



The

April 1978

Apostolic

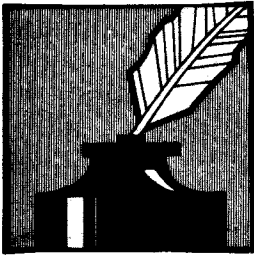
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Faith Report

New Editor-Karen Oakes

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EDITORIAL VOICE

John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Our home is located about five miles south of Joplin. At one point of the highway we come to a hill that we call "pump station" hill. Across the valley you can see a radio tower that stands close to our property. One foggy, rainy Wednesday night coming in from prayer meeting I came to the top of the hill and looked across the valley, saw the red lights on the tower and thought to myself, how glad I'll be to get home. Even though it was foggy and rainy I could see those lights and knew we were almost home. What a wonderful feeling! How many times have we left our homes for a period of time and didn't home look good when we got back? I thought about Jesus and His words in John 14: 1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Sometimes our way seems foggy and darkness may be all around us but if we look to Jesus, He will guide us safely home. As I could see the tower and knew that home wasn't far, we read the scriptures, see the signs all around us pointing to His soon return and know in our hearts that "home" isn't far away. It makes us realize now more than ever that we need to press forward and keep our trust in God. The song that Jimmie Swaggart has recorded perhaps says it better than I can.

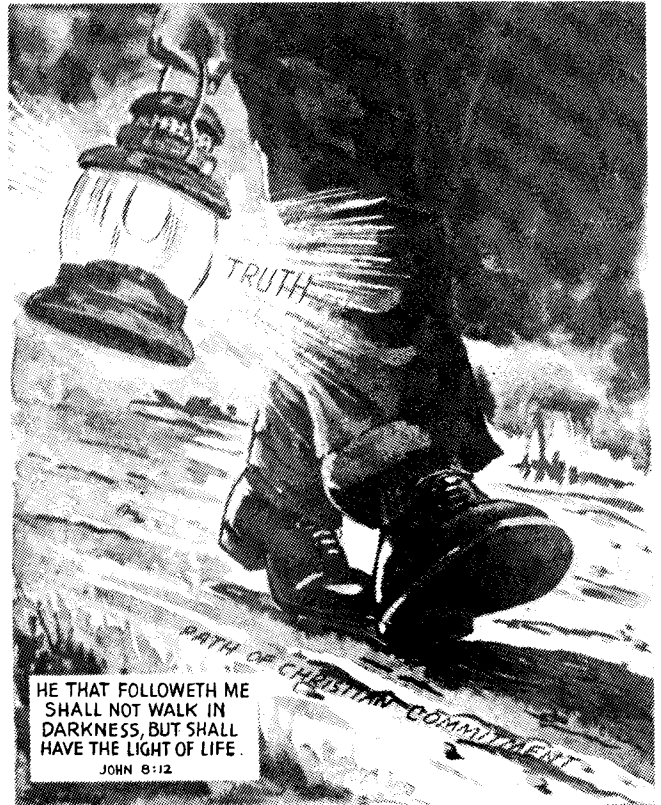
Life has been so good. I can't complain
When I ask, God gives me strength
to rise again
When I'm weary from the
struggle of it all
So I listen, how I listen for
his call
Heaven's sounding sweeter all
the time
Seems like lately it's always
on my mind
Someday I'll leave this world
behind me
Heaven's sounding sweeter all the time.

So brothers and sisters I would say to all of us, home isn't far away. Perhaps just over the next hilltop or across the next valley. Let's keep our eyes on the Light of the World, that we may be led to that home that is being prepared to the faithful overcomers.

Praise the Lord for that wonderful homecoming!

K.O.

A LIGHTED PATHWAY



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

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MY CLOSEST FRIEND IS JESUS

When I'm feeling blue
And I don't have any friends,
I just turn to Jesus
On Him I can depend.

When I'm very lonely
and I've had so many trials,
Jesus comes to comfort me
He'll take me another mile.

When down deep inside me
my day is like a night,
Jesus comes to keep me
He takes away the fright.

When I see the world around me
raging with sin and fear,
Jesus is there beside me
He's always very near.

Even in the daytime
He comes with me to stay
I know He'll always be there
He keeps me night and day.

Even when I'm happy
He comes to share the fun,
Then I know for sure who's with me
It's Jesus, God's only Son.

Vanessa Oakes
Age 11

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I would like to ask some of our "young" writers to send us poems, articles or testimonies. Let's remember to encourage our young people to use their talents for Jesus.

APPLICATION FOR



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WISDOM PERSONIFIED

The entire eighth chapter of the book of Proverbs is an outstanding chapter defining the attributes of WISDOM. Many persons have, in times past, read the 17th verse of this chapter and thought that it was a direct call from the Lord God to serve Him, or that it was the prophetic Jesus calling men to Him and the Father. But, as we examine more closely the entire passage and chapter we are able to discern that this is WISDOM speaking to man. Since the "I" in this chapter has been defined for us in the 4th, 10th, 11th, and 12th verses, we could possibly replace the personal pronouns "I," "My", "Me", and "Mine" correctly with the word or words Wisdom or Wisdoms. Try this right now. Read through the entire chapter of Proverbs 8 replacing the personal pronouns with these words.

Now that you have done this, you have probably discovered some interesting things about Biblical Wisdom. What does the eighth chapter say then about WISDOM? Let's list them:

WISDOM is ever-present, calling out to men everywhere. (v.1-4)

WISDOM calls out especially to fools and the simple man. (v. 5)

WISDOM speaks of excellent things, right things, and truth. (v. 6-7)

Wickedness cannot be found within the lips of a Wise person. (v. 7b)

The Wise speaks rightly and not of perversenee or stubbornness. (v. 8)

Plain and right words come from him that has WISDOM. (v. 9)

WISDOM is better than expensive treasurer—nothing compares to it. (v. 10-11)

Prudence (carefulness, caution) and knowledge are part of WISDOM. (v. 12)

WISDOM to fear the Lord, or hate all evil. (v. 13)

Pride, arrogancy, evil and self-will cannot be a part of a Wise man. (v. 13)

Counsel, understanding and strength are parts of WISDOM. (v. 14)

Rulers of earth rule by this WISDOM. (v. 15-16)

WISDOM devotes itself to a person that will seek after and love it. (v. 17)

It is easier for a young man to attain WISDOM than one that is set in his ways. (v. 17)

Riches, honor and righteousness are promised to those that seek WISDOM. (v. 18)

The Wise man is led into paths of righteousness and judgment. (v. 20)

The Wise shall be caused to prosper and be full. (v. 21)

WISDOM was a companion of the Lord God even before the world as we know it was created and brought forth. (v. 22-29)

Blessings are promised for those that live Wisely. (v. 32)

Hearing instruction and accepting it makes one Wise. (v. 33)

Blessings are promised to the man that, day after day, seeks WISDOM. (v. 34)

Whoever finds WISDOM finds life. (v. 35)

Whoever finds WISDOM shall obtain the favor of the Lord. (V. 35)

The man that refuses WISDOM does wrong to himself. (v. 36)

Every person that hates to be Wise actually loves death. (V. 36b)

What wonderful truths that the Lord sets forth in the book of Proverbs. What a wonderful part of the entire Word of God. Proverbs. Do you need WISDOM? Do you need some good, common sense and direction? Are you floundering in your business or your marriage or schooling? Have you difficulty controlling what you say? Are you searching for some answers for ordinary, everyday problems? Proverbs has the answers for a multitude of questions. Read this entire book, then start over and read it again, again and again. Apply the Proverbs-Principle of Living to your life daily. Get set to watch the complete change that will take place as you do.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

By David Turner

BLIND MAN READS BIBLE WITH HIS TONGUE

The late William McPherson lost his hands and eyes. Then to find himself suddenly plunged into darkness was very hard to take. The Word of God became very important. He could not read Braille with artificial hands, so he tried his lips. But the feelings were gone (after surgery when the charge of dynamite had exploded in his face). He kept trying, though the dots cut his flesh.

