featuring: Is the Supreme Court Playing God? by Michael Ford

# Magazine

November 1983 An interview with Dee Jepsen
presidential liaison to women's groups

# **NewWine**

a ministry of Integrity Communications

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All Scripture quotations are from the King James or New King James versions of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

# **Editorial**

love my work. Although some editors may complain about the pressures of deadlines and the grinding repetition of the publishing process—week after week, or month after month (or day after day in the newspaper business), for me, editing a magazine is challenging and exciting work. I like it more than any sane man should.

I enjoy two particular aspects of the job. First is the opportunity to meet and talk with people who wholeheartedly love the Lord. Many of them are in positions of national prominence—not necessarily because they want it that way, but because God has sovereignly placed them in high visibility roles as His representatives. I consider it a privilege to talk with these people (and any others) who are paying the price to walk with God.

The second aspect is seeing the sovereign direction of God as we prepare each issue. Often that aspect is a mixture of pleasure and pain, especially when we discover God's plans running counter to ours. That, of course, means *our* plans change. (Sometimes the issue you receive is totally different than what we began with.) But along with the radical changes, there are those delightful times when God sovereignly leads us unawares right into a topic He really wants us to cover. Often it is totally unexpected. All of the sudden, the thought someone is sharing with us takes on an anointed quality, and we recognize the unmistakable voice of God speaking a message that the whole Church needs to hear.

Our feature interview this month involves both of those aspects—a committed Christian and some anointed thoughts, unexpectedly but sovereignly shared. Our original plan had been to interview Dee Jepsen about her work with President Reagan in coordinating private sector assistance for the poor and disadvantaged. At least, that's the topic we began with. But halfway through the interview, an offhanded remark and a spontaneous follow-up question changed the topic from the one we had planned to the one *He* had planned.

As I listened to Mrs. Jepsen share encouraging insights on identity and calling in God, which apply to men as well as to the women she customarily addresses, I sensed God saying, "That's the topic I had planned for this interview." And that's how our cover story came to be.

I tell this sequence of events, not only as an endorsement of Dee Jepsen's excellent remarks, but also as an assurance to you of our desire to be sensitive to God's sovereign direction in what we share with you through *New Wine*. The bottom line is this: we want to print what God wants to say to His people. Regardless of the changes required at this end, His plans are preeminent.

Although the rest of the material in this issue may have come to our attention in a less spectacular fashion, it is no less dynamic in content. A case in point is Michael Ford's two-part series on how we as Christians need to regard and pray for the Supreme Court. This month's section of his series also includes a theme that is much on our minds during the Thanksgiving season—the godly foundations of our nation. This focus is carried on in an article by Steven Schiffman, who reveals the original American vision as our forefathers perceived it—a nation ruled and directed by God. It is a fitting reminder in this month of Thanksgiving.

Also featured in this month's *New Wine* is Derek Prince's excellent teaching, "Doctrines and Dented Fenders." We trust you will identify with his discussion of our need to be wise and gracious as we progressively discover and walk in the truths God reveals to us. Vernon Simpson's reflections of a memorable Thanksgiving during his days as a missionary in the Louisiana bayou country and Becky Petrie's exciting report of God's working among the children in her church's school round out *New Wine* for November.

It's been exciting to see how this issue has come together under God's direction. We trust you'll sense that same excitement as you read it. □

Dick Leggatt Editor Vol. 15, No. 11, November 1983

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Cover Photograph: Luigi de Turro



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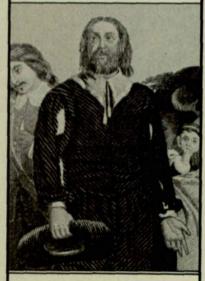
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# Privileged to Be a Woman

An interview with Dee Jepsen

A woman's search for identity has become more complex these days, with unprecedented opportunities and pressures confronting her on all sides. **Dee Jepsen**, Special Assistant to the President as Public Liaison and wife of Senator Roger Jepsen (R-Iowa), shares in this interview her perspective on the high calling of womanhood and how she believes a woman today can make the choices that will bring her fulfillment in God.

New Wine: What are your present responsibilities in your position at the White House?

**Dee Jepsen:** My title is Special Assistant to the President as Public Liaison. I have various responsibilities, one of which is keeping in touch with women's concerns as a liaison to various women's organizations. That area, of course, is very much in the news now. It's a hot seat.

NW: What do you see taking place among women today?

