



Magazine New Wine

April 1983

Risen With Him

What the Resurrection
means to us

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Magazine New Wine

Vol. 15, No. 4, April 1983

a ministry of Integrity Communications



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THIS MONTH: RISEN WITH HIM

6. His Resurrection—Our Triumph

John Duke reminds us that the same power that broke open the tomb is at work in us.



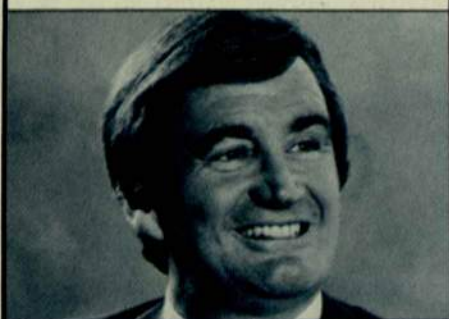
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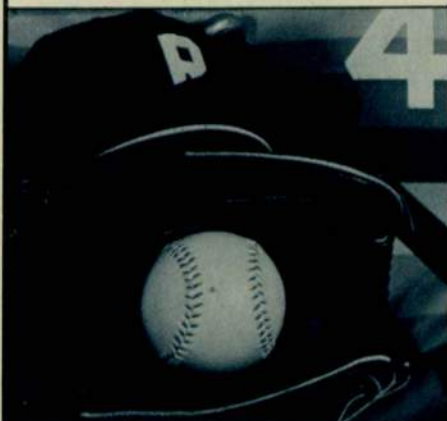


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this purpose by including a wide diversity
of Christian authors to communicate the
message of the kingdom of God to all men.

Editorial

One thought gripped Mary Magdalene's mind as she ran to Peter and John: "They've stolen the Lord's body. *He's gone!*" I suspect that she could think of little else as she returned with them to the tomb. For John, seeing the folded burial cloth was enough to make him believe. But for Mary, not even the sight of angels in Jesus' tomb could overcome her initial fear—as is evident from her reply to them: "They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put him."

Apparently, Mary was so preoccupied with Jesus' absence that she did not recognize His presence. The possibility of a risen Lord does not seem to have even entered her mind, at least not until the "Gardener" who stood with her at the tomb spoke her name. What Mary did not realize was that even as she searched for Jesus among the dead, He was right there with her among the living. And He is with us today as well.

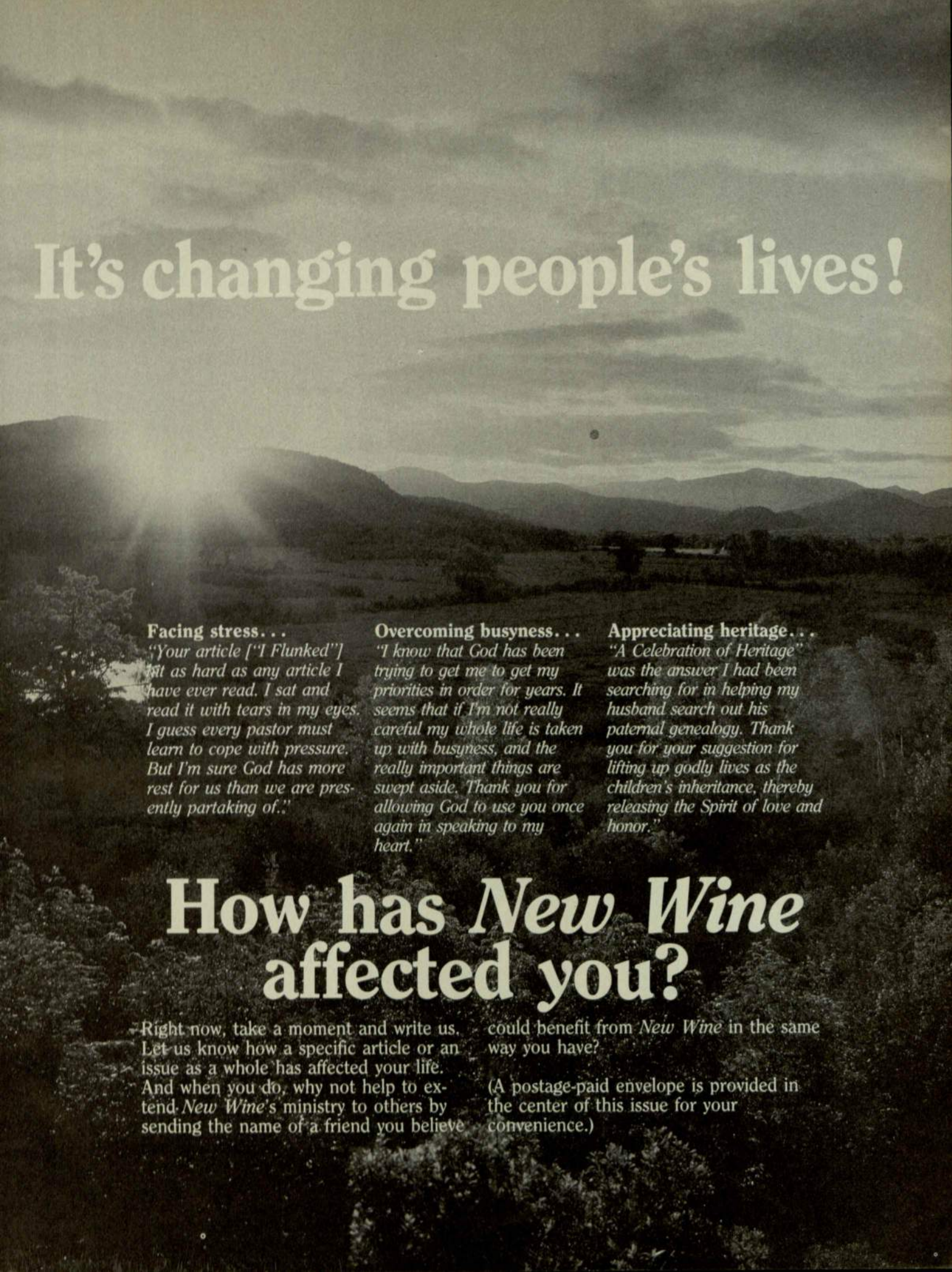
Like the disciples on the Emmaus Road, and like Mary and the others to whom Jesus made Himself known, we may not recognize His presence immediately. But He is closer than we realize. And today our hearts burn within us as well with the reality of His presence.

This month in *New Wine* Magazine we celebrate the good news that Jesus' resurrection assures His very real presence with us. In our lead article, John Duke examines the impact the resurrection should make on all aspects of our lives, emphasizing that "Christ in us" now gives us reason for a life of hope. Next is a challenging interview with Dr. James Kennedy on the impact the Church ought to be making on the world around us.

Following that is Ern Baxter's moving and encouraging message on how we as Christians ought to approach the reality of death triumphantly. Robert Grant tells how we can exchange our own inadequacy for the provision Jesus has for us in our daily lives, and Larry Christenson's insights help us know how to stay in the flow of God's power. Finally, amusing and inspiring testimonies by Bill Lea and Bill Holloway lead the way into Charles Simpson's thoughts on what the presence of God can do for us as individuals and as the Church.

We trust that this month's issue will help fulfill the desire that the apostle Paul voiced for all of us: "That I may *know* Him, and the *power* of His *resurrection*." Because the tomb is empty, He is present with us—even closer than we think.

Dick Leggatt
Editor



It's changing people's lives!

Facing stress...

"Your article ['I Flunked'] hit as hard as any article I have ever read. I sat and read it with tears in my eyes. I guess every pastor must learn to cope with pressure. But I'm sure God has more rest for us than we are presently partaking of."

Overcoming busyness...

"I know that God has been trying to get me to get my priorities in order for years. It seems that if I'm not really careful my whole life is taken up with busyness, and the really important things are swept aside. Thank you for allowing God to use you once again in speaking to my heart."

Appreciating heritage...

"A Celebration of Heritage" was the answer I had been searching for in helping my husband search out his paternal genealogy. Thank you for your suggestion for lifting up godly lives as the children's inheritance, thereby releasing the Spirit of love and honor."

How has *New Wine* affected you?

Right now, take a moment and write us. Let us know how a specific article or an issue as a whole has affected your life. And when you do, why not help to extend *New Wine's* ministry to others by sending the name of a friend you believe

could benefit from *New Wine* in the same way you have?

(A postage-paid envelope is provided in the center of this issue for your convenience.)



His Resurrection— Our Triumph

by John Duke

Christ is risen!" was the thrilling note that rang throughout the early Church as Christians saluted each other. In response to this glorious greeting came back the triumphant answer, "He is risen indeed!"

The gospel of the Christian Church was more than the message of the death of Christ. It was a gospel which included His resurrection. Paul wrote:

For what I received, I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our

sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

This is clearly the gospel that is set forth in the New Testament. The climax of the gospel is not that Christ died; rather it is that Christ is alive. He lives!

To be sure, He had to die in order to forgive our sins and justify us before God. But Jesus never spoke of His death apart from His resurrection. He told His disciples that He "must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things... and be killed, and be

raised again the third day" (Mt. 16:21). The necessity of His death was clear: "*He must . . . suffer . . . and be killed.*" But the necessity of His resurrection was equally clear: "*He must . . . be raised again the third day.*"

Without His death there could be no resurrection, and without His resurrection there could be no victory. Death would still have its *sting*, and sin its *power* over us. But instead we have a risen Savior who is our living contemporary.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a historical fact, attested to by many witnesses. It was a glorious manifestation of the power of God the Father, and a personal vindication of the integrity of Jesus, His Son. The resurrection was a clear explanation to the world that Jesus was who He claimed to be—"the only-begotten of the Father." It gave proof that all He had said about the Father and Himself was true.

But the resurrection was not only a personal triumph for Jesus; it was a triumph for us as well. It is a past event that establishes a present reality and a future hope. The resurrection of Christ affects us in three ways: first, in relation to our past sins; second, in relation to our present daily life; and third, in relation to our future hope.

A Triumphant Cross

First, the resurrection of Jesus Christ signifies a triumphant cross. At the cross our sin was dealt with and paid for; there our enemy was defeated as death, with all its powers, was vanquished. If we see Christ merely dying, then the event makes little difference to us. But if we see Him as a risen and reigning Lord, then "death has been swallowed up in victory," and we, by faith in Him, share not only in His death but in His life. With the apostle Paul we can proclaim with great joy, "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"

(1 Cor. 15:57).

Second, the resurrection of Jesus Christ means that we have a *living* Savior, a Savior who gets involved with us. He has "become a merciful and faithful high priest" (Heb. 2:17). One who is sympathetic with our weaknesses and who offers mercy and grace to help us in time of need.

The resurrection of Jesus was a demonstration of the power of God, but it was much more: It was a declaration that the same kind of power was available to those who believe in Him. Paul says that this power is "incomparably great to us who believe" (Eph. 1:19-21). He sees that the working of God's power in us is like the workings of God's power in Christ.

Just how was this power manifested in Christ? It raised Him from the dead and exalted Him to His Father's right hand in the heavenly realms. There the Father gave Him authority, power, and dominion above all.

How does this power affect us who believe? It has raised *us* up with Christ and seated *us* with Him in heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6). There the Father has given *us* everything we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). No wonder the cry of Paul's heart was, "O that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection!" (Phil. 3:10).

A Future Hope

The third aspect of the resurrection's effect on our lives determines our future. Not only is the resurrection our greatest triumph because our sins are forgiven; not only do we have confidence and trust in God for daily life because our risen Lord is at the right hand of the Father. Even beyond these blessings is the knowledge that the resurrected and reigning Christ is also our future hope.

The theme of the writings of the apostle Paul is *faith*; of the apostle John, *love*; and of the

apostle Peter, *hope*. Peter wrote:

In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a *living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Pet. 1:3).

What Peter says is that the ground of our hope is the "mercy of God," and the character of that hope is that it is "alive." Our hope has *life*, carrying with it an undying power—the certainty of fulfillment.

Paul tells us this hope will not disappoint us (Rom. 5:5) and that, along with faith and love, it will stay with us (1 Cor. 13:13). His explanation of the mystery which has been kept hidden for ages and generations is simply "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

In the light of these three aspects of the resurrection—past, present, and future—we can be tremendously encouraged since we have been raised with Christ. Paul sums up the past, present, and future for the believer in his words to the Colossians:

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory (Col. 3:1-4).

