

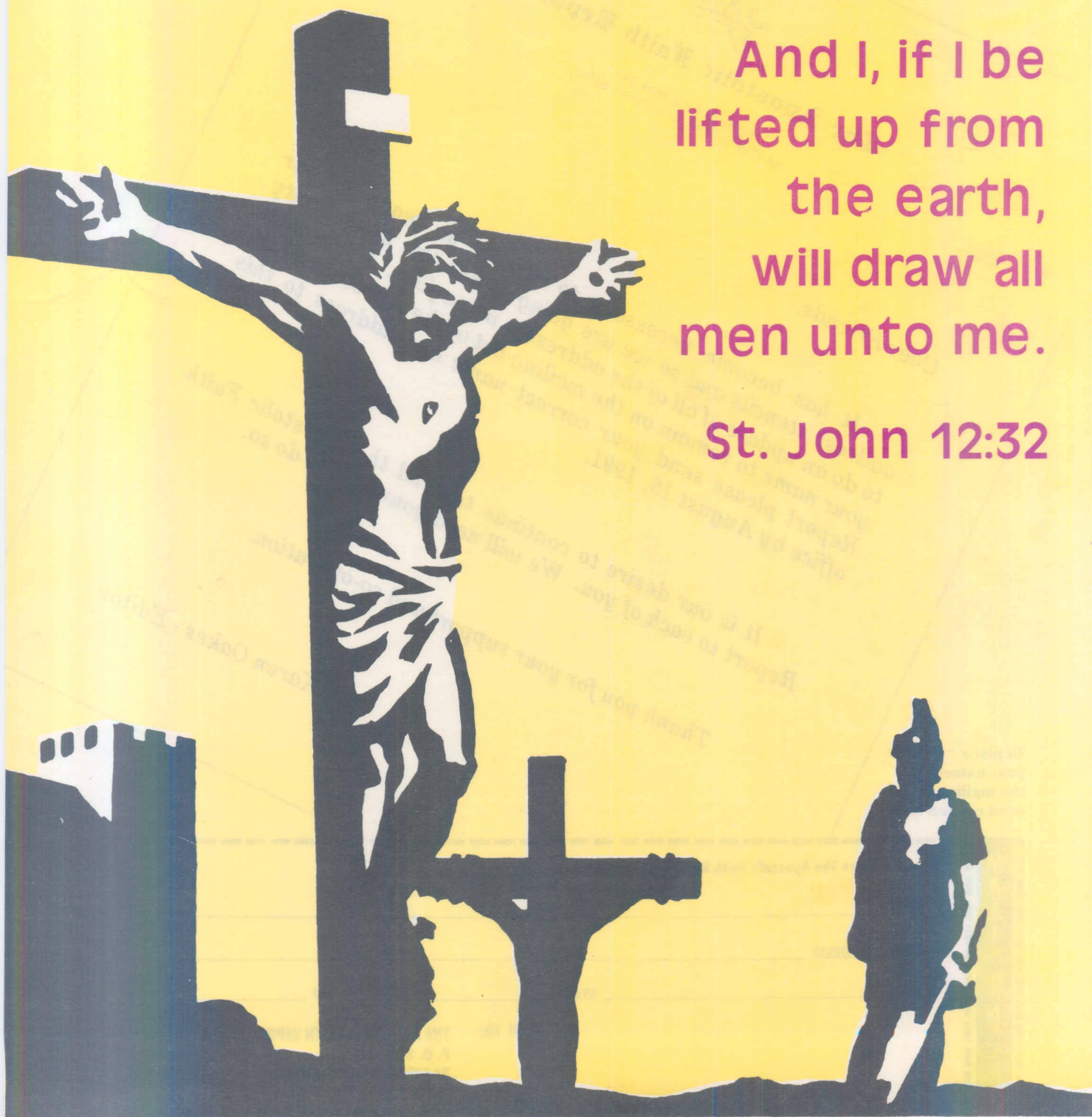
Apostolic Faith

Volume 37, No. 2, 3 & 4

Report

And I, if I be
lifted up from
the earth,
will draw all
men unto me.

St. John 12:32



Address Update



The Apostolic Faith Report

POST OFFICE BOX 653
BAXTER SPRINGS, KANSAS 66713

PHONE
116 856 5281

KAREN OAKES
EDITOR

Dear Friends,

It has become necessary to replace so many of our address stencils and so we are going to use this opportunity to do an update of all of the addresses in our files. If you want your name to remain on the mailing list of the Apostolic Faith Report please send your correct name and address to this office by August 15, 1991.

It is our desire to continue to send the Apostolic Faith Report to each of you. We will need your help to do so.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Karen Oakes - Editor

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AF Bible College

From The Superintendent

A great number of attributes should be in a Christian life--all the fruits of the Spirit should be foremost in our daily living. A Christian Heart should always have a desire to see the lost come to Christ; as well as a hunger for deeper truths. There are many more things which reflect Christ in a life.

I feel that the one ingredient that we are lacking most in this modern day is COMMITMENT! Let's think about our commitment to God.

We know that we are living in a selfish world. We might call it a ME world. That's alright in the world, but the same spirit should not be in the church. Instead of service to God, it seems to be--what can God do for ME; and the ME world has come into the church. Instead of commitment to God, we place ME first in line.

I feel it is time for the church to quit thinking of self and really make a commitment wholly to God and his work.

Isn't it time for the Church to have some people like the three Hebrew children! Now that's commitment. O King, it just doesn't matter, our God can deliver us; but if he doesn't, we will still not bow down to your gods.