**DJ:** One of the most noticeable changes is the emergence of more women into the work force in the last ten to twenty years. The reason for this change is multifaceted. One reason women have gone into the job market is that many times they



Luigi de Turro

have been forced to out of economic necessity. Besides the legitimate need of many families for extra income, breakdown in the family unit and the great number of divorces have left many women with no economic alternative because a lot of men are not helping to support their children.

An unfortunate factor, however, is that we have raised our standard of living and expectations so greatly that many women work, not out of true necessity, but because families want the extra income to upgrade their standard of living. In these cases women need to measure the high cost of living against the cost of high living. Serious costs are involved, one of which is the sacrifice of precious moments with our families that we will never be able to regain. Deep in their hearts, women know this. But maybe someone needs to say it to them.

Another factor is the shift in the economy from heavy labor jobs to information, service, and technology jobs. Women are particularly adept at the skills required in these fields. Another reason is that legal barriers have been removed and increased opportunities have been opened in the educational field and the job market in the last fifteen years. Since 1970, much legislation has been passed to insure women's access to career fields not open to them before.

## NW: What do you think of what has taken place?

**DJ:** I think the appointment of women to high level governmental positions and legislation to assist women are good and acknowledge and utilize their talents and skills. It has been much needed. But beyond their need for legislative attention, I have sensed among women a need for recognition for their overall contributions to society. I think there is a great hunger in the hearts of women to really know that they are recognized as the "glue" that in many ways holds society together.

## NW: Would you be more specific about this need to be recognized?

**DJ:** In response to this need, we have seen the feminist women's movement, with its many voices, grow and have a widespread influence. Its impact, however, has often been to confuse women, causing them to wonder: If I stay in the home and care for my family and support my husband's career, am I being exploited? Do I have to prove my worth by going out and making a mark in some career field? As a result of many conflicting voices and influences, there is great confusion in many women's minds about who they are and what life is all about. These women are searching deep in their souls for identity.

I think it's important that women hear *another* voice because at times they are looking in the wrong place for identity. We have to find our identity in our value as a child of God. Then, because we have been made in His image, we can know we have intrinsic value even if we never did another thing.

Women need to find identity in God rather than in a vocation. If we find our identity only in our vocation, whether it be as a wife and mother, or as the chief executive officer of some big corporation, circumstances could change, eliminating the source of that identity.

Above all, women must know that we have a high calling in God and that it is a privilege to be a woman. That is the message we need to hear. There are many reasons why it is a privilege to be a woman, not the least of which is the role of being the bearer of new life. But this is one area where other voices have prevailed. The message women have been receiving is that the precious gift of being the life bearer is not worth much because the fruit of our womb can be discarded at will and thrown in a trash can. But that message is wrong! It is truly a



From left, Barbara Bush, Dee Jepsen, and Nancy Reagan

privilege to be a life bearer.

I think that because we are the life bearers, we have greater sensitivity in many areas than most men, such as a heightened ability to communicate love, and to be compassionate and caring in nature. We bring a quality into life that I don't believe men alone can.

NW: Would you agree that women often haven't received proper recognition for their unique contributions? I think the Lord wants to affirm women and to lift us up and to recognize our talents and abilities.



Dee Jepsen participates in a vigil for Ida Nudel, a Soviet Jewish woman who at the time was in exile in Siberia and who was recently released to emigrate to Israel

**DJ:** Yes, I would. The President said in his radio address the day before Mother's Day that the West would never have been tamed, the churches built, the homes established, or the schools developed, if it hadn't been for American women. We don't hear about that often enough. That's why I think there needs to be another voice—a godly voice.

It would have a tremendous impact if the people of God would start focusing from time to time upon elevating women to their proper role in God and giving them the proper recognition for the contributions they make. Women are largely responsible for passing on our values and our culture, shaping the young lives that will be the men and women who will lead this country and impact the world of tomorrow. I think of Nelle Reagan, the President's mother. Few people ever heard of her before he was elected. But I've seen the pictures of her Bible that he took the oath of office on, with all its underlined scriptures and notes in the margins. I realized that the President is now setting world-altering public policy shaped around some of those values that she instilled in him as a child. That is real influence.

NW: Have you sensed a conflict between the role of the homemaker and the role of the woman who works outside the home?

**DJ:** Yes. A division has developed, but I think it's time for healing, not hostility. We don't need women with differing points of view on opposite sides glaring at each other from two emotion-charged camps. Hostility is not a solution but a new problem.

