrs. Carter became Nazarenes after moving to Gary, Colo., in 1949, where an early Nazarene had pioneered a small country church. The Carters moved to Idaho in 1955 so their children could attend North­west Nazarene College.

MRS. AND MRS. HOLLIS GAINES of Oxford, Miss., was a guest at the 50th anniversary of Rev. Ben and Bernice Morgan (July 1 issue). Bishop Warren has been in heaven for a number of years.

IRISH VOTERS REJECT DIVORCE PROPOSAL. Irish voters rejected by more than three-to-two a proposal to legalize divorces in certain cases. The constitutional amendment, which would have allowed divorce when the marriage had failed for at least five years, was opposed by the Roman Catholic Church, which claims 90 percent of the Irish population as members.

"It is a God-given eternal law that marriage is indissoluble," said Alice Glenn, member of Ireland’s Parliament. "Why should a minority expect society to stand on its head for them?"

In calling for legalized divorce, Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald asked voters to "show compassion" for an estimated 70,000 estranged couples in Ireland.

ARMY BANS SMOKING AT WORK. The army has issued orders to make nonsmoking the norm for military offices, barracks, vehicles, and aircraft. The new policy, sent to all army installations, went into effect on July 7.

The policy applies to the army's 781,000 soldiers and 450,000 civilian employees and includes the army offices in the Pentagon.

BENNETT SAYS SCHOOLS SHOULD TEACH JUDEO-CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS TRADITION. The modern tendency of school to omit teaching of Judeo-Christian traditions and values threatens the future of religious freedom in the United States, Secretary of Education William Bennett told members of the American Jewish Committee at a meeting in Washington, D.C.

Bennett said the Judeo-Christian ethic, along with the democratic ethic and work ethic, was central to America's "common culture," and asserted, "The vitality of religious freedom itself is tied to the vitality of the Judeo-Christian tradition."

Bennett said it is understandable that educators would want to avoid controversy, particularly regarding a sensitive topic like religion, but said that if this fear of controversy "means that our students will grow up ignorant of the role of religion, or religious freedom and religious faith in American life, then surely we will have badly failed them."
We welcome questions on biblical and doctrinal matters. The editor is not able to send replies to questions not selected for publication. Address: ANSWER CORNER, Herald of Holiness, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

For over half a century I have been troubled by the usual explanation for Christ's cry while on the cross, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me!?" I have been told that this was because God could not look at Jesus for a brief period of time while He was bearing the sins of the world on himself. I have come to the conclusion that this explanation is erroneous.

First, I have been taught, and I believe correctly, that Jesus did not use His supernatural power for His personal benefit. If He had, He would never have been tired or thirsty (but He was). On the Cross, "He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and set Him free," but He didn't. He faced the horrors of the Crucifixion as a perfect man, much the same as many martyrs who have given their lives for Christ's sake. Christ's sufferings were, no doubt, greater, but of the same kind. (In no way do I want to minimize the suffering of our Lord.) David, Jeremiah, and countless others have, in moments of extreme pressure, felt that God had deserted them.

In Psalm 22, the same Psalm from which Jesus quoted His cry, we also read: "He has despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help" (v. 24, NIV). I conclude that Jesus only felt like the Father had forsaken Him, although actually the Father was looking on the scene and listening to His cry. In other words, "God was there all the time!"

What do you think?

I think the Father was present and pleased when Jesus died on the Cross to atone for our sins. He spoke His good pleasure in the Son at the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:16-17), and the baptism was an identification with sinners that anticipated the Cross.

The earthly mother of Jesus stood by the Cross, suffering in silent empathy when her Son died. I cannot believe the Heavenly Father did less. Jesus experienced a sense of Godforsakenness too horrible for us to comprehend. But "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19). The Father was "glorified" by the death of Jesus (John 12:27-28). I find no scriptural reason to believe that the Father abandoned, even temporarily, One who was executing an act of obedience to the Father's will.

Earlier, Jesus affirmed that the Father was with Him and did not leave Him alone precisely because He did what pleased the Father (John 8:29). I believe this applies equally to the death of Jesus on the Cross.