I pray that the Christ of history, who became the Lord of glory and who promised to bring us to glory, will awaken in each of us the full reality of "Christ in us, the hope of glory" so that we might know the glorious hope to which He has called us. ▼

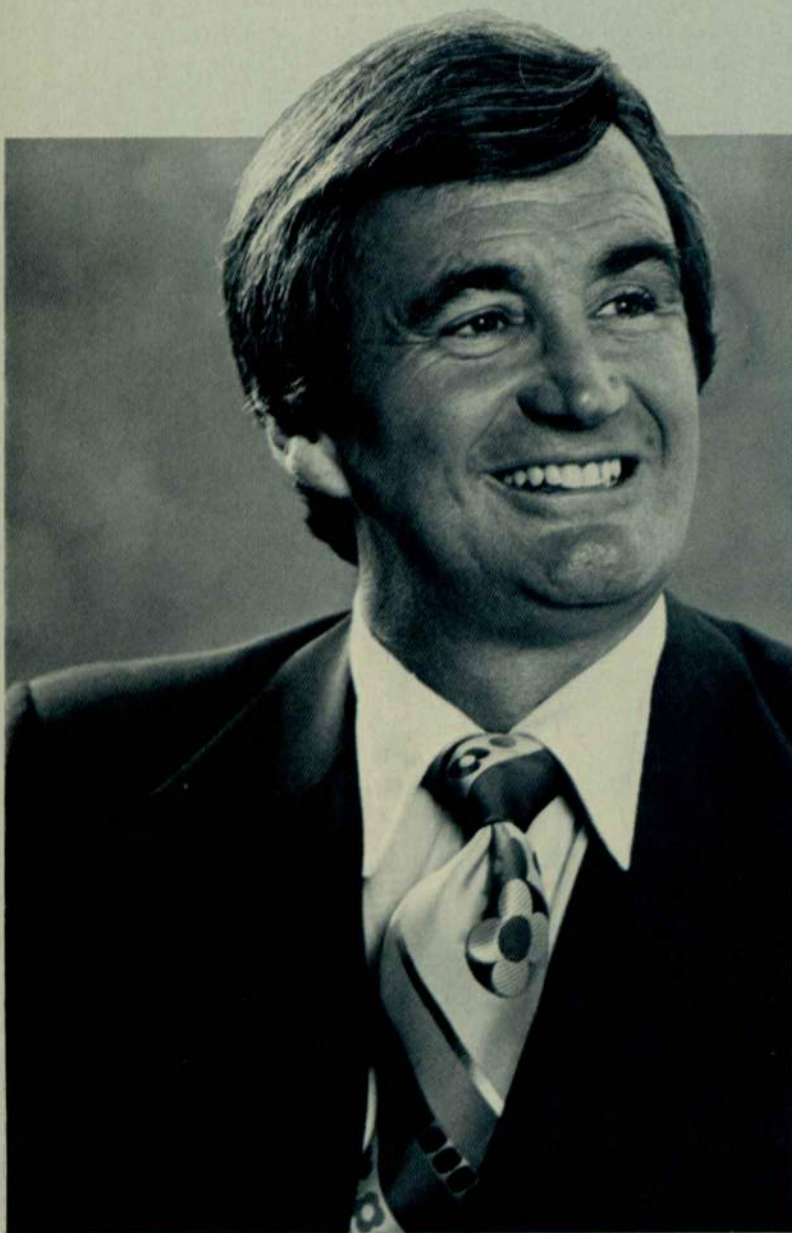


John Duke received his B.A. in History from William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a member of the Editorial Board of *Integrity Communications* and currently serves as a pastor in Mobile, Alabama, where he resides with his wife, Ellen, and their three children.

Out of the Stained-Glass Ghetto

an interview with Dr. James Kennedy

Dr. James Kennedy is Senior Minister of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and president of Evangelism Explosion, a worldwide evangelistic organization. In this interview he calls upon American Christians to become effective witnesses for Christ and to take an active role in changing the direction of our nation.



New Wine: *If the Church is the earthly representation of the resurrection power of Christ, why is it apparently having so little impact on our nation?*

James Kennedy: We live in a democracy which is governed by the majority, and there very clearly is not a majority of Christians in this nation—at least not born-again, Bible-believing Christians. That makes it difficult to affect the decisions being made by government.

Along with this, we have seen a departure from Christian values in society at large. There was a time when even non-Christians embraced Christian morality and ethics; but that is no longer the case. We now live in a post-Christian or even an anti-Christian culture. Today the secular humanist view of life, family, government, and morals which has gained ascendancy in this country is diametrically opposed to the traditional Christian view.

Christianity is now regarded by many as an alien mind-set which is being “imposed” on our society. But the truth is that the humanist viewpoint, which is truly alien to American ideals, has been imposed on our society by the courts and legislative bodies, while being presented as the *truly* American world view.

Some groups are seriously saying that Christianity is a threat to “the American way.” This is ludicrous, of course, since Christianity has been pivotal to American life for generations. But we have lost that.

NW: *How did we lose it?*

JK: I believe we lost our Christian influence by our failure to obey two principle scriptural mandates. The first is the evangelistic mandate, found in Matthew 28:18 and other texts, to “go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” A survey taken fifteen years ago indicated that nearly ninety percent of all church members have never led anyone to Christ. In the past, church members may have thought they could ignore that mandate, but we are now waking up to what can happen if a society is allowed to become pagan.

The second scriptural mandate we have failed to obey is the cultural mandate of Genesis 1:28, in which we are told that as delegated authorities of God we are to be fruitful and have dominion over all the earth. We have failed in this, primarily because

of a misapplication of some ideas from the Pietist movement of the seventeenth century.

Many Christians have been taught that the only important aspect of the Christian life is one's *private* walk with God. They have been taught that Christianity doesn't have anything to say about other spheres of life—whether art, music, politics, agriculture, science or education—which are considered to be totally outside the sphere of the Church.

The result is that millions of Christians today believe that Christianity is restricted to one's prayer closet or the church, and spiritual activity outside those limitations is out of place. But we can't afford to abandon our cultural mandate and retreat instead into spiritual "ghettos" within the stained glass walls of the sanctuary.

NW: *Do you feel a spiritual awakening is necessary for any substantial change in the direction our country is taking?*

JK: Yes, and the awakening must begin with the church. Christians must become aware of what is happening, and then be willing to obey the evangelistic and cultural mandates.

I think a great deal is happening even now. There are more Christians witnessing for Christ today than there were twenty years ago, despite the decline of Christian culture. I would even venture to say that there are more Christians witnessing today than there ever have been in the history of the world. My only concern is that it may be "too little, too late," to stem the tide of humanistic control. But at least it is happening. Apart from a concerted evangelistic effort, we will not see a change in our cultural direction.

We must look around at our world and pray for the Lord to show us what areas of our society and culture we are to be involved in changing. An individual cannot do everything, but he can do *something*. If enough people get involved, we will have an impact.

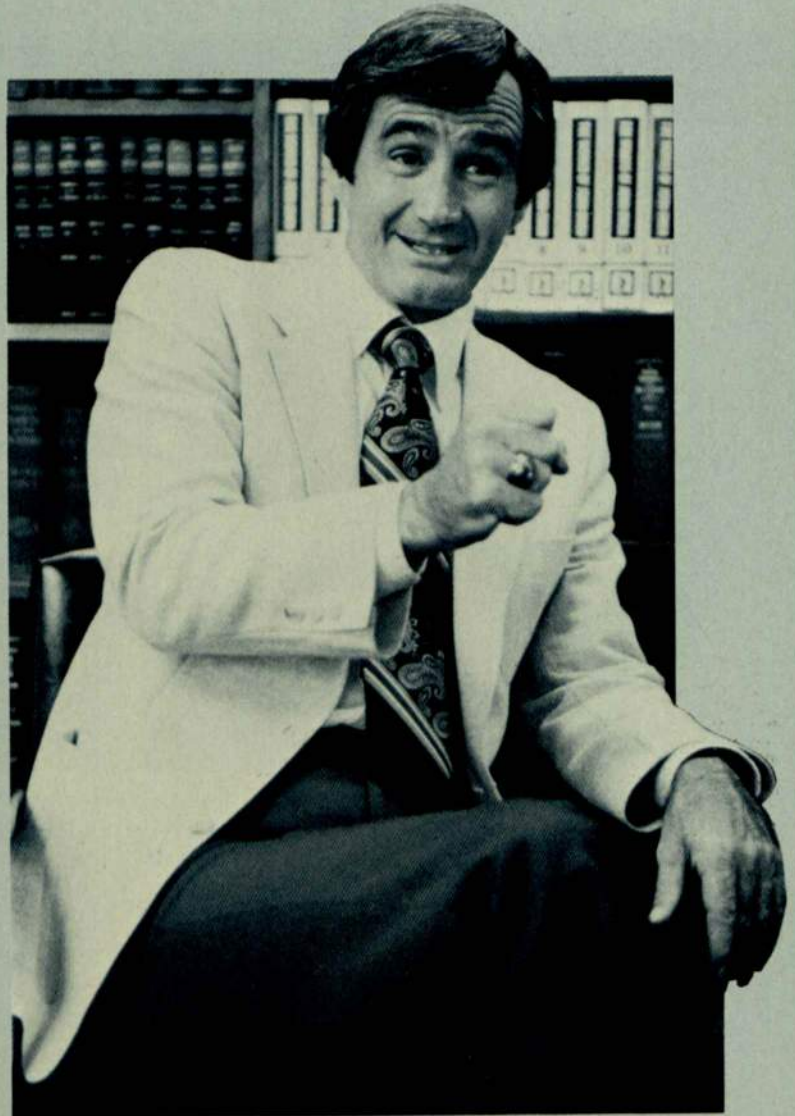
NW: *What do you believe are the essential concerns Christians should be focusing on personally?*

JK: I believe that daily prayer and scripture study are fundamental for spiritual growth. You cannot have spiritual strength without these activities any more than you can have physical strength without eating.

Another essential is learning to witness. The most basic thing a Christian can do is to fulfill the evangelistic mandate—to share the life of Christ. The cultural mandate is then simply a natural extension of applying the gospel in all areas of life. But it begins in the personal witness.

REMEMBER: FRIDAY, APRIL 1, IS A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING.

Millions of Christians know they should witness for Christ and be fruitful, yet they are afraid they won't know what to say. When they try to tell others about the Lord, they end up in an argument or some other kind of fiasco. Consequently, many who *have* tried to witness just give up. But basically that is because they have never been taught how to witness. Yet witnessing is every Christian's responsibility to learn, and the Church's responsibility to teach. This, of course, is why we have initiated our



program called "Evangelism Explosion."

NW: What is the main thrust of that training?

JK: In the "Evangelism Explosion" program we attempt to train ministers to train their people to share the gospel of Christ effectively with others. It is a program of spiritual multiplication. The training is often an "uphill" endeavor because witnessing goes against the grain of the natural man. But even so we have seen some fantastic results.

Many growing churches in America and around the world are giving this training to their lay people. Obviously, if there are two hundred members in a church who are trained and equipped to lead others to Christ, that church will grow faster than a church that has only one pastor trying to do the whole job. When people are trained, churches grow. But we are not interested in just a lot of confessions of faith; our aim is to see solid church growth.



NW: What happens when people don't share their faith?

JK: A failure to witness clogs up our whole Christian life. We can picture each Christian as a conduit through which the "water of life" ought to flow out to irrigate the land. But if the conduit is clogged up, we cannot be a blessing to the world. If we are plugged up, the land withers and perishes because the water never reaches it.

When you stop and think about it, that's how it is today. Jesus Christ is the fountain of life and the Church is the world's irrigation system. A pipe went out from Calvary and began to branch out into more and more pipes until life was flowing through generation after generation in millions of conduits. Each life is simply a branch of that irrigation system.

The tragedy is that even today, after the water has been carried to us for over nineteen hundred years, the vast majority of Christians who die this year in America will be dead ends in the pipeline. They will have led no one to Christ to carry on the life they received from Him. But think of the spiritual harvest that would result if all those lives could be unplugged!

NW: What do you think it will take to unclog them? Perhaps persecution?

JK: I hope not. But there *are* some historical precedents to consider. For instance, the early church was not really serious about fulfilling the Great Commission until the persecution which followed the preaching of Stephen, when they were scattered and "went everywhere proclaiming the word" (Acts 8:4). Up until that time Christians had stayed close to Jerusalem despite Jesus' orders to go into all the world.

The great spreading of the gospel in the first century began with this persecution and continued under Nero's persecution. The harder the Roman empire tried to stamp out the Church, the more it grew. When peaceful times came, however, the Church began to atrophy.

I vividly recall a conversation I once had with Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, the Lutheran pastor from Romania who was imprisoned for his faith almost fourteen years. He showed me a picture of three men who were being sentenced to five-, ten-, and fifteen-year terms in Siberia for evangelizing. As I was looking at the picture I asked him, "With that kind of repression, are there many Christians behind the Iron Curtain who witness?"

I'll never forget his response. It was as if sparks flew out of his eyes as he said impassionedly, "Do many Christians witness? I never knew a Christian that didn't witness!!"

It took persecution to bring that about in Eastern Europe, and I wondered to myself, what is it going to take to get easy-going Christians in America to take the Great Commission seriously?

I don't think most Americans realize how late and how critical the hour really is. The Church must wake up and take seriously the task that has been given to it. The next five to seven years will be critical ones for our nation—times when Christians *must* be praying *and* working as never before. ♥

Instruction in the fundamentals of the faith is an important part of our Christian heritage. "The Word" feature over the course of the year will provide a systematic, seasonal study of basic teachings about the creation and fall of man, the person and work of Christ, and the nature and destiny of the Church. In this trimester we are studying the nature of God, man's need for redemption, and our salvation in Jesus. We encourage our readers to use this feature daily, both for personal scripture study and family reading.