I think the solution is to emphasize the place of choice in following God's calling and then to respect each other's choices. If women choose to be career homemakers—and it is a career—they need to know that they can do that and still make a major contribution, not just to their family but to society. Sometimes the contribution they make by staying at home is greater than the contribution they would make if they were to work outside the home. We need to again elevate the high calling of homemaker, so if a woman chooses that role, and can do so economically, she will know it's all right and not feel guilt or societal pressure to "prove her worth" in some other arena.

On the other hand, when women *choose* to pursue a career, they need to know they can do that without feeling selfish or abandoning traditional values. We don't have to be bound to the conventions of yesteryear in order to hold traditional

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Jepsen continued from page 6

values—to value marriage and family and to believe in moral absolutes of right and wrong. We can take those values wherever we play our role in life. Neither does utilizing our skills and talents in a career mean that we have to set aside our attributes of womanhood. Those womanly qualities need to be brought into the marketplace. I know some very creative, productive, and successful career women who have never diminished those valued qualities of womanhood.

NW: Obviously as one who is in a significant career right now, you've had to think through this question of how and where to best serve the Lord. What conclusions have you reached?

**DJ:** For me, the key word is *season*; my present career is a new season. I can look back on a number of different ones in my life. There was a season when I *chose* to be a career homemaker. In the role I'm in now, I'm doing things that I never dreamed then that I would do, nor, quite frankly, ever aspired to do. I suppose some people would think that what I'm doing now is one of the greatest



and most fulfilling professions anyone could ever have. And it is all that and more. However, I can very honestly say that I look back nostalgically many times to when our family was at home, and I was there caring for them. I was as content and fulfilled in that season as I am now, but in a different way. Each season is different and has its own set of struggles and successes.

I feel very strongly that God has a plan for each one of our lives, and He does light the path before us. And if we are in the center of His will, we will be fulfilled even if the circumstances around us are unpleasant. If we walk close to Him—and therein lies the challenge, of course—we will be fulfilled.

NW: What you have just shared is a very needed message.

DJ: I sense that when I speak to all types of women. After I have covered all the details that need to be discussed professionally—the legislative actions and policies affecting women—I talk about the high calling of womanhood. Women need to be affirmed. The response is always tremendous. That doesn't reflect anything about me; it reflects on the great need to hear a positive word on how really important women are, and how they don't have to diminish their womanhood to be fulfilled.

I think there is a word from the Lord for women. I think He wants to affirm women and to lift us up and recognize our talents and abilities. If that were to happen, it would bring about an attitudinal change that would affect both men and women.

If we would realize how really important we are in God's plan and how important we are to each other, both men and women, it would change the way we feel about ourselves. It would affect the way men treat women in their marriages, in their homes, in the work place, in the professions—everywhere in society. Beyond "secured rights" and "legislative advances," recognition is something we all need, particularly women. We cannot legislate it. We cannot force it. We can heighten awareness, but recognition is not something we get by passing a law or carrying a sign; it comes by a change in attitude—a change of heart.

That change in attitude has to develop out of a deep understanding of our identity in God through Jesus Christ. When I discovered that God loves me and knows me by name, and that He sent His Son to die for me, then there was no greater feeling of self-esteem possible. That realization should give us a divine perspective, one where we not only have high self-esteem, but where we also esteem others highly—even if we don't agree with them. Each of us is hungry for that word of affirmation and recognition that comes most clearly out of our identity in God.  $\square$ 

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful to him, and bless his name.

for the lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures to all generations. ps. 100: 4,5



