

TIMES  
OF **RESTORATION**

MAY/JUNE 2003



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

TIMES OF RESTORATION proclaims the glad news that the "restoration of all things" promised in the books of Matthew and Acts is under way. We are now living in the climactic times "whereof God spake by the mouth of His holy prophets that have been from of old" (Acts 3:21). The Christianity of the Early Church with its intense reality with God, its fervent love for Christ, its expectancy of His return, and its absolute submission to the Holy Spirit has been restored. The return of Jesus Christ is imminent, and it is our privilege to prepare the way of the Lord by practicing now the way of life that will prevail during the Millennium.

This publication aims to define and encourage that way of life, as understood by the Christian movement known as The Kingdom. (A Statement of Faith is available upon request.) It is a humble and holy way, based on practice of the whole Bible and an acute responsiveness to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer is that the paper will strengthen, challenge and edify all earnest Christians.

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TIMES OF **RESTORATION**

MAY/JUNE 2003 VOL. 20 NO 3



COVER  
 "We are His people and the sheep of His pasture."  
 Psalm 100:3

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# THE GOSPEL

In this issue, we look at two more jewels of the “Glad Tidings.” First (Part 4 of our series) is the fact that the Gospel of Jesus is free. No one can boast about it, no one can deserve it, and everyone has equal access by faith. It is truly a universal gift from the God who loves His wayward people—offered freely and undeservedly to every man. Part 5 explores the unique position in time and in eternity held by Jesus, our Savior, the “only begotten Son of God.” In Him dwells the fullness of God: He *is* God, and yet He offered Himself willingly for us. The only condition is ours: His love is free, but it is of no use to us unless we choose to accept it and yield to His claim of Lordship. Praise God for this indescribable contract! Let’s drink this “cup of salvation” to the full.

—Editor

## Part 4

# He Doesn’t Owe It, We Can’t Earn It, and It’s Free!

*by Brandon Aldrich, Dublin, New Hampshire*

**O**KAY, you don’t need to raise your hands, but how many of you husbands or wives have made the following declaration to your spouse after he annoyed you: “I love you”—and while it may or may not have been expressed verbally, conditions as to the annoying activities of the past, present, or future were not being attached? It is an important statement to make, because it recalls to our feeble minds the character of unconditional love. It is also an ever-so-important exhibition of grace. The quality of grace extends acceptance, love, and mercy when there is no natural obligation to do so. The character of grace is most tenderly felt when two conditions are present: first, there is no obligation on the giver, and second,

the recipient does not deserve it. Nevertheless, the carnal mind works against the character of grace, and unless frequently reminded, we will lose our grasp of the full scope of the height, breadth, and depth of Divine grace.

The “graciousness of God” is renamed by the carnal mind as “the soul’s hard-earned wages.” Especially characteristic in Western culture is the idea that everything must be earned ... somehow. Indeed, the wise economist will tell you, “There’s no such thing as a free lunch.” The whole of our culture cries out that if one desires something, he must “get moving and go get it.” Our country, after all, was built on the backs of “rugged individualists.” If one desires success, he must earn it by

climbing up the corporate ladder. If one desires fame, he must earn it by doing something notable. If one desires a retirement of ease, he must earn it by a career of hard work. If one desires happiness, he must earn it by following the latest formula. If one desires security, he must earn it by eliminating the potential for disaster. And so it naturally follows that if one desires the favor of Providence, he must earn it by doing good deeds, by attending church frequently, and by not cheating on his tax return.

This stronghold of the carnal mind must be struck down. The graciousness of God is not earned. The graciousness of God is not even deserved. The graciousness of God is a gift, freely given, out of the “forbearance of God.”

Recently, my elder son (about 18 months) unwittingly illustrated the mind's struggle to accept grace. He was seated next to our apple-juice table (I don't like coffee) eating an apple. At some point he dropped the apple and it rolled away from him, across the room. He looked at the apple longingly and then he looked at me. I could see his mind working feverishly. He desperately wanted to go get the apple, which would have been an easy task, but he also remembered previously inculcated instruction that he is *not* to get up from the table while he is eating. And so he sat there in a quandary, unsure what to do.

Recognizing his dilemma, I decided to extend grace to him. I was certainly under no obligation to do so; after all, it was with great effort that I had trained him to remain seated while eating. I told him, however, that it would be okay for him to get up and go get the apple. I told him that I wouldn't mind, and that it would be all right with me. He proceeded to get up, but then with a start, he jumped back into his seat, apparently remembering the painful consequences of getting up from the table prematurely. I reminded him again that it would be okay to get up and go get the apple; he struggled mentally to reconcile this seemingly contradictory permission with previous training efforts. Finally, he devised a solution that was humorously delightful to me, as his father. He decided that he would scoot over to the apple, and that he would also carry his seat (which was nothing more than a plastic box of art supplies), upon which he would try to remain seated, and thence, I suppose, retrieve the fallen apple. It was not too long before he realized that such a Herculean task would require far more strength, or patience, than he

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possessed. Finally, I had to physically remove him from his seat; then, with great alacrity, he retrieved the apple and returned.

It is truly a sad commentary though, that many lives, with respect to things eternal, are so similar to the above illustration. Many see the apple of eternal life and long for it. The Father, willing that they have the apple, invites them to "come get it." But the carnal mind, convinced that a gift of such grand proportions could not possibly be free, attempts to "earn" it by engaging in impossibly futile efforts not unlike those exhibited by the boy in our illustration.

And now let's consider the nature of things eternal and why grace—the "forbearance of God"—is needed. Like the annoying spouse who, at the beginning of our discussion, needed to be reminded of the quality of unconditional love, it is of utmost importance to be frequently reminded of the character of Divine grace. The "free gift" or "apple" is a share in the eternal inheritance, detailed aspects of which will not be discussed here. Shares in the

eternal inheritance were given from God, by covenant oath, to Abraham, in the "Covenants of Promise." God has sworn, by His Name's sake, to fulfill His oath to Abraham, and by extension, to all Abraham's descendants and, indeed, to "all tongues and nations." However, "All have sinned and fallen short," so no one *automatically* receives a share in the eternal inheritance.

Enter here the wonderful, saving power of the Gospel. Once Jesus Christ became eligible to receive the eternal inheritance (by not sinning and falling short), He also gained the authority to share that inheritance with whomever He wishes. Herein lies the doctrine of grace. Grace, therefore, is an act of passing over and forgiving our sins by "the forbearance of God" and the granting of joint-heirship in the eternal inheritance.

One is redeemed (and receives a share in the eternal inheritance) by simply accepting the grace of God (His forgiveness of sin) and declaring his faith and conviction in Messiah Jesus' position and authority to be the channel of that grace of God. Indeed, it behooves us all to accept the grace of God, remembering that His grace represents a free gift to all willing to accept it. Paul states it best in Ephesians 2:8—"For by grace you are saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." This is the merciful quality of Divine grace, that a just God was under no obligation to forgive sinful behavior; and thus this is the character of grace most tenderly felt by those who realize that we, as recipients, did nothing to deserve such graciousness. "Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now *am found*, was blind but now I see."✠

*Father of two small boys, Bran-*

## Part 5

# “Fixed on this Blissful Center Rest”

by Miriam Homer, Drumore, Pennsylvania

*don is a student at Fairwood Bible Institute and cares for day-to-day financial concerns at Fairwood.*

**W**HO is Jesus? This question is often answered with platitudes about a good moral teacher or with open and bitter hostility. The divinity and exclusivity of Christ is a message of offense in today’s world. Who is Jesus? The Bible gives us answers: Son of Man, Son of God, Savior, Word of God, the Way, the Truth, the Life, and many others. I’m most concerned here with His position as the Son of God. My purpose is not to attempt a rigorous proof of Christ’s divinity, but to look at His own words and character with fresh attention.