One day he touched the Braille dots with his tongue. He found he could distinguish the Moon system of dashes, but his tongue became sore, raw and would bleed, as would his lips. He prayed for more help from God to continue learning. At times he would stay up all night to learn only one letter of the alphabet. As a result he read through the entire Bible with his tongue four times.

CIRROHOSIS OF THE GIVER

This disease was first discovered about 34 A.D. by a husband and wife team, Ananias and Sapphira. It is an acute nervous condition which renders the patient's hands immobile when he is called upon to move them in the direction of the billfold or purse and thence to the offering plate. REMEDY:

The patient may be removed from the environs of the house of God on Sunday, since it is critically observable that the condition does not occur in such surroundings as the golf courses, supermarkets and restaurants.

From:

The Church Around the World

A California judge who sentences offenders to church instead of jail has been ruled out of order. Judge Hugh Goodwin claims that only five of his 200 church-going defendants committed further crimes, but a higher court has declared his sentencing procedures unconstitutional.

Article from Neosho Newspaper
Sent By: (s) R. G. Slusher
729 Gibson
Neosho, Missouri

Dear Sir,

Your newspaper has published several articles on the evil of alcohol. One of the most notorious proofs of the utter depravity of the human heart is the inclination to strong drink: in the fact that a man will allow himself to be mastered by such a vicious "liquid devil."

There is another evil that should be brought out to help save our young people and our nation. And that is the evil of tobacco. I would like to share with you "Twelve Reasons Why A Christian Doesn't Smoke."

1. He is a gentleman. He doesn't compel those about him to breathe his deadly tobacco fumes after he has inhaled them into his own lungs and puffed them out into the common atmosphere that all around him must breathe.
2. He is a courteous and thoughtful husband. He wants the wife of his bosom not only to look nice, but to smell nice. In mutual fairness he doesn't subject his wife, who must share his home, his bed, and his kisses, to the reeking body and foul mouth of one who reminds her more of the smoldering ash tray and garbage pail she has just emptied than the gallant knight she once thought she was marrying.
3. He is a bond-slave of Jesus Christ. He cannot be the slave of the devil or of lady nicotine. He cannot be bound by any bad habits, for he is bound to Jesus.
4. He is not a weakling. He will not hide behind the whining excuse, "I can't quit." To admit that is to admit that he is a slave of the devil, rather than a servant of Jesus Christ. He cannot serve two masters.
5. He wants to set a good example for others to follow. He knows that children, his own and others, are watching him and will largely do what he does.
6. His body is not his own. He has been bought with a great price. He must glorify God in his body as well as in his spirit. (I Cor. 6:19-20). Whether he eats or drinks or whatever he does, he does to the glory of God. (I Cor. 10:31).
7. His life is not his own. He cannot commit suicide. If it is a sin to take poison and end his life immediately, it is a sin to take poison and end his life gradually and prematurely. Nicotine is a poison.
8. He is a steward of all that God has given him. He knows that his talents, goods and years of life come from God. He also knows that the average smoker shortens his life span about five years, and he cannot do that and be a faithful steward of Jesus Christ.
9. He is a faithful husband. He cannot honestly deprive his wife, prematurely, of her companion and condemn her to added years of widowhood by destroying his body with the poison of nicotine.
10. His body is the temple of God, temple of the Holy Ghost. He cannot defile it, for if he does, he will be destroyed. (I Cor. 3:16-17). He would not smoke in church, God's house. His body is now God's temple, and therefore sacred, because God's.
11. He is a faithful steward of God's money. Everything that he possesses really belongs to God. "The silver and the gold, and the cattle on a thousand hills" all belong to God.

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Not merely the tithe, but all the Christian has belongs to God to be faithfully used for God's kingdom and glory. He cannot honestly spend God's money for tobacco.

12. He believes God's word. He can stop smoking, by God's grace, whenever he wants to desperately enough. Whenever he wants to please God more than please himself. For all things are possible with God. To deny this is to say that the devil is stronger than God. If God cannot deliver him from smoking, how could he believe that God could deliver him from death and the grave and take him to heaven? Are You A Christian?

REMEMBER: When the Holy Ghost comes into a man, He will either drive out the smoking habit or the man will smoke out the Holy Ghost. Both cannot long dwell in the same temple.

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ADVENTURE

What a word for freedom! It is an adventure to live, to strive and contend. By God's grace I am what I am. The sluggard has no promise. I wonder if they want one? Strive to enter into the Kingdom is the admonition of the Master. Be alert, have ears and train them to hear, eyes and help them to see and admonish your heart to believe, to worship. Exchange testimonies with others. He blesses all. The soldier and sailor, the merchant and farmer. Those of your land and those in far away places. All things must work together for the good of these people when they love Jesus. ADVANCE dear soul—right where you are be the one bright shining star, on a dreary night, and lonely path, to some child who needs you badly.

By the late Gayle Shultz

We have power over unspoken words. Spoken words have power over us.

OPEN FOR CALLS

Frank Arnall
Route 2
Granby, Mo. 64844



Pearls Of Promise

When thou passest through the waters,
I will be with thee; and through the
rivers, they shall not overflow thee:
when thou walkest through the fire,
thou shalt not be burned; neither
shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Isaiah 43:2

SANCTIFICATION

Let me say as an introduction to this lesson that I have for almost forty years taught and believed the message of Sanctification as I shall set forth in this lesson. It has been a real experience to me. And I have personally seen, not only in my life, but also in the lives of so many others, what it can do.

First of all, let us find the meaning of the word sanctify. It means to render holy, to hallow, to make free from sin, to set apart for holy or sacred use. In the very beginning of this lesson let me say that repentance does not cleanse us from our inbred sin. We repent of the sins that we have committed. We cannot say enough about repentance. But in repentance we are conceived, in sanctification we are born again. Sanctification is a work of grace through the blood of Jesus Christ, and is very definitely the second work of grace. II Cor. 1:15, "And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit:" Romans 5:1-2. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." So when we are saved by faith, we then have access into sanctification through the blood. You may say, but why?