THE WORD

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior, who is the prophet, priest, and king of our salvation.

I. Jesus' Threefold Ministry Foretold and Fulfilled

- A. Prophetic Dt. 18:15-18; Is. 61:1-11; Acts 3:17-23... April 1
- B. Priestly Gen. 14:18-20; Ps. 110:4; Heb. 7:1-28... April 2
- C. Kingly 2 Sam. 7:11-16; Ps. 132; Heb. 12:1-2... April 3

II. Jesus' Prophetic Ministry

- A. He knew His prophetic role Mt. 13:53-58; Lk. 13:31-35... April 4
- B. His prophetic office recognized Mt. 21:1-11, 33-46... April 5
- C. Power to raise the dead Lk. 7:11-23 April 6
- D. Other miraculous signs Mt. 9:1-34 April 7
- E. Multiplied loaves and fishes Jn. 6:1-14 April 8
- F. Preached repentance Lk. 13:1-9; Mt. 4:12-17... April 9
- G. Discerned hearts, predicted His future Jn. 4:1-19; Mt. 20:17-19... April 10
- H. Spoke for God Jn. 1:1-18... April 11

III. Jesus' Priestly Ministry

- A. God's Lamb for the world's sin Jn. 1:19-34; Rev. 5:1-14... April 12
- B. The Savior of His people Mt. 1:18-25; Titus 3:1-6... April 13
- C. Cleansed us from sin by His blood 1 Jn. 1:1-10... April 14
- D. Intercedes for the people Lk. 22:31-32; Jn. 17:1-26... April 15
- E. High Priest of the New Covenant Heb. 9:1-28 April 16
- F. Our High Priest encourages a bolder faith... Heb. 10:1-39 April 17

IV. Jesus' Kingly Ministry

- A. The King declared Mt. 2:1-10; Jn. 1:43-51... April 18
- B. His kingdom at hand; not of this world Jn. 3:1-15; 18:33-37... April 19
- C. The kingdom in parables Mt. 13:1-58... April 20
- D. The King declares war Mt. 12:22-37... April 21
- E. The King's triumphant procession Zech. 9:9; Jn. 12: 12-19... April 22
- F. The King on trial Jn. 19:1-15 April 23
- G. The King exalted Acts 2:29-41; Phil. 2:1-11... April 24
- H. The King's followers proclaim His kingdom... Acts 17:1-3; Acts 28:30-31... April 25
- I. The King extends His kingdom 1 Pet. 2:1-10; Rev. 1:1-6; 5: 9-10... April 26

The King's Rewards and Judgments

- J. The ten virgins Mt. 25:1-13 April 27
- K. The ten talents Mt. 25:14-30 April 28
- L. The sheep and the goats Mt. 25:31-46 April 29
- M. The last judgment Rev. 11:15-19; 19:11-21... April 30

A monthly Bible study by Bruce Longstreth



These thoughts by Ern Baxter, originally shared at the memorial service for a young man in his pastorate who recently went to be with the Lord, are vital to our understanding of the lordship of Christ as exercised in life and particularly in death.

When a believer dies, the enemy hasn't "pulled a fast one." God is in control—He holds

The Keys to Life and Death

by Ern Baxter

Jesus Christ is Lord of all. The foundation of our faith is that there is One who rules the universe, who is the Fountain of all life.

Life did not come together as a fortuitous concurrence of atoms. It is a product of an infinite design, and behind that infinite design is not a principle or a set of rules, but a throbbing Heart and an eternal Mind. At every turn, life links us to the Creator; He is the Lord of every area of our lives.

But His lordship goes beyond life. In this message, I want to magnify the lordship of Christ, not only in life, but also in the inevitable event of death. Death is an aspect of the purposeful exer-

Photo: H. Armstrong Roberts, Inc.

cise of Christ's lordship as He accomplishes His ongoing purposes among men.

In the Hands of the Lord

In Paul's epistle to the Romans, he defines the foundational truths of our faith. The following free translation of a passage from chapter 14 of Romans emphasizes the all-encompassing lordship of Christ:

The Truth is that we neither live nor die as self-contained units. At every turn life links us to the Lord, and when we die, we come face-to-face with Him. *In life or death, we are in the hands of the Lord.* For this was the purpose of Christ dying and coming to life, that He might be *Lord in both life and death* (Rom. 14:7-9, emphasis added).

We may be a little surprised at the apostle's words, but his meaning is clear: Jesus is not only the Lord of life; He is the Lord of death as well.

In the beautiful Twenty-Third Psalm, David speaks of God's personal involvement in the matter of death. He begins, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want"; but toward the end of the psalm, he changes from the third to the second person as he talks about the Lord in a very personal way. He says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, *Thou* art with me." That is to say, in most areas of life we have one another for support. But when we come to the matter of death, we walk in single file—we walk alone with Him. We go privately and personally with God, because He is the Lord of death.

All Things Are Yours

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "All things are yours, including life and death" (1 Cor. 3:22). My first reaction to

these words is to wonder whether I consider that a blessing or not. Why would I want to have death as mine? When we understand God's sovereignty, however, realizing that He is Lord even of death, then we know that death is as much a part of God's purpose for us as are birth, marriage, children, and all other aspects of life. Though death is an enemy to our mortality, it is God's servant in fulfilling His purposes. Death is under His lordship.

We must refuse to make room for Satan in this whole matter. We must categorically reject any suggestion that when a believer dies, the enemy has "pulled a fast one," that somehow he has sneaked in and done something without the Lord knowing about it. No—for He who sits on the throne of the universe never sleeps, and there is nothing that eludes His gaze, nothing that is done apart from His intention. He works all things after the counsel of His will.

We cannot say that someone has died by "accident"; it is rather a determination of Almighty God and part of the working out of His purposes. Though we may never understand His purposes fully, yet our faith must affirm that God gives, and it is *God* who takes away.

Death is only the porter that runs at the bidding of the sovereign Christ, and opens the door that permits us to move from one room to another. Death is at best a slave of our Master, used by Him at His determination. When someone dies our comfort comes when we submit ourselves to the absolute, sovereign right of God to do with His own what He wills.

A Mystery

Why does God choose to take someone in death? I don't fully know why. Paul said that the purpose of Christ's dying and coming to life again was that He might be Lord in both life and death. But even though I know

that is true, I don't understand how. Yet I must remember that there is so much in *every* area of life that I don't understand! In fact, as I grow older I am recapturing a beautiful sense of mystery that I had lost in the callous and callow years of my youth, when I thought I knew everything. I don't understand everything about God, but I know He is my rock.

I don't fully understand the Incarnation. I can't comprehend how the Logos laid aside the purple toga of his co-equal rulership with the Father and the Spirit and came down in the mystery of incarnation. I can't understand how He nestled in the virgin womb of a little peasant girl for nine months, was born, and snuggled close to his mother's breast as an infant. I don't have the intellectual apparatus in my fallen mind to understand how immaculate Perfection wrestled with sin and came through victorious on every occasion. Although I could try to give answers to the how and why—good answers and true answers—they would not be sufficient.

I don't understand all that was taking place when Jesus hung in agony on the cross, so mangled that He was unrecognizable. Yet I am told by revelation as the Holy Spirit draws back the curtain that at that particular historical and geographical point, an event was taking place that was cosmic in character. In those awful moments Jesus Christ was bearing the sin of the world, confronting principalities and powers and grinding under His conquering heel the skull of "His Satanic



Ern Baxter, a long-time leader in the charismatic renewal, pastored one of the largest evangelical churches in Canada for twenty years. Since that time he has traveled extensively in ministry throughout the U.S. and abroad. Ern is a member of the Integrity Communications Board of Directors and he resides in Mobile, Alabama, with his wife, Ruth.

Majesty." And when He had accomplished the work the Father

years before, probably presumed that this Soul was his to take as

Christians don't die accidentally; they die by divine design.

had sent Him to do, He cried triumphantly, "It is finished!"

On the Cross

We need to understand that Jesus' life was not taken away from Him by the enemy. He *gave* His life, yielding up His spirit. In that moment of Jesus' death, Satan, who had gathered souls at the hour of death for hundreds of

well. Possibly, he sent some of his strongest princes to gather Jesus' soul. But as the satanic powers came to bear away Jesus' soul in death, the Messiah flung them off. If those present had had spiritually perceptive eyes, they would have seen strewn around the foot of the cross the beaten forms of satanic principalities.

King Jesus never reigned so majestically as He did from His cross, where having finished His work, He triumphantly yielded up His spirit and went down into Hades to declare that the cosmic moment had arrived, that man had realized his destiny, that God's will had been done. He made His announcement and then ascended into the presence of God to sit at the right hand of the Majesty on high until His enemies will be made His footstool. That day Jesus demonstrated that He was Lord of both life and death.

No Accidents

The sovereign lordship of

When my son, Matt, is feeling guilty because of disobedience, he becomes "deaf." Although he is usually responsive to what my wife and I tell him, when he has been secretly disobedient he has difficulty listening to us, and a distance between us sets in.

One day several years ago, a situation came up in which Matt did not seem to be telling the truth. My wife was sure that he had been dishonest with her, but she was unable to prove it. Our philosophy with our children, however, has

always been that whenever there is a question, love "believes all things." So I told Matt I would

choose to trust he was telling the truth and ask the Lord to show us if he was not.

The following day I took him on a fishing trip with a friend of mine and his son. I was teaching Matt how to cast from the boat, but when I stopped instructing him, he would turn the rod over and hold it a different way from what I had shown him. He was obviously not following my directions. The inevitable result was that he dropped his brand new rod and reel into eighteen feet of water.

Matt turned and looked at me with pain in his eyes and tears running down his cheeks. I said, "Son, you weren't hearing me properly. Did you lie to your mother?"

Immediately he burst into tears and answered, "Yes, Daddy, I did." Then he came over and sat in my lap. We talked and prayed

together, and I told him I wouldn't spank him because I felt the loss of his reel was sufficient punishment.

After we talked, I decided I would try to cast for his rod. The chances of hooking it were slim. The lake was man-made, with uncut trees just under the surface and logs strewn on the bottom—all just waiting to snag my hook. In addition, we had drifted some distance from where I thought he had dropped the reel. Nevertheless, I put a large lure on the end of my line to try.

The first cast caught on a tree, and as I reeled the line in, our boat was pulled in that direction. The second cast yielded nothing. On the third cast, however, I reeled up a line. We pulled the line in, and on the end of the line was my son's fishing rod.

We were all thrilled to realize that God had helped my lure find Matt's line. Matt, of course, was especially blessed. But to top it off, when he reeled his line in there was a fish on his hook—the only fish we caught all day! My friend in the boat with us joked, "Check in his mouth; you might find a coin."

That day I was more deeply aware than ever before that God was working on my son's behalf to teach him a lesson he would never forget, and to help him on the road to righteousness and maturity.

Paul Petrie is the senior pastor of Covenant Church in Lexington, Kentucky.

HOMESPUN

A Fish Story



by Paul Petrie

Christ, even in the matter of death, is clearly evident to me as I consider the tragic automobile crash in which my dear young friend was killed. One of his brothers who had been in the vehicle yet survived was understandably devastated by his brother's death. As we talked by phone in the days after the event, he said to me, "Why him? Why not me?" His words were sincere; I believe at that moment he would have gladly exchanged places with his brother.

But as he asked the question something rose up within me and I replied, "Michael, you tell me that you were only six inches from your brother at the time of the crash. He was taken and you are left. That confirms for me again that Christians don't die accidentally; they die by divine design. You must understand that God had a reason for taking your brother and leaving you. Your brother came under the lordship of Jesus Christ in the matter of death. You came under the lordship of Christ in the divine intention to keep you alive."

Why does God take someone who is young and full of promise, and leave someone like me whose life is seemingly complete? That question is not permissible to me. What *is* permissible to me is to bow to the lordship of Jesus Christ and say, "Lord of Life, you are Lord of Death as well. You have chosen to take some, and you have chosen to leave us." We know why God has taken those whom He has taken; it was a part of His purpose. But our continuing challenge is to know why He has left us.

Lord of Life and Death

We stand in the light of the Lord even as those who have gone on before us stand in the light. Paul said that to be absent from the body and present with the Lord is far better than to be present in the body and away

from the Lord (2 Cor. 5:6-8). It is far better for those who are gone and with Him, but it is difficult for us who must adjust to the absence. A veil separates us, but in spirit we are in God's presence even as they are.

Consequently we can give thanks to God for the triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ over death, over Satan's principalities and powers. In that confidence we can face death as one of the mysteries of His sovereignty, confident that Christ is Lord of both life and death.

But our ultimate confidence and triumph is perhaps best expressed by the hymn-writer who said:

It is not death to die, to leave
this earthly road
Amidst the brotherhood on
high to be at home with
God.

DID YOU KNOW?

Members of our staff gather regularly for prayer. When we come together we have on our minds not only the needs of our publications ministry, but also the needs of those who rely on New Wine for daily strength and encouragement.