Many Christians have heard the words and claims of Christ since childhood. We have become so accustomed to them that we fail to appreciate their implications and their power. So let me offer an exercise you may find helpful in clearing away the “fog of familiarity.” Chose any religious or political leader you admire and imagine the words of Christ coming from

his mouth. The effect is startling, to say the least. Here are some examples. Try putting these words (all from the book of Matthew) into the mouth of someone other than Christ.

I came not to destroy but to fulfill [the law and the prophets]. (5:17)

Son, be of good cheer; thy sins are forgiven. (9:2)

He that loses his life for my sake shall find it. (10:39)

All things have been delivered unto me of my Father; and no one knoweth the Son, save the Father; neither doth any know the Father, save the Son and he to whomsoever the Son willeth to reveal him. (25:27)

All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. (28:18)

You shall find rest for your souls. (11:28)

This is just a small sampling; but read through the gospels with any person other than Christ in mind, and you will recapture a little of the impact He had on His first-time hearers. They cried out, “Never man so spoke,” and were

forced to make one of three decisions: Jesus was either demon-possessed, insane, or the Son of God. Some of his contemporaries accused Him of the first two possibilities, but they were always those whose minds were already closed to Him for one reason or another. To those who heard Him then or hear Him now with an open mind, the message is inescapable—this man was like no other that ever walked the earth.

His teaching, His actions, His miracles, and His whole life testified to His uniqueness. He also told us who He was in so many words. One example is His conversation with the man born blind in John 9:35–38. Jesus asked him if he believed on the Son of God, and he responded, “Who is he?” Jesus’ answer is clear. “Thou hast both seen him and he it is that speaketh with thee.”

Beyond His own words, His resurrection confirms and gives power to everything that came before it. If Christ was who He said He was, no power in earth or heaven could hold Him in the grave. The disciples’ despair at Christ’s death was more than grief over the

loss of a beloved friend and teacher. However imperfectly they understood, they believed that they had walked with the very Son of God. If death could overcome Jesus, then everything they had believed about Him was false, and the One who had captured their hearts was Himself deluded or a liar. Of course death did not overcome Jesus, and the fact of the resurrection, combined with the power of the Holy Spirit, gave the disciples a testimony to the truth that continues to move men today.

The Godhead of Christ is at once the stumbling block and most glorious fact of Christianity. No other religion has anyone who comes close to Christ. When an individual truly meets Jesus, there is no need to argue about His claim to be the only way to God. Only the perfect, sinless Son of God, the Creator of the universe, could embody all that we find in Jesus Christ.

I have been very much blessed by a book called *Christ of the Indian Road* written by E. Stanley Jones in 1925. In it the author recounts his experiences as a missionary to high caste India, where he discovered the centrality of Christ to the missionary effort. Although much of the book relates to the situation in India at that time, I believe its message is powerfully relevant today. Mr. Jones met strong prejudice against the West, religion that was deeply intertwined with the Indian culture, and men who wanted to argue about all kinds of religious questions. He was at first overwhelmed by the task before him, and frustrated because he could not hold the battle line on every front. Here are his conclusions in his own words:

Then I saw ... that I could

All  
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is true,  
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around.

take my stand at Christ, and before the non-Christian world refuse to know anything save Jesus Christ and him crucified. The sheer storm and stress of things had driven me to a place that I could hold. Then I saw that there is where I should have been all the time. I saw that the gospel lies in the person of Jesus, that He Himself is the Good News, that my one task was to live and present Him. But it was not only simplified—it was vitalized. I found that when I was at the place of Jesus I was every moment upon the vital. Here at this place all the questions in heaven and earth were being settled. He was the one question that settled all the others.

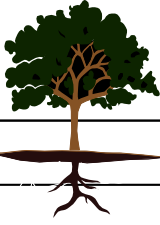
The author goes on to make clear that he is not discounting the

doctrines of Christianity. Rather, all doctrines have their truth because Christ is true, not the other way around. He is the Word made flesh and every belief of man is confirmed or denied by contact with Him.

As I write, our thoughts are swirling with the effects of war. The news media are full of arguments, reports, demonstrations, and international wrangling. It is impossible to predict what will be taking place by the time you read this. Although I'm not naturally fearful, the uncertainty and pressure are real. Again, the unmoved center of it all is found in Christ: His Word stands sure.

A couple of weeks ago, our church service consisted mostly of reading God's promises found in the second half of the book of Isaiah. Although the service was simple, the effect was powerful. The Word of God brought comfort, strength, and clarity of vision. The beginning of the Gospel of John contains some of the most wonderful words about Jesus: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." And later, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth" (John 1:1 and 14). The power and comfort we found in Isaiah that Sunday was not that of words alone, but the power of the living Word, Jesus Christ. He is the answer to every question and the fulfillment of every need, for us and for the confused and desperate world around us. †

*Secretary for Math-U-See, a manipulative mathematics teaching program, Miriam worships with her husband Rick at Harvest View Chapel.*



## Lest We Forget

# Observations

### One Hundred Years Ago

**As this issue reaches you, a new chapter in acquaintance with the Holy Land has opened up for the Kingdom of God. God's providences, have made it possible for several groups of young people and families to spend time in the Land this year and the next for prayer, study, and service.**

**For the first time in a hundred years, a sizable group from this fellowship is having the chance to live in Jerusalem. In April, 1903, Mr. Joseph Harriman was there as part of a small group who had just moved into new quarters. In their house on the western hill of the new city, he brought a journal entry to a close with these observations about the glories of restored Sabbath keeping and the blessings of a daily sacrifice for sin.**

**I** think that never since God sent us to Jerusalem as a “sort of first-fruits” of Israel, has the privilege of being a part of this party seemed so precious as today. He has permitted us to commence what is to grow until “all flesh” shall come up from Sabbath to Sabbath to worship Jehovah in Jerusalem. He has been very near us today, in love—He has been all the week. Out in our yard the seven fig trees have just begun to put forth their leaves and are fast becoming green, for warm weather began the day we moved [into this building]. Mr. Gleason says that may be only a coincidence, but God said something to him about it in regard to today.

Know ye in the West, ye sons of Israel, with your windows open toward the City of your fathers—ye little band of redeemed ones, bought with precious blood, who are finding your hearts kindling in love for the Fatherland and prayer for Jerusalem—Summer is nigh! Look up! Lift up your heads! Know ye that He is at the doors, for whose coming we are preparing!

Tuesday, April 7 [is] the tenth day of Nisan, the day Israel was to take a “lamb for a family.” But alas, [it] passed without sacrifice in this Passover season by the thousands of Jews in this city.

“Why do you not go to visit the temple area, since the Turkish restriction against Jews is removed?”

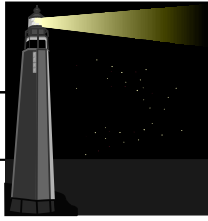
“We are not clean; we have no water of separation, no red heifer.”

And why do they not have the sacrifices, and cleanse themselves? What a sad answer: no man clean to commence with—no priest with authority, no sacrifice, no blood—an unholy nation! Think of what you, Christian, would do without the cleansing Blood daily to fit you to go to God, and then think of Judah, your Lord's nation, for centuries in that condition.

This was told us by an intelligent educated English Jew, who has been in Jerusalem 40 years. Oh, why can they not see that it is their rejection of Jesus that has caused them all this suffering? God gave us a very blessed day of prayer for Judah on Sunday last.

The first of the “latter rains” fell today, after a long period of dry weather. It has been but a few years since they have been coming back, after the centuries when their absence has been very hard on the growing grain. Yesterday we “asked of our Lord rain in the time of the latter rain.” †

*See the Beulah page elsewhere in this issue for more events surrounding this group of prayer missionaries in their new home in Jerusalem.*



## The Monadnock Beacon

# What Hath God Wrought!

Fairwood Bible Institute held its commencement exercises and completed its yearbook early this year for a highly unusual reason: The entire student body has felt a call from God to travel to Israel for study and prayer. As several of the following testimonies reveal, this has sharpened up the application of the Word of God to their lives. These contributions are edited from the 2002–2003 Yearbook, copies of which are available for five dollars by writing to the address inside the cover of this issue, or ordering via email at [Broaldrich@Juno.com](mailto:Broaldrich@Juno.com).