First it is the will of God. I Thess. 4:3&4. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor:" I believe that sanctification makes us one. John 17:17 through 21, v. 17 "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." v. 19 "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." v. 21 "That they may all be one: as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou has sent me."

Show me a sanctified church and I will show you a church where there is no trouble, and where everyone loves each other. Again you ask why? Now I want to say this, many will ask just what does sanctification do, does it kill the old man of sin, or does it crucify him; or what does it do? I believe that it tempers the temper. May I refer you to Romans 5:2 Grace to stand. Does it then kill the old man of sin? No! We can sin again any time we want to; but to keep from sinning is not the only reason to be sanctified. Jude verse one, was written to them that were sanctified. Acts

26:18 states "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me" So there is inheritance to the sanctified. Back to the question, What does it do for the Church? Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Heb. 10:14 "For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." Heb. 13:12 "Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate." Next let us consider the new birth. John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he can not enter into the kingdom of God." God sent His Son into the world, to give His life for the sins we have committed. John 3:16 Jesus gave Himself for the church Eph. 5:25. (cleansing-sanctification) I John 5:10 "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar: because He believeth not the record that God gave of His Son." I John 5:18 "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

Let me give you an example of the new birth. A chicken is not born until it comes forth. A baby is conceived, but not born until it comes from its mother. Neither are we born again until we are born of the spirit. John 3:5. There is no argument as to being saved in repentance, but we are commanded to walk in the light we have and if we have light on this then we need to be sanctified. I am sure that if everyone that had this light would have walked in it, there would be many who have made ship wreck of their lives who would today still be serving God. So let me say in concluding this article just a few things to refresh our minds. This is not anything new. Sanctification was taught by the Wesleys and also by Knox before the Apostolic Faith Movement was founded, and it certainly is nothing new to the movement. But when I see the lack of interest shown by our people in seeking to be sanctified or filled with the Holy Spirit I think that we ministers should do all we can to preach and encourage them to do so. Some will say, but how do I get sanctified: It is our part to consecrate, dedicate and give ourselves to God. It is then that God sanctifies us. As it states in Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. But be ye not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

We take this opportunity to write you of the movement, about our ministry. We are no longer able to travel around as we used to, so we are writing and trying to bring to the movement our ministry in Bible lessons. I also have compiled scriptures on this and other teachings of the movement with a complete list of all scripture pertaining to the subjects. I will be glad to send them to anyone wanting them. Just write us: Reverend and Mrs. Ted Jackson, 1524 Galena Avenue, Galena, Kansas 66739

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A women's prophecy, 500 years old—

A carriage without horses shall go.
 Disaster fill the world with woe;
 In London Primrose Hill shall be,
 It's Center hold a Bishop's See.
 Around the world men's thoughts shall fly
 Quick as the twinkling of an eye.

And waters shall great wonders do,
 How strange and yet it shall come true.
 Then upside down the world shall be,
 And gold found at the root of tree;
 Thru towering hills proud men shall ride
 No horse nor ass move by his side.

Beneath the waters men shall walk;
 Shall ride, shall sleep, and even talk;
 And in the air men shall be seen
 In white, in black, as well as green
 A great man then shall come and go,
 For prophecy declares it so.

In water iron then shall float
 As easy as a wooden boat.
 Gold shall be found in stream or stone,
 In land that is as yet unknown.
 Water and fire shall wonders do,
 And England shall admit a Jew.

The Jew that once was held in scorn,
 Shall of a Christian then be born,
 A house of glass shall come to pass
 In England—but alas, alas;
 A war will follow with the work
 Where dwell the pagan and the Turk.

The states will lock in fierce strife,
 And seek to take each other's life;
 When North shall thus divide the South
 The eagle builds in lion's mouth
 Then tax and blood and cruel war
 Shall come to every humble door.

Three times shall sunny lovely France
 Be led to play a bloody dance
 Before the people shall be free
 Three tyrant rulers shall she see;
 Three rulers in succession be
 Each sprung from different dynasty

Then where the fiercest fight is done,
 England and France shall be as one
 The British Olive next shall twine
 In marriage with the German vine
 Men walk beneath, and over stream-
 Fulfilled shall be our strangest dream.

All England's sons shall plow the land
 Shall off be seen with book in hand
 The poor shall now most wisdom know
 And waters wind where corn did grow
 Great houses stand in far-flung vale,
 All covered o'er with snow and hail.

And now a word in uncouth rhyme
 Of what shall be in future time:
 For in those wondrous far-off days
 The women shall adopt a craze
 To dress like men and trousers wear,
 And cut off their lovely locks of hair,

They'll ride astride with brazen brow
 As witches on a broomstick now.
 Then love shall die and marriage cease
 And nations wane as babes decrease
 The wives shall fondle cats and dogs
 And men live much the same as hogs.

In nineteen hundred thirty-nine,
 Build houses light of straw and vine,
 For them shall mighty wars be planned,
 And fire and sword shall sweep the land
 But those who live the century through,
 In fear and trembling this will do:

Flee to the mountains and the dens,
 To bogs and forest and wild fens-
 For storms shall rage and oceans roar
 When Gabriel stands on sea and shore;
 And as he blows his wondrous horn,
 Old worlds shall die and new be born.



Obituary of Mrs. Wanda Elaine DeArmond

Funeral service for Mrs. Wanda Elaine DeArmond was held in Perryton at the Full Gospel Church on Thursday, February 23, at 2 o'clock. The pastor, Reverend Harrol Waterbury, who conducted the service, was assisted by Reverend Jake Regier, pastor of the Full Gospel Church at Spearman.

A nephew of Mrs. DeArmond, Bobby Taylor of Shattuck, Oklahoma, sang "Where Could I Go But to The Lord" and "Amazing Grace" with Mrs. Tommy Pletcher playing the organ.

Burial was in Ochiltree Cemetery with Boxwell Brothers Funeral home in charge. Pallbearers were Glen Ray Calliham, Jake Howard, David Daves, Daniel Newman, Joe D. Newman and Wick Brown.

Mrs. DeArmond, born in Perryton on April 16, 1925, died of a massive heart attack as she sat in her home at 1023 Stuart Street in Amarillo. She had lived in Perryton before moving to Amarillo seven years ago. She graduated from Perryton High school in 1941.

She is survived by two sons, Danny Keith of Amarillo and Arnold Lynn of Miami Beach, Florida; her father, Clarence Shepherd of Perryton; seven grandchildren.

Also surviving are four sisters, Hazel Taylor of Logan, Oklahoma, Blanche Davidson of Amarillo; June Sutherland of LaMesa, California, and Daisy Eagen, Central Point, Oregon.



Greetings from Thom's Station:

The Lord has been real good to all of us here. There has been a sweet spirit present in our midst for some time. Recently, we have done quite a lot of work on the church. The first part of January we spent in Big Springs, Texas for about two weeks of good services. The Lord was present in all the services and blessed in many ways. We are available for special services at any time. All the ministers are welcome to come at any time.