Can we say that we are committed, and we fail to talk to our sinner neighbor about Christ? Let's each examine ourself. If there ever was a time God needs his people committed to His will and work, it is now. There is lots of work to be done for God. If we can be committed, we can see victory.

M. D. Methvin
Supertintendent

Girl's Dorm Report

Things are going great in our dorm this semester. The Lord is blessing us so much. We are all trying our hardest to live in unity as a family. Sometimes it gets rough, but God is always faithful to us. Any problem we have we can take it to God and He will always be there to take care of it. No matter what.

I John 4:4--"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

God is so much more powerful than Satan, and we are all very grateful to God for supplying all of our needs, and helping to grow and become overcomers through him.

Praise the Lord!
Cindy Harris

From The Men's Dorm

There hasn't been a lot of change since the last Dorm report. Every thing is still running smoothly. It is a real joy to see the guy's are seeking the Lord and His will for their lives. Several have been fasting and praying for different burdens that they have. The Lord still hears and answers prayer. We have had testimonies of healings and other answers to prayers. I wish everybody could see how the Lord is moving in the lives of these young men.

Please continue to pray for us. May God Bless You and Keep you.

Nicolas Gift

Alumi Banquet

Greetings to Alumni and Friends,

Another year has passed and we're excited about all that God has done, is doing and will do for us in this coming year of 1991. God is still the "I am" for every situation we find ourselves in. Truly it is time to lift up our eyes not only to the harvest fields but upward, and our affections be set upon Him, for our redemption draweth nigh.

Our annual alumni banquet has been planned at this time. It will be held May 10th 6:00 at Holiday Inn, Joplin, MO. Reservation fee is \$13.50 per person (Buffet meal, tip, approx. 90 cents extra for added expenses). The deadline for reservations is April 30th. Please send your reservation fee to:

Richard Morris
3022 Missouri
Joplin, MO 64804

A nursery will be provided from 5:30-10:30 for a fee of \$1.00 per child, per hour at the Southside Apostolic Faith Church, 4430 South Main, Joplin, MO. Snacks will be provided for kids but not a complete meal.

We are blessed to be able to have Evergreen, Mathis Trio, and Mr. & Mrs. David Robinson come and share their music with us during our banquet. The alumni picnic is being planned at this time as well. So make Plans to attend all the services at AFBC and meet new and old friends once again.

God bless and hope to see you soon.

In Christ Service,
Richard Morris

The Apostolic Faith Report

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Did YOU Drive Me A way?

My story is a simple one. Like too many young adults, I'd lost the habit of going to church while in college and during the early years of my marriage. But once our little boy began to approach school age, the idea of providing good, sound religious training for him became important to me.

I wanted him to believe in God. I wanted him to have the strength and the inner peace which faith in a supreme being can bring. I also wanted him exposed regularly to good people with high morals and good sets of values--people of warmth and love and concern.

We chose a relatively small church where we felt our son wouldn't get lost in a mass of nameless faces. We wanted him to get to know his Sunday-school class mates and his teachers, and we wanted them to know him.

My husband and I hoped to find the same thing for ourselves. We joined the church not just to sit in a pew on Sunday mornings, but because we wanted to meet some nice couples and to take part in church projects and activities. We wanted to give something of ourselves and to receive at least a small amount of acceptance and friendship in return.

In the beginning I was happy with our decision. Going to church again was a little like going home. The muted lights, the sudden rafter-shaking blare of the organ at the beginning of the anthem and the familiar words of the doxology sometimes made my eyes fill with tears. It was nice to be back.

One thing disturbed us a little, however. As we left the sanctuary each Sunday, other church members would smile and nod, but no one ever stopped us or tried to welcome us. Somehow we always felt a little like strangers who just happened to be visiting that day.

Our particular church provides a very nice program of three social events which are held specifically for new people during their first year of membership. We missed the first event. I happened to be in the hospital having a baby--and there isn't much better excuse for being absent than that. The second social was a picnic. My husband was out of town on business, but I was so anxious to meet some other young couples that I hired a baby-sitter and went by myself.

I had a pleasant time, I guess. Everyone I met was very polite and friendly, but I sensed strongly that the people I talked to were merely making duty conversation and that they were actually more than a little anxious to get back to their friends who were gathered together laughing and joking on the other side of the lawn.

I can't remember what the third social event was or why we didn't go, but by then it didn't matter very much. And we were never invited to anything else again, not even to a committee meeting.

Our church also has a rather informal club for married couples. I've seen the notices about their meetings in the church bulletin. They meet in members' homes once a month and generally have some kind of speaker. But we were never asked to attend.

I questioned someone about it once and they said, "Oh, you're not supposed to wait for an invitation, you're just supposed to go." My husband and I are friendly people, but both of us are rather shy and we could never summon the courage to prance up the sidewalk and ring a total stranger's doorbell.

If someone had only called us and urged us to attend, or offered to pick us up and take us the first time, it would have made a world of difference. But nobody ever did.

Our final attempt to get acquainted with our fellow church members was a disaster, and the experience did something to me from which I don't think I'll ever completely recover.

Several times a year the youth group sponsors a dinner after church. We don't particularly enjoy dinners with all that chaos, but we thought that we might get to know a few people if we went.

It was winter and I was carrying my heavy coat. I was also carrying my 5-month-old baby, her blankets and snowsuit, her diaper bag and my purse. My husband and son stood in line to get the food while I staggered around looking for a place for us to sit down.

