We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing.
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praise to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning.
Thou, Lord, at our side—all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation.
Thy name be ever praised. O Lord, make us free!

November "Hymn of the Month"
A NANIAS PUT up a good argument against the idea of going to the house of Judas on Straight Street to meet Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:11).

What an errand! No wonder Ananias objected! This Saul of Tarsus was pursuing Christians and putting them to death. No wonder he shunned such a confrontation with the Church's number one enemy!

But God overruled his objection! His command was simple, "Go thy way" (Acts 9:15). And Ananias' obedience was immediate.

Wonderful results! Saul received his sight. He was filled with the Holy Ghost. He was baptized. He preached Christ in the synagogues to the amazement of all. He increased in spiritual power until he was preaching boldly in the name of Jesus.

Ananias is not the first nor the last to have his objection overruled by an all-wise God. Peter objected to the prospect of the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross. Even Paul himself had done his share of objecting. The thorn in his flesh was painful and inconvenient. He wanted to be rid of it. But God overruled.

Look at the results! Ananias had the privilege of launching the great Apostle Paul on a career of soul winning and church building. Peter lived to see and fully comprehend the efficacy of Christ's sacrificial death. Even though the thorn was not removed, Paul received the assurance of God's words, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9).

Invariably, when God overrules our objections, He has something better in store for those who accept His will in obedience and trust.

Not what I wish to be, nor where I wish to go,
For who am I that I should choose my way?
The Lord shall choose for me; 'tis better far, I know.
So let Him bid me go, or stay.

We have a mighty adversary and we live in a problem world. We all have personal problems. Adversities in life can be our defeat but we can have success and spiritual victory in spite of adversities. Success or failure in life is not determined by the nature of our problems but by our reaction to our problems.

When confronted with difficulties some react with an attitude of self-pity. They feel sorry for themselves and become depressed. Some become so despondent at times that they feel all life is unfair and cruel. A melancholy attitude caused by self-pity will defeat us and will tend to depress the people with whom we associate.

There are those who seek to escape and evade the problems of life. They indulge in sensual practices that they feel will enable them to forget adverse things. To seek pleasure as the highest goal is a weak and selfish approach to life. Those who constantly seek for thrills and excitement as an escape from reality are always disappointed in their pursuit.

Some people tend to face their personal problems with a stoical attitude. The stoic endeavors to crush his emotions and harden himself against life. This results in his becoming censorious, harsh, and bitter. One cannot be strong enough nor tough enough to bear up under the pressures and anxieties of life situations within his own strength. Man must have a source of help that comes from God.

We should accept the facts and consider the realities of life, but we must face life with faith in God. Because Jesus Christ came to earth and experienced the conflicts common to humanity, He understands us; because He is divine, He has power to help us.

Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). Let us face our adversities with faith in God.

One cannot be strong enough nor tough enough to bear up under the pressures and anxieties of life within his own strength. Man must have a source of help that comes from God . . .
In many circles today it is complimentary to be identified with a modified form of Christianity. It is synonymous with culture and refinement. But I am not satisfied to be known as a Christian only in the modern vernacular of the term. I want to be like Jesus.

He had an ingrained sensitivity to human need which turned His eyes from the thronging mobs about Him to the obscure Zacchaeus in the crotch of the tree above Him. He cast aside traditional dignity and prejudice to converse with a despised Samaritan because He sensed within her a thirst which only living water could quench. I want to be like Jesus.

Though He had no place to lay His head and no one to call His own, He radiated the warm rays of affection which drew little children to Him. I want to be like Jesus.

A sympathetic heart and a listening ear were His. The sick, the brokenhearted, the contrite sinner found in Him One who would take time to listen—One who responded, not with a casual shrug of indifference or a scathing condemnation for their plight. I want to be like Jesus.

His love, compassion, and the empathy which He so abundantly shared with mankind were balanced with a generous quantity of intolerance of sin and disobedience to the commands of God. He allowed His emotions to be stirred to a degree of active opposition to the forces of hypocrisy and disregard of sacred values. I want to be like Jesus.

His uncompromising demands of discipleship were the same for young and old, for rich and poor, for Jews or Gentiles. "Come." "Go." "Take up thy cross." "Follow me." No double standards. No respect of persons or position. No alibis or excuses. By teaching, testimony, and example He set forth the clear-cut claims of a sovereign God upon the lives of all those who professed to acknowledge and accept His lordship. I want to be like Jesus.

Looking out over a city whose magnificent Temple towers loomed on its horizon, earmarking it as the religious center of the world, He was not comforted by the affluence and prestige that had been acquired. He was only aware of the apathy and the rebellion within the hearts of a people who were rejecting His love. With aching heart, He reiterated the blessings He would have freely bestowed upon them, and wept because of their refusal to receive Him. Great was His concern for a spiritually blind, apostate people. I want to be like Jesus.

He neither dodged nor denied the physical weariness which drove Him to a solitary place to commune quietly with God. So intense was the spiritual anxiety which He suffered that great beads of perspiration fell from His brow. But none of these pressures, to which His humanity subjected Him, deterred Him from the perfect plan and will of God. I want to be like Jesus.

When the task for which He had come was done, He confidently committed His Spirit into the Father's hands and triumphantly proclaimed, "It is finished." I want to be like Jesus.

By Eva J. Cummings
Lincoln, Neb.

I am not satisfied to be known as a Christian only in the modern use of the term . . .

I Want to Be like JESUS
I
n
the
year
49
b.c.,
Rome
was
coming
apart.
The
unstable
government
was
disintegrating.
A
country
which
had
fed
itself
on
violence
in
the
gladiatorial
combats
stood
helplessly
as
young
ruffians
who
had
learned
their
skills
as
spectators
now
brought
violence
into
the
streets.

Even
the
lives
of
ordinary
citizens
were
not
safe
outside
after
dark.
A
"poor
people's"
March
had
burned
the
Senate
Building.