## The Graduates

### Rachel Adams

**T**RYING to become Christ-like while deprived of His help would be like attempting to remove a ring encircling a nine-foot pole without using a ladder. With Christ, I can become a sanctified, “fair, clear, and terrible” warrior. But only with Him.

This poem describes the main path I’ve walked this past year. Rarely was it easy, but the sure knowledge that I was not alone lifted many burdens.

Deeper with You, further for You,  
Heavenly Father, draw me closer to You.  
Keep me from wandering,  
Keep me from stumbling.  
Father, from my eyes, remove the covering.  
Always to You my answer is, “Yes!”  
As I draw closer, I give You my best.  
As soon as You call, I give my all,  
And leap to follow.  
You have called me Your daughter,  
I say to You, “Father!”  
And besides You, I desire nothing at all.

### Marie Parker

**S**OMETIMES all you have left to hang on to is God. This past summer I had struggles that were very real and frightening. I shared them with those closest to me, and my parents prayed with me, asking for God’s help. He did help in different ways, and every time this issue came up, I’d say to myself, “The blood of Jesus!” God is still answering prayer, and it’s not staring me in the face any more. I still go to God or His Word, when I’m faced with a battle.

It has given me the experience of fighting. It’s hard to fight, but you have to do it in order to get through. God doesn’t want us to take the attitude, “I was made this way, so it’s just the way I am.” We can always do better than that. God wants us to hang on to hope and to fight. Being weak doesn’t feel right, but if you lean on Jesus, you don’t have to be weak. “When I am weak, He is made strong.”

Once during this past year it was as if God touched my heart with His finger and left His fingerprint with the message, “You are beautiful.” Even while suffering, even while struggling, Jesus must have been beautiful to His Father. God was probably proud of His Son for not giving up. I don’t understand why good people suffer and struggle. It doesn’t always make sense. But I can remember that through it all Jesus is saying, “You are beautiful.”

## Second Year Students

### Brandon Aldrich

IT seems like only yesterday we were sitting down to hear Mr. Sandford's opening message for the year: Be led by the Spirit to know God. Then a few "minutes" later we heard his message for second semester: Delight to do His will. And now, suddenly, we're on the verge of marching to Zion, full of anticipation.

I *have* been led by the Spirit to know God. Aside from the usual refining and polishing that characterize community life, I have been specifically challenged on an attribute of godly character that may seem fundamental: Do all things without grumbling or disputing. Easier said than done! There are certain things about grumbling that seem almost cathartic, but it's a catharsis with an insatiable appetite, leading only to discontent and bitterness. The Spirit *has* led me to know the character of God that refuses to grumble or dispute.

And I do delight to do His will, especially when His will is to work with Him in His land. That is a treat and a privilege to be cherished. But I've found delight in His will in even mundane tasks such as shoveling snow. His will is best!

### Melissa Brown

THIS has been a solidifying year, confirming and reinforcing lessons I've learned before. One concept that Holy Spirit is continuing to make known to me is the Lord's interest in us as individuals. It's amazing to think about how my Savior loves me and how much He longs to be close to me. He sees something beautiful and precious in me, and that doesn't change no matter how often I mess up or forget to trust Him or acknowledge Him when I should. I've begun to discover the incredible power of that love this year. It's all I need. I can trust in it against every need, every fear, every doubt. It's the ultimate answer to any attack of the devil. Jehovah, the God of the universe, loves *me*. What have I to worry about with that safety net?

I'm also learning that God has a specific purpose for my life in the vastness of His eternal plan. I'm so thankful it doesn't matter how weak I feel. If I am willing to be used by Him in the very real work that is going on today, in my generation, He can transform

me into exactly what He wants me to be. If I will only give Him my all, He will have the chance to show how His power can be made perfect in my weakness. I'm finding more and more that the more dependent I am on Him the stronger I am through Him. I'm trusting the Spirit to continue to mold me and make me the perfect tool in His loving hand.

### Fritha Demme

THIS year began with the unshakable sense that something special was in the air. I looked forward with great anticipation to what the Lord had up His sleeve. Personally, my Beloved led me on a journey I had been longing to take. He drew me close to Himself and freed me in a key area of my life from the enemy's condemnation and the fear of man. Now my song to Him in a deeper way than ever before is, "Where You lead, I will follow, anywhere that You tell me to." Corporately, God has called us on a special mission to the Holy Land. I have delighted to watch my Beloved work out the details of the manifestation of His call. He has provided for us faithfully, and He will continue to do so. Now that I know what that something is, my anticipation has only increased. To sum up this year in one word: "*Anywhere!*"

### Wesley Jones

EVEN with a shorter year, it has been a rich and God-blessed time. Not only have we had the (probably) most anticipated classes of the Bible School, like Kingdom History and the Life of David, we have also had some really deep and enriching sessions in classes like Personal Evangelism and the Letters of Paul. We have also had wonderful times of drawing closer to God and to each other as a class.

I came to the year trusting God to provide all my needs, never imagining how mightily He would do it. Through many different ways, provision both of money and needed materials has come my way. He has even enabled me to go to Israel. Never in my wildest dreams had I thought I'd ever go to the land where Jesus lived. What an amazing God we have! It has been a wonderful year, with the anticipation of more to come.

### Andrew Murray

THIS has been a year of solid growth. I've

found God to be faithful even when going through periods of spiritual dryness. Looking back, it is tremendously encouraging to see that the Potter was still quietly at work in me then, more than ever.

The Kingdom History class was the highlight of the year for me. It was tremendously inspiring and challenging to me. It was moving to study about people who remained true to God in the midst of terrible hardship. I was personally challenged not to settle for less but to live a life that could be truly said to be bridal. I also have become more aware of what an honor it is to be a part of the restoration of all things, and it is the set of my soul to do my part in upholding and facilitating it. More inspiring though, has been the realization that God wants to use us today to help accomplish His plan. I'm excited about the call to go to Israel and am thankful for the vision and renewed sense of purpose it has given me.

I love God for remaining true to me even when I falter, and I know He will be faithful in completing the work He has begun in my life.

## First Year Students

### Shay

**M**Y first year here at Bible School has been very enriching. Coming from a cram-packed public high school with a student body of around 2,000 to this school with a student body of only nine has been a most different and wonderful experience. Living in such a quiet environment, I have learned to be still so I can know God and listen to Him.

The Spirit has really opened my heart to the things I need to do that would please the Lord. He has shown me not to be proud, but to be a humble servant. He has helped me recognize that serving others is to serve Jesus Christ. He has planted this seed of servanthood (along with many others) in my heart. Bible School has given these seeds special nourishment so they are sprouting and growing closer to God every day. As time goes on, that little seed will blossom into something good in God's eyes, and then I will have grown into His good and faithful servant.

### Jefferson Turner

**T**HIS year I have grown closer to the Lord, and I hope to grow consistently closer all the years of my

life. This year the biggest area has been simple faith in God. I say simple, because I have found that that is what it is. Faith, confidence, trust, and belief are all related. We find promises in God's Word, then we believe those promises. Many people say they trust God, but they do not have faith in their everyday decisions. Here at Fairwood I've seen faith exercised in every decision and integrated into every hour of life. We start each day with prayer and continue with that attitude through the rest of the day. We set aside at least an hour each day for prayer and will take up prayer battles for world events and financial difficulties as well as illnesses of all kinds. Whenever there's a struggle or burden, there is an opportunity to trust God.