# **Thanksgiving**

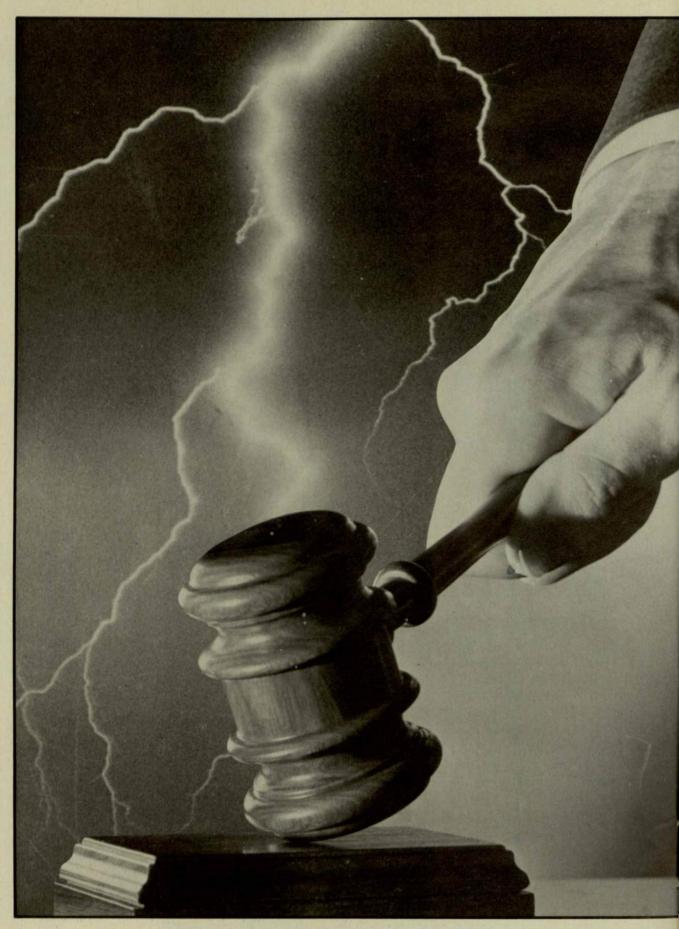


Bettmann Archives

a time to Remember

a time to Give thanks.







Part one of a two-part series

# RAW POWER

by Michael Ford

Is the Supreme Court playing God?

In 1789, the first United States Congress approved funds to send Christian missionaries to the American Indians to convert them and to teach them the duties of religion and morality. But in 1967, a U.S. Court of Appeals prohibited a kindergarten teacher from leading her students in the recitation of:

We thank you for the flowers so sweet,

We thank you for the food we eat,

We thank you for the birds that sing

We thank you, God, for everything.<sup>1</sup>

In 1833, Joseph Story, then chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, wrote concerning the time of the adoption of our Constitution: "The universal sentiment in America was that Christianity

ought to receive encouragement from the State."2

Yet, in 1973, a federal court ruled Bibles could not be given to minors in public schools,<sup>3</sup> and in Tennessee the attorney general prohibited a high school football team from praying before a game.<sup>4</sup> These shocking contradictions indicate that drastic changes have occurred in the attitude and purpose of the U.S. judicial system and primarily in the Supreme Court.

Our thinking has changed so much in the last two hundred years that we have forgotten our government was founded on the laws of the Bible. Today most

Michael Ford is an attorney in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he is an elder in Christian Family Church. He and his wife, Candace, reside in Tuscaloosa with their four children.

Ewing Galloway

Americans seem to believe that separation of Church and State is a hallowed and fundamental principle. We assume that the Supreme Court is only doing its job when, as in 1973 in Roe v. Wade, it reaches into the most intimate areas of our lives, our moral values, and acts contrary to the will of the majority of the American people, telling us it is "unconstitutional" to try to save an innocent child's life by preventing abortion.

#### A Foundational Shift

How and why has our judicial system changed so radically? Why is it "hostile" toward Christianity and Judeo-Christian values? I believe there are three basic reasons.

1. The origin of law has been switched from God to man, so now judges *make* laws rather than apply God's eternal principles to them.

2. Through Christian apathy and the activity of anti-Christian groups, the Judeo-Christian foundation of our government has been covered over and forgotten. 3. Federal court judges and Supreme Court justices since the turn of the century have increasingly imposed their own values and morals and those of intolerant minorities upon the people through judicial fiat. They have in essence become an unelected imperial judiciary that makes laws and establishes social policy while insulated from removal. They are appointed for life, and their decisions are reviewed by no one.

A basic problem with any judge is that he is usually a lawyer. I recall the thinker who asked the mathematician what two plus two was. Unequivocally the mathematician said, "I assure you it is four." When the thinker asked his attorney what two plus two was, the attorney walked around his desk, sat down on the edge of it, leaned forward, and pointedly asked, "What do you want it to be?"

For the last forty years the "law" regarding religion, abortion, punishment, and welfare has been what the federal judges want it to be. Our laws, however, should originate from God, not judges.

#### The Origin of Law

Looking over the history of our legal system, we can trace the change in our nation from Godbased laws to man-based laws. Before the change, there was a solid foundation, buttressed by the writings of William Blackstone, an eighteenth century English jurist who influenced America's legal system profoundly through his book, *Commentaries* on the Laws of England. Concerning the origin of law, he said:

Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his Creator...and it is necessary that he should in all points conform to His will.