Taxes
were
unbearably
high
and
the
end
was
not
in
sight.
The
value
of
Roman
money
had
been
reduced,
setting
off
a
new
spiral
of
inflation.

The
Roman
army
was
stationed
in
so
many
parts
of
the
world
that
people,
even
in
high
places,
were
asking,
Why?
A
move
was
on
to
bring
home
all
the
soldiers
who
had
been
stationed
in
England
and
Europe.
Wars
in
distant
places
were
increasingly
unpopular.

Adultery
and
divorce
were
a
way
of
life;
the
only
values
that
made
any
difference
were
material.

In
the
meantime,
Julius
Caesar
was
camped
on
the
north
side
of
an
insignificant
little
stream
in
northern
Italy
called
the
Rubicon.
For
three
weeks
he
had
been
going
through
the
heart-searching
experience
of
deciding
what
his
next
move
should
be.

Caesar
wanted,
more
than
anything
else,
to
rule
Rome,
but
he
wanted
to
govern
with
the
consent
of
the
people.
Every
night
runners
arrived
from
Rome
but
the
news
was
never
encouraging.

Some
even
doubted
if
a
fair
and
honest
election
could
be
held.
Only
rich
men
could
run
for
office
and
the
winner
would
be
the
man
who
spent
the
most
money.

After
three
weeks,
Caesar
rationalized
his
position.
A
fair
election
was
not
possible.
The
people
were
not
living
by
the
laws
of
the
republic;
they
chose
the
laws
they
wanted
to
keep
and
ignored
or
protested
the
others.
There
was
only
one
thing
left
to
do.
It
was
his
duty
to
march
on
Rome
and
save
the
republic
from
itself
by
becoming
its
dictator.

One
morning
in
January,
49
b.c.,
Julius
Caesar
crossed
the
Rubicon.
Facing
Rome,
he
said,
"The
die
is
cast."

Caesar
did
become
the
sole
ruler
of
Rome
and
in
some
ways
he
did
save
the
republic
from
itself.

But
five
years
and
three
months
later,
on
March
15,
44
b.c.,
Caesar
died
by
assassination
in
the
Roman
Senate,
where
he
had
gone
to
make
a
speech.

The
moral
of
this
chapter
from
history
is
this:
With
the
death
of
Julius
Caesar
the
idea
of
a
republic—a
government
of
the
people,
by
the
people,
and
for
the
people—died
and
was
never
resurrected
until
it
was
tried
as
an
experiment
in
the
United
States
of
America.

Theodore
White's
book,
on
Caesar
at
the
Rubicon,
documents
the
historic
facts
in
the
paragraphs
above
and
becomes
one
more
voice
adding
to
the
feelings
of
anxiety
we
share
about
our
country
and
the
precious
liberties
we
enjoy.

Billy
Graham,
who
took
his
turn
in
the
honor
guard
at
the
casket
of
Robert
Kennedy
in
St.
Patrick's
Cathedral,
sounded
like
the
prophet
Jeremiah
when
he
said,
"I
could
weep
for
my
country."

President
Johnson,
who
withdrew
from
consideration
in
the
1968
national
election
because
of
the
depth
divisions
and
unrest
in
America,
had
great
emotion
in
his
voice
when
he
said
to
a
nationwide
television
audience,
"Our
country
is
sick;
and
the
disease
is
violence."

Oregon's
Senator
Mark
D. Hatfield
said,
"The
most
urgent
need
in
America
is
for
the
healing
power
of
love
and
the
Spirit
of
God."

And
Senator
Wayne
Morse
said,
"It
is
unbelievable
that
we
could
come
to
this
state
of
affairs
in
this
country.
The
American
people
should
drop
to
their
knees
and
pray.
We
must
change
this
course
of
action."

From
those
who
say
so
and
from
those
who
never
get
an
opportunity
to
speak,
the
verdict
is
the
same:
Our
culture
is
sick.
The
sickness
is
sin
and,
like
every
other
sickness,
this
disease
has
many
symptoms.

One
of
the
symptoms
is
alcoholism.
There
are
6
million
identified
alcoholics
in
America,
and
authorities
estimate
there
are
at
least
twice
that
many
who
are
not
identified because of personal and family efforts to keep their problems underground.

This means that one in every 40 Americans is an alcoholic. If 40 percent of the population is adult, then one in every 24 adult Americans is an acknowledged alcoholic and one in every 12 has a serious drinking problem. Alcoholism is America's fourth largest health problem and is the largest contributing cause of crime.

Our culture is sick and another of its symptoms is the reduction of all life and personality to sex and violence. At the turn of this century a Jewish doctor in Vienna, Austria, announced the results of his studies which indicate that all human personality is built up like a brick wall on a foundation. This foundation, according to Freud, consists of two factors—sex and violence.

Western culture has accepted this statement on sex and violence as undebatable, building most of life on it. The entire advertising industry is built on sex appeal. If sex and violence were taken off television, there would not be enough programs left to operate. Newspapers would have to be rewritten if sex and violence were given only the space they deserve.

On the one hand there is sex that is flouted through adultery and fornication recently justified by "situational ethics" and a "God is dead theology"; and on the other hand is a constant diet of violence and death dispensed through the mass media.

There is "instant war" brought from Vietnam to the living room, courtesy of the tobacco and liquor industries. Twice in five years the majority of Americans have witnessed assassinations live on TV. Riots, featuring murder and stealing, are now taken for granted and prepared for in advance.

Another symptom of our cultural sickness is the degeneration of the home.

We would do well to make new reference to the wise old political philosopher Pericles. Toward the end of the pre-Christian era this great Athenian stood on the steps of the Parthenon atop the Acropolis and squinted his eyes toward the Mediterranean, where he saw coming all the might and power of the Roman army. Turning his gaze down into the marketplace of old Athens, he said, "I do not fear the might and power of the Roman army as much as I fear the spiritual and moral declension within the homes of our Greek people."