There must have been about fifteen long, narrow tables with twelve or fourteen places set at each table. I approached one table and then another, but each time someone said "Sorry, these seats are saved." Women saw me coming and put their purses and coats over chairs so I'd know those seats were occupied. I went from table to table, my coat dragging on the floor and the baby perched awkwardly on my hipbone, but no one would let me sit down and no one offered to help me find a place for my family.

Finally I saw a table in the back of the room which was completely vacant. I headed for it quickly and sank into a chair. The baby was heavy, I was hot, and my coat was dust-streaked from being pulled across the floor. But I had no sooner arranged all my belongings around me when the assistant minister's wife came scurrying up and said, "Oh, you can't sit here. This table is for the junior choir."

I don't want to give my name or the city where I live or the name of my church because I'd like everyone who reads this to wonder whether they, personally, might have had something to do with what happened to me. Was it you? Was it your church? And, even if it wasn't could it have been?

Numbly, I gathered all my things together again and stumbled to my feet. I stood and looked at the busy, talking, laughing mass of people around me. I burst into tears. Quickly I elbowed my way through the crowd and out into the hall. My husband saw me and followed.

"I'm sorry, but we're leaving."

"We certainly are," he agreed.

That was the last social event we ever attended.

Yet there's more. When we attended services on Sunday, we'd leave the baby in the nursery. I love babies. I really do. And one day I volunteered, shyly, "If you ever need any extra help in here, please let me know".

The woman in charge of the church-school program heard me. "I think we could use you now," she said. "Mrs. ----- is here in the nursery every Sunday. Perhaps the two of you could alternate months so that both of you could attend church with your families occasionally."

I liked doing it for two reasons. First of all, handling, feeding and playing with the babies was fun. Second, it gave me a feeling that I was doing at least a small service for my church.

Suddenly, in late summer, someone called and asked if I'd like to teach a fourth-grade Sunday-school class. "Oh, I don't think so," I stammered, "Besides, I already work in the nursery."

"The nursery?" the woman replied, obviously surprised.

"I'm sorry, but we already have plenty of people to work in the nursery."

I suppose I'll never know exactly what happened. It's hard for me to believe that I was fired because I didn't perform my job satisfactorily. I adored those little babies and took care of them as if they were my own. I was steady and prompt and conscientious.

No, I don't think I did anything wrong. It's my guess that somebody better known than I, someone who was a friend of someone else, decided she'd like to work in the nursery and I was simply moved aside to make room for her. I was a new member and nobody knew me very well, so it probably never occurred to anyone that I might care.

Unfortunately, even our minister let me down. I wanted very much to write an article about a unique volunteer organization in our town and had heard that he was an active member of it. I didn't want to telephone him for fear I'd catch him at a busy or inconvenient time. So I wrote him a letter instead. I mentioned what information I wanted and why I wanted it and asked him to call me at his convenience. He never called.

I hope it doesn't sound as if I have a persecution complex or something, because that's not the way I feel at all. I never thought for a moment that we were deliberately snubbed or that there was a conspiracy to keep us out. No one was even what I'd call unfriendly. It was my impression that everyone was just too busy, too wrapped up in his own plans and projects to realize that we were there.

This strenuous self-absorption seems to be kind of an occupational disease that most people suffer from today, and I understand it. But should this disease carry over into our churches? Perhaps I'm too idealistic, but I always thought that one of the reasons people went to church was to rid themselves of some of this preoccupation and to extend their hands in friendship and fellowship to others. We extended our hands, but nobody noticed and nobody seemed to care.

I don't go to church anymore, which of course is my loss. But it's your loss, too. I'm really a pretty nice person, if anyone had taken the trouble to find out. And although my talents and time are limited I would have been willing and eager to devote whatever assets I possess to church activities. I'm a sincere person and a hard-working person, but I'm also a sensitive person there's a limit to the number of times I can subject myself to the hurt of being ignored and rejected.

My son still goes to Sunday School once in awhile, when he wants to, but we don't insist on it. Maybe we're more bitter than we realize, but from the example of church life we've seen, we just don't feel he's missing much.

If I could be sure that ours was an isolated incident, I wouldn't be writing this. But I doubt that it is. If such a thing can happen in our town and church, it can and probably does happen anywhere.

Was it *you* who turned me away? Was it your church that wouldn't take me into its fold? And even if you can tell from reading this that it wasn't, could something similar have happened in your church?

You've lost me which, granted, may not be any horrendous loss. But how many others like me have you lost or will you lose in the future? Maybe you'd better think about it

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of the little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Matthew 10:42

A Word For A Dismayed Heart

"Fear thou not; for I (God, Himself) am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10). So says God to a dismayed heart.

The true Christian life is not a pleasure trip, but a very grave fight. The hardest and the most difficult problem for our human mind, understanding and feeling is that this fight is a "fight of faith." It is written, "O man O God...fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12).

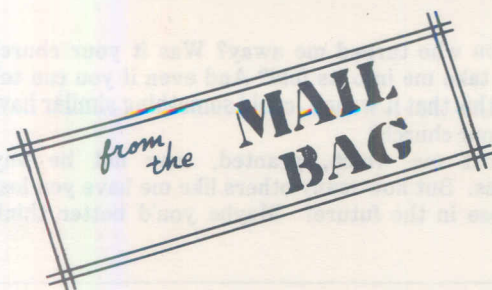
Our human nature is so eager first to see- then to understand, to feel and then to believe that God is with us and will give us victory. But that is not the way of faith; that is not how we are able to get glorious victory over either our enemies, afflictions, sickness or any other problem in our life.