This has all boosted my faith. It is a blessing to be able to trust God for everything. I say with Paul, "Sirs, be of good cheer, for I believe God!" No harm can come to me that He does not ordain. And if God allows it, then I know it will work for my good. In the upcoming trip to Israel this is a comfort to me. There is serious unrest in the country, but I have been called by God to go. So I will go! I have faith that He will protect me, provide the money, and supply anything else I may need. God cannot be surprised, and He is looking after me. †



Picture taken in Jerusalem

*Left to right:* Rachel Adams, Shay, Wesley Jones, Fritha Demme, Andrew Murray, Melissa Brown, Brandon Aldrich, Marie Parker, Jeff Turner.



# Gospel & Growth

## A Few Resources for Reaching & Teaching Children

—by KMS

**E**IGHT a.m. Time to load up the red Marquis and head for the south side of Indianapolis. “Did you remember the lunches, Daniel?” Rachele reviews our material list aloud: “Bible lesson books, check. Song visuals, check. Memory verse tokens, check. Flag, check. Memory verse game, check. Review game, check.” We ask God for His blessing and protection. As I weave through traffic, Karla plays with her Gospel Fuzzies glove and sings, “We’re the Gospel Fuzzies” to passing motorists as I chuckle. It’s another day of teaching summer 5-Day Clubs.

I mostly work with teenagers, but last year I spent several months working with the Children’s Ministry Department (at the Indianapolis Training Center). Answering phones and shuffling papers was in my comfort zone, but come summer they decided to put me on the front lines. Teaching as many as 80 children in four clubs over two weeks was pretty intense! It reawakened me to the needs of chil-

dren, first to hear the Gospel and then to grow in faith. It’s a time when they’re very open to truth and develop beliefs that will likely form life foundations. Mr. Dick Parker’s King’s Kids clubs, Bible School students’ King’s Kids clubs, and “Aunt” Toria Abram’s girls’ clubs were important parts of my childhood that I still remember!

So I’m excited to share a few resources I’ve come across for working with children. I hope you’ll find them helpful in your current Sunday School programs, Vacation Bible Schools, King’s Kids clubs, or other ministries. Or let them inspire you to start children’s outreach!

### **The Gospel at Your Fingertips**

CEFPRESS, Warrenton, MO  
63383-0348, 800-748-7710,  
[www.cefonline.com](http://www.cefonline.com)

**O**BJECT lesson folks, take heart! Here’s a booklet of 25 salvation object lesson ideas.

Each lesson is printed on book-mark-sized heavy paper for easy accessibility and repeated use. Ideal for use in Vacation Bible Schools or activities at which unsaved children will be present.

### **The Wonder Book: Answers to Tough Questions**

CEFPRESS, Warrenton, MO 63383-0348, 800-748-7710,  
[www.cefonline.com](http://www.cefonline.com)

**A** Bible story-style booklet that overviews answers to common questions such as “Have you ever wondered who the one true God really is?” and “Have you ever wondered how the world began?” Pictures and puzzles make it an enjoyable interactive tool to use with searching youngsters. The second half of the booklet gives instruction on topics such as, “You Can Know How to Have Victory Over the Enemy” and “You Can Know God Hears and Answers Prayer.” It was a good book to

hand to a squirming child during a club meeting. It's also great to use with unsaved children who want you to read to them.

### Evangecube

Evangecube International, 317 Main St., Suite 207, Franklin, TN 37064, 888-354-9411, [www.evangecube.org](http://www.evangecube.org)

ONE of the simplest and most entertaining witnessing tools, and not just for use with children, the Evangecube presents the gospel in picture form, starting with man's separation from God. Flip pieces of the cube to reveal the rest of the story—Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, the way He made so man could have fellowship with God, and the steps new believers take to grow. Each Evangecube comes with an accompanying Gospel explanation for your reference. It's a great tool for beginning evangelists because the pictures are excellent prompts, so the story (almost) tells itself. Also, kids love the pictures and enjoy flipping the cubes themselves. Pull an Evangecube out in the middle of a group of children, and it's a matter of seconds before one asks, "What's that?" Evangecubes come in two sizes, and the smaller size includes a carrying case with a key ring. Carry one on your backpack, and even adults may ask about it.

### Children's Ministry Resource Bible (New King James Version)

Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN

THE Sunday School teacher's dream come true, I imagine (having never been a Sun-

day School teacher myself). Designed for Child Evangelism Fellowship teachers who regularly teach evangelistic and discipleship lessons to children, this Bible provides outlines for dozens of Bible stories for teaching to children. It's also full of helps for teachers of children—explanations of how to teach the armor of God, the fruit of the Spirit, the books of the Bible (including music for the Old and New Testament songs), instruction on problems children face, teaching preschoolers, and leading a child to Christ (including colored pages corresponding to the Wordless Book). This is a Bible that makes me want to be a Sunday School teacher!

### Psalm 119 in Song

Susie H. Kimbrough, Shepard Music Co., PO Box 296, Meadville, MS 39653, info@shepardmusic.com

I FORGET Bible verses pretty quickly after I've memorized them, but I rarely forget a song, whether it be the Zacchaeus song from Sunday School, the Titanic song from elementary school, or Psalm 103 from Fairwood choir. So I welcome a collection of songs based on the alphabet letters of Psalm 119! The melodies are simple, designed for children, which make them ideal for home or Sunday School class. Piano accompaniments are easy and pretty, and guitar chords are also included. I find myself humming the tunes throughout the day, and what better words to think on than God's! †

*KMS currently oversees the young ladies in the EQUIP program at the Indianapolis Training Center of the Advanced Training Institute. EQUIP trains young Christian adults to disciple troubled youth.*

The fear  
of Jehovah  
is the  
beginning of  
knowledge;  
but the  
foolish  
despise  
wisdom and  
instruction.  
My son  
hear the  
instruction  
of thy  
father,  
and forsake  
not the law  
of thy  
mother;  
for they  
shall be  
a chaplet  
of grace  
unto thy  
head,  
and chains  
about thy  
neck.

Proverbs 1:7-9



# What God Hath Joined Together

by David H. Murray

**Y**EARS ago I heard this chilling story of a nationally prominent pastor. It seems that he and a friend were conversing backstage just before one of them was to take the podium and address a waiting audience. In a moment of simple brotherly concern the friend asked the pastor the following question: "If the devil were ever to trip you up where do you suppose he might attack you?" The pastor replied, "I don't know, but one place he would never get me is in my relationship with my wife. Our marriage is solid." In spite of his confidence, the sad truth is that within a year he had fallen into another woman's arms and become unfaithful to his wife. The good news is that the affair was stopped by timely intervention, and a painful process of recovery commenced. Now years later this marriage is healed and this man has regained the trust of his wife and the Christian community. It can be done, but not without tears, hard work, agony of soul, and lifelong scars.

This month we are presenting two resources that we trust you will never have to use. Still, they can be of great help in counseling or working with others. The first is a book called *Torn Asunder* by Dave Carder, dealing with recovery from extramarital affairs. On the back cover the book is introduced like this:

"Extramarital affairs run rampant within society and, unfortunately, within the church. No marriage is immune. Despite moral convictions and high ideals,

many people find themselves giving in to the temptation of an extramarital affair despite the devastating effects on the marriage and family.

"If your marriage or the marriage of someone you love has been assaulted by infidelity, take heart. There is hope for recovery from the devastation of extramarital affairs. In this revised edition of *Torn Asunder*,

Dave Carder provides an overall recovery process from sexual and non-sexual affairs. He equips you with self evaluations and exercises that make suggestions jump off the page and change your life. Through *Torn Asunder*, Dave Carder will encourage you to take the first steps toward restoring your family. And he will help you heal the wounds in your own life."

Here is what Chuck Swindoll says about the book: "Fragile feelings. Fragmented relationships. Fractured marriages. Such knotty

struggles provide the spawning ground for moral and marital infidelity. *Torn Asunder* walks the reader into these seldom-mentioned scenes, offering insightful explanations as to why affairs occur, when recovery is possible, and what steps need to be taken to rebuild trust and intimacy. The process is neither pleasant nor easy, but it is realistic and with God's help it can work. I especially appreciate the author's firm confidence that shattered marriages can be healed."