In U.S. News and World Report, Dr. Fitch of the Pacific School of Religion said of social chaos in America, "I think we are reaping the harvest of the American home which has been too submissive in the upbringing of children. . . . Most of the Negro problem confines in the home where the father is often of little account and the children are free to do as they please because mother has to go out and work for a living. Now the same thing is happening to many middle-class homes of the white people. A University of California official recently pointed out that the families from which our students come today tend to be affluent, permissive, and egalitarian. That is to say that children are equal with parents and there is little or no parental authority. . . . These children come to college and when they find that there is something they don't like, they rebel about it and tear up the campus."

When liberty evolves into anarchy, citizens at home and on the streets lose their rights as persons.

Is there a cure for the disease which seems to have a death hold on America? Although there is no total cure—death is inevitable to all things—there is a solution. It was experienced by a young man in Israel more than 2,500 years ago.

Isaiah's word had crumbled. Everything of value had crashed to earth in the death of a national leader, King Uzziah. The king's son was no extension of his father; not even an imperfect carbon copy. He was without direction, uncertain, and of questionable moral purposes. Queen Jezebel to the north was trumpeting her threats and exploiting the international anxiety.

To young Isaiah it seemed there was no hope until he "saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up." Then in succession, as reported in the sixth chapter of his prophecy, Isaiah got a

(Continued on page 9)
The other day I was reading again the nineteenth chapter of Exodus—and I recommend that you do the same. I was struck especially by the first nine verses. Here is the setting.

Israel is on the march from Egypt to Canaan. Three months have passed since the people escaped Egypt under the umbrella of God’s omnipotence. They have been gone long enough now to appreciate freedom from the whip-lash of Egyptian bondage—their sores have healed.

They have also been away from Egypt long enough to get a better perspective of the mighty God who was their Deliverer. The clear air of the wilderness was a far better vantage point for viewing God than was the oppressive servitude of Egypt.

Now Israel is temporarily encamped at the base of Sinai—barren, windswept Mount Sinai. At God’s specific command Moses has ascended to the top of the mountain for history’s first and most significant “summit conference.”

On Sinai, God delivered to Moses His blueprint for “an holy nation.” It is noteworthy that the term “holy” appears here for the very first time in the Bible with reference to persons.

Note how God introduces this tremendous idea—“an holy nation.” The very words are unforgettable: “I bare you on eagle’s wings, and brought you unto myself.” What a figure of speech! Delightful, vivid, beautiful! And remember, God used these terms to refer to himself—eagle’s wings: graceful, powerful, invincible.

Why this mighty deliverance? That He might bring them “unto himself.” And why, you might ask, bring them unto himself? That He might make of them “an holy nation.” This is the final goal of all God’s spiritual planning. Israel was delivered from Egyptian bondage “by eagle’s wings,” that they might be established in Canaan’s “Heights of Holiness.”

It is time now to look more carefully at that little phrase “an holy nation.” The phrase is small, but the idea is staggering, the promise is sweeping. It is deep in meaning and almost frightening in its inclusiveness.

Every person who has had any experience with spiritual realities knows that the process by which just one person becomes holy is mighty serious business; but here God promises to make a whole nation holy.

Not even God can snap His fingers and produce a holy nation—as though He were creating more Pacific Oceans or Pikes Peaks. It’s just not that easy.

We must be fair to the Bible and remind ourselves that the word “holy” does not have the full meaning of personal purity in the Old Testament as it does in the New Testament—especially in the early sections of the Old Testament. The earliest usage of the word “holy” more nearly speaks of function or position than it does of purity. Yet, after saying all that, I am struck with the strong evangelical conditions that God laid down here as being essential to the creation of “an holy nation.”

Here is condition number one: “If ye will obey my voice indeed.”

I place emphasis on the word “indeed,” for I think it carries the heavy load in this phrase. God is not asking just for obedience; He is requiring “indeed” obedience.

Look at this common word “indeed.” It comes from the same Hebrew root as does the word “Amen.” It is also related to the Greek word for “verily,” which Jesus used frequently and tellingly.

God was thus asking Israel for “Amen” obedience: deep, sincere, instant, at-any-cost obedience. This kind of obedience, God says, is condition number one for becoming “an holy nation.” It is condition number one for becoming a holy person as well.

The second condition was this: “if ye will . . . keep my covenant.”

Take a look at the word “covenant.” Among heathen nations a covenant was valid only when the contracting persons drank each
PRAYER
and
POLITICS

IT WAS THE DAY after North Ko-
rea captured the U.S. Navy pa-
trol boat “Pueblo.” An inter-
state truck driver berated and re-
viled the President of the United
States in foul language. I had
overheard a warehouseman do the
same thing a few days previously.

Men who work at the moving
and storage business are some-
times a rough and uncouth lot.
Their criticism is often spiced
with curses and unprintable lan-
guage. Now the Bible says, “Thou
shalt not revile the judges, nor
curse the ruler of thy people”
(Exodus 22:28, marg.). But sin-
ners do not know what the Bible
says. They care less.

That evening I went to prayer
meeting at my church, only a few
blocks from that same warehouse
where such incomplimentary re-
marks had been expressed about
the President and governmental
policy in regard to international
affairs.

It is a good church. We have a
fine pastor. The people are spirit-
ual. The previous Sunday we had
experienced a glorious time of vic-
tory with men finding God at an
altar of prayer. But before and
after the service I heard Chris-
tians criticizing the President too.
After the service I went home
somewhat depressed.

I sensed the same spirit of cen-
sure in the truck driver and in
the Christians of my church. The
only difference was that the sin-
ner reviled and the saints criti-
cized. It all adds up to pretty
much the same thing though. It
is a spirit of dissension, confusion,
and contradiction that hinders a
possible solution to the difficulties
of our country. And the perplex-
ing situations that beset our na-
tion, in turn, are not beneficial to
either the Church or the cause of
Christ and the gospel.