Ronald, Permalee, and Debbie Day

Dear Friends:

We want to say thanks for all the fine work Sister Naomi Busch has done for the REPORT.

God bless you as you enter Evangelistic work with your husband.

The Spearman Apostolic Faith Church is planning a revival with Mr. and Mrs. Jake H. Pletcher and their daughter, Mrs. Erma Urich. The beginning date is March 12th, the Lord willing.

Sincerely,
Jacob C. Regier

Greetings from Cave Springs;

It has been some time since I have sent a report.

God has been very good to us. We have had some very good services and a wonderful Spirit prevails amongst our people.

In the fall Bro. Randy Dalton and his wife Jane were with us along with Shari Cook. Randy's sermons were annointed of God, and Jane and Shari did a fine job with the music. They were a real blessing to all of us.

Preaching recently for us has been Jim Morris and Lyndel Arnall. We enjoyed them both very much. We are praying now for a Revival.

We invite all of our Ministers to come by for services any time.

A. W. Ferguson
Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. By God's grace, Laly and I are doing well and pray it is the same with you. Most of you, I presume, are aware that we moved to Pasadena, California, in July of 1977 to attend Fuller Theological Seminary.

I was able to complete my thesis work at West Texas State University for my Master's Degree in English. My four and a half year stay in Canyon with the Adairs has been a tremendous blessing for my spiritual growth and studies. We thank the Lord for the ministry that the Lord gave us on the campus, Faith Student Center and with Faith Chapel. We thank Him for all of the good friends that He gave us.

God opened the way for us to study here at Fuller. We could see God move in the supplying of our admission, books, and tuition, car, living quarters, living expenses, spiritual fellowship, opportunities to witness and minister His Word.

Our ministry of His Word has taken us to Rolling Hills Covenant Church where I taught the young married couples and singles for a month; preached at the Syrian Orthodox Church; brought devotions at a college retreat in Visalia; and a weekend service at Modesto. In December, we were in Katy and Alvin, Texas, where I had conducted my first church growth seminar applying principles that I had learned at school. It was a very profitable and blessed experience.

Our present plans include bringing lessons at a Singles Conference late February, attending and taking part in the wedding of our good friends, Donnis Barker and Mark Mitchell in Katy on March 18 and services on March 19-25. Pray for our travel and ministry.

You must have heard of the cyclone and tidal waves that hit South East India. Close to 50,000 people were killed and thousands lost their homes. The reports that our parents sent informed us that we lost 36 believers and their families in our fellowship alone. Ten church buildings were completely destroyed and 32 others were severely damaged. There is much sorrow and distress in that part of the country.

Our parents and aunt are involved in going to different places to raise support for the distressed families. Help can be sent through your local church to either our address or by certified mail (registered) to:

T. S. Abraham
Hebron Bible College
Kumbanad — P.O.
Kerala — 689547, India

Remember my father in your prayers as he travels and ministers in Saudi, Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iran, Doha, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, from February 15 until March 31. Continue to remember the Hebron Bible College; that the students be strengthened and firmly grounded in their ministry and the teachers be fervent and not lack zeal.

Pray for Laly and her parents and family. There have been three tragic deaths within two months. Her brother's mother-in-law and two cousins were killed in bus, motorcycle, and airplane accidents.

God has been good to us with your prayers, encouragement, love, and financial support. Thank you very much and ask the Lord to bless and reward you manyfold.

Pray for our studies and ministry. We love you.

In Christ,
Valson and Laly Abraham

The congregation of the Pine Hill Chapel would like to express our deepest love and appreciation to the AFBC Choir Group which came to our church. The fellowship was wonderful and the Lord was with each and every one.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Bro. Jack Hopson for his concern and assistance in our well-being as a church. A sermon from Bro. Jack is always welcome.

Your Prayers are Requested
Donna Pearson, Reporter

West Purcell Apostolic Faith Mission

We are so glad we can report the Lord has been very good and mindful of us and has been meeting our needs in various ways. He never fails His own. We were very glad to have had Bro. Johnnie Arnall and his family with us for Sunday services on March 12. Both messages were an inspiration to all. We welcome them all back again any time. We are always glad for visitors, our attendance has been up for the last few weeks for which we are thankful. Sis. Doris and Sis. Miller have Young People's and Children's Meeting each Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. All are invited. The general services are at 10:00 a.m. Sun. Morn., 7:00 p.m. Sunday and Thursday nights. Everyone is welcome.

Let us not neglect the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, and so much the more as we see the day approaching. For the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Geo. Hintergardt,
Pastor

Midway Church, Logan, Oklahoma

Again we are praising the Lord for His blessings to His people, and the Word of God ministered to us in each service.

The Spirit of the Lord was present as "The Seekers", Doug Hibbs, Joe Randolph, Carolyn Gumm and Glowanda Quesenbury conducted our morning service January 29. After the service we enjoyed a pot luck dinner at the activity building.

An Easter playlet, "The Challenge of the Cross" is being prepared for Easter Sunday service with our revival with Bro. and Sis. Jake Pletcher to begin in the evening service. We are having prayer in behalf of our revival each Wednesday before our regular evening service. Our Pastor has been bringing lessons on Prayer and Intercessory Prayer in the mid-week services. We are made to realize the importance of making intercessory prayers as examples of Moses were brought to our attention. "Yet now if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. Exodus 32:32.

Pauline Messner
Reporter

DEADLINE!!

Copy must be in by the 15th of the month to be in the next month's issue.



Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. Ps. 127:3.

Rev. and Mrs. Randy Dalton are the proud parents of young Aaron Kent Dalton. Born January 28, 1978 at 12:12 a.m. he weighed 5 pounds 10 ounces and was 19½ inches long. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Don Ewing. The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Udell Dalton. The parents and young Aaron reside in McClurg, Missouri.

Andrew Frederick Stemm is the new son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stemm. He was born on January 25, 1978, weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20¾ inches long. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Bard. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Howard. Andrew has a big brother named Matthew.

Hats off to our new little MIRACLE. She's our pride and joy! Joy Lynn arrived February 28, 1978 at 9:48 p.m. She weighed 6 pounds and 3¾ ounces and was 19½ inches long. The happy family is Billy, Joyce and Jill Watson. Grandparents are Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Regier of Spearman, Texas, and Mrs. Ruby Watson of Amarillo, Texas.



Thank You

Dear readers of the Apostolic Faith Report:

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Sis. Naomi Busch for the wonderful work she has done on the Report. The past 6½ years she has given not only to the Lord, but to us of the Apostolic Faith Movement.

Carla and I have been working with Sis. Busch on the March issue of the Report and until then I did not realize how much work was involved. Sis. Busch has been so kind and helpful during this transition period. May God richly bless you Sis. Naomi as you labor for the Master.

Thank you,
Karen Oakes and Carla Nordberg

He Giveth More Grace

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;
To added affliction He addeth His Mercy
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

His Love has no limit; His grace has no measure;
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth and giveth and giveth again.

—Annie Johnson Flint

It Paid Off



A sergeant was telling his family about his conversion. He had gone into the army as an unbeliever, but had come out a saved man.