Another endorsement comes from therapist Janet Congo. She says, "As a therapist, I'm constantly confronted with the ravages and tragedies of affairs. In



*Torn Asunder*, Dave Carder has tackled this crucially relevant topic head-on. Not only does he help the reader understand the underlying dynamics that make one vulnerable to an affair, but he also assists couples in the process of rebuilding their relationship after an affair has occurred. This book is a must for any married couple, not only to assist them in dealing with friends who have been involved in affairs but also as a preventative tool for affair-proofing their own marriage.”

A second helpful resource in this area is the book *Broken Promises* by Henry Virkler. During the course of his book Mr. Virkler compiles a list of do's and don'ts for a victim of an affair, some of which appear below:

#### What not to do:

1. Don't let the present crisis destroy your perspective of the total marriage with its past positives and future potentials.
2. Don't let the present crisis destroy your perspective of your total life: that is, don't seriously contemplate suicide.
3. Don't rail at or denounce your partner. Anger is normal, but if aimed at him too long it will drive him further from you.
4. Don't tell people more than absolutely necessary.
5. Don't collapse into helpless dependency, i. e., "I can't survive without you."
6. Don't ask others to straighten out the unfaithful partner.
7. Don't take responsibility for his unfaithfulness. You may have contributed to it, but he is responsible for his actions not you.
8. Don't panic over a separation, even if your spouse moves in with his lover. These affairs often self destruct after the reality of living with another person sets in.
9. Don't try to retaliate with a revenge affair or in other ways.
10. Don't expect to accomplish miracles by cosmetics or clothes or new diets.
11. Don't try to manipulate your mate by demanding your rights. Few people are motivated by having others demand their rights.
12. Don't issue an ultimatum that forces your partner or yourself to take hasty action that could make it impossible or much more difficult to repair the marriage.
13. Don't accept an adulterous situation.
14. Don't repeatedly ask for details of the affair, but do try to understand the reasons for it.
15. Don't try to control your partner's behavior.
16. Don't let attorneys make the situation worse. They often encourage vengeful litigation rather than

## Honor in Arguments

Contributed by "Anonymous"

WE all disagree about things eventually, but disagreements don't have to be a bad thing. When we choose to honor each other, even in arguments, differences of opinion can lead to an effective solution for all parties involved. Here are some quick tips (from the Book of Proverbs) on how to avoid anger in arguments.

Be as gentle as you can in your words, tongue, and actions. "*A soft answer turneth away wrath*" Proverbs 15:1.

Increase your understanding of the problem. Determine what is really wrong and focus on that issue. Don't get distracted with side comments. "*The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge*" Proverbs 15:14.

Admit mistakes. Take responsibility and say, "I was wrong." "*A word in due season, how good is it!*" Proverbs 15:23.

Touch the other person. Angry people tend to separate from other angry people. Holding hands or an arm around the shoulder can help calm the situation. "*Love covereth all transgressions*" Proverbs 10:12.

Seek forgiveness. "*The ear that hearkeneth to the reproof of life shall abide among the wise*" Proverbs 15:31.

Make restitution where necessary. "*Before honor goeth humility*" Proverbs 15:33.

Being honoring in our daily lives is necessary too. To increase your ability to honor your spouse, try a couple of these exercises:

- Make a list of things you admire about them.
- Tell them how valuable they are.
- Recognize they are made in the image of God.
- Treat them with the honor you'd show a guest in the home.
- Do things their way, even if it seems odd.
- Smile at them often!

reconciliation.

**What to do:**

1. Realize that this doesn't have to be the end of the marriage.
2. Take time before you take action.
3. Decide whether you are willing to work on the marriage. If you are then consider these points:
  - a. Be honest and direct with the information you have.
  - b. Commit yourself to learn, not leave.
  - c. Use your partner's choice of an affair partner to identify unmet needs in your marriage.
  - d. Ask for a commitment.
  - e. Seek out and agree to marriage counseling.
  - f. Don't be obsessed with the details of the affair.
  - g. Set a time limit on how long you will allow yourself to be left in limbo.
  - h. If your mate is not sure that he wants to leave the affair, ask if the other relationship can be suspended for a time during which you both will work on the marriage.
  - i. Insist that the spouse who wants to leave the family tell the children.
  - j. Begin to look at your own possible contribution to the affair.
  - k. Recognize that a period of separation may be needed for any of a number of reasons.
  - l. Be prepared for a previously honest spouse to become a habitual liar.
  - m. If your partner is no longer living at home and you have children, set up a regular visitation schedule.
  - n. Give the affair time to self destruct.

Other books that could be very helpful in a situation like this are as follows: *Love Must be Tough* by James Dobson, *Lonely All the Time* by Ralph Earle, *Silently Seduced* by Kenneth Adams, *Why Some Christians Commit Adultery* by John Sandford.

The Bible tells us that the heart is deceitful above all things and that it needs to be guarded above all that we treasure. Affairs start out as affairs of the heart. We can guard our hearts, and we can also reach out in compassion to those who have let their guard down and allowed the enemy to come in. Broken marriages can be mended. Trust can be restored. Intimacy can be regained. Love can be rekindled, and God can be glorified no matter how deep the abyss you have fallen into. There is help available and you can find it. No matter how low you feel, Jesus has already been there and tasted of your despair. He can lead you out of it,

*(continued from page 23)*

Now you may be saying as I did, I wish I had been there with him! But God has His time and place for you and me. It's our job just to be ready with the "Aha!" when He calls—and it may be on the way to something as mundane as taking a nap.

There is an enemy to our "sensing the battle" and being ready as prayer warriors. For want of a better word that enemy is "business as usual," or, "the grindstone." I remember going on a trip to Israel in 1992, led by Mr. John Abram. There were a few individuals who I really wanted to see come along, and I had encouraged them to consider it. But, as in the parable, each found a reason it wouldn't work. What really frustrated me was that they dismissed it out of hand, with apparently no thought of going to God with it and seeing what He wanted. I brought my frustration to "Mr. John." He said, "You know, Dave, Israel is an opportunity for God's people to get their nose off the grindstone. Life is mainly just slugging it out, but we have to get our nose off that grindstone occasionally and remember the Big Picture." He encouraged me to ask again. I did, and most of them came! One even thanked me profusely afterward that he had had the chance to take part in something truly important.

Dear readers, there is now before us another opportunity to get our noses off the grindstone. I have used stories from older saints, but their days on the front lines are over. These are the days for our generation to "sense the battle" and embrace The Cause--to learn our own lessons and tell our own stories. As the song says, "Not a man falls in the battle but a hero fills his place: Not a woman turns or falters from the angel's smiling face."

The Holy Spirit is leading us out to embrace many different facets of the promises concerning Israel. Despite difficulties, and testing the spirits as we go along, there is still the sense that God wants us to do this. Yes there is war, and yes there is terrorism. But there were bandits, yellow fever, malaria, typhoid, and danger on the oceans for our forebears. Heroes are needed. Some will go, others will support in prayer, and still others who may not be able to go will finance those who can. All are needed. All are asked to find their place. The call has gone out: let's not greet it with silence around the breakfast table. †

*Father of seven homeschooled children, Dave's hand is at the plow in whatever way God leads. Any comments may be sent to his new email address, seeISRAELnow@juno.com*



# The Rise of Babylon?

**H**ERE'S a quick quiz question: What great festival of old was restored in the last century and is celebrated annually at the end of September each year? No, not the Feast of Tabernacles. It's the Babylon International Festival, held annually since 1987 on September 22 through October 1 in the recently renovated ruins of the ancient city of Babylon in Iraq.

According to promotional literature published by the Iraqi Government, the annual festival was re-introduced by Saddam Hussein in commemoration of similar festivals held in ancient Babylon. The event's website promotes the goals of the festival as including the following: "To simultaneously declare in one single voice of true, honest art, [the participants'] commitment on confronting all kinds of evil, corruption, iniquity, and

wickedness in the world for the sake of human integrity, and people's rights to liberty, progress, and enlightenment."