First of all we must believe that God, who loves us with everlasting love is with us; He goes before us. He fights against our enemies as the Bible says: "When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee...Let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is He that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you"--(Read and believe Deuteronomy 20:1-4 and Isaiah 41:10-14).

What we have to do in "The Battle of Faith" is: (1) We have to be all right with God in our heart; (2) We have to obey God as much as we have the knowledge of the truth; (3) We may not do anything that is against our good conscience, (read I Timothy 1:18-20). (4) We must believe with our heart (not with head only) just as it is written in the Bible, and then; (5) "Commit thy way (thy battle) unto the Lord, (wait patiently for Him) trust also in Him, AND HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS."

Jesus said unto her (Martha) "If thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God" (John 11:40).

--Karlis Iesalnieks
in *Herald of His Coming*



Southside Apostolic Faith Church
Joplin, MO

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We praise the Lord for the wonderful services we have been having. We see a Hungering for more of God and a desire to share that with those that are lost. That is what we are suppose to be doing is reaching the lost. the Lord has been truly blessing. We have seen the Lord answer many of our prayers for healing and other needs in our lives. and the lives of others. We most of all praise God for being God. He is worthy of all our praise.

We have been able to have Evergreen in our services a couple of times since we have been here. We have been here.

We has some tremendous services. Also, Rev. Joel Dorris and Rev. Dwight wilson held service for us. We truly enjoyed the messages of these two men of God. We started the first of Feb. having Cottage Prayer Meeting on Monday night to meet and pray concerning our upcoming revival as well as other needs. We have been having some glorious services. Rev. Calvin Springer held us a revival March 10-17.

May God richly bless you and keep you is our prayer.

Rev. & Mrs. Richard Morris, Pastor
Renee' Morris(reporter)

THANK YOU

I would like to thank every one for your prayers and support during my surgery last September. I had to undergo open heart surgery with 5 bypasses being done. I am doing real well. My prayer is that I will be able to continue in my ministry. Thanks to every one in all of our churches.

Rev. Ted Jackson
Box 171
Galena, KS 66739
316-783-5389

THANK YOU

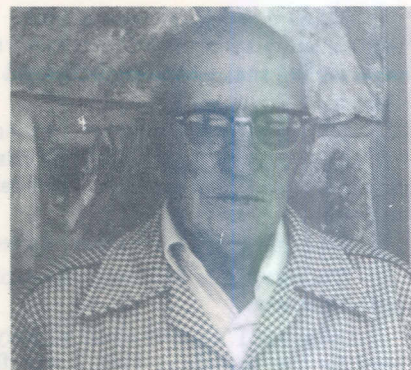
We want to say Thanks to all the people that held us up in prayer during our surgery experiences in October and again in December.

We feel the Lord has given Jacob the victory...he is improving in strength as the days go by.

After 55 years in the ministry I can see: "He has never failed, Praise the Lord."

Jacob and Rosalie Regier
1518 S. Drake
Perryton, TX 79070
806-435-4478

Pete Shank



Melvin Arthur "Pete" Shank, 88, Joplin, died at 9:12 a.m. Saturday Feb. 9, 1991, at St. John's Regional Medical Center after a short illness.

Mr. Shank was born Nov. 15, 1902, in Newton County. He moved to Joplin about two years ago from the Granby area, where he had lived all of his life. He owned and operated Shank Farm and Greenhouse north of Granby, for many years. He was a member of Granby Gospel Tabernacle.

He married Pauline Frances Smith on Dec. 20, 1933, in Joplin. She died April 24, 1988.

Surviving are two sons, Bill Shank, Duwagiac, Mich., and Paul Shank, Dearborn, Mich.; a daughter, Betty Goade, Rocky Mount; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Services were held Feb. 12, 1991, with Rev. Edwin Waterbury, Rev. Danny Robinson, Rev. Johnny Arnall and Rev. O. A. Busch officiating.

Burial was in the Diamond Cemetary, Diamond, Mo.

Contributions may be made to Faith Border Missions, in care of Sonny Brown, Box 698, San Ysidro, California 92073.

WE ALL NEED CHRIST

Selected

I read of a minister traveling in the South who obtained permission to preach in the local jail. A son of his host went with him. On the way back, the young man who was not a Christian, said to the minister:

"I hope some of the convicts were impressed. Such a good sermon as that ought to do them some good."

"Did it do you good?" the minister asked.

"Oh, you were preaching to the convicts!" the young man answered.

The minister shook his head and said, "I preached *Christ*, and you need Him as much as they."

NOTICE!

Thirty-five cents a time is what the Post Office charges us whenever a copy of the Report is returned with a reader's new address. If you are moving, won't you tell us at once, allowing at least 4 weeks for the change? Send the mailing label from the back page so we will know your old address.

For the last five years, Island Missions, under the direction of Bob Durham, has met the challenge to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the islands of the Caribbean, the land of Mexico, and to the shores of Central and South America. The work has moved forward through the blessing of the Lord and the efforts of a nucleus of people who give of their time, talents, and treasure. The thrust of Island Missions' Gospel outreach is Bible and tract distribution and the showing of the powerful film on the life of Jesus based on the new testament book of Luke. Another goal is to put a thousand Bibles on fishing vessels in the western Caribbean.