The will of His Maker is called the law of Nature. When He created man and endued him with free will to conduct himself in all parts of life, He laid down certain immutable laws of human nature....These are the eternal, immutable laws of good and evil.

[The law of Nature] is binding all over the globe, in all countries, at all times: no human laws are of any validity if contrary to this and such of them as are valid, derive all their force and all their authority... from this original.<sup>5</sup>

Current members of the Supreme Court

This concept was the expressed foundation of our Constitution and legal system. Judges were only to "find" or discover God's law in the context of the Constitution or common laws and apply it to the particular factual situation before them.

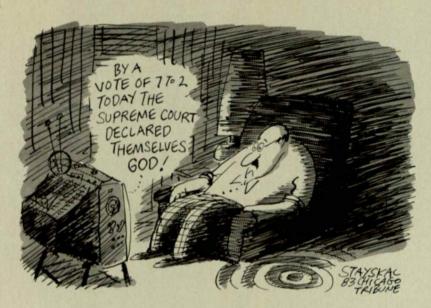
But by 1907, Darwin's concept of evolution and the Church's impotence in and retreat from the public arena were expressed when former Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes said that the Constitution (thus the law) is what the judges say it is. Law had come to be a seen as a fluid mix of established principles and changing social values.

The judge's purpose had changed as well. No longer did judges see themselves as those who discover God's law and apply it, but "as persons who make law by creating new principles, often in response to changes in social values." Former Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said that law was made by the expression of social consciousness and social experience.

This viewpoint is increasingly and unfortunately the overwhelming consensus in the legal community and judiciary today. In keeping with this philosophy, the Supreme Court increasingly in the twentieth century has relied on sociologists, psychologists, and other social "experts" for the determination of the values from which the law must be "made." Any attorney today who would attempt to argue in court the law of Nature according to Blackstone would be ridiculed.

#### The Rules of Men

The development of law now leaves any judge free to determine and translate the "social consciousness" of the people through his own value scale and make the laws accordingly, although the judge's values may not correspond with the majority of the people. This explains the



Courtesy of Wayne Stayskal

angered reaction of Americans when federal courts allow a governmental agency in Michigan to distribute contraceptives to minors without parental notice,7 but prohibit the Gideons from giving out Bibles in Florida's public schools.8 Whenever law originates from men, injustice results. Thus the scribes and Pharisees who had perverted the law of Moses regarding the honoring of parents were indicted by Jesus: "They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men" (Mt. 15:9 NIV).

The first step in returning to laws originated from God is to rediscover our national Christian heritage. Consider these facts:

- 1. At the time of the American Revolution, nine of the thirteen colonies had adopted and established some form of Christianity as the official and lawful religion of their states.
- Massachusetts paid the salaries of the Congregational ministers there until 1833.
- Forty-seven of the fifty-two framers of our Constitution were orthodox members of one of the established Christian churches.
- 4. Thomas Jefferson composed the Washington, D.C., public

education plan which used the Bible to teach reading.

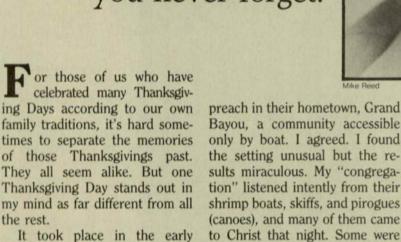
- 5. The First Congress established a chaplain system for itself and the military, and later required all cadets at military academies to attend services at the church of their choice.
- 6. As late as 1952, Congress enacted legislation calling on the President to proclaim a National Day of Prayer each year.
- 7. In 1954, Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Why have we recently heard so little of this heritage? Why didn't our teachers tell us? Maybe they didn't know. For the past eighty years a gradual but consistent shift has occurred in our schools, media, and government away from acknowledgment of our Christian roots. The change has accelerated swiftly in the last two decades, fueled primarily by humanist liberals, and strident non-Christian groups who have persuaded judges that in the name of religious freedom, we as Christians must give up our history and heritage. And as our society has looked more and

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# **Thanksgiving**

on the Bayou
by Vernon Simpson
Some Thanksgivings you never forget.



It took place in the early 1930's, when I had gone as a missionary to South Louisiana, Most of the people I was trying to reach spoke French, and their lives revolved around the shrimping and fishing industries. Many of the people there had never seen a Bible and could not have read it even if they had. Although I was a stranger, two families opened their homes for me to preach in, and God began to move in those communities.