It is true, we may and do dif-
f er in our politics. Each of us has
a solution or a cure of the coun-
try’s ills. It’s surprising how many
ways there actually are to end the
war in Vietnam—this in spite of
the fact that our most qualified
statesmen don’t know how to do it.

As Christians, we need to real-
ize what Paul meant in his Epis-
tle to Timothy when he advised
“that, first of all, supplications,
prayers, intercessions, and giving
of thanks, be made for all men;
for kings, and for all that are in
authority; that we may lead a
quiet and peaceable life in all god-
liness and honesty” (I Timothy 2:
1-2).

“Writer, do you mean that the
Apostle Paul instructed Timothy
to pray for mean old Nero?” Ex-
actly. And remember, Nero’s per-
sonal record contained some rather
unethical epochs! You see, we
Christians are missing the boat
when we criticize instead of pray.

We are not campaigning for
any particular person or party in the
fall of 1968. As Christians, we
have a duty to vote if we are eli-
gible to vote. However, we are
anxious that the saints do a little
more petitioning at the throne of
grace in behalf of Church and
country. Prayer will help to
straighten out the national mess
that we find ourselves in. Spout-
ing off only reflects our personal
go.

But may we consistently pray
for victory for our country?

Read the scripture again. The
injunction is to pray for rulers and
those in authority, “that we may
live a quiet and peaceable life.”
He did not say to pray for vic-
tory. He said to pray for a peace-
able solution. And this is what
we are in so much need of today.
Pray for your president and those
in authority. Begin today, and
watch God work.

As Christians we have a duty to vote if we are eligible to vote. However, we are anxious that the saints do a little more praying in behalf of Church and country. Prayer will help to straighten out the national mess that we find ourselves in.
Hope . . .

(Continued from page 6)
vision of God's sovereignty—"The foundations shook at the voice of him who called"; of himself—"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone"; and of his place of service—"Here am I; send me."

The anarchy and anxiety of a torn country opened to receive a spiritually committed man who used the next 50 years of his life to proclaim the power of God to meet the needs of people who lived in a desperate world.

Alarmed by the terrifying noises high above in the Alps, a visitor awakened his Swiss guide to announce the end of the world was at hand. The guide smiled and reminded the shook-up man that the end was not yet. Although it was dark in the valley, the sun was warming the snow-capped peaks, which let loose in thunderous avalanches. So it was not the end of the world, only the beginning of a new day.

Isaiah's experience can be transplanted into 1968, for his word was to endure "until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, and the Lord had removed men far away."

As for Isaiah, current despair can give way to hope based on the sovereignty of God and man's capacity to work toward its fulfillment.

God's Blueprint

(Continued from page 7)

other's blood. With the Israelites this was modified and the blood of animals was sprinkled on the parties involved. But when the covenant was between God and man, the blood was to be sprinkled on God's holy altar.

This was a solemn compact, and real Israelites would as soon forfeit life itself as break that covenant. Do you not see the full impact now of those simple but serious conditions preceding the miracle of becoming "an holy nation"? Let's recall those conditions once more: "If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be . . . an holy nation."

No one ever personally receives the holiness of God short of meeting these same two conditions—complete obedience and unflinching loyalty to God's personally revealed truth to that person.

If back in that ancient day God's promise to the nation of Israel was both awesome and available, is it not the part of wisdom for us moderns that we ask for no lesser conditions for obtaining the glorious Pentecostal fullness of God's purifying presence?

Just Happened to Think

She dashed out of the house like a tornado on wheels. A few steps from the door she skidded to a halt, whirled, and hurried in again, exclaiming, "Oh, I just happened to think!"

What it was that she just happened to think about is a good question. But her action illustrates the way all too many of us dash through life like unguided missiles with our God-given steering equipment malfunctioning most of the time.

Where, I wonder, do we get the idea that God does not expect us to use the brains that He has given us?

We marvel at the wonderful things a man-made computer can do; we stand in awe before it, and remark in hushed tones, "It can do everything but think." We are overcome by the accomplishments of a machine that we have admitted can't do something that we can do. It can't think. We can. So why don't we?

Oh, I know our minds are going all the time we are awake and part of the time we are asleep. Our active imaginations cover a lot of territory in 24 hours. But how much of this scurrying brain activity could honestly be classed as thinking? How much of it is consciously aimed at a given target? How much of it has any purpose or accomplishes anything?

God's Word tells us, "Gird up the loins of your mind" (I Peter 1:13). In fact, God's Word has a lot to say about our minds and the use that God wants us to make of them. He has told us to study, to think soberly, to use reason—the list could be extended indefinitely.

God gave us the ability to do a wonderful thing when He made us able to think. Let's make more use of our ability.

OCTOBER 30, 1968 • 9

By Laura Forinash
Mission, Tex.
The Hardest Burden to Bear

The hardest burdens in life to bear are the things that might happen but usually don’t. God sees to it that we have grace to bear the actual and the present. He does not always give us grace to face the multitude of situations that could come but haven’t yet.

Lots of us spend a great deal of effort crossing bridges to which we never come. In effect, we are “pulling tomorrow’s cloud over today’s sunshine.”

It has been said that the epitaph of this age could be written in three words: hurry, worry, bury. One thing is sure, he who broods over his troubles has a perfect hatch every time.

Newman Eric Severeid recalls a lesson he learned as a 17-year-old high school boy. He and a school pal set out to travel by canoe from Minneapolis to the fur-trading post of York Factory on Hudson Bay.

The last leg of the journey was the most difficult and dangerous. It lay across 450 miles of rugged wilderness with only one permanent settlement in the entire distance. The boys were awed by the prospect. But just as they were about to leave, an old fur trader gave them this advice:

"Just think about the next mile you have to go, not about the ones after that, never about 450."