At the time of this writing, U.S. forces are positioned in the Middle East for imminent action to forcibly disarm Hussein and to liberate Iraq from the grip of its tyrannical dictator. In contemplating this potential action, I recently re-read every passage in Scripture that makes specific reference to Babylon. There is some disagreement among scholars as to whether passages of Biblical prophecy related to Babylon should be

applied specifically to modern-day Iraq. Many consider such prophecies to have been fulfilled with the destruction of ancient Babylon centuries ago. But others consider references to Babylon to be typical of a sort of Babylonish spirit that prevails generally throughout the world to the end of days, and which will be ultimately defeated with the return of Christ.

Yet the deliberate attempt by Saddam Hussein to equate his own lineage and identity with that of ancient Babylon cannot be ignored, and it is worthy of note. In 1991, before Operation

Desert Storm, George Grant wrote a book titled *Blood of the Moon*, which touched on this subject, describing the linkage between modern-day Iraq and ancient Babylon. In the years since Grant's book was published, Hussein has made further attempts to identify himself with the "glory" of ancient Babylon. The slogan of the Babylon International Festival is: "From Nebuchadnezzar to Saddam Hussein, Babylon rises anew on the path of construction and glorious jihad (*sic*)."

Hussein has lavished millions of dollars on efforts to excavate and restore the ancient city of Babylon, long covered by the desert sands. He has constructed for himself an ornate "palace" overlooking the ancient site. The palace is reputed to have been constructed in the same style as the original palace of Nebuchadnezzar, and it has been suspected by weapons inspectors of

by J.H.L.

It will be  
worth our while  
to keep  
our eyes  
on developments  
in that  
region,  
alert and ready  
to turn our faith  
in whatever  
way God's  
providences  
may direct.

harboring weapons of mass destruction within its walls. The entrance to the ancient city, 64 miles southwest of Baghdad, is dominated by a huge portrait of Saddam Hussein.

The Iraqi department of antiquities maintains an active campaign to coerce Germany, France, and Britain to return relics of ancient Babylon that were seized by the European powers during archeological expeditions in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century. According to the London's *Guardian* newspaper, one of the most sought-after artifacts is the Ishtar Gate, dedicated to the ancient Babylonian goddess of the same name. Before World War I, German archeologists excavated this massive entrance gate to the ancient city, and it is now on display in Berlin's Pergamon Museum.

Various pundits and observers of world events interpret the current conflict with Iraq in a number of different ways. Some see the conflict as simply a dispute over the enforcement of U.N. resolutions concerning weapons of mass destruction. For others,

the issue is more a matter of U.S. national security in the war against terrorism. Still others make reference to the religious roots of the conflict (i.e., the lashing out of radical Islam against "the West"). Some make dubious references to oil or other economic interests.

In my own view, the current conflict has another potentially prophetic dimension. The Book of Revelation makes prominent reference to the fall of "Babylon." Could it be that a post-Hussein Iraq might emerge on the world scene as a stronger, even more "Babylonish" entity? Even if its post-war military is benign, the coun-

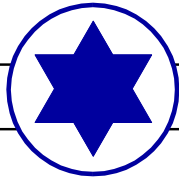
try would be able to tap into its vast oil wealth, which, with the dropping of international sanctions, it would be able to peddle freely around the world. Such an Iraq would have the potential to develop rapidly into one of the world's wealthiest nations. Its "arts festivals" might attract a more truly cosmopolitan attendance, and its economy could attract the interest of a great many international corporations.

Under such circumstances, the final prophecies of the Book of Revelation might present a more exact opportunity for literal interpretation:

"Woe, woe, the great city, wherein all that had their ships in the sea

were made rich by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye saints, and ye apostles, and ye prophets; for God hath judged your judgment on her. And a strong angel took up a stone as it were a great millstone and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with a mighty fall shall Babylon, the great city, be cast down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of *harpers and minstrels and flute-players and trumpeters shall be heard no more at all in thee*; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft, shall be found any more at all in thee; and the voice of a mill shall be heard no more at all in thee" (Revelation 18:19–22, italics mine).

It will be worth our while to keep our eyes on developments in that region, alert and ready to turn our faith in whatever way God's providences may direct. Whatever it is, *Babylon must fall.* †



# The House in Jerusalem

As noted elsewhere in these pages, a good-sized group of students and staff have set up housekeeping in a fine rented home on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem this spring. Just one hundred years ago to the actual month (April, 1903), another group of prayer warriors was doing the same, on another hilltop west of the City. Interestingly, some of that early household were the grandparents or great-grandparents of some of the present inhabitants. It was a dangerous time to be there then, just as it is in the present, with a cholera epidemic breaking out in Jaffa, Galilee, Lydda, and Gaza, but mercifully by-passing Jerusalem. More important, the faith and vision that moved them then are just the same today.

We thought readers might be interested in some details of the move in 1903. In later issues we hope to share the activities of the present. The following extracts are edited from the Journal of Joseph B. Harriman, whose words also appear in the Lest We Forget page.

The account begins as they learn of a new house being constructed west of the Old City.

“**B**ETTER go look at it,” said the Consul’s Dragoman, or interpreter. “Better see it,” said a business manager. “And have two strings to your fiddle, and the other man will come to better terms.”

The wealthy owner soon showed our men his house, agreed to make any changes we wanted, including building a turret, and in short awakened such an interest that we all went to see his house and liked it. Yes, he would finish the floors with tiles; he would enlarge that veranda; would paint that woodwork any color we desired; would build a donkey house, large enough for a horse; would shut up that side gate in the wall, making us perfectly private, and

wall off his little house next door. He would even build a turret, running the front room a story higher, with a battlemented top.

There came the first hitch: the builder said it would be impossible to make the turret larger than that one room.

“But we want the flat roof to walk on. That one is not large enough; it will not do.”

Suddenly a bright idea struck the man. “I’ll build that one turret, and take off all the rest of the slanting roof and make it a flat roof instead, with battlements around the whole house.” This was altogether more than we had dared to ask. After a few more objections being removed, that was settled.

Next, the price. Arab-like, he fully expected to come down from his first sum, and the reasonable amount was agreed upon. A few minutes later, he clapped his hands together, shouted “Khalas!” and the business was “finished.”

We consider this a striking summing up of all our prayers, a definite miracle. Our new home stands on the summit of the hill just across the head of the Hinnom Valley, fifteen minutes from the Jaffa Gate. It has a striking view from the south, standing up nearly the highest building in sight. About a half acre of land, surrounded with a massive stone wall, in one place eighteen feet high. The roof will perhaps show the

waters of the Dead Sea; at any rate the Dead Sea basin is in beautiful view. Olivet, the hills of Judah, all are striking; but the most important is the whole of Mt. Zion, with the city wall on its summit, David's Tower, and the fine great trees behind it that are said to belong to the time of Christ, the whole of this the only really pretty view of Jerusalem just opposite, now in the winter with its whole slope a beautiful green! Thank God for this mountain of prayer leveled.