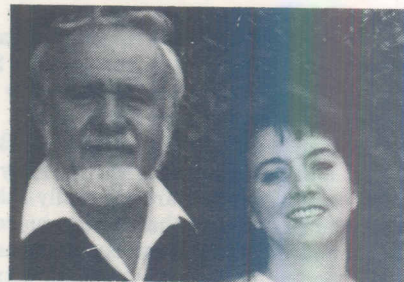
Island Missions has been responsible for the distribution of tons of Bibles, tracts, and literature for the word of God, or given to other ministries who also distribute Christian Bibles and literature. Such a cooperative effort was demonstrated as Island Missions give five tons of Bibles to the Christian Maritime Relief Ministries who in turn put those Bibles in the hands of persons throughout the Caribbean.

On a recent evening when many of us here at home were settling comfortably into our favorite chairs, Bob Durham and his evangelistic team arrived in a village in the southwest corner of Belize, Central America, loaded down with the Jesus film, a projector, a screen, a portable power generator and the gasoline to power it. He and his team would, this night, witness several hundred South American Indians find their way down the mountain sides to the river bank and come to know the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ through the ministry of film. The villagers stood for two hours and quietly watched as the story of Jesus came to life on the screen before them. When the Roman soldier nailed Jesus to the cross, Indian men quietly wept and tears ran down their faces. Bob Durham clearly understood that God had not merely provided an evening of entertainment for a few hundred villagers, but had sown, in the hearts of those villagers, the seeds for a new life in Jesus Christ.

In the last few years, millions have seen the Jesus film and have accepted Jesus as Saviour. However, millions more must hear and receive the good news of the love of God in Jesus Christ through printed materials, film and most effectively, personal contact. Pray for Island Missions as we continue to be a light in the Caribbean.

Island Missions, A Light To The Caribbean

Mr. and Mrs.
Bob Durham



FACTS ABOUT ISLAND MISSIONS

Over 1 million tracts have been distributed throughout the Caribbean and Central America.

Some 500,000 bibles have been sent to the same area.

There are 3 teams showing the "Jesus Film" in 4 languages.

1 team works in Belize.

1 team works in Costa Rico.

1 team is mobile and covers the rest of the area.

As funds become available we hope to have 5 additional teams in place, including 1 which is presently being organized to show films to people coming into a number of dental clinic sites.

Additional films can be obtained for about \$900 each.

Several thousand people have seen the film.

200-300 people have come to the Lord as a result of viewing this film lately.

We have been co-laboring with a number of "Mission Ships" for several years.

Island Missions is currently broadcasting a 30 minute program daily over HRLS 1470, French Harbor Roatan Islands, Honduras, Central America.

The Tools Quarrel

The carpenter's tools had a conference. Bro. Hammer was in the chair. The meeting had informed him that he must leave, because he was too noisy.

But he said, "If I am to leave this carpenter shop, Bro. Gimlet must go too, he is so insignificant that he makes a very little impression."

Little Bro. Gimlet rose up and said, "All right, but Bro. Screw must go also, you have to turn him around and around, again and again, to get him anywhere."

Bro. Screw then said, "If you wish I will go; but Bro. Plane must leave also, all his work is on the surface, there is no depth to it."

To this Bro. Plane replied, "Well, Bro Rule will also have to withdraw if I do for he is always measuring folks as tho' he were the only one who is right."

Bro. Rule complained against Bro. Sandpaper and said, "I just don't care, he is always rubbing people the wrong way."

In the midst of those discussions the carpenter of Nazareth walked in. He had come to perform His day's work. He put on His apron, and went to the bench to make a pulpit

"For we are laborers together with God." I Cor.3:9

from which to preach the Gospel to the poor. He employed the screw, the gimlet, the sandpaper, and all the other tools.

After the day's work was over, and the pulpit was finished, Bro. Saw arose and said, "Brethren, I perceive that all of us are laborers together with God."

Author Unknown

How often we make the mistake of fussing and finding fault with others because they can't do or see things the way we think they should.

There was not an accusation against one of these tools but what was absolutely true: Yet the Carpenter, Jesus Christ had need of everyone of them; and there was not a place where He used anyone where any of the others would had done at all.

How careful we should be in finding fault with one of God's tools.

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free: and have been made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many." I Cor. 13:13-14.

Dying Churches

To me the most embarrassing question asked me lately was "Are you a Spirit-filled Christian?" They should not have asked. I truly had to evaluate my life. God opened my eyes WIDE!

No one should have to ask if we are the temple of God, people should be able to recognize a Spirit-filled Christian. To be Spirit-filled, I thought, was to be filled --to show the world living proof of our Living God.

When we get up and preach "Be filled with the Holy Spirit and be baptized with the Holy Spirit", what are we really saying? What are we really asking God to do? Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we can be recognized and accepted in our church, that we can lay hands on people to be healed IF the opportunity rises, that we can witness IF the opportunity rises, so we can be at peace with ourselves and know that God is happy with us? We can go to church every Sunday and know that we, the Holy ones, are together and then go home and bask in our self-righteousness and pride and wait for opportunity to arrive at our door step----a chance that someone will come to our door step and ask us to explain the scriptures to them. Yes, I know all things---God has shown me the scriptures and how to interpret them---like, all sins are forgiven, except.....

How soon I forgot where I had come from and who brought me this far. Why was I a Christian---because of some wonderful, Spirit-filled Apostolic people who cared, and I feel that God intends for the Holy Spirit to glorify God, not man.

If we are a Spirit-filled church, why are our churches dying? Everyone knows that people in the world are dying without Christ, but how many people are sitting in the church pew dying spiritually? Who do we have so few in attendance and the doors have been closed on many of our churches? Our pastors need our HELP and SUPPORT--we need to share the burden of our churches---our dying churches. We need the Holy Spirit in our lives WORKING. We need to go back to the Bible reasons why we need the Holy Spirit in our lives, not selfish or man-made reasons.