What is your opinion of Christian people donating their bodies to medical research?

In my opinion, whether or not to donate one's body for such a purpose should be left to the individual. The decision should be made in the light of what the individual perceives to be the will of God for his or her body.

Of course, I am talking about dead bodies, what used to be frequently called "remains.

Please help many who are indeed troubled by this question.

Is it wrong to hunt and kill animals for the sport of it? In other words, is hunting wrong?

Does our church sanction this practice?

To my knowledge the church has not adopted a position on this issue. I can only share with you my opinion.

I do not think it right or good to kill anything or anyone simply for our pleasure. To provide food, to control animal population in order to prevent the spread of disease—these are among the reasons that I believe, justify hunting.

The sanctity of human life and the utility of animal life are stated in Genesis 9:1-17.
NAZARENE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRIES

Certification in Nazarene Marriage Enrichment Leadership has been granted to the following four couples: Mark and Coszetta Bolin, laycouple from Livingston, Mont., who serve as Marriage and Family Life directors of the Rocky Mountain District; Mark and Margretta Bromley of Christiansburg, Va., where Mark is a doctoral student at the University of Virginia; Mark and Marcia Green who are currently serving as associate pastor and wife of the Manchester, Conn., church; and Dave and Robin Kellmer, active laycouple in the Spokane, Wash., Valley Church.

These four couples have shown dedication and vision in their ministry to marriages. They join the ranks of an extended family of 200 couples ministering to marriages virtually around the world.

FALL CL/SS REGIONALS SLATED

The Division of Christian Life and Sunday School launched the Fall Regionals in Los Angeles September 16-17, according to Phil Riley, CL/SS director.

The Point Loma Region was the first of eight stops for the 1986 Regionals, held every four years between General Assemblies.

At each two-day regional, CL/SS staff from Children’s, NYI, and Adult Ministries and the Nazarene World Mission Society (NWMS) Director Nina Gunter will conduct workshops and training sessions and introduce new materials to district CL/SS leaders and NWMS district presidents.

Each of the events will especially emphasize Sunday School evangelistic outreach.

“Our division is involved in launching a new awareness of the Sunday School’s responsibility in reaching new people through its organization and through Christian Life and Sunday School ministries,” said Rev. Riley.

“These district-training sessions will help spur us on to reach our goal of enrolling 2 million people in our Sunday Schools by 1995,” he concluded.

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32 HERALD OF HOLINESS
Those honored for two years of service are shown (row 1, l. to r.): Joel Balam, Patty McNutt, Shirley Harris, Seng Nou, Sharon Darling, Jim Leston, Alice Duke, Mary Van Dyne; (row 2, l. to r.) Delia Adams, Joao Esteves, Ann Smith, Fred Fullerton, Steven Broomhead, Brian Helstrom, Rebekkah Hulen, Cheryl Car­nahan, Glen Van Dyne; (row 3, l. to r.) Martha Sprang, Diane Miller, Daniel Danner, Lisa Phelps, Lorraine Shaver, Don Walter, and Paula Sifferd.

Imogene Salter receiving her gold
watch for 25 years of service from Dr. Jerald D. Johnson.

Those honored for five years of service were (l. to r.): Robert Hempel, Bill Sullivan, Faye Allen, Vicky Darling for Karen Kochendorfer, and Gary Hayes.

Paul Skiles receiving his gold watch for 25 years of service from Dr. Jerald D. Johnson.

Those honored for 10 years of service were (l. to r.): Ivan Beals, Evelyn Beals, Kathy Hughes, Frances Reimer, and Acacio Pereira.

Dr. D. Moody Gunter, awards service speaker.

HEADQUARTERS SERVICE
AWARDS CHAPEL

May 21, 1986, a chapel service was held to honor employees who had completed 2, 5, 10, or 25 years of continuous service at Headquarters as of December 31, 1985.

Dr. D. Moody Gunter, Finance Division director at Headquarters, presented a message encouraging employees to serve God with gladness.

Those honored for 25 years of service were (l. to r.): Paul Skiles and Imogene Salter.