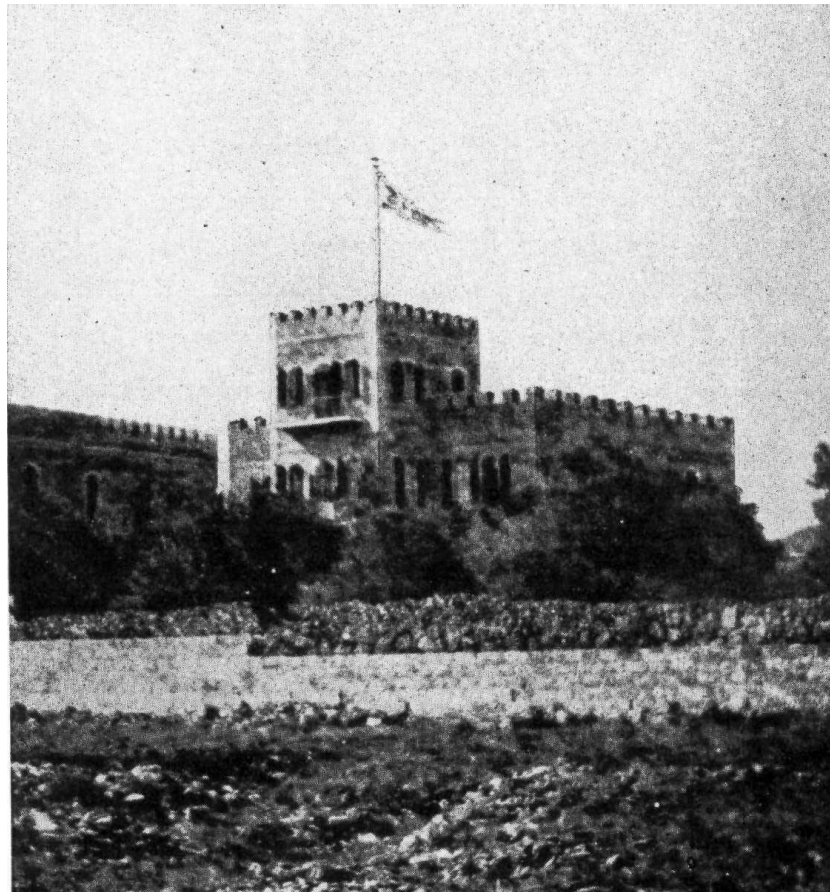
The last few months in the former house [on Ethiopia St.] have been the most wonderful spiritually we have spent here. The months of awful pressure of last summer, when it seemed as if the hosts of darkness had concentrated

to wipe out the little band of Israelites God had sent to Jerusalem, coupled with the effects of the heathendom about us and threatened to force us backward in our spiritual lives, as is the case of practically every missionary in such circumstances. God (I say it with deep appreciation for His mighty grace and power) has changed it all over into a series of new blessed experiences. The pressure has partially gone, and has completely been overcome, and especially the last few weeks the Holy Spirit has come to the front and enlarged our whole lives here.

But the story of our new home is one of the most wonderful stories we ever heard. God has compelled, without our even asking in many cases, the wealthy Arab to

make, and carry out, a contract which has made all his friends laugh at him and call him "fool," we are told. The first of the month, during a three-days of prayer, God gave us special faith for the house and the rent due when we entered, and when we had finished He told us that "there shall be a performance [of His will]." So when the money came over the wires only a few days later, we praised God for His faithfulness.

*These folks, augmented by others from time to time, continued their constant ministry of prayer and study in that house until December, 1909.* †





## Quit You Like Men

# Servanthood and Contentment

*by Johnny E. Babb, McDonough, Georgia*

“Let as many as are servants under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and the doctrine be not blasphemed.”  
1 Timothy 6:1

**D**EAR fellow “servants under the yoke,”

First, to be in company with such folks as Paul, Peter, James, the apostles, and the cloud of witnesses preceding me, I must truly identify myself as a servant of the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is an honor to be such a servant. After all, what don’t I owe him? What do I have that I haven’t been given? And because of the life and liberty that Jesus gave me when I was spiritually dead and in bondage to sin, the only honorable and reasonable position for me is that of His servant.

I am also gladly a servant in my responsibilities to my family (1 Timothy 5:8). In this light, I am a servant to my wife, bound (again

gladly!) to fulfill my responsibilities as her husband, and providing and insuring an atmosphere where she can fulfill hers as my wife. I am responsible, as the father of my children, to show them the way of the Lord—by teaching them, by example, by prayer, and by sacrifice.

I look at myself as a servant, also, to my employers (or clients). True, I’m getting paid, but my attitude toward them is to serve them, “as unto the Lord.”

Out of love, I am a servant within my spiritual family—at Open Door Chapel and to the Kingdom. But my service is not provincially confined: it is to the eternal, universal I AM. And I serve God by being available, content where or in what situation He

has placed me, ready to go or ready to stay. “Godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Timothy 6:6).

True servanthood, voluntarily offered out of a grateful heart and a yielded life, results in a contented life. Contentment is the godly expression of our attitude about rights and responsibilities, expectations and privileges, fairness and justice. Life itself is a gift from God our Creator; food and raiment from God our Sustainer; liberty from God our Redeemer. Contentment comes by considering what we have—all the gifts and blessings from God—rather than what we think we should have but don’t. It really is freedom to be contented. But it doesn’t come naturally. We are by nature self-centered. A

servant, on the other hand, is master-centered, and to the true servant, happiness and contentment is to serve and please his master.

Once when John the Baptist was answering soldiers' questions about right living, he told them, among other things, "be content with your wages." Was it just for the soldiers and their wages that that truth applies? The story applies, without doubt, to our (humanity's) basic attitude toward life, and warns us against discontentment.

In today's world, we are wise to take that warning, because discontentment comes through many channels:

By accumulating wealth as an end in itself, rather than practicing, "Give, and it shall be given."

By seeking to do something (as a vocation) or to be someone other than who God has called us to be.

By focusing on a rung-by-rung ascent up the ladder of success, rather than living by God's value system as a measure of success.

By not accepting the hardships and restrictions of life (which are sometimes God-ordained) with gladness and contentment.

By focusing on our "rights" rather than accepting and fulfilling our responsibilities.

Contentment is the fruit developed by yielding our life to Jesus' Lordship, surrendering the throne, and living in expectation of His goodness and faithfulness. †

*Contractor in busy McDonough, and father of two, Johnny is a pillar at Open Door Chapel.*

## What Is God Looking For?

An desire for modesty expressed by a Kingdom man

Sometimes in the Bible we can tell what God wants from noting what He does as much as by what He says. Genesis 3:21 reads, "And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins, and clothed them." Adam and Eve had already made an attempt to cover themselves when they saw that they were naked; God demonstrated that He agreed with the concept, only He improved on their efforts.

Then, near the other end of the Bible, we find that God still holds the same point of view: Revelation 16:15, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Nakedness is shameful. It is clearly the call of God for both men and women to dress in a way that modestly covers their bodies.

A further stage is found in Matthew 5:28, which says, "But I say unto you, that every one that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Why did God have to address this to men? I believe it is because He knew (obviously) how men were "wired." The world also knows how men are "wired," and they make probably millions of dollars a year from this weakness. The pornography industry, woman's clothing styles, movies—all testify that lust has a market value.

And men will be held accountable before God in how they deal with this temptation. We are responsible for the use of our eyes. But it is my prayer that my sisters in the faith will not add to this battle by wearing challenging attire, like tight or revealing clothing. There is enough to challenge us already in the world. Matthew Henry puts the responsibility for modesty on those dressing themselves, whether men or women, when he says, "Those who lead others into temptation to sin, by dress or in other ways, or leave them in it, or expose them to it, make themselves guilty of their sin, and will be accountable for it."

In no way do I ever want to belittle women. Seeing and knowing godly women has added to my conviction that there is a Creator. God has woven together all that makes up a godly woman into an incredible being. She is a blessing from Heaven and a gift to mankind who is beyond our deserving—and perhaps beyond even woman-kind's knowing. I urge you: use those gifts on the side of men in their battles. I would hope that when women dress, their primary goal would be to please the heart of their Creator and not to catch the eye of a man. We do not need our eye caught in a wrong way. The consequences, if not dealt with, are eternally serious for us.

This is not meant to be an unnecessary burden to the conscientious, nor should any woman in any way deny her womanhood. But I would hope it would be an encouragement for you to walk before God in wisdom.

Just ask yourself, What is God looking for?

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# Take Up the Cause!

by David A. Holscher, Hobart, New York

**O**NE morning at Fairwood in early 1963, the Bible School was half way through breakfast when Mr. Victor Abram, visiting at the time, brought up a financial issue to the students. He proposed that the Bible School alone take up the battle in prayer for \$4,000 to expand their facilities by building a new kitchen and extra bedrooms above it. They had never faced anything like this before, and they didn't know how to respond. Mr. Abram was greeted with silence, except for the sound of spoons tinkling the inside of cereal bowls as people continued to eat.