Mr. Severeid said that this advice had stayed with him through the years. “Many times in the future,” he says, “I was to rediscover that there is only one mile to make, never 450.”

So it is. The longest journey is made only a mile at a time. We live life in the same way that we travel, one day at a time, one problem at a time, one experience at a time—never 450.

IT IS GOD’S GOODNESS and wisdom that have drawn the veil over tomorrow. He knows we are not able to carry today’s load and bear tomorrow’s burden at the same time. To try it, as we do when we do not trust, is to break down sooner or later.

"After all, our faith is not in a “what” but in “whom.” Paul put it best when he wrote, “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (II Timothy 1:12).

F. A. Blackmer expressed the experience of many in his lines:

Once I thought I walked with Jesus,
Yet such changeful feelings had;
Sometimes trusting, sometimes doubting,
Sometimes joyful, sometimes sad.

Oh, the peace my Saviour gives,
Peace I never knew before;
And my way has brighter grown,
Since I learned to trust Him more!

It is a strange blindness that makes us think we can better manage our lives than our Lord can. There is something of conceit in the notion that we know better than He what is for our good.

But when we see that “He is able” and willing to keep what is committed to Him, we can rest in that confidence. God does not want us to be “care-less,” but to be free from corroding care and doubt.

There are burdens to bear. But we bear them better when we do not add to them the hardest burden of all, the things that might happen but probably won’t.

Not a Secular Gospel

The answer to the problems of the secular city is not a secular gospel. To suppose that a secular gospel can heal the sickness of the secular city is only to add frustration to confusion and fear.

That we live in an age of the secular is a claim few would deny. People in general seem determined to live as if there were no God. There are not many theoretical atheists. There are multitudes of practical atheists.

The growth of the cities has undoubtedly contributed to the secular tendencies of the natural man. The concentration of masses of people in ever larger metropolitan areas creates religious problems as well as social and economic problems.

There is an anonymity about life in the city that adds to the sense of rootlessness. Few know even their next-door neighbors. High-rise apartments, our modern “cliff dwellings,” are quite without any sense of community or neighborhood or tribal solidarity.

Yet people in the cities need God and the gospel as much as their country cousins. To reach
them for Christ and the Church may very well be the next crisis in missions.

Some have proposed that the way to meet the needs of the secular city is a gospel denuded of all that is supernatural. It is argued that only a secular theology will appeal to secular man.

That a secular gospel may appeal to secular man could be true. That it will do him any good is quite another question.

It is one thing to speak to people in language they can understand. It is something else entirely to say to them only what we think they want to hear.

There is all the difference in the world between translating the gospel and transforming the gospel. We are charged with the necessity of communicating the gospel. We are not by that necessity authorized to change it.

Really, the “crisis in communication” is more than a problem of comprehension. It is a problem of credibility, of believing; and of commitment, of acceptance.

Men must first understand, of course. But understanding is not enough. They must believe, and they must obey.

Perhaps a secular gospel would be more palatable to secular man. But acceptability is only part of the story. What is accepted must have the reality of God in it if it is to be really redemptive.

Let us do what we can to be understood. But let us be sure that what is understood is the authentic and true gospel of Christ. This alone is the power of God unto salvation.

empty Hands

It was St. Augustine who said, “God gives where He finds empty hands.” For one whose hands are full can’t receive a gift.

This is not always easy for human nature to accept. It is hard for us to be recipients. We like to feel that we are “paying our own way.”

Yet from the start of our relationship to God it must be, “In my hands no price I bring; simply Thy cross I cling.” We cannot buy what grace can only give.

When we really see this, it will forever cure the self-sufficiency and self-righteousness that come so easily to us. We will see what a horrible example of unskilled labor the “self-made man” really is.

The perfect squelch was probably given by a lady to the boastful man who told in great detail what he had accomplished in life. Said he, “I have achieved a great deal more than anyone else in the family. I suppose I might say, however, that what I am owe to my mother.”

Said the woman listening, “Why don’t you send her a couple of dollars and square the account?”

One of the most serious sides to self-righteousness is that it is apparent to everyone except the person who has it.

Self-righteousness gives birth to a whole family of sins of the disposition. It is the mother of ill temper, a fault that has been called “the vice of the virtuous.” It breeds criticism, domineering, and that self-satisfaction that destroys the possibility of any further progress on the part of the self-righteous soul. It spawns self-justification, excusing in oneself what one condemns in others.

We can be delivered from all this when we live in the realization that we are eternal debtors to the grace and power of God. What we have in our hands is not what we have seized for ourselves, but what we have received as His free gift.

AND GOD DOES GIVE where He finds empty hands. His is the fullness that moves into every vacuum. His is the generosity that gives to every confessed need. His is the plenty that supplies our spiritual poverty.

This is why Jesus so completely reverses our accepted attitudes. Happy, He said, are the poor in spirit—“they who sense their spiritual poverty.” Happy are they that mourn. Happy are the meek, the humble-minded—“those who claim nothing.” Happy are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

It is to these whose hands are empty, Jesus said, that the Heavenly Father gives the kingdom of Heaven, courage and comfort, the earth as their heritage, and complete satisfaction.

We come in weakness and find His strength. We come in need and receive His supply. We come with empty hands and He gives what we could not buy.

A ragged little girl wandered out of the tenement area in one of our great cities, a few pennies clutched in a grimy hand. Her sick mother had voiced a hunger for the taste of fresh fruit.

The child came to a luxurious home set in a garden of trees and vines and surrounded by a high, wrought-iron fence. A gardener worked behind a gate, and timidly the girl asked if she might buy some of the fruit.

“This fruit is not for sale,” the man answered. Then struck by the sadness in the child’s eyes, he stopped. “But I’ll give you some,” he said.

It took but a moment to fill a bag with tree-ripened fruit and to send a happy child hurrying away with so much more than her pennies would have bought.