After one meeting, a couple of big, rough Cajuns, Tony and Vincent Beinchini, invited me to

Bayou, a community accessible only by boat. I agreed. I found the setting unusual but the results miraculous. My "congregation" listened intently from their shrimp boats, skiffs, and pirogues (canoes), and many of them came to Christ that night. Some were even so touched that they asked me to come up into the bayou and preach in their homes. As it turned out, I did more than preach in their homes-I also lived among them and worked right beside them on their shrimping boats.

Before long a revival took place in Grand Bayou that lasted thirteen weeks. Many of our meetings during that time went on until midnight, even though we had to get up early to shrimp.

As the revival continued, we started to have tent meetings on a vacant lot near the Mississippi River. Dozens of people came down the canal on shrimping boats and skiffs to see what was happening. As the crowds gathered, the Holy Spirit would come upon us. I never heard such singing. The sound of it traveled for miles up the river.

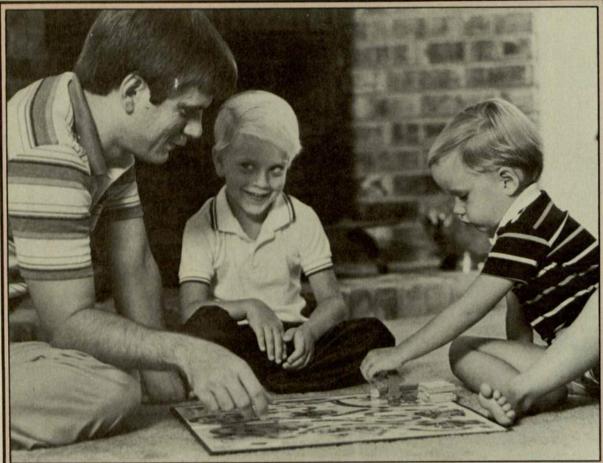


The number of believers continued to grow, and before the revival ended, the people decided they wanted a church building. Through generous contributions and volunteer labor the church was built-complete with its own church bell salvaged from an old locomotive.

All those events had led up to the last Thursday in November-Thanksgiving Day. For many it was their first real Thanksgiving. Because of all that God had done for them, they truly had so much to be thankful for. Together we celebrated God's goodness at a dinner on the grounds of the newly built church, feasting on marsh hen, creole oysters, shrimp, and fish. We also ate homemade French breads and cakes. The children laughed and played, and our joy overflowed as we reflected on the tremendous work God had done.

God's presence was there with us, and we thanked Him for the changed lives and for our church. We thanked Him for His Holy Spirit who had revealed to us His amazing grace and allowed us to have a Thanksgiving on the bayou that I will never forget.

Vernon Simpson was a missionary in South Louisiana for thirteen years and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Theodore, Alabama, for thirty-five years. He is currently involved in "Jubilee," a Christian ministry to senior adults in Mobile, Alabama, where he resides with his wife, Genoa.



David Lay

# Tips for Fathers

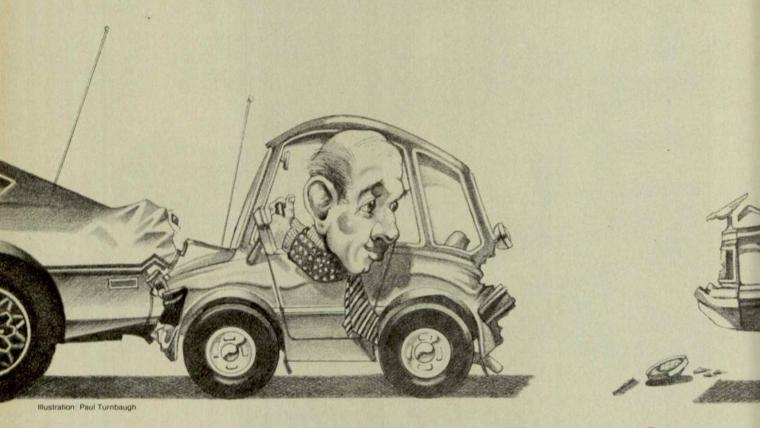
What would happen in your house tonight if the television were to blow up?

The fact is that many families would feel they were stuck with virtually nothing to do. If this catastrophe ever does occur or if you just want to try a new activity as a family, here are a few alternative forms of entertainment:

- Heritage Night. This also could be called What-it-was-like-in-the-olden-days-when-we-were-kids Night. Pull out photos, movies, slides, and other memorabilia. This is especially fascinating for younger children: "You didn't have any hair, Dad!"
  "Well, that was the Ivy League look of the sixties."
- 2. Build-A-Memory Night. A variation of Heritage Night would be to get the family scrapbook down and paste into it the photos and clippings you may have been saving over a period of time. If you save bits and pieces of memories for a month or more, you'll have a full evening and a great time when you finally "book 'em."