"How did that happen?" asked his brother.

"It happened one night in the barracks."

Then he went on to tell the story:

"We had a private in our company who lived his Christianity all the time. We gave that fellow an awful time.

"One night we came in after having marched in a terrible rain. All of us were very wet and tired. Our one thought was to find the quickest way to get to bed. But this Christian private took time to kneel down and have his prayer time with the Lord.

"This made me so angry, that I picked up one of my muddy boots and threw it at him. It hit him on the side of the head, but this did not stop him from praying. I picked up my other boot and heaved it in his direction. I hit him again, but he continued to pray.

"The next morning beside my bunk stood my boots beautifully cleaned and polished.

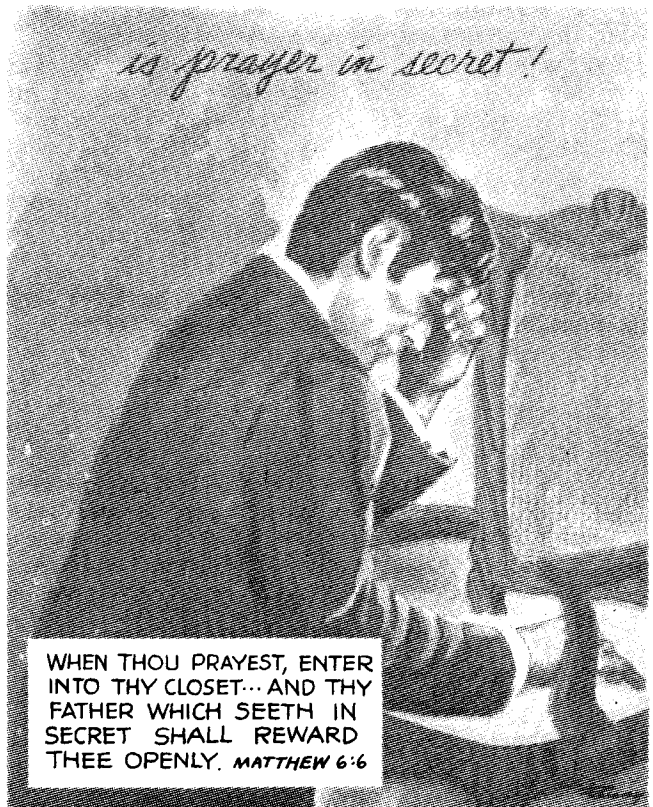
"That broke me, and I was saved that day. After what I had done to him, he had shown this kindness to me."

Christian young people can learn a great deal from an attitude like that of the private. He not only talked his religion, but he showed it in his day-to-day actions.

The Bible tells us to love those who hate us, and do good to those who persecute us. Certainly this was evident in the life of the private. Is it just as evident in your life? Do you know kindness, tolerance and Christian love to fellow students, teachers and others who question your belief in God?

from the book
Devotions for Early Teens Vol. 3

The Secret Of Prayer



PRAYER

I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. I Tim. 2:1.

Prayer is the strongest force on the earth today. Unfortunately there are still many of the church world, even Spirit-Filled Christians who don't know the basics of prayer. There are too many today that feel it's enough to have pretty thoughts about Jesus on awakening or make a five minute devotional before the day's work or at night upon retiring. All of these are very well, but those who accept this train of thought are missing a very important truth. There is sweat, blood, and tears in prayer that many never attain and lose the power and authority, in the name of Jesus Christ, which was given to man in prayer.

Prayer is not some matter we can take lightly. We may say we understand all about this beautiful and marvelous gift, this open door to the throne of grace, but do we? There is labor and self-denial that we find in prayer. This contemplates man, flesh and blood, bowing down before God, Spirit, the Creator of the entire universe. Where is the awe, the gravity, the reality of fragile man before the majesty of the Holy God. In true prayer we come before the very throne of our Holy Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Where is the Godly fear and trembling; the change in our attitudes, motives and thoughts that should accompany us if indeed we have unreservedly and truly come before the almighty and powerful God? Maybe we as Christian people should look closer than a casual everyday

reference in prayer to what prayer truly is and what it could mean in our lives as well as in the lives of others.

In scripture we can find three types of prayer. It may be well to look briefly at the first two. The third or intercessory prayer is the one that we will dwell on. In intercessory prayer we can find the power and authority of our Lord so strongly.

Communion—This is an act of sharing; possession in common participation of interests. Its an act of sharing one's thoughts and emotions with another or others; intimate converse. Communion is an intimate relationship with deep understanding.

This is simply loving our Lord Jesus; asking nothing in particular but praising and worshipping Him; enjoying His presence and listening as He converses with us: carrying on a conversation as we would with an intimate friend.

Jesus saith unto her, "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me." John 11: 40-42.

And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12.

And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, He was there alone. Matt. 14:23

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. II Cor. 13:14.

Communion with our Lord is like going down a country road in Spring; conversing with our Father concerning the beauty of His creation and meditating upon His marvels and blessings; then hearing God's reply by the Holy Ghost, "Yes, son, I made all things beautiful." Our Lord stayed in constant communion with His Father and Paul tells us to be in this communion by the Holy Ghost.

Petition—Petition means to rush at or fall upon. It's a solemn, earnest supplication or request to a superior or deity or to a person or group in authority, prayer or entreaty. A petition can also be a written request or plea in which specific court action is asked for: to ask formally or earnestly, to solicit.

We find in petitioning God that it's for direct action in meeting our needs. We fall into this rushing fervently and earnestly before God's throne that He may move in our defense, that our needs may be met. Man is dependent upon the merciful hand of God.

Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of Him. I Sam. 1:17.

We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the Lord fulfill all thy petitions. Now know I that the Lord saveth His anointed; He will hear him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Ps. 20:5-6.

And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him. I John 5:15.

So we find in petitioning God that we are asking primarily that our own individual needs be met.

In intercession we are speaking directly to God through our Lord Jesus on the behalf of others. It's been said, "that no man can talk to man for God except he first learns to talk to God for man." This is so very true. A former drug addict of Teen Challenge said and has proven many times over for this to be true, "All souls won on the street are first won in prayer." This implies labor, work on that Christian's part who sees and realizes the need so strongly for God to move, not in his behalf but in the behalf of others; not in repetitious duty but in soul-rending labor, battling the many times unseen darkness of the prince of this world.

And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore His arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. Isa. 59:16.

Therefore said He unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest. Luke 10:2.

We find in scripture that God sent Jesus Christ to intercede on man's behalf and our Lord has called His people to intercede on behalf of others. Luke, speaking in the tenth chapter, didn't say to send out the five-fold ministry or just teachers or apostles but laborers. I believe this was intentional. All men can't go directly into the ministry whether it be pastoral, evangelistic, or as a missionary. All men aren't called to go, but in the very word, laborer, all are required to work in the harvest. Just as it takes thousands of back-up men in war time to keep one man on the firing line, so does it take back-up men in this battle against darkness interceding on behalf of those Christian soldiers on the firing line of this world.