In a single month, hundreds of prayer requests are sent to us asking God's intervention for healings, jobs, marriages, financial troubles, backslidden loved ones, and other concerns. We remember these requests when we pray together. We're always glad to hear again from many of these same people who write later to say how God healed a sickness, provided a job, restored a marriage, met a financial need, or led a loved one back on the right path.

We count it a privilege to pray for these needs as a staff, and we would be honored to pray for you as well. Just use the envelope provided in each issue of New Wine to tell us your prayer needs.

We thought you'd like to know...

It is not death to close the eye
oft dimmed by tears
And wake in glorious repose
to spend eternal years.

It is not death to bear the
wrench that sets us free
From earthbound life to
breathe the air of bound-
less liberty.

It is not death to fling aside
this mortal dust
And rise on strong, exulting
wing to live among the just.

Jesus, Thou Prince of life, Thy
chosen cannot die.
Like Thee, they conquer in
the strife to reign with
Thee on high.¹

Those who go on to be with
the Lord are not dead. *They are
alive!* ♥

¹Words by Dr. Caesar Malan, 1864.



A Divine Exchange

by Robert Grant

The tomb was empty. Death could not retain the Son of Man, and Almighty God had made a final statement which would ring throughout eternity.

In this dramatic moment on the first Easter morning, the life and teachings of Jesus were divinely confirmed as ultimate truth and reality. The way had been opened for a whole new order of human existence. He had broken the boundaries of natural limita-

tions and the confines of time. A divine exchange was accomplished which would have a profound impact upon all who would hear Him.

Jesus had exchanged death for life, mortality for immortality. What He was in the tomb was exchanged for what He was in His Father's heart. And that is the heart of the Christian life: exchanging what we are in our unloveliness for what we are deemed

Photo: H. Armstrong Roberts, Inc.

to be in the heart of our heavenly Father.

Nullifying Things That Are

This important truth is seen in 1 Corinthians 1:28. Here we read that God has "chosen the things that are not, that He might nullify things that are." The loving eye of our heavenly Father looks upon our lives and sees the full extent of our needs and limitations. His desire is that even as He unloosed the graveclothes binding Jesus in the grave, so also will He unloose those things in us which restrict and limit us.

God has chosen things which do not exist in order to bring to nothing the things that do exist. If we are unlovely in heart, His desire is to bring that unloveliness to nothing by giving us the loveliness of Jesus in its place. He takes "what is not" in us—the beauty of Jesus—and uses it to bring to nothing what does exist—our own unloveliness. This is not simply a Christian ideal; it is a miraculous pillar of the Christian life. And though miraculous, it is nevertheless very practical as it is realized within daily life.

A Supernatural Supply

I recall a specific situation that made this principle real to me. During a particular time of pressure and a seeming lack of grace, an acquaintance dropped by our home. There was nothing in my heart which wanted to respond compassionately to this individual. I knew it would be a draining experience because of his personal need. I was tempted to refrain from even answering the door.

The reality of my own ungracious attitude was clear to me. I felt ugly inside, and yet I sincerely felt no supply of grace to help the person approaching my front door. So I prayed: "Lord, I enter now a divine exchange according to 1 Corinthians 1:28. Let what does not exist in me—the kind-

ness of Jesus—replace what does exist—the unloving condition of my heart."

Believing this verse, I approached the door to receive my guest. As he entered my home, I became consciously aware of a supernatural supply of grace and care for him. It was beyond what I had to give, yet it was there! A miracle was occurring in my own heart as I exchanged what I was for who He is. It was not just a hopeful statement of faith, but a genuine, transcending exchange of life for this very practical need.

He Is Risen!

Jesus has opened the door into this way of living for all who would believe on His name. The resurrection of Christ paved the way for a life lived in continual relationship with the transcending provision of our heavenly Father. He stands ready to bring

Robert Grant completed undergraduate studies in religion at Southern California College and further graduate studies in New Testament and Church History at George Washington University. Robert presently resides in Mission Viejo, California, with his wife, Sue, and their children, where he is the senior pastor of Saddleback Valley Fellowship.

to nothing those undesirable things which have existed in us by replacing them with His provision in Jesus.

This divine exchange is ours to appropriate by faith and is intended to be a normal part of our daily living. It is what makes the Christian life so distinctive in the earth. My prayer is that this Easter season we all will possess this exchange as our provision in greater dimensions than ever before. For this divine exchange is the tangible means through which our lives will attest to the fact that the tomb is empty, and He is risen! ▼



Tips for Fathers

You gave your child a special gift, and by the way his eyes lit up when he opened it, you knew he was grateful. But when he set the gift aside, ran to you saying, "Thank you, Dad!" and threw his arms around you—that's when your heart nearly burst with pleasure.

If that scene has ever taken place in your home, then you've witnessed a parable of how thankfulness can take us right into the presence of our Heavenly Father—and of the joy it brings Him when we come to Him that way. A truly grateful heart eventually turns its attention from the gift to the Giver. When we daily cultivate the seed of thanksgiving in our family, in time we will see the fruit of worship growing in them as they learn to keep their hearts sensitive and turned toward Him.

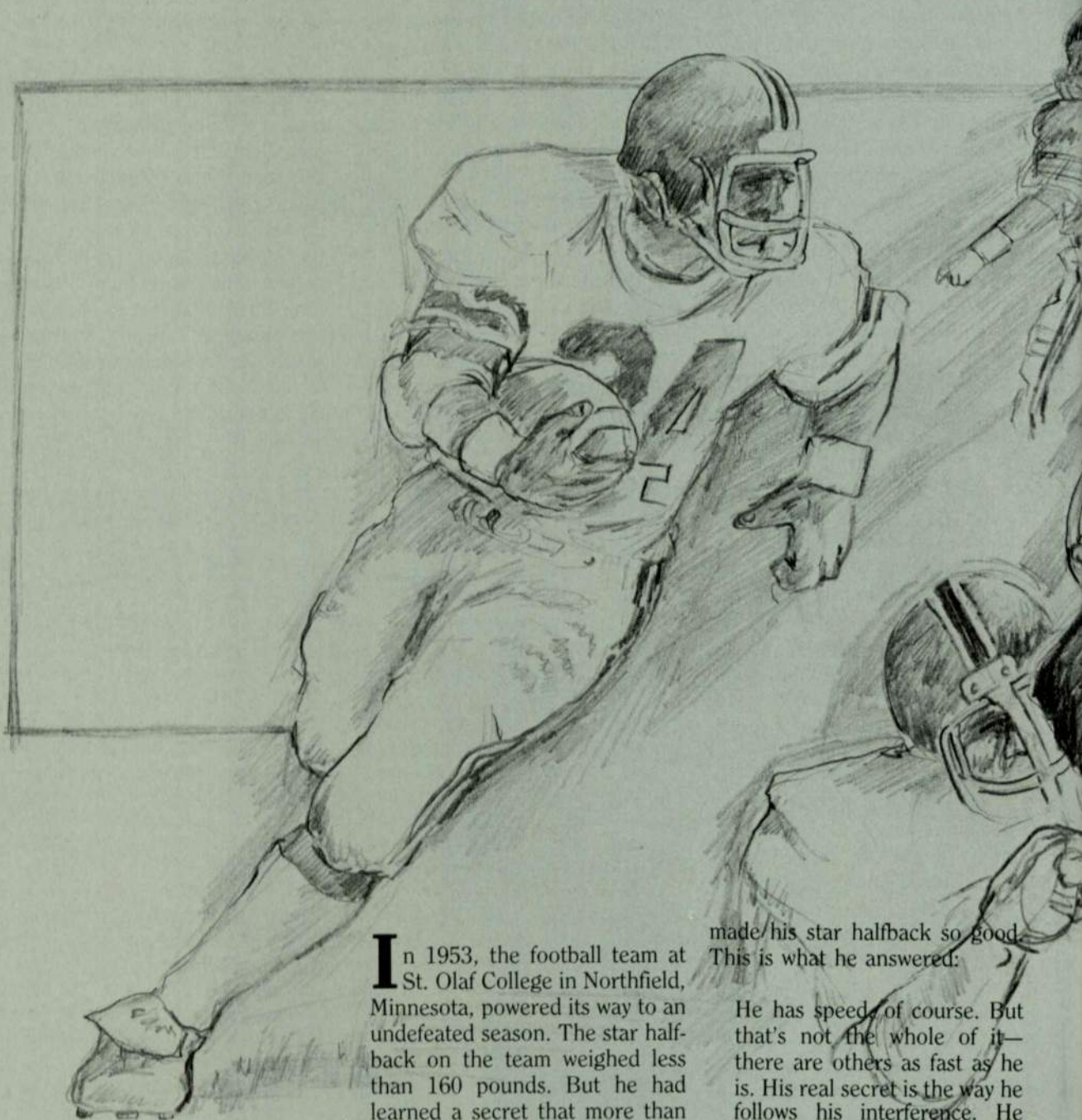
To worship God genuinely you have to know who He is and what He's like. Since no one has ever seen God, how do we know what He's like? The apostle Paul tells us that "God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made" (Rom. 1:20). All of us—child and adult alike—first learn what God is like, and why He is worthy of our worship, by the things around us He has made, the gifts He has given us. If He made the mountains and the lightning, He must be powerful. If He made the sunset and the rose, He must delight in beauty. If He made the human body, He must be wise, and if He made the ostrich, He must have a sense of humor! Helping our children to thank God for His gifts, both great and small, will teach them who He is and send them running into His arms with grateful hearts.

"Tips for Fathers" are provided by Fathergram. If you would like to be added to their mailing list, write: Fathergram, P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616.

In the Flow of Power

by Larry Christenson

Nothing scares Satan more than a united team of believers.



In 1953, the football team at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, powered its way to an undefeated season. The star halfback on the team weighed less than 160 pounds. But he had learned a secret that more than made up for his small stature—and proved devastating to the opposition.

Someone asked the coach what

made his star halfback so good. This is what he answered:

He has speed, of course. But that's not the whole of it—there are others as fast as he is. His real secret is the way he follows his interference. He has an uncanny knack for sensing just when the hole will open up, just where the key block will be thrown. He

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knows where the flow of power is going, and he goes with it.

When we talk about power on a gridiron we can mean a variety of things: speed, strength, agility, teamwork, precision timing. These are aspects of what we might call "football power." On the gridiron of life another kind of power is needed, a very special kind of power. St. Paul describes it in

Ephesians 1:19-20: "I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great his power is to help those who believe him. *It is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in heaven*" (TLB). The power we need when we step up to that scrimmage line against Satan is *resurrection power*. We need to know how to

get into the *flow* of that power.

The Purpose of Resurrection Power

Every sandlotter knows the purpose of football power: You use it to score points against the other team. Everything the team does is directed toward the goal of winning a victory over the opposition. That goal provides the motive for every thought and every action on the gridiron.

Resurrection power has a purpose, too: to score points against man's arch-opponent, death. Death is Satan's triple-threat star. "Through fear of death we live all our lives as slaves to dread" (Heb. 2:15). Resurrection power moves resolutely toward the goal of a victory of life over death.

This becomes a checkpoint to help determine whether we are moving in the flow of resurrection power: Will it score points against death? Does it contribute to the victory of life over death?

Right at the center of the Christian faith lives the promise of eternal life. If what we are doing as Christians does not somehow undergird this basic purpose, then we will not be in the flow of resurrection power. But it involves more than a person saying sometime in his life, "I receive Jesus as my Savior." This is important, as important as getting suited up for a game, lining up for the kick-off, and getting started.

Jim Cavner, one of the coordinators of the Word of God Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan, made an interesting statement in a workshop on evangelism. He



Larry Christenson served as the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in San Pedro, California, for over twenty years. Some of his best known books include *The Christian Family* and *The Renewed Mind*. Larry is presently the director of the International Lutheran Renewal Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he lives with his wife, Nordis, and their children.

said, "We have discovered that we need *five* spiritual laws. The first four lead a person to a knowledge of salvation. But it isn't enough for a person just to make a decision for Christ. The fifth spiritual law is that a person must come into a community of Christian people where that life is nourished. Until a person is an active member of a Christian fellowship, we don't consider him truly converted."

One can make a decision for Christ, but that doesn't mean he has won a victory over death. That life must be sustained and nourished. This is why it is important to ground our lives in those things that feed the resurrection life—prayer, study of His Word. This can go on privately, but it needs also to go on in a fellowship of believers.

Now a step further. You may be making plans to join a Bible study, and that is good. You will make advances against the en-

emy. You will penetrate his defenses. But if all your thoughts are focused on things like prayer and Bible study, you can still be thrown for a loss.

We once saw a high school team that ran from a double wingback formation and they did nothing but pass. The fullback got the snap from center and threw the ball on virtually every play. Naturally the team lost. They were too easily defended.

There is a need for balanced offense. One of the balances we need in the Christian life is to engage not only in things like prayer and Bible study, but also in things that are a part of our total life experience. Christians need to learn how to play together, work together, socialize together. Satan is thrown off guard when God's people get together to share life in all its fullness and variety. God wants this kind of balanced offensive against the enemy.