The bounties of heaven are not for sale. We can’t earn them with self-righteous efforts. But we can have them as the free gift of infinite grace. For God gives where He finds empty hands.
THOMPSON, WILLIAM E. (C) 8050 E. Madison St., Portland, Ore. 97206. — Nov. 10, 71. — Nov. 10, 71. — Nov. 10, 71. — Nov. 10, 71.


TOWNS, J. G. (C) 1913 Glenelg Dr., Muncie, Ind. 47302. — Oct. 5 — 10; Nov. 26 — Dec. 1.

TRIPP, HOWARD M. (C) c/o NP* — Forrest City, Ark., Oct. 28 — Nov. 3; Parkersburg, W. Va. (3d), Nov. 8 — 17.

TRISSEL, PAUL D., & FAMILY. (C) Box 1201, Leesburg, Fla. 32748. — East St. Louis, Ill. (3d), Oct. 26 — Nov. 3; Salina, Kans. (1st), Nov. 8 — 17; Belleville, Ill., (Emmanuel), Nov. 19 — 24.

TURRIF, M. L. (C) 1537 S.F. 29th. Oklahoma City, Okla. 73122. — Saim, Gre. (Okla. (Portland), Nov. 11 — 10; Shreveport, La. (Quashburno, Nov. 11 — 17; Warrick, Okla., Nov. 18 — 24; Cherokee, Okla., 1st, Nov. 26 — Dec. 8.


VAN SYLKE, D. C. (C) 508 16th Ave., S., Nampa, Idaho 83651. — Nov. 8 — 17.

Van, W. E. (R) c/o NP* — (Entering full-time evangeline)

VAUGHN, ROY M. (C) 1316 Dickenson Dr. Clearwater, Fla. 33759. — Nov. 7 — 13; Okal ( staring ) Nov. 9 — 30; Hollywood, Fla. Nov. 11 — 17; Pineellas Park, Fla. (1st), Nov. 19 — 24; Punta Gorda, Fla., Nov. 25 — Dec. 1.

WACHTEL, D. K. (C) Box E Madison, Tenn. 37115. — Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 10 — 17.

Wad, E. Bruce. (R) 3029 Sharpview Ln., Dal- las, Tex. 95228. — Lufkin, Tex. (1st), Nov. 17 — 22.

WALKER, ROBERT A. (C) 414 Olivey Ave., Carroll, Ohio 43112.

WALTON, CLIFFORD L. (C) 24915 Wilmot, E. Detroit, Mich. 48211. — Nov. 21 — 28; Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Nov. 4 — 10; Mayfield, Ohio, Nov. 11 — 17.

WARDE, LLOYD & GERTRUDE. (C) Preacher & Chalk Artist, 6564 Whiskey Creek Dr., Ft. Myers, Fla. 33901: Vicksburg, Mich. (Chapman Mem.), Oct. 24 — Nov. 3; Detroit, Mich. (Calvary), Nov. 7 — 17; Nashville, Tenn. (Radnor), Nov. 21 — Dec. 1.

WATSON, PAUL. (C) 311 N.W. Seventh St., Bethel, Ariz. 86722. — Alma, Ark. (Maple Shade), Nov. 4 — 12.

WEIKS, JAMES A. (C) 300 Shabbor Ln., St. Marys, Ohio 43072. — Nov. 8 — 15.

WELLS, KENNETH & LILLY. (C) Box 1043, White fish, Mont. 59937. — Anaheim, Calif. (1st), Nov. 3 — 10;


WHISLER, JOHN. (C) 404 N. Francis, Carthage, Mo. 64836. — Nov. 8 — 15.

WILLIAMS, B. IVAN. (C) R. 2, Box 172, Vicksburg, Mich. 49097.

WILLIS, EARL C. (C) c/o NP* —

WILLIAMS, LAWRENCE. (C) 6706 N.W. 42nd, Bethany, Okla. 73108. — Knowles, Okla., Oct. 23 — Nov. 3; Marion (east), Kans. Nov. 6 — 17; Pawnee, Okla. Nov. 18 — 24.

WILLIS, MARK (C) Preacher and Children's Work— No NP*

WITHROW, CURTIS D. (C) 1724 N.E. 50th Ct, Pompano Beach, Fla. 33064. — Beach Park, Pa. Oct. 25 — Nov. 3; Lynchburg, Va., Nov. 8 — 17.

WITHROW, JAMES. (C) 1351 Ethel Ave., Chesaapeake, Va. 23115.


YAT, D. POWELL. (C) 2531 Edee-O-Lake Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37217. — Nashville, Tenn. (Hendersonville), Nov. 4 — 10.

YHM, EDWARD G. (C) 6259 Saylon Ln., Los Angeles, Calif. 90042. — Peru, South America, July 3 — Dec. 1.

Pro: Church Building

...I don't know how it is in Texas where Cleon Morgan ("Pro and Con, Sept. 11) lives, but... This week we were driving through San Bernardino and we drove by a beautiful church. When my husband said it was a Nazarene church, I wanted to jump out of the car and have a shouting spell, or at least back up and take a better look. To me, these churches are singing a song: "Oh, come, ye weary, heavy-laden! Come, come, come!" There are inviting churches.

As for stories of "how I was won to Christ," it would be hard to find a story that did not have such a mundane church as a building in it somewhere. "And how can they hear without a preacher?"

To me, the Herald is the greatest, including the church pictures.

LARA A. WHITAKER
California

Pro: Compassion

I would like to express my appreciation for the Herald of Holiness and the many good articles contained therein.

Special reference is made to the September 25 issue, and "Compassion: Can We Get It Back?" by C. Leslie Miller. This is one of the most timely and thought-provoking articles I have read in the Herald recently.

As one who came into the Church of the Nazarene about 1951, I have deeply appreciated the spiritual vitality of the church. My life and that of my family have been spiritually enriched by those church programs, district programs, camp meetings, conventions, etc. The dedicated lives of missionaries have been a continual inspiration to me. Never have a people been so well-educated in every area of church life and so good by good spiritual food as we Nazarenes.