Intercessors work directly against the dark powers that would destroy man and even cause God's sure word to be ineffective. As Daniel was in the tenth chapter of Daniel, his prayers were heard at the first, but Satan had withstood the angel, Gabriel, who had been sent from God bearing the message to the prophet. Daniel labored in prayer and fasting three weeks till Michael, the other arch angel, was sent to fight this spiritual foe so the message could get through. In intercessory prayer the warrior fights in these spiritual realms bringing to bear upon these strongholds of darkness and death God's mighty arsenal of power; of light and life in the face of Jesus Christ. Intercessors are very seldom seen or heard, but the results are plain to see.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Eph. 6:12.

Part of the armor of God, which so much of the church world leaves off in this age, is intercessory prayer. Nevertheless, it is extremely important. It's like finding yourself in a hot and deadly battle and then learning that you've left your sword, shield, or helmet back in camp.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Eph. 6:18-20.

(Continued on Page 12)

Let's look at this for a moment. Paul is explaining that we should make supplication in the Spirit for our own selves. We, as Christian people, should know ourselves at all times and be continuous in prayer that we may be in the place that we can pray and touch the throne of God. As many of the old preachers used to say, "being prayed up."

Paul goes on to say that we should watch and make supplication for all saints with perseverance. We truly are our brother's keeper. Many times I wonder concerning professing Christians when a young convert falls away and I hear them say, "Well, they didn't have anything in the first place." We weren't called to judge but we are called to watch, persevere and intercede for each other, especially the weaker brethren. There are reprobates that don't have anything and refuse sound doctrine, that do fall away, but there are those weak ones who would stand if only someone would stand with them. May we ask a question? On who's hands lies the blood of our weaker brothers? Who knows, the weak brother that we lift up today may be the one to lift us up tomorrow.

Lastly, Paul asked that prayer be made for him, that he be bold to speak as he should. Do we as sanctified, Spirit-filled Christians still intercede for our ministers, evangelists, and missionaries; that their needs be met; that they may be delivered from sickness and discouragement; that souls be saved, sanctified, and Spirit-filled; that churches be shaken from their lethargy and indifference; that we proclaiming Christ may be truly Christ-like and not be proved as hypocrites by the fruits that we bear. I'm not speaking of a five second reference to these matters when we're about to fall asleep at the end of the day. I'm speaking of laboring in the Spirit against dark powers that all ministers may speak boldly and walk as the Spirit of God leads. That the holy God whom we serve may keep them from the snares of Satan, our enemy. That they may speak not in word only, but in the manifested power of God's might by the authority in the name of Jesus Christ, that saints be edified, souls saved and healed, and churches strengthened.

Much has been spoken concerning intercession, the need of prayer and the power of prayer in our churches. Let's see how we can apply this to our lives.

Intercession can be broken down into three parts, identification, agony and authority.

Identification—This means to put oneself in another's place so as to understand and share the other's thoughts, feelings, and problems, to sympathize.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Heb. 4:15.

For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted. Heb. 2:16-18.

But this man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:24-25.

Jesus Christ is our supreme example in intercession. He

was numbered with the transgressors (us). He became the great high priest interceding on (our) behalf. In Heb. 5:5-10 we find that Melchisedec was a type of Jesus Christ and that in the days of his flesh he offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.

Jesus Christ came from ivory palaces to be born as man in a rented stable and manger. Temptation was a snare to Him and Satan was His enemy. He came into our camp, felt as we feel, understood as we understand. Truly an intercessor is one who identifies with others' sorrows, needs, thoughts, and feelings, that he may understand and share the burden. Let me give a warning here. Identification doesn't mean to do sin to understand the sinner or drop dope to understand the addict. It doesn't mean to drink to understand the drunkard or a hundred other examples. Identification does mean, by the power of the Holy Ghost, to understand the problem, to come under a burden for those who are over-burdened. Christian people should be sensitive to feel as the sinner feels, as the missionary feels, as the minister feels and carry their needs to Jesus Christ. While our Lord Jesus was on earth He interceded for His people. In John 17:20 our Lord prayed for all those who would hear His word. Jesus Christ finished His work on earth. He prepared a way of salvation, bestowed on His people the gift of the Holy Ghost, and now sits on the right hand side of God making intercession for His people. He has called His people to intercede, to identify, to share the burdens together in this world. As He was in the world, so should we be also.

This brings us down to the second part of intercession. We should agonize over souls, for the church, the ministers, over the needs of our missionaries, our Nation and leaders. This isn't easy, we must first see the need and identify with it. The need should strike us in such a way that a burden should come upon us with a desire to see God move. We should agonize in such fervency that we disdain sleep or food till we see God move in the midst of those we're praying for. Like Jacob when he wrestled with the angel, "I'll not let you go till you have blessed me."

Agony—This is a contest for victory. A very great mental or physical pain. This means a convulsive struggle or death pangs.

And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when He rose up from prayer, and was come to His disciples, He found them sleeping for sorrow, And said unto them, "Why sleep ye? Rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Luke 22:44-46.

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, "Let me go, for the day breaketh." And he said, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." Gen. 32:24.

In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. *** Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days; for yet the vision is for many days. Daniel 10:2-14.

Jesus Christ agonized with strong crying and tears. In the garden of Gethsemane our Lord reached the deepest agony human kind could ever know. Humanity was in the balances. Christ was to be the supreme sacrifice. The master's heart was broken as none ever was. Our Lord wasn't afraid of dying but that very day He would have to suffer the most horrible of deaths. He was to become sin for us and take our just reward for sin, past, present and future. The weight of this and the agony is unsearchable. Our most holy Father refused to look upon His beloved Son. Matt. 27:45-46 Hab. 1:13. Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, had become sin for us. We can see a glimpse of the depth of love; the need of man and the agony and burden our Lord carried when looking upon His tormenters, both Jew and Gentile, He cried, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. Jesus Christ agonized for mankind.

Jacob was crippled for life but wouldn't let the angel go. He became the father of the Israelite nation. Jacob agonized till victory was in his grasp.

Daniel chastened himself concerning the need of his people. Disdaining pleasant things of comfort, the old prophet resisted the forces of darkness till the angel of the Lord brought him the message he was seeking. He agonized for his people till he saw the arm of God revealed.

We as followers of Christ Jesus should learn to agonize over souls, churches, nations, and especially those who are physically out on the battlefields of this world, that God would supply needs, deliver souls physically and spiritually, break the bonds of darkness, lift up the discouraged and strengthen the weak.

In the third part of intercessory prayer we find the authority of prayer. This doesn't mean in our own name or power, but the power and the authority in the name of Jesus Christ. Our righteousness before God is as filthy rags, but the righteousness in Jesus Christ is acceptable before our Lord God. Interceding in authority, the man or woman moves God. He even causes Him to change His mind. Victory is assured.

Authority—This is the power or right to give commands, enforce obedience, take action. It's the power or influence resulting from knowledge, this is also the self-assurance and expertness that comes with experience.