The Position of Resurrection Power

Everyone from All-American to scrub knows on which side of scrimmage to line up! The flow of power always begins on your own side of scrimmage. Before you can break through the enemy defenses, you have to line up with your own team, behind the line of scrimmage.

To get into the flow of resurrection power you must be properly positioned. You must be lined up with your teammates, your fellow believers. If you're out there doing your own thing, you may provide some entertainment for the spectators but you won't contribute to the victory. You'll never really get into the flow of resurrection power.

There is a need for God's people to be assembled together before they can move out against the enemy. Here we touch on a point that God is emphasizing in a way that He hasn't done for a

NEW WINE EVENTS

An Opportunity to Meet and Hear Bob Mumford

Two Unique Events With Two Unique Purposes

Lansing, MI
Reach the World

Chicago, IL
Build the Church



Information

Location: Lansing Civic Center, Lansing, Michigan
Date: May 27-29, 1983, Friday evening through Sunday evening.

Registration: No registration—admission free. An offering will be taken at the Event.

Banquet: Plan to attend the Event Preview Banquet with Bob Mumford. There you'll have an opportunity to meet him along with other *New Wine* readers from your area. See registration form on page 33.

Lodging: See March *New Wine* or call (205) 476-0490.

Local Information: Call (517) 351-7340

Information

Location: Wheaton College, Wheaton (Chicago), Illinois
Date: June 3-4, 1983, Friday evening through Saturday evening.

Registration: See form on page 32.

Banquet: Plan to attend the Event Preview Banquet with Bob Mumford. There you'll have an opportunity to meet him along with other *New Wine* readers from your area. See registration form on page 33.

Lodging: See March *New Wine* or call (205) 476-0490.

Local Information: Call (312) 279-9463

long time, and that is in regard to the question of *authority*.

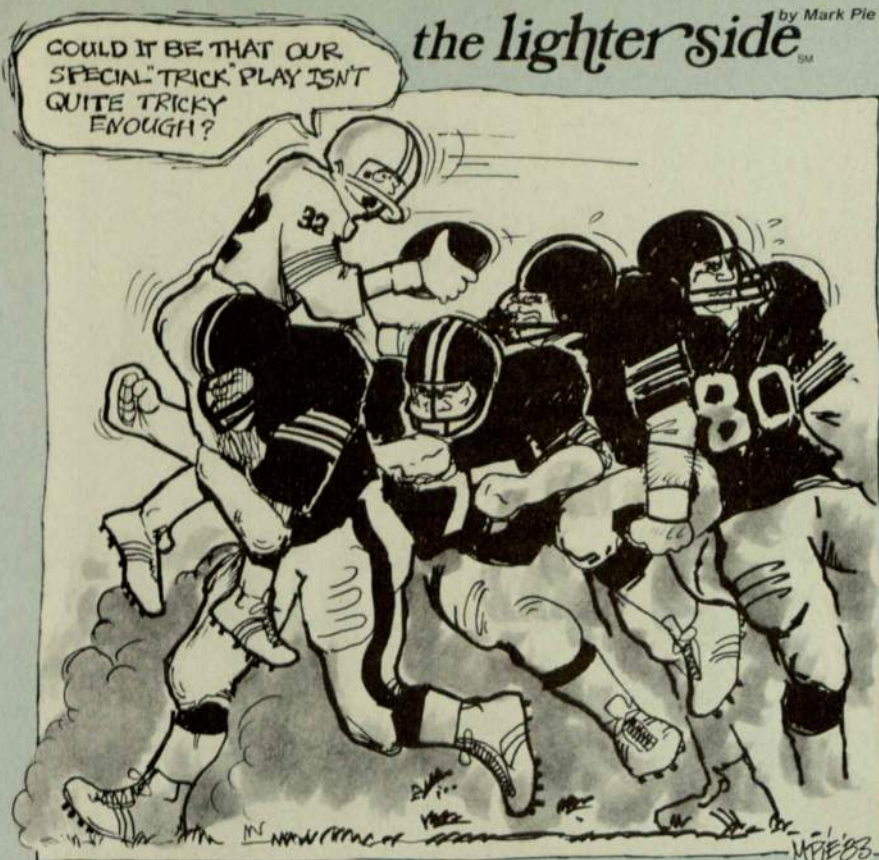
A football team got into the habit of talking in the huddle. Everybody had his own idea about which play should be called. When this got back to the coach at half time, he set it straight for them: "One voice in the huddle—the quarterback. If you see something at your position that will help him, let him know on the way back to the huddle. But when that huddle forms up, I want total silence except for the voice of the quarterback. It's his responsibility to call the play. I've worked with him on signal calling. I have confidence in him. It's the only way the whole team can move ahead."

This means that sometimes Christian people have to put up with a "second-best" plan. God allows that to happen. The perfect plan doesn't always take place in an assembly of God's people because those in positions of authority might not always see things as clearly as they ought to. That is one of the reasons leaders should always be open to counsel. Other "team members" may have important input which will help them arrive at a better decision. But any coach will tell you that it is better to use a second-best play and execute it well than to fumble through one that might have better potential.

This issue is so important with God that He allows people to come into a position where He says, "Accept this second-best plan, one that you don't personally agree with. It's more important for this team to get together than for your particular play to be used, even if it is a good one." With this approach we can move against the enemy with unity and strength.

There is nothing which so threatens the kingdom of Satan as a united team of believers. This throws fright into him and acts as a witness to the world.

NEW WINE



(See Phil. 1:27-28.) Tom Smail, a Scotch Presbyterian theologian, said, "The one thing the world can't do is live together, and that's the one thing the church should be showing them how to do."

The Potential of Resurrection Power

There are two levels of potential in a team: 1) The potential that resides in each individual player, with his unique talents, gifts, and abilities; 2) the potential that exists in the team, when all of these individual abilities are united and coordinated toward a common objective.

Resurrection power begins in the individual believer. "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:7). Resurrection power begins to flow when individual believers come to recognize the gifts and power in one another, and depend upon that power as they move out together against the enemy.

The little halfback at St. Olaf was so well acquainted with the tactics and style of the man who ran interference for him that he'd make his cut before the man actually threw his block, then flash past before the opponent could recover and tackle him. We need to become so well acquainted with each other that we know each other's gifts and abilities and learn to depend on them—and they on us. This is how we get into the flow of resurrection power. Resurrection power isn't something that flows simply through the individual. There is a flow of resurrection power available to a body of believers that an individual can never touch. There is a flow of resurrection power available in the whole body of Christ that no single congregation can touch. And this is what God is aiming for. He wants us to get the feel of being a part of His great team so that we can flow with a power that overpowers all the power of the enemy. ♥

A black and white photograph of a baseball jersey with the number 40, a baseball cap with the letter A, a baseball glove, a baseball, and a bat.

RESURRECTION

40

by Bill Lea

The life expectancy of the average male in the United States is seventy-two. After recently passing a major milestone, my fortieth birthday, I realized that over half of my life was probably already behind me, and that I was on the downhill side of life's mountain. The problem is, in my mind's eye, I am still eighteen years old, full of strength and endurance, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. I was once an athlete, so my mind remembers all the right moves, but my body is beginning to say, "Who, me?"

I decided this year it was time for me to turn over the shortstop position on the church softball team to my eighteen-year-old son, and move on over to third base where my slower reactions wouldn't be so obvious to everyone. As if that weren't humbling enough, now my sideburns are turning gray and my hair on top is beginning to recede in such a manner that I can't cover it up, no matter how I part it. The inevitable march of time is making itself obvious to me in a way I can't ignore.

Sooner or Later

Even so, I feel like the old man who was asked how he liked getting old. He replied: "Well, it sure beats the alternative!" That alternative—death—makes us all the same in the end: rich or poor, tall or short, famous or infamous. Death will come sooner or later to us all, and that reality used to terrify me.

Before I was born again at age twenty-eight, I was tormented by fears of dying. I would frequently have nightmares when I slept, and many nights I would lie awake all night for fear that if I closed my eyes I might never open them again. It was not so much a fear of hell or punishment as it was a fear of nonexistence. I hated the thought that

when my time came to go, I would simply stop existing, and that my life would have been just a temporary freak of nature that made no eternal sense. I was somewhat of an agnostic, so I held no hope for a life after death or a resurrection of the dead.

For that reason, learning that I would rise again from the dead was one of the first blessings of my salvation. I can honestly say I have never feared the thought of death since that time. I've learned that death is merely the passing from one phase of existence to another. Millions of years after the sun has grown cold, we who have believed and overcome shall be young in the purposes and eternities of God.

The Empty Tomb

Life after death is the glorious hope of the Christian faith. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:

Sorrow not, even as others which have no *hope*. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them which sleep in Jesus will God also bring with him. . . . Wherefore comfort one another with these words (13-14, 18).

The resurrection of Christ is the basic foundation stone upon which the Christian faith stands.

I believe that the best logo we could wear on our lapels and ties is not a cross, but an *empty tomb*! Jesus was wounded for our transgressions, but He was *resurrected* for our justification (Rom. 4:25). The cross represents the punishment for sin, the sentence executed, the penalty paid in full. But the empty tomb means resurrection for new life, and hope for immortality.

Paul says that "Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Cor. 15:20). "Firstfruits" in the Greek means "the earliest ripe of the crop," or as we might say to-

day: "Tune in later, folks; there's more to come!" The distinguishing feature between the Christian faith and all the manmade religions is the fact that our Savior, Jesus Christ, rose from the dead. Buddha is in the grave; Confucius is in the grave. Even Abraham's and Moses' bodies stayed in the grave. But Christ arose—and we will rise with Him.

A Glorified Body

When we are with Him, we will receive new bodies—a welcome thought in light of the aging process I described earlier. In 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, we find four characteristics of our new, glorified bodies. Paul says they will be 1) imperishable; 2) raised in glory; 3) raised in power; and 4) spiritual rather than natural. The reason for this wonderful transformation is that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (v. 50). We must be changed from this "body of death" to a new body that can function in the world to come. Some have compared our present bodies to nothing more than scaffolding which will be dismantled when the real building underneath is finally ready for display. That's fine with me—I just want this one to hold up until the new one is finished!

Now, as I leave behind the "Big 40" and move onward toward the "Big 50," "Big 60," and beyond, I am encouraged to know that though this temporary body is decaying, I am actually approaching a transformation more wondrous than the caterpillar becoming a beautiful butterfly. And I can look forward with great expectation to the day in heaven when I can tell my son to move over on the resurrection softball team—'cause Dad's planning to take over again at shortstop!

Bill Lea is a pastor in Jackson Covenant Church and resides in Clinton, Mississippi, with his wife, Betty, and their three sons.

Photo props courtesy of Hibbett Sporting Goods, Mobile, Alabama.

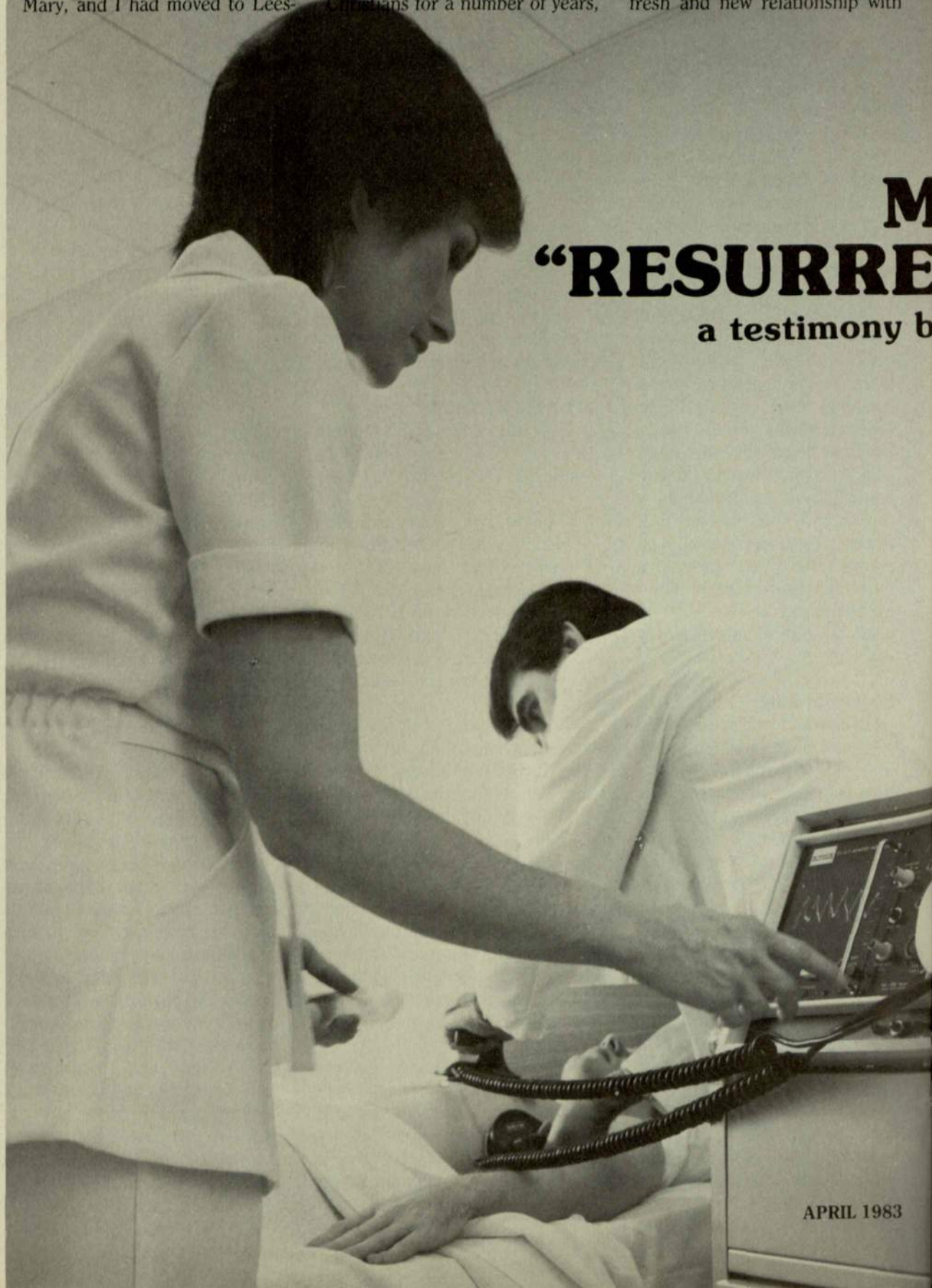
Easter Sunday, 1967, is a day I will never forget. Only a short time before then my wife, Mary, and I had moved to Lees-