Yet I have left at times that, from a people professing such a high state of grace, something was lacking—

Announcing!!!

Zone-wide Conventions on Soul Winning

For pastors and local church leaders in preparation for an evangelistic crusade for children and youth in the spring, 1969.

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*Plans for the Pasadena and Canadian zones are pending and will be announced later.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND the convention in your area!

Sponsored by the Department of Evangelism

(October 30, 1968)
could it be that this article points out the reason?
May the Lord give each of us such a revival of compassion and concern for the lost, that we may reach those about us for Him.

Mrs. L. A. REICHEL
Oregon

THE BOOK CORNER

EVERY DAY WITH JESUS

Paul Rees, in his foreword to the devotional volume Every Day with Jesus declares: "The theme of this book is irresistible!" And in the pages of Every Day with Jesus, Author Mendell Taylor has carried out this irresistible theme with brief, pithy meditations on the concepts, character, commandments, life, and teachings of Jesus Christ, one for every day on the calendar.

Dr. Taylor, as is well-known to most Nazarenes, is a professor at Nazarene Theological Seminary, a capable evangelist, and in the finest sense a preacher's preacher.

Here, then, is a practical tool for better personal or family worship, a catalyst for serious thinking, a primer in Christian theology, a handbook on Christian ethics, and even a good selection of "sermon starters."

To Billy Graham's well-known recommendation of daily doses of Psalms and Proverbs, Nazarenes and others might add with profit a few moments of meditation on Christ himself. Families and individuals who use Every Day with Jesus to help them fulfill such scriptural injunctions as "Consider him . . ." and "Abide in me . . ." will be grateful to Dr. Taylor for reminding them of just how well Jesus meets the need of every "today."—RUSSELL METCALF.

DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM ANNOUNCES FALL CONVENTIONS

Dr. John L. Knight, executive secretary, Department of Evangelism, has announced that his department will sponsor college-zone-wide conventions on soul winning this fall. For the dates and locations, see the special announcement on page 15.

These conventions are part of the preparation for an evangelistic crusade for children and youth during the spring, 1969. The major emphasis of both the conventions and the crusade will be the winning of those among the "million" now enrolled in our Sunday schools who are yet without Christ.

Each convention will be two nights and one day, beginning at 7:30 p.m. (local time) on the first day and closing with the evening session on the second. A general superintendent will participate in each convention along with Dr. Knight, district superintendents, and others from that zone.

All pastors and local church leaders—Sunday school teachers and workers—should plan now to attend the convention in their respective areas.

OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

THE BICKNELL, Ind., church celebrated its golden anniversary the week of October 13-20, with Dr. Leo Davis, former district superintendent, and present District Superintendent C. R. Thrasher as speakers and the Gospel-Aires quartet in charge of the music. Services each night of the week featured special speakers with Wayne and June Haas in charge of the music.

REV. AND MRS. W. P. COLVIN retired from the active ministry on Sunday, September 8, after serving

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord. PSALMS 92:1

THANKSGIVING OFFERING/1968
NEWS OF RELIGION

You Should Know About...

A MILESTONE in the history of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) was reached when some 10,000 persons of the group decided at their Kansas City convention whether to become a North American church or simply a continuation of churches.

At their one hundred nineteenth international convention assembly members voted on a plan in process for 10 years which reconstituted them as the “Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)” in the United States and Canada.

THERE ARE AT LEAST 5 million “active alcoholics” in the U.S., according to an official of Alcoholics Anonymous in Washington, D.C.

Dr. John L. Norris, chairman of AA’s General Service Board, said at the organization’s twenty-eighth international congress that about 2,000 medical and scientific leaders from 40 countries are attending.

Of 11,355 problem drinkers questioned in a recent North American survey by AA, 60 percent said they had not touched a drink for a year or more.

POPE PAUL’S ENCYCLICAL affirming the traditional Roman Catholic opposition to birth control was the number one religious story of the past year, according to a Lutheran editor.

Dr. Albert P. Stauderman, associate editor of the Lutheran, official biweekly of the Lutheran Church in America, released his list of top stories during a meeting of the Lutheran Editors’ and Managers’ Association recently in Cherry Hill, N.J.

Speaking of religious news in general, he said 1968 reflected the inevitabilities of life and death. “There was nothing really unexpected,” he said, quoting the line from a hymn which declares, “Change and decay in all around I see.”

If the Pope’s encyclical, “Of Human Life,” was the top story, then the second was “of human death,” Dr. Stauderman stated. He placed the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and the death of Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the LCA and ecumenical leader, together in second place.

THERE ARE some 1 million Tamil-speaking Indians in the multicultural nation of Malaysia who are virtually unevangelized, according to Missionary Paul Kauffman of Hong Kong.

He cited two reasons for it: the lack of missionaries who can speak Tamil and the separation of the people from their homeland of India. Self-punishment form of religious worship estranges them from others, Reporter Kauffman said.

The story ended on an optimistic note with the announcement that a literature program was being initiated for the Tamils by a second-generation tribesman fully trained for the work at Seattle Pacific College.

THE CHRISTIAN LAYMAN, both as a specialized short-term worker and through his witness in positions of secular employment, will play an increasing role in the Church’s missionary effort, the United Methodist head of world missions predicted in Charlotte, N.C.

Dr. John F. Schaefer said that as the Church moves into the world, and as the forms of witness and service change, the Church must look increasingly to the laity to provide the talents and skills required.

The lay workers would not supplant but augment the more traditional missionary role, he added.

Dr. Schaefer, associate general secretary of the Board of Missions’ World Division, cited world mission trends to United Methodist leaders at a regional conference in Charlotte, N.C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVANGELISTS’ OPEN DATES

Edsice and Ann Burnorn, Box 1007, Ashland, Ky. 41101, have open November 13-25.