Following Dr. Gunter's message, the employees who were honored received a pin designating their years of service. Dr. Jerald D. Johnson, general superintendent, then paid special tribute to Mrs. Imogene Salter and Mr. Paul Skiles by presenting them each with a gold watch in recognition of their 25 years of continuous service to the international headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene.

PRAYER
REMINDER

EVANGELISM
CONFERENCE
February 24-26, 1987

PLEASE PRAY DAILY FOR

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• The special workers
• The speakers
• The beginnings of REVIVAL across America

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(Alaska, Hawaii, Missouri call 816-333-7600)
How will anyone go and tell them unless someone sends him

ROMANS 10:15, TLB

TITHE . . . it makes a world of difference
SCHMELZENBACH SUFFERS STROKE

Former missionary to Africa Dr. Elmer Schmelzenbach, 75, suffered a stroke in prayer meeting at the Oklahoma City Western Oaks Church, September 10. During the service his arm began bothering him. He was taken to the hospital where it was determined that he had suffered a stroke. He was released from the hospital about one week after being admitted.

His physician, Dr. Dudley Powers, says the former missionary is making good progress and has not suffered any paralysis, but his speech center has been affected and he is having trouble expressing himself. He is not expected to be able to keep any of his scheduled speaking engagements for the remainder of 1986.

The son of pioneer missionary to Africa, Harmon Schmelzenbach, Dr. Elmer served in Africa until his retirement in 1973 after 37 years of missionary work. His son, Harmon, is currently opening the work of the denomination in Kenya.

NAZARENE GIVING ENCOURAGED FOR ABS PRINTING PRESS FOR CHINA

Nazarenes contributed $61,979 to the American Bible Society in 1985, according to statistics released by the ABS. Most of this money came from individual churches.

"The faithful support which the Church of the Nazarene has always given to the Bible cause is a blessing from God and a source of great encouragement to us," said Alice E. Ball, ABS general secretary.

The ABS, in cooperation with associates in the United Bible Societies, an international partnership of which the ABS is a leading member and through which work is conducted overseas, distributed 548,754,501 copies of the Scriptures worldwide in 1985. Through the UBS, translation work is being supported for 544 different languages around the world. In 360 of these languages, a part of the Bible is being translated for the first time.

The 1986 budget for ABS has been set at $26,648,000. Beyond this an appeal is being made to the churches of America to raise $6,695,000 to establish a printing press in the People's Republic of China for the production of hundreds of thousands of Bibles and New Testaments in that nation.

Since 1979 Christians once again have been allowed to meet together freely in China. The new project will be a cooperative project between a Chinese Christian group and the UBS.

The Board of General Superintendents encourages Nazarenes around the world to support the ABS in this worthy cause.

—NN

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The goal of $9 million has been established by the Board of General Superintendents for the Thanksgiving Offering, 1986. In Canada, the offering was received October 12 and in the United States, it is received November 23 and is an expression of our earnest desire to fulfill the Great Commission.

The Board of General Superintendents is calling on Nazarenes everywhere to lift a generous offering in support of our missionary enterprise around the world. As a board we are doing everything possible to bring every plan of the general church under the authority of the Great Commission. We are growing rapidly around the world. We have "growing pains" as our international church expands rapidly.

We need first of all your heart interest and prayers.

RAYMOND W. HURN, Secretary
BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS

ONE MILLION NAZARENES by 1995

U.S.A. and Canadian churches reported membership gains in 1986 that moved the annual growth rate toward the 3% goal established by the Board of General Superintendents. Unofficial reports indicated a 1.6% increase in membership in 1985-86. This compares to a 1.1% last year.

Seventeen districts reported membership increases of 3% or more. Central Florida reported 10.1% and Southern Florida 9.1%. The 1.6% growth rate represented a net membership increase of 8,500 compared to 6,775 last year. There were 28,000 new Nazarenes compared to 26,000 the previous year.

New church organization exceeded 60. Last year the total was 49. Central Florida reported 14 new churches.

The 1986 reports show progress toward the decadal goal of 1 million members worldwide by 1995.

THERE ARE SOULS IN OUR GOALS

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10,000 CHURCHES

95 COUNTRIES

OCTOBER 15, 1986 35
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