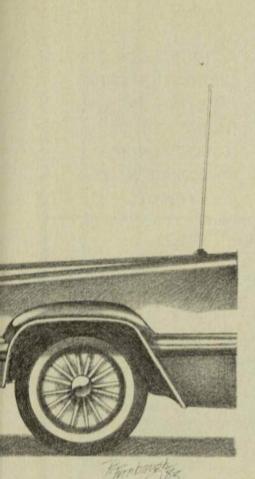
As we've said in the past, we don't want to simply suggest "1,001 More Things to Do," but rather to stimulate you and your family's imagination to enjoy your time together.

"Tips for Fathers" is provided by Fathergram. If you would like to receive Fathergram, write: P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616.



# **Doctrines and Dented Fenders**

by Derek Prince
Arriving at our convictions without hurting those
around us



nowledge is like dynamite: powerful but dangerous. Christians have always put a high priority on attaining spiritual knowledge, but this kind of knowledge can be a real problem if it is not handled wisely and with the right attitude. Most of us take great care to base our convictions on what the Bible has to say about any given matter. But we cannot deny that much of the division in the body of Christ through its history is directly related to the improper attitudes or stances Christians have taken on certain biblical truths.

Why is this so? I believe it has something to do with the way in which we usually arrive at our beliefs. The process many Christians use reminds me of what a friend described as "the braille method" of parking. "You back into your space until a jolt and a crash of broken glass indicate you have hit the car behind you. Then you move forward until another jolt at the front end lets you know you have hit the car in front of you. After a few more jolts at either end, the squeal of your tires against the curb tells you you're parked."

Christians often do their doctrinal "parking" the same way. As we begin to understand new truth, it tends to lead to a clash with a group on one side of us, resulting in a good deal of "broken glass." Then we move forward to seek a new position, and our limits at the other end are defined by a clash with a different group. Several more run-ins follow, and finally with a screech of rubber against concrete, we proclaim: "This is what we believe!"

As we come into new understanding and become established in our scriptural convictions, we run into three problems. First, we tend to reject everything—good and bad—about the group with which we clash. Second, we often end up with an attitude of contempt or hostility toward that group. Third, we adopt the beliefs of a new group, sometimes with an uncritical acceptance of all it stands for—both good and bad.

#### My Own Experience

How do I know about the problems that come from "the braille method"? I have learned unfortunately from personal experience—the hard way. I was raised in Britain as a member of the Anglican Church, where I never found God or salvation. Then an unexpected contact with Pentecostals led me into salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit.

My reaction was to blame the Anglican Church for never teaching me these things. I rejected Anglicanism and, by association, all liturgical forms of worship, while on the other hand, I embraced Pentecostalism with uncritical zeal. I assumed, because the Pentecostals were right about salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, that they were also correct about everything else they taught. I became a "fanatical Pentecostal."

Later, when God moved me into a public ministry of deliverance, or casting out demons, my fellow Pentecostals turned against me and attacked me publicly. This opened my eyes to previously unnoticed errors and inconsistencies in the Pentecostals, and I began to criticize them. At the same time I saw truth and beauty in my Anglican heritage that I hadn't seen before because of my earlier overreaction.

God graciously began to deal with me about my own attitudes and reactions. Looking back over the way I came into my doctrinal "position," I see how I had "dented some fenders"—my own, as well as those of others, leaving a lot of broken glass behind me. I recognize also that I proclaimed "truth" in tones more strident than persuasive.

#### A Better Way

My experience has taught me two simple, practical lessons. First, if I approach people or situations with a negative, critical attitude, I will never achieve positive results. Second, it takes two to make a quarrel. People may oppose me, but that does not mean that I have to be against them. If I let opposition from others provoke me, then my actions are not



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initiated by the Holy Spirit but by those who oppose me.

Is there not some better way of coming into truth than by continually reacting against the "errors" of other ministers and groups? I found a satisfying answer in John 16:13: "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth." I saw that if I allowed myself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, I could walk in my beliefs without continually ricocheting off my fellow Christians.