Boveret Brothers, Lamar, Mo. 64759, have open January, February, and March 1-23, 1969.

DIRECTORY

BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS—Office: 8401 The Paseo, Kansas City 64131. Rev. V. H. Linn, Acting Secretary; P. S. Shafer, Secretary; George Chuter, Secretary; Stuart Young; Edward Lowler; Eugene L. Stover; Osvaldo W. Jenkins.

MOVING MINISTERS

Glen E. Sterner from Barnesville, Ohio, to Pensacola (Fla.) Enslow.

Murad Wise from Windham, Ohio, to Cleveland Richmond Heights.

Gerald Morgan from Hanging Rock, Ohio; Portsmouth, (Ohio) Sciotoville; V Dale Viers from Camden, Tenn., to Brooksville, Fla.
CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The Board of General Superintendents has announced the appointment of the following to serve as the Committee for Christian Action for the 1968-72 quadrennium:

Rev. George L. Smith, secretary
Dr. B. Edgar Johnson
Dr. Richard S. Taylor
Rev. Melvin McCullough

The purpose and duties of the committee are set forth in the Manual:

1. "To provide for our people constructive information on such matters as alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, and gambling."
2. "To emphasize the sanctity of marriage and the sacredness of the Christian home and to point out the problems and evils of divorce."
3. "To lend encouragement to our people who are serving in places of leadership in temperance organizations and in similar organizations working for civic righteousness."
4. "To alert our people regarding Sabbath observance, oath-bound secret orders, the theater, including the movies, worldliness of other types, and such related subjects as may need emphasis."

NDCEF OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

Nazarene Directors of Christian Education Fellowship recently elected its new officers for the 1968-72 quadrennium:

Robert L. Miller, associate minister of the San Diego University Avenue Church, was elected president.
J. Paul Turner, minister-of youth of the Oklahoma City Lake View Park Church, was elected vice-president.

David P. Benson, associate minister, Wichita (Kans.) First Church, was reelected secretary-treasurer.

The NDCEF also voted to include as an ex officio member of the council Jerrold W. Ketner, minister of education at Kansas City First Church, who had just completed a four-year term as president of the Fellowship.

At the close of the quadrennium, membership in the NDCEF stood at 225.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 1968 edition of the "Manual" of the Church of the Nazarene is now ready for distribution, and from the date of this issue of the "Herald of Holiness," October 30, all of its provisions are in effect in accordance with Paragraph 702.10 of the 1968 edition of the "Manual."

BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS
GEORGE COULTER, Secretary

OLIVET NAZARENE COLLEGE HOSTS WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The fourth annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society, November 1-2, at Olivet Nazarene College, Kankakee, Ill., is a symposium of Wesleyan thought and theology, with some 15 scholars representing various holiness denominations and institutions presenting messages and papers, and leading discussions.

Among those scheduled to address the group are Dr. Lowell Roberts, president of the Society; Dr. Harold Reed, president of Olivet College; and Dr. Richard S. Taylor, Nazarene Theological Seminary.
Conducted by W. T. Purkiser, Editor

In Hebrews 10:4 we read, “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.” From this verse it would seem that it is not possible for anyone to be saved before the death and resurrection of Christ. Yet I know the Old Testament saints and prophets were godly men and surely are spending eternity with Christ. However I do not get confused when I read this verse. I was wondering if you could explain this, made in the fullness of time by Christ.

The point the writer to the Hebrews is making in 9:1-10:22 is that the sacrifices of the old covenant were fore-shadowings of the once-for-all perfect sacrifice of the new covenant or “New Testament” in the blood of Christ.

Since the new covenant is now in effect, the old covenant has accomplished its purpose and has given way to the new. But in its day, the old covenant was God’s appointed way to a sense of forgiveness and salvation.

Our local church has changed ministers and our former pastor has accepted a church just a few hours from here. There are some members who call our former pastor and visit him, and he returns their visits. I feel this may lead to a situation where someone may get hurt. What is best in this situation?

In every case, the departing minister should act toward his successor as he would want the man preceding him to act. Church members owe their loyalty and support to their present pastors, however freely they may give their friendship to men who have served them in the past.

I have been reading through our history, Called unto Holiness, again, and have a question to ask. Where did Mr. Bresee get the scripture to support his belief in postmillennialism? I have searched, but fail to find anything in Scripture that would substantiate such a view.

The current form of dispensational premillennialism is comparatively recent in evangelical circles, although its roots go far back into Early Church history. Through most of the history of Christian doctrine, some form of non- or post-millennial theory has prevailed.

As I understand Dr. Bresee’s position, it was not the kind of post-millennialism that looks for a thousand-year reign of perfect peace on earth before the personal return of Christ. It was more like what we would now describe as an amillennial view—namely, that the present gospel dispensation will end with a personal return of our Lord, followed quickly by the setting up of the eternal kingdom in which “time shall be no more” and the conditions of eternity will prevail.

The scriptures on which such a view is based include Matthew 13:24-43, 47-50; 25:31-46; John 6:39-40, 44, 54 (resurrection of the righteous at “the last day”); Romans 2:5-11, 16 (one day of judgment for all); I Corinthians 15:22-26 (resurrection of righteous at the coming of Christ, “then cometh the end”—v. 24); II Thessalonians 1:7-10 (judgment at Christ’s coming); II Peter 3:10-11. It is pointed out that there is no mention of a physical resurrection or reigning on earth in Revelation 20:1-6.

I am aware that these verses may be explained in various ways, but the claim is that their most natural meaning does not harmonize with a dogmatically dispensational view.

The moral of it all is that one shouldn’t get too “steamed up” about the details of eschatology, as this kind of study is known. Where good and godly men disagree on points of prophecy, one may take his choice and be assured of good company.

This is also the wisdom of our statement of faith in the Manual which declares the personal return of Christ and leaves the details open.
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ST. LUKE 9

52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, 'Weep not; she is not dead, but she sleepeth.'