burg, Florida. We had joined a church there and involved ourselves enthusiastically in all of its activities. Although we had been Christians for a number of years,

we were excited to have found a church with a fresh breath of the Spirit of God flowing in it, since we ourselves were coming into a fresh and new relationship with

M "RESURRE

a testimony b



our Lord. In addition, my progress in a newly established plumbing business was above our expectations. Life itself was taking on a brighter view than ever

Y OWN CTION"

Bill Holloway

before. But suddenly on February 20, just a few short weeks before Easter, my life was dramatically and lastingly changed.

Crushing Pain

My helper and I had driven the forty-five miles from Leesburg to another town to tackle a large job that would take a few days to finish. For several hours we had been working under difficult conditions due to the intense heat of the Florida sun. Without warning, I began to feel a crushing pain in my chest.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation, my helper rushed me to the local hospital. I was given the usual care involved for those suspected of heart attack: They placed me in intensive care, gave me an EKG, and called my wife. When Mary arrived at the hospital not long after, we were assured by our physician that I had suffered only a mild heart attack and would be back home in ten days.

During the next few days I enjoyed visitors, had opportunities to share my Christian testimony with others, and rested. At the time I knew I had a lot going for me: I was only forty-five; I knew the Lord; and I had a lovely family, as well as a church family who surrounded us with prayer. I counted the days until I could be back at home, back at church, and back on the job. March 2 couldn't come fast enough for me!

The Second Attack

Suddenly and without warning the second heart attack came, and then a stoppage in the flow of blood from my heart. When my sister, who was in the room with me at the time, realized that I had suddenly paled and stopped breathing, she summoned the doctors. They began external heart massage. My wife, who had momentarily stepped out of the room, returned to a flurry of activity around my bed. Later I was

told that there was no pulse during this time, and I had stopped breathing.

I don't remember much of what happened then, but what I do remember radically changed my life. Somehow I knew the doctors and nurses were surrounding my bed, working desperately in my behalf, and in that sense I was "awake." But they didn't seem to recognize any consciousness on my part, so they continued frantically to try to revive me.

By now a great peace had filled me, and I knew I was in the presence of the Lord. A brilliant light surrounded me and I remember going from place to place throughout the room, marveling at the light—it was everywhere! It was in the adjoining room, under the bed, behind the drapes. I was impressed that there were no shadows anywhere—just light. Of course, I know that physically I could not have looked in all of these places because my body was in the hospital bed with a medical crew working to revive it. So evidently it was my spirit that searched out the light.

In any case, my heart began to beat again and my breath returned. I was sedated and listed in critical condition. For several days I lay unconscious, with oxygen provided to sustain me. But my real life-support system was the prayer of God's people in my behalf. Many of our Christian friends kept prayer vigils in the hospital chapel day and night.

My Own "Resurrection"

On Easter morning—days later—I opened my eyes to a beautiful new day. My daughter and my wife were by my bedside, dressed

Photo courtesy of Burdick Corporation.

Bill Holloway attended Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, before being called into military service during World War II. After owning and operating a plumbing business for a number of years, Bill was ordained in 1975 as an elder in Westside Church of Leesburg, Florida, where he resides with his wife, Mary.

Just Around the Corner An Honest Relationship With God

What does it mean to have integrity
before God?

How can we have greater integrity
in our personal relationships?

Does God sometimes use isolation
to strengthen us?

Are we able to be honest with ourselves?

All Next Month in the May *New Wine*.

in new spring clothes. My two
sons were peeking through the
hospital windows from outside.

"Why the new outfits?" I asked.
"What day is it?"

"It's Easter Sunday!" they

answered, overjoyed that I was
conscious again. We knew that
God's timing was symbolic: I had
been "resurrected," and a new life
was before me.

In the months to follow, my
health improved miraculously.
The doctors did not believe I
would live, much less work again
as a master plumber. Certainly,
they said, I would never dig another
ditch or do any form of manual
labor. In fact, my pastor was told
by the physician that all the
EKGs showed extensive heart
damage, and that I could only live
five years more at the most.

But I knew that God had sent
His healing light to spare me for
a purpose, and I was determined
to find that purpose. Over the
months following my release
from the hospital I felt new life
surge within me. After much
prayer I stopped taking my medi-
cations, because I knew God had
healed me. I returned to work,
first slowly, and then within a

year, full time—and now I'm even
digging ditches again!

A Black-and-White Miracle

In the ensuing years I have
found a new and deeper walk
with Jesus through an experience
with the Holy Spirit. I am now a
full-time elder in my church, serv-
ing a body of believers that I love
dearly. My children are grown,
and I have lived to see my grand-
children.

Every year I go back to my
physician for a complete physical.
Last year he asked his intern to
come in and look at my records.
He wanted the young "would-be"
doctor to see what a miracle of
God looks like in the black and
white of medical records. Need-
less to say, that miracle is re-
corded permanently, not only in
my doctor's file, but in my
family's heart as well. And ever
since the morning of my "resur-
rection," Easter has been a spe-
cial time of rejoicing for us all.

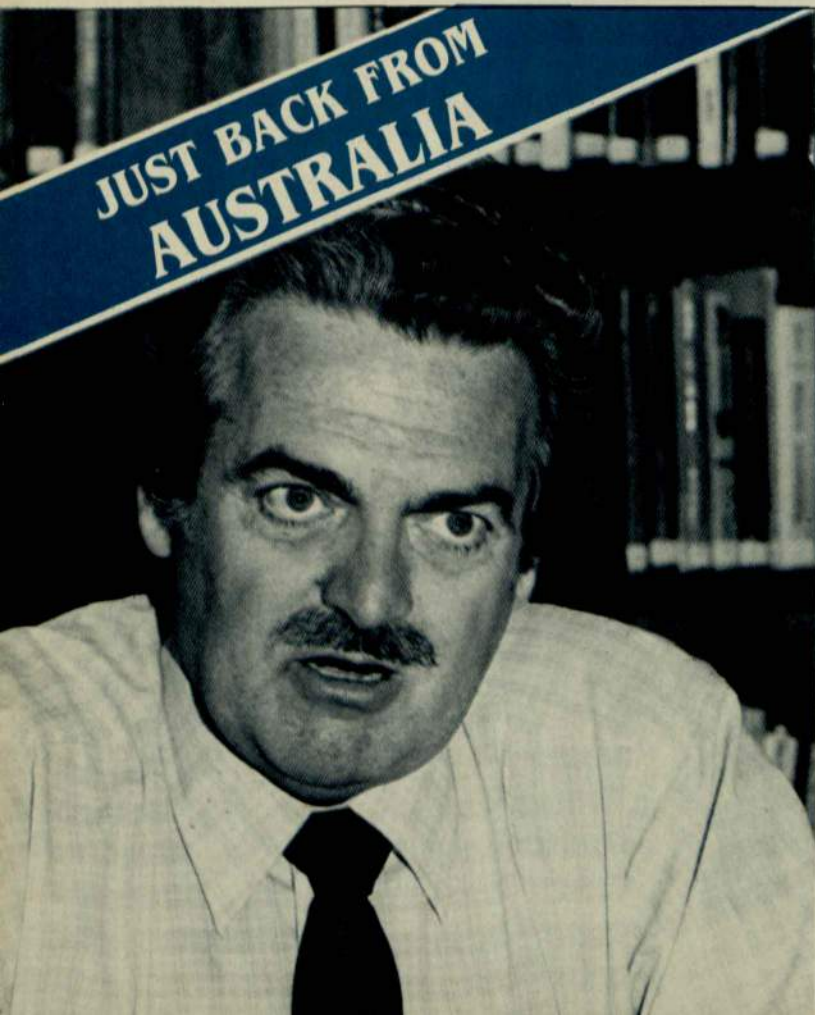
***"I feel like I have waited
twenty years to say
what I have said in this
series of messages."***

Bob Mumford

Much fasting and many prayers were offered to the
Lord for my recent trip to Australia. The results of these
prayers were evident to me throughout my stay. While
there I taught a seven-message series in which the Lord
gave me unusual insight into how a person who is saved
by grace can at the same time suffer spiritual gain or
loss. I feel like I waited twenty years to say what I said in
this series of messages.

I have entitled this series "Inheritance: The Biblical
Basis." In these seven teachings I have outlined the im-
plications of what the Bible says about our inheritance. I
also discuss the fundamental issues that determine
whether we lose our inheritance, or whether we gain and
preserve it.

(To order this new series by Bob Mumford, see the
response form on page 32.)



Intercessors Report

by John Beckett

God is a global God. His eyes are on the nations.

In contrast, human perspective is sharpest at the level of the individual, occasionally being stretched to encompass the community and even the country in which we live. Seldom do we ponder what God is doing throughout the entirety of His creation.

Our prayer lives tend to follow our human perspective. We pray for ourselves and those around us, and our zeal to pray generally diminishes as the sphere enlarges.

Thus it was a great privilege to meet with a worldwide band of intercessors in late fall of 1982, our third such gathering in four years. During those six days in the mountains of Virginia, our perspective broadened once again. We met our global God, whose great heart is reaching out for the lost among the Muslims, the Hindus, the Buddhists and aborigines, as well as the secularized people of Europe and the "churched" but unsaved in many lands.

During the International Intercessors conference, the lives of intercessory prayer leaders from over twenty countries intermingled, and gradually we began to feel the pulse of each nation. The problems are startlingly similar, for the most part varying from country to country only by degree and timing.

Moral and Family Breakdown

Breakdown of the moral fabric and the integrity of the family is near-universal. Virtually every nation is facing liberalized legislation on abortion, homosexuality, and pornography. Without exception, nations are undergoing economic hardship and disinte-

gration, with currencies for some worth a mere tenth of their value a year ago. Most reported on the spread of cults and of Islam, and the pervasive anti-family influence of Planned Parenthood. The cancer of communism feeds off the new territories of its expanding perimeters, leaving a degenerate and repressed core. None could say the forces of darkness had diminished since previous gatherings of our group, in spite of mounting prayer efforts.

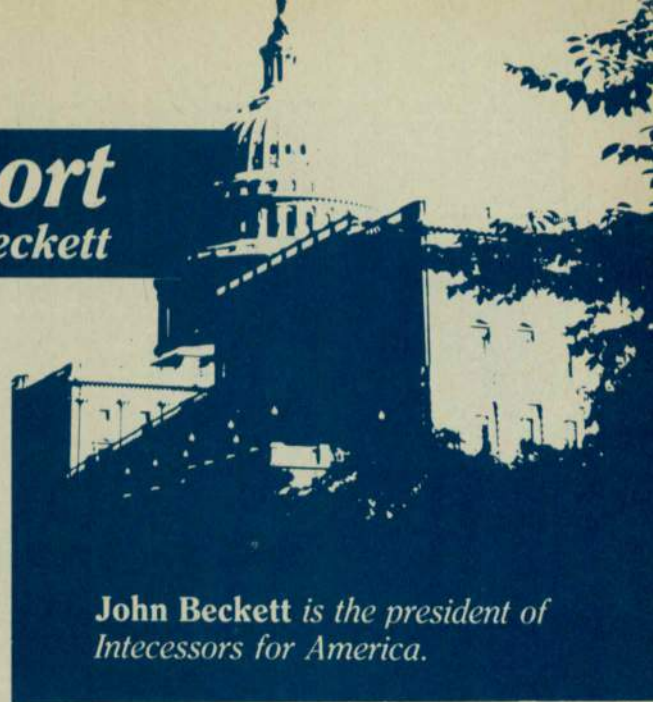
But ultimate reality is not found in a kingdom dominated by Satan. It is found in the Church, and here the story is different. A report from Costa Rica expressed the views of many. After noting the near breakdown politically and economically of Latin America, the report turned to the spiritual life in that region:

It is the best it has ever been. The Church in general is experiencing a tremendous growth in the midst of it all. From an almost invisible minority, the evangelical church has grown to become a significant force in Latin America.

