



Building in Downtown Albany, NY

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ISSUE 20

# the Soulwinner

ONE SOUL AT A TIME

Mark 15:16 — King James Version 1611

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature

Promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Inner City

Illustration, photography, graphic design and journalism by Jim Robinson

Most all pictures link

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## What Ever Happened to Taylor Apartments in Troy, NY? Once a Bus Route for Sunday School Children

Every city and often towns and villages have low-income housing where people live in relative American poverty. American poverty is not quite the same as third-world poverty because America has programs to help the poor like welfare, social security, Medicaid and Medicare. But, compared to a middle class citizen, low income people live on the lower rung of society and are denied many of the benefits of affluency. America does have other programs for them, however, including job training agencies, scholarships for school, and many other programs to help the poor get out of poverty. But some people's circumstances are such that they never quite reach that plateau where they can get off of public assistance.

For every city that has its American poor, it has its low income housing including the projects where families grow together in relative poverty. The problems resulting from this kind of environment include the vices that arise to make money. Families often become dysfunctional, and juvenile delinquency finds its way into the youngster's life. But a church that is ministering to these people is a church that is right with God, because what they desperately need is salvation through Jesus Christ and discipling in a good, local Bible-believing church.

Once such project in Troy NY is Taylor's Apartments. Taylors are 12-story housing buildings in a set of 4 in downtown Troy and can be seen clearly as part of the skyline as you look over the river. At one time there was a thriving bus ministry there and the children came to Sunday School to learn about God and learn to fear God, but now 2 of the four projects are just dilapidated buildings as you can see by the picture. Legend has it that the buildings became infested with insects

and possibly even rats, and the city could not afford to maintain them. But where did all these families go? When the bus ministry was fluent there, of which I was a part, the little children came to church and sang songs to Jesus. They were authentically growing in the Lord. Now there is no one to bring to church and the children have moved on.

It would be my hope that the church left an impression on the children that it loved them. I also hope the church was able to disciple them and start good Christian habits in them that they can practice for the rest of their lives. Sometimes you only get one chance to affect a child with the Lord via a church.



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# The Throne of Israel

## Eagerly Awaiting Jesus' Return

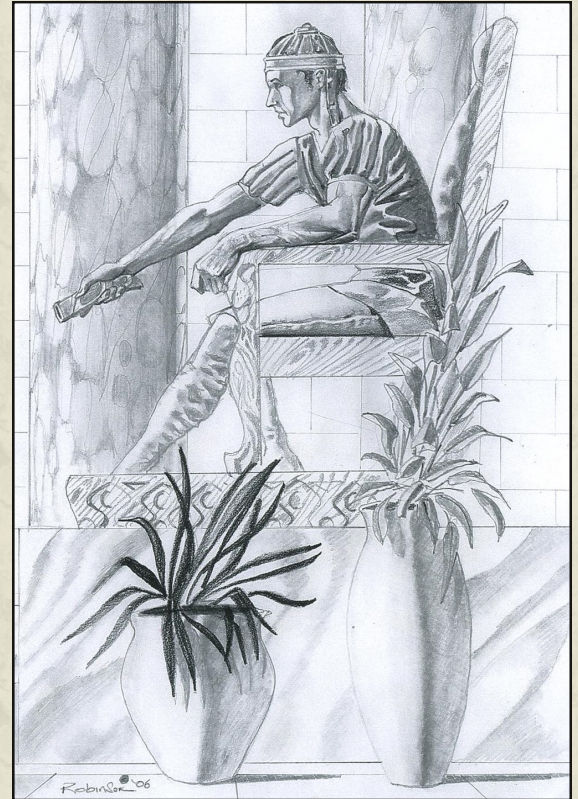
The Bible makes many references to the Throne of Israel, as in 1 Kings 2:4: *That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.*

The Throne of Israel was established by David just after Saul was the first King over Israel. Saul forfeited the promises of God mentioned in the scripture here, because of his rebellion against God which resulted from the pride of his office. God promised David that as long as his seed (sons and sons' sons) obeyed God they would never forfeit the throne. But as time goes on in the Bible you will find that some kings were good and some bad, yet God maintained the Throne.

When Israel was besieged by Babylon in [2 Kings 25](#), Jerusalem was destroyed. Most of it, including the king's throne, was demised. There was no king in Israel during the captivity of the Jews in Babylon. The re-establishment of the king's throne after the people's return to Israel remains unclear.

Today, the throne of Israel is a presence spiritually, and whether or not there is actually a physical Throne where Jesus can sit I do not know. But the office still exists and ultimately Jesus will sit on his Throne to rule the world during the millennium (his thousand year reign after the tribulation) and afterward forever. But the anti-Christ will reign on the Throne for 7 years prior to Jesus coming here. The antichrist will lead the world through the 7-year tribulation.

God will preserve the Throne after his promise to David, and it will remain for Jesus to come here and reign. When Christ comes, he will relieve the world of all of its suffering and pain, and there will be only joy and praising God on the earth. It is difficult for us to imagine a world like that because we are used to a corrupt world, but in Jesus reign there will be no corruption on the earth.