Through the Grace of God, I have been given the opportunity of visiting many of our churches. I see so much talent. It makes me sad to think that you people can keep all that talent bottled up inside. Do you know what I would give to have half the wisdom a lot of our people have?----I mean those sitting on the back benches waiting for someone to ask them to do something. Oh, they don't need my worthless ideas.----just ask a Pastor if your ideas are not needed and welcomed. It would be an encouragement to them to know that people care and are willing to help. A lot of our best pastors are burning out because they cannot carry the burden by themselves. If some of you wonderful people would ask for God's Wisdom and Holy Spirit, for boldness to speak up and volunteer to help your pastor; I believe therein lies the secret to revival. Let the Holy Spirit truly guide you. Pray for boldness to use what God has given you. If you feel a testimony on your heart, ask God to open doors and believe that He will. He will, believe me, I know from experience. The most wonderful prayer there is, is for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and to receive Him in your life; but if you don't let him work in your life. He will depart.

Why are our churches dying? Maybe we are praying for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for the wrong reasons. Please

don't take my word for it. I challenge you all to search, truly search, the scriptures with a prayerful heart and mind and ask Jesus to show you what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit and what His real purpose is in our lives.

From the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis when God told Noah that He was going to destroy man; but Noah found grace in the sight of God---Why?---because when God asked Noah to do something, Noah didn't say, "OK, Lord, you send the lumber to build this thing called an ark and I'll see what the people think about it before I start something this foolish." NO, Noah went to work right away---he didn't wait for opportunity to knock. As foolish as man may have thought this undertaking to be, Noah did not question God, but obeyed God.

I am not a Bible scholar, but many of you are. Every-time God called upon one of His prophets in the Old Testament, when the Spirit of God was upon Him, he went and performed things that man thought were unheard of ---things man thought were foolish, dumb or whatever. In the New Testament, men were not afraid to speak up in the name of Jesus. Now, I believe that people are too afraid of what other people are going to think. They are afraid that people will think they are trying to show off. I don't mean for everyone to start jumping and shouting, but if you lay awake all night or wake up in the middle of the night with the same thoughts going through your mind, even if there is a little doubt, pray about it and ask God if it is of Him. If so, ask Him to burden you with the message. If the message was just for you, you will lose the burden to share. If not, you had better speak up or God will not let you rest until you do.

In the New Testament, when people were filled with the Holy Spirit, they went out and worked wonders. Who would ever dream of going places without money, a car and provisions---be 100% sure and financed. Who?? God's people with faith in God who sent them. Is that not how our churches started? They didn't need a guarantee that things would work out or that people would approve. Jesus said differently---maybe we need to reread the book of Acts---Not just parts that we want to hear, but all of it. Ask the Holy Spirit and trust God to help you---are His promises not true?

I truly did not mean to offend anyone or our churches, but please think it over. The next time you are in church and you feel a praise or testimony on your heart, a scripture, a message with the interpretation---listen, be used of the Holy Spirit. What happened to our all night prayer services? What would happen if some night the pastor asked everyone in church to participate, including the young (yes, the young have messages we need to listen to also).----if we were all required to sing a special, read scripture, deliver a message, or just sing praises to God, our Lord and Savior?

At camp meeting where are our prayer tents?---some of us would love to have prayer tents at camp meeting, or even at youth camp. I have talked to people from California to Kansas and there are a lot of people who say they would love an old fashioned prayer tent, but we are so afraid of what people might think or that some people might not like it. If we had prayer tents, would we use them?? Prayer services are the least attended services at camp meeting and how much time is spent in prayer at Wednesday night prayer meeting?

How many times have I heard elders speak of the good old days when people worshipped freely and openly without fear of what other people might think, when people spent hours on their knees in prayer at the altar, when they had old

fashioned foot washings---"yes, I remember when the Holy Spirit was really working and our churches were full and running over". Praise God---why not again.

Don't wait to be asked, OFFER and see what happens. SUGGEST, don't be afraid because if it is of God and He is glorified, it will happen. At revival ask one person to go with you. They are not a Christian?---that is even more reason to ask them.

I love Apostolic Faith Churches. I believe you are one in a million. Why?---because of the Holy Spirit and His works in our people. I praise God everyday for a church and for people who gave my children and me a new lease on life. THANK YOU. We love you all!

Phyllis LaDuke

Happy is the man who walks so close to God that he leaves no room for the Devil to come in between.

Remember Me?

David Roper

The other day, as I was waiting for my car to be tuned, a framed message, entitled "Remember Me?" caught my attention:

"I'm the fellow who goes into a restaurant, sits down and patiently waits while the waitresses do everything but take my order. I'm the fellow who goes into the department store and stands quietly while the sales clerks finish their little chit-chat. I'm the fellow who drives into a gasoline service station and never blows his horn, but waits patiently while the attendant finishes reading his comic books.

"Yes, you might say I'm a good guy. But do you know who else I am? I'm the fellow who does not come back. It amuses me to see you spending thousands of dollars every year to get me back into your store, when I was in there in the first place, and all you had to do to keep me was to give me a little service, show me a little courtesy."

My first thought was, "I wish those who serve the public would read that and take it to heart?" But then a Second thought hit me. In the church we are supposed to serve mankind; is it possible that we need the same message? And on the spot I wrote a few more lines:

"I'm the fellow who comes into your church building and stands at the back, looking for a place to sit with no one asking to help. I'm the fellow who crawls over three members seated on the end of the pew, who will not move down. I'm the fellow who makes his way quietly to the exit at the close of the service, passing members enjoying their visits with each other. I'm the fellow who leaves with no word of complaint. *I'm the fellow who will never come back.*"

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Heb. 13:2). Christianity is a practical religion, affecting how we conduct ourselves everywhere all the time.