And he said, thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel; for as a prince hast thou power with God and with man, and hast prevailed. Gen. 32:28.

Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. Ex. 32:7-14/32:30-35.

Peter therefore was kept in prison, but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*** And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. Acts 12:5-19.

God has given authority to those who will dare believe His promises. This power and authority has already been given to the church through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, how many today fully realize the power in prayer, or if we do, how many press forward till the arm of God is revealed in their midst? In the parable of the unjust judge, the woman continued before the judge till he moved in her behalf. God will speedily hear His people who cry before Him.

If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. John 14:14.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7.

When we come before our Holy Father it should be in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Much has been spoken on the components of intercession and much can be spoken.

In the seventeenth chapter of Exodus we find a type of Satan when Amalek struck the weak and weary of Israel. We find a type of the soldier of Christ, Joshua, when he and the host of Israel went out to fight Amalek. We find a type of intercession, Moses, and cooperation, Hur and Aaron. When Moses lifted the staff to heaven the people of God triumphed and when it fell evil triumphed. Hur and Aaron stayed Moses hands up and put a rock under him when he grew weary. Victory was assured only when they all worked together. Is it any different today? I don't believe so. The world is in need of intercessors. Ministers, churches, individuals, men and women are in need of those who know how to get hold of God, who can pray in the power of the Holy Ghost. Anyone regardless of age or health can be an intercessor. Does anyone care or dare to accept the challenge if you haven't already. If you do:

1. Decide deliberately that this intercession is to be a regular binding duty.
2. Select fixed days, hours, times and make them take precedence, as far as possible over all other engagements.
3. Be humble, let the Holy Ghost enlarge your scope of prayer and guide.
4. Be patient in prayer and wait upon God to give direction.
5. Don't be general in prayer, call specific names and what there needs are, be positive.
6. Stay in contact with the missionaries, evangelists or ministers, ask what their needs are or what mountain may be before them that is dark and discouraging, pray for their strength to carry on and to overcome all obstacles.
7. Form the habit of letting God impress upon you the things for which to pray. He will do it.
8. In prayer, wait upon the Lord. "We know not how to pray as we ought." We must let the Spirit Himself make intercession.
9. As the old preachers have said before, "Pray till you know how to pray."

Consider the challenge of becoming an intercessor. It's hard, there's a lot to this, in this life an intercessor, for the most part, is an unsung hero.

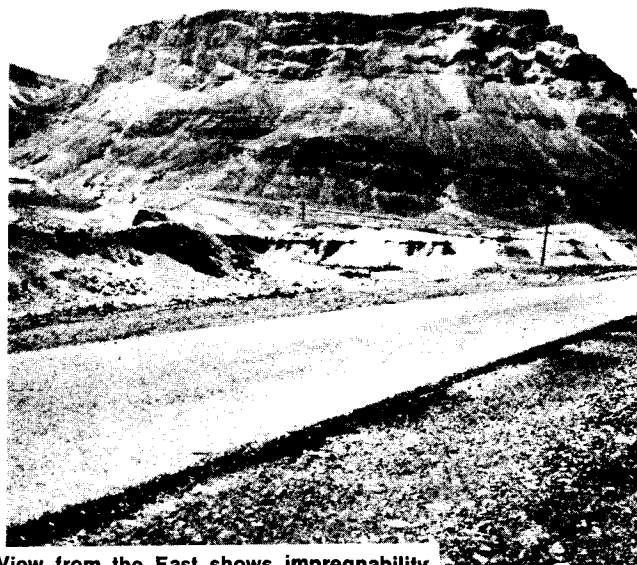
Influence at the throne of heaven depends not upon our station at birth, or brilliance, doesn't depend upon achievement or what color we are, but depends upon a humble and utter dependence on the Son of the Living God. Intercession battles the ghettos of a million evils, the cesspools of Satanic darkness. What does it cost? Saying farewell to self and welcoming the burdens of humanity.

James R. Routh

Some of the material of this lesson came from other men of God who have blazed a trail in intercession by their experience and faith in God that He would meet their need.

THE ALAMO OF ISRAEL

By RALPH W. HARRIS
Editor, Church School Literature



View from the East shows impregnability

April 15, 1973, marked the 1900th anniversary of the fall of Masada—an event which has left a legacy of courage to all generations since.

Texas had her Alamo, and Israel her Masada. "Remember the Alamo" became the battle cry as Texas won her independence. Today "Masada shall not fall again" symbolizes the determination of the Israelis never to retreat again.

Visitors to Israel are now whisked to the top of Masada by cable car to view the ancient ruins. Archaeologists from 28 countries, laboring several seasons, carefully excavated the national shrine. Thousands of volunteers swarmed to the site to assist in uncovering a record of heroism rarely equalled and probably never surpassed.

After a desperate defense, Jerusalem had succumbed to the savage attacks of the Roman legionnaires in A.D. 70. The city was demolished, the temple put to the torch, and (according to the Jewish historian Josephus) more than a million people perished. The survivors went into captivity, beginning the period known as the Diaspora which lasted almost two thousand years.

But one pocket of resistance remained unconquered—Masada. The mountaintop stronghold, which Herod the Great had fortified, still stood, defiant and unbowed. The little flat-topped mountain, measuring only 300 by 600 yards, had been captured by Jewish zealots in A.D. 66 when the war against Rome began. It now presented a formidable obstacle to the armies of Rome. Its strategic location, about 40 miles southeast of Jerusalem and just west of the Dead Sea, made it the southeastern gate to Judea.

Flavius Silva, procurator of the province, could not allow this symbol of defiance to stand secure. He determined to capture the fortress at any cost.

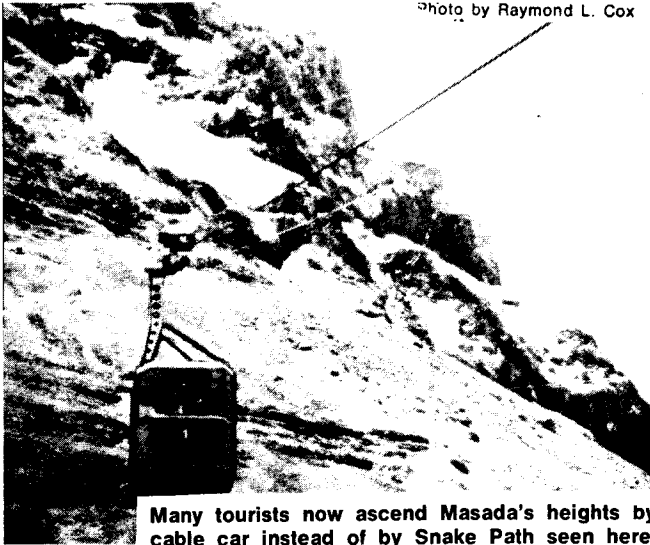
Nature itself has made Masada almost impregnable. With steep cliffs on all sides lifting it above the surrounding terrain a height of 900 feet on the east and 225 feet on the west, Masada could be approached only with great difficulty. There were two main approaches—the Snake Path on the east (which is well named, for "it is narrow and twists ceaselessly as a snake") and the Water Path on the west which divides into two spurs, one going to the north and the other to the center of Masada.