It is a script right out of the book of Revelation, which describes righteousness and holiness intensifying in the midst of error and decay (Rev. 22:11).

We Are Not Alone

In this context, intercessors are obligated to pray that God's will be done—and God's will is that He would have *all* men to be saved. We know that God's means of accomplishing His will in the earth is the Church; He has designated no other alternative. As intercessors, then, we



John Beckett is the president of Intecessors for America.

must meet the challenge. We must forget national boundaries and focus, not on problems, but on God's eternal, global perspective. In this way we will wage war in the heavens until principalities and powers are wrestled down.

It is good to know we are not alone. On every continent, and in a growing number of nations (now over thirty), God is raising up intercessors. Significantly, intercession is becoming more a corporate and less an individual expression. It is the Church *being* the Church. With God's grace, the impact will exceed anything known before in the history of man.

Prayer leaders from over 20 nations who attended the International Intercessors conference.



To receive the IFA Newsletter write: Intercessors for America, P.O. Box D, Elyria, OH 44036.



Wild Mob or Holy Nation?

God's presence will make the difference.

by Charles Simpson

No time is quite like the conclusion of a satisfying meal, when you are with people you love, sensing the presence of the Lord. Sometimes, in that setting after the evening meal, my family will share the Scriptures together around the table. At the conclusion of the meal we simply turn our thoughts toward the Lord, and we read from the Bible and talk together about the passage. Recently during one such time

together, we sensed the presence of God in an unusual way.

As we talked about the Scriptures in His presence that night, I noticed a unique quality in the contributions each family member made. There was a kind of sobriety about our comments, and when we joined hands at the table and prayed together, the presence of God was powerfully real. It made us realize again that eating and drinking together in

the presence of God is perhaps one of the most meaningful manifestations of the Lord we share together in Christ Jesus.

The Covenant Meal

In the Scriptures, eating and drinking together is often a symbol and a context for covenant. Whenever God has made His covenants with man—when He has bound Himself together with us for our salvation and deliverance—those covenants have been confirmed with a meal.

As a matter of fact, in the ancient Near Eastern cultures, every meal was looked upon as a covenant. To partake of a meal meant to be invited into someone's home and to share in family life. It was unthinkable that you would ever go into anyone's home to eat with him, and then betray him. Perhaps the worst thing said about Judas in the Bible was spoken prophetically in the Psalms: "Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me" (Ps. 41:9).

God places great importance upon a meal. For example, Israel was delivered out of Egypt through a covenant meal. It may sound strange, but they were saved by eating. (If that is the case, I would say that many of us are well saved.) At any rate, God chose to use the Passover meal to save them.

The Passover story makes sense in retrospect, but if you and I were living in that time, it wouldn't have made so much sense to us. Can you imagine the conversations in Hebrew homes after the men had been told by Moses what God wanted them to do? I can just hear one of the wives asking her husband when he came home: "What did you hear at the meeting?"

"I'll tell you tomorrow."

"Come on. What did Moses say?"

"Well, he said we're going to

Photo: H. Armstrong Roberts, Inc.

have lamb to eat next week."

"We can't afford lamb; we're slaves."

"Well, we'll get it somehow. And then we're going to eat it with bitter herbs."

"You know the kids don't like bitter herbs."

"Moses said to do it."

"This is the same guy who brought us frogs and lice, right?"

"Never mind that. Besides eating lamb, we're going to have unleavened bread—no yeast. We can't even have yeast in the house."

"Yeast won't hurt anybody. I can't believe this!"

"Well, if that shakes you up, I won't even tell you the rest."

"What's the rest?"

"We've got to paint blood on the front of the house."

"Not on the front of *my* house. No way."

"If we don't, Moses said our oldest son will die."

"Oh. . . . Now what is it again you said we're supposed to do?"

The Scripture says that every Hebrew family gathered at midnight around the table with their traveling clothes on. They ate the bitter herbs, which symbolized repentance. They ate the lamb, a type of the Son of God. They had unleavened bread, which is the life of God, pure and without guile, without anything that makes it appear larger or bigger or better than it really is. They readied themselves to leave, and they ate. Then at midnight, the death angel passed over. A great cry went up in all Egypt as the firstborn of the Egyptian households died, and the Hebrews were released.

Sealed With God's Spirit

God had released the Israelites by a covenant meal. Now it remained for Him to seal the covenant with His presence.

The presence of God is a seal. In scripture, whenever the presence of God came on an event to

seal it, it was a sign of God's approval and participation. In Ephesians we read that after baptism, God's people are "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (1:13). This kind of seal is not like the one on a jar that lets nothing in or out. Rather, it is like the Good Housekeeping seal—a mark that denotes approval. The presence of God is a seal that denotes God's acceptance and approval.

When the Israelites came to the Red Sea and went through its parted waters, they were "baptized" as a nation in a symbolic sense. Next, the cloud of God's presence came down upon them, and God sealed a whole nation with the Holy Spirit. He put His mark on His people.

So the Israelites who had eaten together in the presence of God and had been saved around the sacrifice of the lamb, passed through the water and the cloud. They were delivered out of an old world order and sealed in a new world order.

The Demands of Covenant

After Israel came out of Egypt, however, internal problems arose, because Israel was a mixed multitude. Everyone had wanted to come out of Egypt, but not everyone wanted to go into Canaan. Also, they were not corporate in their thinking. They regarded themselves as individual families, but not as a holy nation.

The root problem of the Israelites as they went into the wilderness was this: They had received a covenant, but they were ignorant of its demands. How many of you have ever made a commitment that you didn't fully understand until later? I could ask it another way: How many of you are married? In the euphoria of that blissful moment, we say, "I do." But later, when problems come, we ask, "Did I really say *that*?"

In the same way Israel had

agreed to become God's redeemed people without realizing the full implications of that commitment. Consequently, when they went into the wilderness and became thirsty, they murmured. When they became hungry, they murmured. Then three months after the Israelites left Egypt, they came to the desert of Sinai, where they camped in front of the mountain of God.

There at Mount Sinai Moses went up to meet with God. The Lord made it clear to him at Sinai that the covenant He was making with His people would demand Israel's obedience. When Moses set before the Israelites all that the Lord had commanded him to speak, the people all responded together as one nation: "We will do everything the Lord has said." And Moses brought back their answer to the Lord.

We must realize that the people promised obedience even before they knew what God would be asking them to do. But in any case, once they had agreed, God began to tell them what He wanted them to do and not to do. He gave the Ten Commandments, in which He instructed them to honor and respect God, family, and neighbor. Then the Lord spelled out the law in more detail. He told them how to maintain righteousness in community life, and He gave them the great feasts He wanted them to observe—Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

On the Mountain

Next God told Moses to come up the mountain with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy elders



Charles Simpson received his education from William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Besides his pastoral duties and an international ministry, Charles is chairman of the Integrity Communications Board of Directors. He resides in Mobile with his wife, Carolyn, and their three children.

of Israel, while the people remained below. What happened when the elders climbed Mount Sinai is told in Exodus 24:9-11:

Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. . . . But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and they drank.

I don't know if we can fully comprehend how the people of Israel felt as they stood in the camp and watched their leaders move up the slopes of the mountain. Nor can we know how the elders felt when God said, "Stop here," and they got out their bread and wine. What must they have been thinking as they broke their bread and passed it to one another, and watched the boiling, burning cloud of the presence and glory of God Almighty? As

they drank their wine, certainly they must have marveled at One who was so terrible and powerful and holy, the One who had made all things.

They looked at themselves and saw the ways of slavery yet upon them—they were untrained, wicked, and wretched in themselves. Then they looked at Him—so glorious and holy and powerful—and they said to one another, "Why doesn't He kill us?" But in the majesty of God they saw as well the grace and the mercy of God. So they ate the covenant bread and drank the covenant wine in the presence of God, and they received all of the things He had said.

The New Covenant Meal

Centuries after Moses and the elders of Israel ate the covenant meal in the presence of God on the mountain, a new covenant meal was established by the Lord

Jesus. On the night He was betrayed, Jesus reclined at the table with His apostles. There in the upper room He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer" (Lk. 22:15). This was the same meal the Israelites had eaten in Egypt, for God's people were still bound in spiritual darkness. But the Lord ordained this new hour to break bread with His people, without leaven, with bitter herbs, with "traveling clothes" on, because from this moment on, God's people would be on a new journey.

Jesus was eating the last remnant of a symbol that He would fulfill in the purposes of God. From then on, *He* would be the Bread of Life, the Lamb of God, of which people would partake for their deliverance. Jesus established the terms of the new covenant, and the apostles ratified it by eating and drinking the covenant meal.

IMPORTANT READ THIS!

The developing nature of the Lansing, Michigan, and Chicago, Illinois, New Wine Events has made it clear to us now that the Lord has a unique goal in His mind for each one.

Lansing, Michigan



**Reach
the World...**

...with a unique presentation of the gospel using drama, music, and a series of brief, hard-hitting words from Bob Mumford. This event will be unlike anything you have ever experienced.

In light of the developing evangelistic nature of this event, there will now be *no registration and no charge to attend the event*. The steering committee and *New Wine Magazine* feel that a free event has much greater potential to draw those in need of salvation. We think you'll agree.

If you have already pre-registered, a refund check will be sent to you soon. An offering will be taken at the event. We ask for your prayers and hope to see you in Lansing. (See page 20 for more details.)

Chicago, Illinois



**Build
the Church...**

...is the emphasis of this event. It is designed for those who want to go further on in God and...

— Understand what comes after being born again.

— Discover the unshakeable Kingdom.

— For those hungry for a fresh encounter with God, this will be a time of refreshment, encouragement, and release as Bob Mumford ministers a series of messages that present a long-awaited reality for God's people. Also featured is Joseph Garlington, whose singing brought the house down at the New Wine Event in Dallas. We anticipate a powerful time together. We ask for your prayers and hope to see you in Chicago. (See page 20 for more details.)

The Day of Fulfillment

Jesus was re-rooting the disciples in the eternal covenant purposes of God Almighty. Just as God had led Moses to the mountain for a covenant meal, Jesus had brought His disciples to the Upper Room for the fulfillment of the covenant promises spoken through Moses many centuries before.

Though the elders in Moses' time had sat on the mountain and beheld God from afar, these twelve men sat and ate with Him in Christ. They touched Him and saw Him up close. Just as the elders had beheld an awesome God who was a mystery, these men beheld Jesus, who had calmed the sea and raised the dead, and He was also a mystery. They wondered what His words meant.

But another mystery was perhaps greatest of all. The elders of ancient Israel had seen and eaten with a God who was so fearsome they marveled that He did not kill them, because of *their* wickedness and *His* holiness. On that day, man was in the hands of God, and God could easily have killed them. But because of His grace, He didn't. Yet when God in His humility took on flesh and put Himself in the hands of man—when God ate with man, not from a distance, but face-to-face—it was man that killed God in Christ Jesus.

That night the disciples watched Jesus in awe as He made the new covenant with them. And they watched until He was surrounded by Roman soldiers. They watched Him as He was cursed, as He was mocked, as He was spat upon. They watched Him maintain His majesty and dignity in the most degrading of circumstances—the God whose covenant love endures all things. They watched Him at last hang naked on the cross to fulfill His promise. Finally, feeling empty and forsaken as they watched Him die, they asked themselves, “Where is the Pres-

ence that seals the Covenant?”

Sealed With the Spirit

But fifty days later, after the Resurrection, the disciples regathered in an upper room as His covenant people, the church in Jerusalem. As they prayed with one heart, in accordance with the covenant, the Holy Spirit of God came upon them. The same Spirit who was on the mountain and in the cloud filled the room and rested upon them like tongues of fire, so that the seal of God's presence was put on them that day.

The Lord said on the day of Pentecost (as He had at Sinai), “These are mine, my chosen possession in all the earth.” And the power of God boiled in them as it had in the mountain. The holiness of God moved from a mountain into a body of people; and the power of God in a covenant body changed the world.

Like the Israelites of old, we have not yet apprehended the goal to which we are called. It is true that we have been gathered from among the Gentiles. We have shared the Bread, eaten the Lamb, and drunk the new wine together at the new Passover. And we have seen the cloud of God's presence come down and deliver us out of bondage.

Nevertheless, we have not yet had our corporate Pentecost. Though we have had our individual Pentecosts—our personal visitations of the Holy Spirit—we have not yet been brought to one heart and one mind. We cannot cross the Red Sea or the Jordan or any other barrier as a mob racing wildly toward the purpose of God. We can only ascend into the place to which God has called us when we move as one.