Pulpit Helps

Holiness

Holiness is a growth. Sanctification is a work of grace that begins holiness. The definition of holy is to be dedicated to religious use, coming from God, perfect or pure; untainted by evil or sin. The walk of holiness lasts for the rest of a persons life. Holiness has no ends, we can never be too holy, for God's holiness has no limit. It's like the vision Ezekiel had in Ezekiel 47. Where waters issued out from under a house, at first the waters were to the ankles, then as he went through the waters it was knees, then to his loins, until finally it was a river that could not be passed over, waters to swim in. So is God's wisdom and His grace that opens us to his holiness. It starts as a stream and ends up a river to where we can grow in holiness.

The Lord commands us to be holy for in Leviticus 11:44-45 it says, "For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy." As Christ is our example we should strive for perfection in holiness as in II Colossians 7:1 "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." Again in holy living there is no end but like in II Corinthians 3:8 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." How vast is God's glory that he shines upon men. How holy God is. To be holy only comes from God's mercy and love where a person can "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." found in Ephesians 3:23-24. A person cannot just claim to be holy and be holy. We must be of a true holiness as God is holy. For in I Peter 1:15 it says, "but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." Holiness is a way of life, it is the everyday living for Christ that shapes us into better workers for him. It is where we come into God's presence and he slowly purifies us. Just as if God was a flame and we were gold. As gold is heated and melted by the fire all the impurities and dross raises to the surface where it is scraped off. The gold is heated until it is pure. So pure if you were to look down at the gold you would see your image reflected by the gold. In our life as we overcome trials and situations, as we pray and walk in the presence of God. God is able to turn up the flame in our life taking away the impurities in our life, that each day we can grow more holy like our Father is holy. That when God sees us he may see the reflection of his Son. Not only is being holy a walk and growth but it is a blessing. For in Revelation 20:6 it says, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

Louis Keeling

A.F. Report

Christianity vs. New Age

We read first the words of Christ during His Sermon on the Mount: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Matt. 7:15). Then I. Timothy 4:1 warns: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

Notice again the warning of Christ in Matt. 24-24, "for there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, *they shall deceive the very elect.*"

Satan knows he can't go to the Christian and deceive that person by tempting him to murder, to rob, or some other crime that is considered so horrible. But Satan comes to deceive the Christian in a very subtle manner by bringing false teachings that appear to be Biblical.

Many people today are being deceived by the New Age People as they entangle them in a web before revealing the extent of what that web contains.

New Age is a very diverse conglomeration. Each little entity seems to exist on its own and yet they all come together and become one. For a short list of the areas we find visualization, meditation (yoga), crystal power, acupuncture, Therapeutic Touch, music therapy, pyramid power, astrology, biorhythms, dreamwork, tarot cards, imagery, channeling, and many more.

Christian Protection

Before I begin to discuss further the works and dangers of the New Age. I wish to give to you the things necessary in a Christian's life for his protection. Dave Breese lists these items in his book **KNOW THE MARKS OF CULTS**.

(1) Understand Christian doctrine. May Christians or church attenders today are satisfied with just a superficial knowledge of the Word of God. Each Christian should embark on a detailed Bible Study for a soctrinal point of view. Without understanding basic Biblical concepts as "Who is God?", "What is man?" "What is sin?" "What is biblical inspiration?" Christians don't have the foundation needed to withstand Satan's deceptive ways.

(2) Separation from spiritual subversion. Paul warns us in Eph. 5:11, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness". Yes, you do need to know the basics of what the cults are teaching so you won't be entrapped. But NO you should not make such an extensive reading and study of their materials that soon you would begin to believe they weren't so far off after all. Cave breese states: "One only has to eat a good steak to realize that the contents of a thousand garbage cans are simply beneath his standards."

(3) Refuse profane points of view. Again Paul writes, "Refuse profane and old wives' fables" (I Tim. 4:7). He was quite aware that the world would be filled with spiritual thieves and religious fanatics who would tie up the time and energy of anyone willing to listen to them for may long hours.

Some such stories that we read or hear about include pictures of Christ in the clouds, a preacher in some town or city with a new revelation, or a miracle of healing or resurrection. We know as Christians that Christ does heal, but we must also remember that Satan can fake the same in order to deceive "the elect".

I Tim. 4:13 "Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine". Paul is urging us not to give ourselves over to false teachers but to follow the true teachings of Christ. Read also I Peter 5:8.

(4) Do not encourage cultic practitioners. We must love people but we are also told to "know those that work among us and to try the spirits". II John 9-11 states, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hate not God. He that abideth in the doctrin of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

(5) Be willing to contend for the faith. Paul again admonishes us to earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the Saints. We must be willing to defend the truth of God's Word in the face of satanic adversaries. Jude 3. The true Christian must be very careful to let nothing come into his life that would taint his relationship with Christ. Review again the armor that Paul tells us we are to wear...to put on...in Eph. 6:10-20.

Dave Breese states it well as he says the world is described as a battleground and the essentail struggle on that field of conquest is the struggle between truth and untruth.

New Age and Children

RAVAGED BY THE NEW AGE is the book Texe Mars has written about their plan to destroy our children with their deceitful teachings, "Take just one generation of children, carefully mix a brew of unholy and intellectual poison, feed their young, impressionable minds the spiritual lie that Jesus is not Lord and Savior and that the Bible is not the true and complete Word of God and---presto! You have the dawning of a New Age."