Then all of a sudden a hand banged down on the table, shaking the dishes and startling the entire group! The hand belonged to none other than a little old lady in her eighties, a former teacher and the soul of propriety—Miss Maude Craig. Her voice then rang out with a question that helped shake the cobwebs from people's religion:

“When the man of God gives us a suggestion, why can't we take it up and put the battle through?”

Stirred, the students rose to the challenge and did

**“Most people are living for causes that are neither lasting nor significant.”**

take up the battle, and you can see the results whenever you visit Fairwood today.

I hope to give you something to chew on here that won't be greeted with silence, but with a prayer of, “Lord, where do I fit in?”

By the time you read this I will be 44. I represent the tail end of a generation that was full of “causes.” Just look at anyone's yearbook from the late 60's and 70's, and you'll find they're full of them. Anti-war; Anti-Establishment; Nuke-free; Civil Rights; Feminism; Save the Seals, Save the Whales, Save the Earth --they dominated two decades of headlines. It was in

the air and people ate it up. I can remember riding in my school bus with 7–12th graders as they sang, “War, war what is it good for?” I wonder what in the world they sing on the buses today?

The trouble with causes, however, is that you have to pick the right one. Howard Hendricks, a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, said to a group of us 20 years ago, “Most people are living for causes that are neither lasting nor significant.” Many who associate with the causes I listed above may take exception to this, but if they are intellectually honest they have to agree. How about you? What cause do you embrace? Is it lasting? The last twenty years have been a materialistic heyday, and it colors our thinking. You may think you're giving your life for significant and meaningful endeavors, but if you boil it down you may find you're committed only to “self enrichment” and “things.”

Paul thought he was in the great cause of his day. He was sincerely and totally committed to stamping out the “false” sect who believed in Jesus, only to find out that the greatest cause was establishing it. Caesar later recognized the power and threat of this cause and eventually killed Paul and many others to end it. But today the Roman Empire is dust, and God's Kingdom marches on. There are always a few who sense the greatness of that cause—and sometimes more than a few.

Another cause of importance took place in our own country. Colonel Robert Magaw on November 15, 1776 was completely surrounded and cut off by the British, who demanded his surrender. His reply was this: “Actuated by the Most Glorious Cause that mankind ever fought in, I am determined to defend this post to the very last extremity.” This man, like many of our founding fathers, had eyes to see that they were involved in something spiritual. He wasn't using flowery hyperbole; he and his men believed this with their whole hearts. They were essentially only a handful compared to the whole population of the country, yet their impact is still being felt in the world. They sensed and responded to it as others have through the ages. The Scripture describes that response this way:

“As oft as the trumpet soundeth he saith, Aha! And he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting” (Job 39:25).

In March of 2002 Pastor Neil Sandford issued a Spirit-led “battle plan” concerning Israel. After a lot of research, prayer, and expense a house in Jerusalem has been rented for those who are led to visit Israel in order to facilitate that plan. When you heard or read of this proposal, you might have had that sense of “Aha!” or you might just have groaned. Personality sometimes dictates our initial response. What is important is where you go from there, because if you have eyes to see, this effort is worthy of Col. Magaw’s description: “The Most Glorious Cause.”

Let me use Miss Ruth Silvius as an example. When my wife and I lived at Fairwood Bible Institute, Miss Silvius lived right above us on the third floor. On Saturday mornings we would often visit in her rooms, where she would have cereal waiting for us. One such time we were discussing an opportunity to go to Israel, and I’ve always remembered her response. “Do you think God wants this old lady to go? I’m going to pray about it!” That is the wise response for any Christian of any age or circumstance. In time, God did make her know she should go and then supernaturally provided all her money. She understood the “Cause,” too: I’ll never forget her showing me the soles of her shoes on the bus in Israel. On the bottom of the left shoe was printed, “THIS PLACE” and on the bottom of the right, “FOR GOD.” Every step she took she added her faith to that of countless others who are believing for the day when all of “Beulah” is a glory to Jehovah.

Readers may have often seen references in these pages to something called “prophetic prayer”—a frequent feature of such a “cause.” A quick definition of this sort of prayer might be: The kind of spiritual activity displayed by Daniel that takes prophecy in the Word of God, “mixes it with faith,” and then prays with an urgent intensity that brings it to God’s attention and insists on its fulfillment. Remember the definition of an overcomer: “One who takes things as they are and makes them bend to the will of God.”

To some it might seem presumptuous to take Scripture and almost demand that God bring it to pass. But in my experience this doesn’t happen just at somebody’s whim. Often the Holy Spirit has been moving and leading an individual or group along a certain line for weeks, months, or even years. The Biblical record is extensive in showing that God wants a people bold in their faith and quick to believe His Word. The Scripture that sums it up best for me is Isaiah 45:11, “Thus saith Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel and his Maker. Ask Me of the things that are to come; con-

cerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands, command ye Me.” This is an incredible verse, and I don’t think you will ever fully appreciate it until you see yourself, I mean really see yourself, as an adopted son or daughter of the King of kings. As a rightful heir, you are authorized to use this verse as your sledgehammer against the enemy.

Joshua is a wonderful example. At the battle of the five kings (chapter 10), the army of Israel was working with God and seeing their enemies destroyed, but there was one impediment: time was running out. Somehow in the power of the Holy Spirit, Joshua was helped to put all experience and human understanding aside and command the sun and the moon to stand still. They obeyed because the One who had made them was Joshua’s Heavenly Father, and He had heard His child’s prayer.

There are plenty of modern opportunities where this kind of relationship and the prayer that naturally arises from it is needed. Here’s an up to date example. In 1989 Rev. Frank Murray and I were in Jerusalem. One morning we went exploring in Solomon’s Quarry, a cave underneath the Old City. Many times we had to crawl on our hands and knees as we went farther down with only flashlights for lighting. We were deep underneath the Temple Mount when Mr. Murray was reminded of the Scripture, “And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering that covereth all peoples, and the veil that is spread over all nations” (Isaiah 25:7). We were led to pray that way, and God helped us. It was memorable for us both. By the time we found our way out it was lunch time, so Mr. Murray walked the two miles back to the

## God wants a people bold in their faith and quick to believe His Word.

apartment to catch a nap, and I went to a café. But it wasn’t over. As he told me later, the Holy Spirit kept prompting him to go back to the cave, which he did. And while there, the Spirit came on him, impressing him that God would remove the covering from anyone he mentioned in prayer. What did he do? He stayed there all afternoon, naming every individual, people group, and nation he could think of. As he said that night and many times afterward, he felt God had allowed him to accomplish the most important work of his life that afternoon. I’ll never forget his enthusiasm and excitement. *(continued on page 15)*



## King's Kids

# Three Salvation Testimonies

### **Name Withheld**

I was saved when I was six, and God is helping me in a lot of ways. The most recent way He has helped me is that He is giving me patience with my brothers. He is also helping me to keep control of my temper. I am so thankful that I have a God who can (and will) always hear my prayers and answer them.

*M lives in Virginia. She is big sister to Daniel, Caleb, and Timothy.*

### **Robert Adams**

I was seven. I was sitting in the living room with my dad and the rest of my family for (what I think was) family devotions. My mother was not there. My father told me about salvation, and I got saved! It affected me enough that I was crying, and just then, my mom walked in and asked why I was crying. Someone told her that I had gotten saved. I'm now 49, and I'm still saved, and awfully happy that I am!

*Bob pastors Open Door Chapel in Georgia. As a little boy, he liked to explore the woods and drive old cars in the pasture.*

### **Stephen Adams**

I was sent up to my room for something bad I did. Mamma said I could come down when I decided to be good. So I came thumping down the stairs, praying as I went for God to forgive me. Then we all gathered in the living room, and Daddy