To make Masada even more secure, Herod had fortified it with great skill. According to Josephus, "he built a way surrounding the mountaintop, seven stadia (about 4,200 feet) long, twelve cubits (18 feet) high, and 8 cubits (12 feet) wide; and on the wall all around he built 37 towers . . . Thus the fortress was fortified by heaven and man alike against any enemy who might wage war against it."

Herod had also solved the water problem. Masada has no natural water source, and the Judean wilderness surrounding it receives less than five inches of moisture each year. But in the late winter the surrounding wadis (dry riverbeds) become flooded. Through an ingenious system of dams, Herod diverted water to 13 giant cisterns which could hold almost one and a half million cubic feet of water. There was enough to supply a public bath—and even a private swimming pool for the king!

To provide a retreat from his royal duties, Herod erected two palaces at Masada. The Northern Palace, so placed as to catch the cool breezes in the sweltering days of summer, was tri-level, the lowest terrace more than 110 feet below the top. The king adorned the palace with all the beauties an Oriental ruler could desire—bright frescoes, majestic pillars, mosaic floors.

Photo by Raymond L. Cox



Many tourists now ascend Masada's heights by cable car instead of by Snake Path seen here.

Flavius Silva's army of hardened legionnaires was swelled by thousands of slaves, many captured in the destruction of Jerusalem. The estimated total was 10,000 to 15,000.

Facing this Roman force was a band of 967 Jews, including women and children. Eleazar ben Yair, commander of the fortress, had to deal with many problems. Accommodations were needed for the many families fleeing from the Romans. The community had to be self-sufficient. Food and water must be rationed. With remarkable ingenuity, the Masada defenders even raised crops on their tiny domain.

Silva moved quickly to cut off all possibility of escape. He encircled the mountain fortress with eight camps for his soldiers and a nine-foot-high wall. Then he conceived an ingenious plan to reach the level of the defenders. Using slave labor he would construct an earthen ramp on the western side of the mountain. Behind huge shields his men would move their catapults up the slope within range of Masada's walls, to hurl stones and darts at the defenders. Finally their battering ram would break through the fort's defenses.

For seven sweltering months, cubit by cubit, the ramp rose higher toward the top of Masada. But when the Romans tried to use their battering ram, they discovered the ingenuity of the Jews matched theirs. They had built a second wall, filling the space between with earth. Each blow of the battering ram only compacted the dirt more strongly.

However, the Romans' bag of tricks was not yet empty. Shooting fiery arrows, they set the wooden wall aflame. The Jews prayed for a miracle; and for a while it seemed their prayer would be answered, for the wind changed from its usual direction, blowing the flames and smoke in the faces of the attackers. But then the wind shifted again, and the wall burned fiercely.

Night fell on Masada, faintly lit by the smouldering ruins of the great wall, the Jews' last hope. Disaster stared the defiant defenders in the face. They knew this was their last night of freedom. The rising sun would signal another attack and certain defeat.

Looking down from the ramparts that April evening 1900 years ago, Eleazar ben Yair conceived a desperate plan as he saw the men of Rome preparing for their final assault. Calling his followers together, he made an impassioned plea, recorded by Josephus, who was with the Roman army. He reminded his people of the famed cruelty of the Romans—their children would be slaughtered without mercy, their wives and virgin daughters led away to satisfy the lust of their foes, and they themselves would face lifelong slavery. He said:

"Come! While our hands are free and can hold a sword, let us do them a noble service! Let us die unenslaved by our enemies and leave this world as free men in company with our wives and children."

Eleazar was proposing mass suicide! Josephus tells us the men were so moved by Eleazar's oration that they interrupted him and leaped to the task as though possessed. "Fathers tenderly embraced their wives and children and clung to their parting kisses with tears in their eyes; but at the same time they carried out what they had resolved on . . . every one of them dispatched his nearest kin."

Ten men were chosen by lot to slay all the rest. The others lay down alongside the corpses of their wives and children, threw their arms about them, and offered their necks to the executioner's knife. One of the 10 killed the other nine, set fire to the royal palace, then "with his full strength drove his sword into his body."

Next morning the Roman legionnaires stormed up and over the parapet, then stopped aghast. Before them, in neat rows, lay the bodies of 960 defenders of Masada. Only two elderly women (one a relative of Eleazar) and five small children had hidden from the holocaust, escaping to tell the gloomy tale of Masada's last hours.

What is the message of Masada today? It signifies the stand of the few against the many, of the weak against the strong. It is a story of unconquerable heroism, reminiscent of the Alamo. Each year during the Feast of Hanukkah which celebrates the Maccabean Revolt, many young Israelis make a pilgrimage to Masada; and since 1948 when the State of Israel was established, new recruits of the Armor Corps of the Israeli Defense Forces are sworn in at this shrine. "Masada shall not fall again" has become a rallying cry for the nation.

But for us Christians, Masada has a further message. It challenges us to fight as bravely for a winning cause as the Jews fought for a lost one. The death of the heroes of Masada marked the end of the Great Revolt. When they died, the nation of Israel ceased to exist. Though a struggling remnant of Jews remained in the land, the people of Israel turned to wandering over the face of the earth with no settled abode. They were despised, persecuted, and often marked for death. Masada faded away and no one even knew its location until the 19th century.

Christians have a greater reason for courage, even unto death. Sometimes persecution, suffering, and death have come to followers of the Cross; but we are sure of our ultimate destiny. Our Commander has never known defeat. If the men of Masada could be so heroic, knowing defeat was sure, should we not demonstrate equal courage and devotion in a cause which is sure to triumph?

Panhandle Camp Meeting

Laverne, Oklahoma

Wednesday Night, June 21 — Thursday Night June 29

For information contact Delvin Wiles, Box 337 — Phone 405-921-5144 — Laverne, Okla. 73848

4-STATE YOUTH CAMP

Baxter Springs, Kansas

June 11-16

Chairman-
Edwin Waterbury

Ph. 417-472-6203
Granby, Mo. 64844

Committee:
Neil Ragan,

510 S. Cox
Joplin, Mo. 64801
Ph. 417-781-5761

Wapel Ferguson,

Box 286
Cave Spgs. Ark. 72717
Ph. 501-248-1352

Lyndel Arnall

Box 110
Baxter Spgs., Ks. 66713
Ph. 316-856-3986

PANHANDLE YOUTH CAMP

Laverne, Oklahoma

Teenage—June 4-9

Junior—June 11-16

Chairman-
Jack Cornell

Box 133 Hardesty, OK 73944
Ph. 405-888-4555

Committee:
Keith Barker,

706 E. 15th
Pampa, Tex. 79065
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Danny Robinson,

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Camp Phone
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Teenage Enrollment on June 1

Chairman:

Jim Fox

Videt Polk, Instructor

Box 713

Pass Christian, Mississippi

Katy, Texas 77450

Junior Age Enrollment on June 4

Phone 713-371-3426