Whenever we gather around the table, whether in our family or in our church, we must remember that the hands that feed us the bread were pierced with nails to bring us out of bondage and

Word for Word מִוֶּלֶד לְמִוֶּלֶד

What is the *presence* of God? The Greek and Hebrew words we translate “presence” mean literally “face.” God's presence is a sign that His back is not turned toward us—we are constantly before Him, and He sees us clearly.

But can *we* see *Him*? Jacob saw God's face, but He was disguised as a man. Moses spoke with God face-to-face, but He was wrapped in a pillar of fire. The high priests of Israel came before God in the Temple, but He was veiled in the Holy of Holies.

Yet God did not hide His face forever. Jesus came, and by His life He painted a vivid portrait of the Father. In Christ, the veil was rent, the disguises were cast aside, the Fire became Flesh. And when the Flesh became Fire once more on the day of Pentecost, God's face appeared on Christ's new Body—the Church—for all the world to see.

The presence of God is His face—turned toward us, revealed to us, reflected in us. The image at times is dim; we see, as the apostle Paul said, “through a glass darkly.” Nevertheless, God's promise is sure: The day will come when we will see Him clearly as He is, and we will meet Him face-to-face.

make us one holy nation. We are in His presence. The covenant we receive was made by the One who dwelt on the mountain and now dwells in the hearts of men. Only when we personally and corporately see ourselves breaking bread and drinking in *God's presence* will we come into harmony with His purposes.

May we see the day when we come to one mind and one spirit in Christ Jesus, and the glory of God fills us as one people. And may God hasten the day when we can come together to eat the bread of His flesh and drink the wine of His blood in *His presence*—and receive as one people the covenant and the Spirit of God. ♥

RESPONSE FORM

My contribution to *New Wine Magazine* this month is \$_____.

- ☐ **Please send me Tape of the Month.** I understand that I will receive one tape each month and that I am responsible to pay for all tapes (\$3.50). I can cancel at any time.
- ☐ Check here if you would like to receive regularly the **Integrity Publications Newsletter** which announces our most current teaching material (free).

Instructions: Fill out the form below and insert in the enclosed envelope, along with full payment—including postage and handling. All orders must include your account number as listed in the top right corner of your mailing label. No billing. No C.O.D. Make checks payable to *New Wine Magazine*. Any amount over your order will be accepted as a contribution.

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PRE-REGISTRATION FORM AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

(Please read carefully before filling out registration form.)

FOR BOTH EVENTS

1. The Event Banquet will provide a smaller setting where you can hear from Bob Mumford and members of the Integrity Communications staff. The Banquet will immediately precede the first session Friday evening at 5 p.m.
2. Registrations for the Banquet must be postmarked no later than May 13. Banquet passes will be mailed to you.
3. Please make checks payable to New Wine Events.
4. Meetings may be too long for younger children. A nursery will not be provided, so please make necessary arrangements for your children.

FOR CHICAGO ONLY

1. To meet the pre-registration deadline, registrations must be postmarked by May 13.
2. Registration confirmation and admission tickets will be mailed to you. For those attending the Banquet, passes will accompany registration confirmation.
3. On-site registration (\$5.00 additional charge) will begin at 2:00 p.m. on the first day of the Event at the Event site.
4. There are two types of registrations offered: individual (single) and family. Family registrations consist of father, mother, and children living at home only. Other group registrations cannot be accepted.
5. Single-session tickets will be available at the door *only* if space remains.

Dear New Wine



Gone to meddling

I just received my copy of your January 1983 issue of *New Wine*. After reading a few of the articles, I want to say, like the man listening to the old-time preacher: "Now wait a minute, pastor—now you've stopped preaching and gone to meddling!" I thought I was doing pretty good, holding down a full time job, doing part-time

NOW YOU ARE READY TO REGISTER

Be sure to use the correct form for the New Wine Event you wish to attend.

Complete boxes 1 through 4 (3 is optional) on the registration form. Include account number (from the top right of your mailing label) and name at the top of the form. Please detach along the dotted line below and return the upper portion of this page with your check to New Wine Events, P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616.

If you have any questions, call us at (205) 476-0490.

Account Number

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

LANSING, MI, MAY 27-29, 1983

There is no registration or admission for this event. There will be an on-sight offering taken. This event will be evangelistic in nature. Take the opportunity to bring a friend or loved one to the Lord.

The optional Event Preview Banquet with Bob Mumford will require registration. **Make checks payable to New Wine Events.**

BANQUET	QTY.	Code	Cost	Total
1. People attending including yourself		ELB583	\$12.50 each	

PRE-REGISTRATION—NEW WINE EVENTS—CHICAGO, IL June 3 & 4, 1983

	Quantity	Code	Cost	Total
1. Total people attending (include yourself)		ECT683		
2. Type of registration (check one only)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Family*	ECS683 ECF683	\$15.00 \$25.00	
3. Banquet (optional) people attending (include yourself)		ECB683	\$12.50 each	
4. Grand total (total of 2 & 3)				

E306CC

Please extend totals for 2 & 3 here

* Immediate family only (father, mother, children)

One registration per form only.

For lodging information please see page 5.

Please make check payable to New Wine Events.

professional photography on the side, going to Seminary and preaching the Word of God wherever I was asked.

Now I'm not so sure I'm in God's will in everything. Sorry in a way I read those articles, but glad I did, too.

Thank you, I guess, for bringing me up short! I'm taking a long look at what I'm doing—may have to make some revisions somewhere!

Frederick Cox
Falls Church, VA

No!

As a busy pastor, I very much appreciated the January issue. There's been a deep longing in my spirit to be freed from the guilt that goes along with saying "no" to more responsibility. Bob Mumford's "Back Over the Barbed Wire!" was especially helpful and encouraging.

Thanks so much for your practical, useful magazine. I look for-

ward to receiving my copy every month.

Rev. George Davis
Ray, IN

Deidra's song

I cannot tell you how many times your monthly themes have correlated with the teaching that I needed at that point in my life. But never before as with your February issue.

It was January 28th at 3 a.m. and I was holding my ill 15-month-old daughter. She kept waking in the middle of the night because she had an upper respiratory infection. My six-year-old son had the flu and my four-year-old son, who was quite well, would be awake for the day in five hours.

I was tired and grumbling to the Lord. I couldn't understand why after much prayer He couldn't speed up this recovery process.

I began reading *New Wine* and came to Homespun's article, "Rebecca's Song." It amazed me that her situation was so similar to mine. When I had finished the article I was filled with joy.

"It's all right, Lord," I said. "Deidra (my daughter) doesn't have to sing. I know the message you have for me has reached me just by reading this article. And I love you, too!"

Darliss Orsini
Richmond, OH

P.S. Two days later my children were fine.

Keepin' in touch

For the past three years the irregular long hours of my job have made it very difficult to become part of a church. During this time we have been receiving *New Wine*.

The Lord has used your magazine to minister to me and my family and to keep us in touch with the Body of Christ. We feel

that the *New Wine* staff is practicing many of the principles given in the messages printed on the pages, and this speaks to us as well.

It is our pleasure to send a contribution so that we may share in your ministry.

Greg M. Waters
Sumner, WA

Better than I remembered

I just recently returned to the ranks of the readers of *New Wine*. I am delighted! It's even better than I remembered.

As a leader in our conference I am responsible for sharing inspirational material with our pastors. I can think of no other single publication that will do this like *New Wine*.

Bill Ballew
Springfield, OR

One side of the coin

I am continually blessed by your magazine, your enlightened teachers, and first-class format. I am also grateful for your journalistic honesty in printing letters that criticize as well as compliment you.

However, I can no longer endure some of the criticism that you receive without making some sort of rebuttle. Some of the letters you printed recently stated that *New Wine* "no longer speaks to life's reality" and presents only "one side of the coin." Others criticize you for becoming less spiritual and more political. I must heartily disagree. We live in a *real* world, with *real* governments and *real* powers. However, the kingdom of God transcends all these things. Christians need to view them from the King's perspective. Thus the above issues become spiritual issues of which there is only "one side of the coin"—God's side.

I thank God that He richly provides insight and perspective to His people through *New Wine* Magazine.

Steve and Barb Roache
Mt. Pleasant, MI

A good source

Thank you so much for Ern Baxter's article "The 'Will-of-God' Prayer." It answered many questions and I plan to use some of the thoughts in my Sunday school lessons. It was excellent.

New Wine always is an inspiration and an excellent source of material for Sunday school lessons.

Alma Thompson
Perryville, MO

Wrestling with God

I really received a blessing for the latest issue which arrived just yesterday. In fact, I was wrestling with God in prayer much of the morning largely with respect to a specific spiritual question which has been facing me the last couple of months. With the mail came *New Wine*. The Holy Spirit led me to a specific article and there was my answer. May God continue to bless you in the battle.

Peter Grosso
Plainfield, NJ

Fat and flabby

The teaching my husband and I have received over the years from your magazine has helped to nurture our own faith very much. I am especially reminded of last year's edition on the importance of resting in the Lord—the sabbath principle. Also, the January '83 edition featuring Bob Mumford's article on staying within the area of ministry God has planned for you to minister in.

So many Christians in our society hear inspiring messages, but do not know how to put the truth gained into action. Due to a lack of example many of us become fat and flabby spiritually. The "how to" is so important and takes away any excuses of not knowing how to proceed next.

The last thing I want you to know is that without your subscription policy we never would have been able to gain from the ministry the Lord has given you.

Tom & Maria Riffe
Athens, OH

YOU AND NEW WINE

New Wine is a monthly magazine for those seeking Christian maturity, and it is totally supported by your gifts.

Anyone may receive *New Wine* regardless of his ability to contribute. However, contributions make *New Wine* possible and help those who genuinely cannot give to receive its ministry.

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I am with you always." Jesus made that promise to His first disciples, and to all who have followed Him since. But they sometimes had difficulty knowing just what that meant, and so do we.

Just a few days before this vital promise was given, the disciples had felt forsaken. In fact, on the cross Jesus Himself had cried out to the Father, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" At that moment the disciples' worst fears seemed to triumph.

But three days later—to their utter amazement—the crucified One was standing before them in a room whose doors they had locked out of fear. He promised: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

A Difficult Transition

Transitions are difficult, especially those which challenge established ways of thinking. After Jesus ascended, the early disciples had to change from a primarily physical to a primarily spiritual perception of God. These men had grown comfortable with the physical Jesus—the Incarnation. Even though Jesus had forewarned the disciples that they would not always have Him physically present, they lived and thought as though He would always be with them in that way.

Consequently, Jesus' physical departure at the cross resulted in panic. When He was no longer physically present, in their thinking He was gone away, and the disciples feared and fled.

Suddenly, however, behind closed and locked doors the Lord appeared to them. This was no apparition. It was Jesus in a resurrected body.

In the following days the Lord appeared again in the upper room, on the Emmaus Road, and at Galilee. Soon the disciples began to realize that He could be anywhere at any time. But just as they began to relate in a new way to the risen Christ, He told them



With Us Always

To the Point

by Charles Simpson

to wait for the Holy Spirit, and ascended out of sight.

Unlike forty days earlier, however, this time they were not frightened or dejected. They sensed His presence even as they returned to Jerusalem. Ten days later the Holy Spirit came in dramatic fashion. So filled were they with the presence of the risen Christ that they were accused of intoxication as they praised God for His wonderful works.

Nor were these the only ones convinced that Jesus the risen Lord was with them. Thousands and thousands sensed the same presence, were baptized, and received the same promise. He was indeed with them and would always be. And that awareness of His presence changed the world.

He Is Here

Is Jesus still here? Or has He gone away? Every time someone commits his life to Jesus' lordship and is changed in nature, I know He is here. Every time a prayer is answered, every time someone is healed or delivered from some evil power, or filled with the same Holy Spirit, I know He is here!

Of course He is there in heaven with the Father as well. But He is here in the Holy Spirit. In His incarnate body He could only be with a few privileged souls, but in the Holy Spirit He can be with all of us who accept His promise

and make room for Him by our awareness of His presence.

I know His promise is true. Nearly twenty years ago I felt overwhelmed with the negative forces at work in our society. I was a young pastor, and my wife and I had a new baby. As we looked toward the future, the tide of history seemed to be moving away from our personal values and hopes. Though I was discouraged by a series of God-ordained events, I began to seek the Lord.

Then one day in prayer, it happened. I felt flooded with the presence of the risen Christ. He had been there all along. Since that moment there has been a vivid sense of the reality of His presence and a desire to follow His presence.

If *you* have never known what it means to walk with the Jesus that conquered death, I would encourage you to get alone awhile and seek Him with all your heart. Confess your troubles and sins to Him, and wait in faith on the Lord. His presence will become real to you, and you will find what the word "life" means.

If you have known the Lord's presence, but clouds have moved in between you and the Son, get alone and renew your relationship to Jesus Christ, and your awareness of His presence. He promised to be with you always. He is still here.

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TAPE OF THE MONTH

IT'S LIKE BEING THERE

a ministry of Integrity Communications

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