The Key to this is to separate the person from knowing and believing in the love of Jesus. They use such tools as New Age home learning textbooks and study manuals, Sunday School lesson curricula to fit New Age criteria and doctrine, parenting and psycology self-help books, parenting magazines and newsletters, and New Age conferences, seminars, and workshops for parents. Many book stores carry the set of four religious instruction books designed for kids which are written by Jenny Dent, "The Spiritual Teaching for Children Series." They include instruction on reincarnation, demon spirit channeling, astral travel, Eastern religions and other New Age themes.

I am going to list here a small selection of books which provide many details that in the next 2 or 3 articles I will not even begin to be able to discuss. These are all well written and will enable you to know enough to fall on your knees in supplication to God for the Blood of Christ to cover you and your family. We are in the end times and they are Evil Times. Now is the day to be prepared FULLY.

1. Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow by Constance Cumby
2. Dark Secrets of the New Age by Texe Marrs
3. Straight Answers on the New Age by Bob Larson
4. Ravaged by the New Age by Texe Marrs
5. Death of a Guru by Rabi R. Maharaj with Dave Hunt
6. Know the Marks of Cults by Dave Breese

There are many, many, more. These are very good and it is the DUTY of each Christian to be informed enough to protect their children. Check your child's school books carefully, what they read in library books, and yes, even Sunday School literature. See if these in any way state that there is no evil, no good or bad, no sin, you can have a spirit guide to help you, meditate and receive energy. Be aware. Satan is working overtime to steal your child's faith.

Yvonna Whitely

Matthew 24:3-5

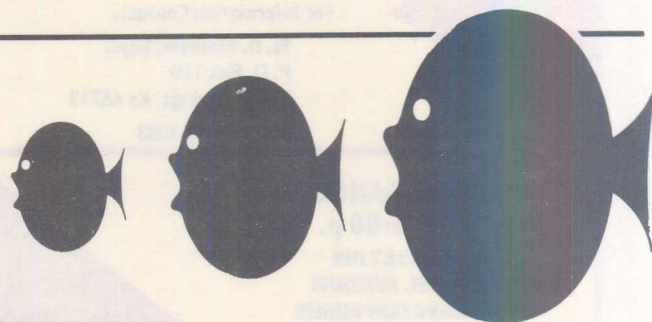
3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall the things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Importance of Little Things

Joe B. Dewees



We, as Christians, are prone to view our own limitations rather than the unlimited power of God. Paul spoke these words, "When I am weak then I am strong;" also, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Surely we can draw needed strength and power from the God of all power.

Many times God seemingly passes up talented folk and chooses those less talented to do work for Him. He sometimes discards some that have been greatly used of Him because they do not continue to rely wholly on Him.

In the commercial world people hire workers according to their qualifications but God qualifies His workers.

Read with me I Cor. 1:24-30. "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise: and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yes, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.

I would like to point out some instances in the Bible where God used little things to be a great blessing: Moses' rod, perhaps, was a plain stick, but in the hands of Moses as he yielded to God, it became a great power, causing the Red Sea to divide and giving the children of Israel a safe crossing; and other miracles were worked by it.

The last of the poor widows' meal was used to feed Elijah, one of God's prophets, but it lasted through a long famine. Just a small thing, but it became great in the hands of God.

Then the poor woman, whose husband was dead and the creditors were about to take her sons as bondsmen had only a cruse of oil, but as it was blessed by Elisha, it became enough to pay her debts and give her family plenty to live on. Just a little thing, wasn't it?

Then there was the woman who entertained Elisha as he passed by. She and her husband decided to build a little room on the side of the house. She wanted a child, so the prophet

asked God to give her a child. A son was born who grew to be a lad, but one day he died, then the prophet prayed that his life might be restored. Just a little kindness to one of God's prophets, but God repaid in great benefits.

Also, we must remember how the testimony of a little maid of Israel, who was a slave in the home of an Assyrian captain, became the means of that man being healed. How the little Israelite boy, Joseph, was sold as a slave into Egypt, and became the savior of Egypt and many other people, during the time of famine. Also how God used the little boy Samuel to rebuke the prophet Eli. A very weak Vessel but used of God.

There was Samson, who hastily grabbed up the jaw bone of an ass in a desperate battle with the Philistines, but it brought him victory over a thousand men. Rather a crude weapon but yielded to God, it was enough. Then there was David who slew the great giant with a sling. He won a great victory and routed the powerful enemy of Israel. Just a boy and a sling with his trust in God. There were the Ephraimites who could not say "Shibboleth" and forty thousand lost their lives because they left out an "H", one letter in a word.

A little faith will remove mountains. Do you remember the five thousand that followed Jesus out in the desert and the disciples were anxious about how to feed them? Someone said there is a little boy here with two loaves and five fishes. Jesus blessed them and they fed the multitudes and had twelve baskets of fragments.

Do you recall how Jesus stood by the treasury and a poor widow brought her mite? Jesus said she has done more than all of them because she gave her all.

It is the little things that count also the little foxes that spoil the vine. Lack of faith, or a little wrong doing, a little carelessness, a little gossip, a little selfishness, render many lives useless.

I could go on and tell how Samson revealed the secret of his power and was shorn of his strength; how the man was told to keep another man but while he was just here and there the man got away. Just a little carelessness but he lost his life for his neglect.

Let us be careful and watch the little things.

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