*David on the Throne of Israel*, pencil by Jim Robinson. Once God established the throne with David, he promised to preserve it until the coming of Jesus Christ.

# A Soul Winner In Troy, NY

## One Man's Dedication to the Gospel

Pedestrians waiting at the bus stops in downtown Troy have a familiar face coming around with gospel tracts and the Plan of Salvation. Bill, a church member at a Baptist church in Troy for over 9 years, frequently visits the major bus city transit stops in Troy with a presentation of the gospel.

Bill got his start soul winning when a friend from church encouraged him to go about 7 years ago. It started a fire in Bill that has never been put out. Bill has been saved for 34 years, and he enjoys reading the Bible and the events at church. He sees an average of about 2 people every week recite the sinner's prayer. His common question to introduce the gospel is, "Would you like the gospel way to Heaven?" Bill's favorite verse is John 3:16.

Bill is one of a group of people that go soul winning from the church, but he goes beyond the regular church meeting times for witnessing. The church is responsible for a great amount of soul winning and door-to-door visitation in Troy and surrounding areas.



Bill, shown here on the left handing a tract to a friend, has been faithfully soul winning in Troy for over 7 years.



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# The Deity of Jesus Christ God in the Form of Man

People who deny Jesus Christ ever existed, or who say that He was just some prophet (like Islam does) or who deny that He is the Son of God also deny that *He is God*. There are many passages of scripture where God reveals Jesus' deity, that He is One of the *Holy Trinity of God*—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. [The Gospel of John Chapter 1](#) gives a complete description of Jesus being God as it says: **1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men...14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Jesus was the part of the Trinity that created the world as Paul said in Hebrews 1:2 *...Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.* When Christ appeared to doubting Thomas after His resurrection and Thomas saw His pierced hands and side, Thomas said, *"My Lord and my God"* ([John 20:24-28](#)).

Jesus himself made reference to his own deity in [John 17](#) and when he asked the Pharisees: *"How say they that Christ is David's son? 42 And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool,"* reciting Psalm 110:1. In The New Testament we find many



*Jesus By The Olive Tree*, by Jim Robinson. No matter how much mankind mocks Jesus, he can not change His deity. [Order print.](#)

references to Jesus being **Lord**, especially when he is referred to reigning on the throne of Israel: *And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:11)*. And in many times in the book of Revelation is Jesus' deity is mentioned such as in Revelation 1:11 when Jesus said to John: *I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.*

# Cornelius, the Roman Centurion A Gentile Who Feared the God of the Jews

In [Acts 10](#), there was a Roman soldier who was a centurion called Cornelius. This Roman had learned to respect the God of the Jews, and he knew something about the rise of the church after Christ had been crucified. It was said of Cornelius that he feared God, prayed to God and gave alms to the people.

Cornelius had a vision and saw an angel who recognized his fear of God and told him to seek Simon in Joppa. God would tell Cornelius what he was to do from the mouth of Simon whose surname was Peter.

The Apostle Peter at that time had a vision also. He saw a great sheet come down from heaven knit at the four corners and all types of beasts coming down the sheet. Then a voice said, *"Rise, Peter; kill, and eat."* But Peter refused being that he could not eat unclean or common animals because he was a Jew. But the voice said, *"What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."* Peter would have not spoken to Cornelius because he was common Gen-

tile, but because of the dream he did otherwise. And when a man came to Peter saying that Cornelius' servants were without, Peter met with Cornelius in Caesarea along with Cornelius' kinsmen and near friends.

Peter then spoke in many words how God loved the Gentiles also and wanted them to be saved, and through the mouth of Peter Cornelius and his friends were saved. They also received the power of the Holy Ghost which was given to the Gentiles (the common man). The men and women were baptized thereafter.

A government caught up in pagan secular humanism can be saved and change its mind. If Cornelius can be born-again, any government official can be saved. It all depends on whether or not the official can humble himself to the gospel. Very often they will refuse the humility of the gospel for the power of their political offices, but there is never a reason why a man can not be saved.



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**IF YOU DIED TODAY ARE YOU 100% SURE OF HEAVEN?**

Of all the seeds that can be sown in the ground around the world, the mustard seed is the smallest. Yet it grows into the biggest of herbs (Mark 4:31-32). Likewise, salvation from hell is so simple that even a child can be saved, yet it is the most important thing you will ever do. *If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed...nothing shall be impossible unto you (Matthew 17:20). Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).* Salvation from hell requires only a little faith in the Word of God to completely change your life. Here is the little faith:


The Word of God says, *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).* And there is a payment for our sin. First you die physically: *For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a)* Then your soul dies a second death for all of eternity: *and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into a lake of fire Revelation 20:15).* But with just a little faith in the seed, the Word of God, there is a way out.

The Bible says, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not that of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).* Jesus death on the cross was a payment for our sin, and the blood that he shed is enough to save us from hell simply by asking him for salvation. *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13).* Neither good works nor any other ritual can save you. Only the blood of Jesus can save you. Simply pray, believing in your heart, a prayer like this:

*Lord, I know that I am a sinner deserving death and hell. I want to go to heaven. Please come into my heart, forgive my sin and take me to heaven when I die. I am trusting only you for my salvation. Thank you for saving me from hell. Amen.*

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