God went on to show me that if I desired to be guided by the Holy Spirit in this way, it was my responsibility to cultivate certain aspects of character. In particular, God directed my attention to these requirements:

1. Humility and the fear of the Lord.

The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses (Ps. 25:9, 12).

God selects his students on the basis of character, not academic attainment.

2. Submission to God's discipline. I found this requirement in Psalm 94:12:

Blessed is the man you discipline, O Lord, the man you teach from your law (NIV).

In God's program, discipline comes before instruction. He is not committed to instruct anyone who does not submit to His discipline.

3. Doing, as well as teaching. This requirement was based, I found, on the pattern of Jesus Himself. In Acts 1:1, Luke describes the earthly ministry of Jesus: "all that Jesus began both to do and teach" (italics mine). Jesus didn't just teach—he demonstrated the truth He imparted

by His actions. We need to check the validity of what we believe by its practical outworking in our own lives.

#### The Master's Method

We need to concentrate on this last point, "doing, as well as teaching," because it is pivotal to handling knowledge correctly. We see that the disciples of Jesus followed the method of their Master. Mark 6:30 says, "Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what

Simply acquiring knowledge isn't enough. We need divine grace, wisdom, and character to use it correctly.



they had *done* and what they had *taught*" (italics mine). Their teaching was also combined with doing.

I have found that God expects me to follow the same course. He has called me not only to teach but also to *live* the message. Knowledge that cannot be practically demonstrated does not bear the stamp of the Holy Spirit. Anything that is not practical is not spiritual because the Holy Spirit is the most practical Person on earth today.

One of the great disasters in the Church is the separation of teaching from doing. Truth has become an abstraction to be pursued in a classroom setting, far removed from the needs and challenges of daily life. The Church, in turn, has become like an automobile manufacturer that produces and sells vehicles that never have been subjected to a road test. Most of the cars break down in the first thousand miles. Often the manufacturer has so little contact with his customers that he seldom even hears about the breakdowns.

Through my studies in philosophy I learned that if a statement has no practical test to which it can be subjected, its truth or falsehood cannot be settled. Consequently people can go on debating it forever, without coming to any conclusion. This is the case with many of the so-called theological controversies that have historically divided the Church. They are outside the realm of practical application and can be

debated endlessly without ever

being resolved.

If we fail to meet God's requirements of character and conduct, we may continue our studies in the field of religion endlessly. We might even become eternal students—"always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:7). One thing, however, remains sure: God will not be our Teacher.

#### **Taking Precautions**

The problem we have then is an inability to handle knowledge. As I said at the beginning of this article, I have come to see that knowledge is like dynamite: powerful but dangerous. Simply acquiring knowledge isn't enough. We need divine grace, wisdom, and character to use it correctly. Otherwise we become like people who handle dynamite without taking precautions—we'll probably hurt ourselves and others.

In Ecclesiastes chapter 10, Solomon illustrates this with a typically vivid analogy: Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment, and cause it to give off a foul odor; so does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor (v. 1).

Even when we have wisdom to handle knowledge, we must still have a mature character. Flaws in our character cause even the ointment of wisdom to "give off a foul odor," no longer attracting people, instead repelling them.

The bottom line on the danger of knowledge is pride. "Knowledge puffs up" (1 Cor. 8:1). Once pride enters, other character faults develop. The prideful become contentious, judgmental, intolerant, quick-tempered, and unwilling to receive correction. Attitudes are also often developed which are dogmatic, sectarian, and legalistic. Although we may see these as isolated, individual problems, they have a common putrid root: pride. Those prideful attitudes inevitably are involved in clashes with other groups.

If we have a wrong attitude when we approach others, the

"dead flies in our ointment" will repel them.

The wrong and the right attitudes can be summarized in simple phrases. The wrong attitude: You need what we've got. The right attitude: Can we help you? The difference between these attitudes probably will mean the difference between success and failure in relating to other Christian groups and ministers.

If we truly want to get along with Christians who have beliefs different than our own, we must rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth, developing the character God requires. Then we must handle the knowledge He gives us with a right attitude, laying aside pride, depending instead on divine grace and wisdom.

REMEMBER: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, IS A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING.

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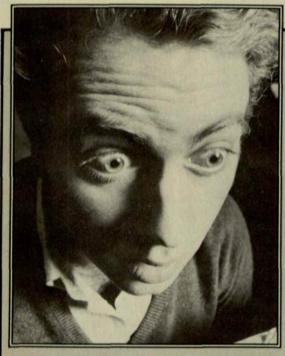
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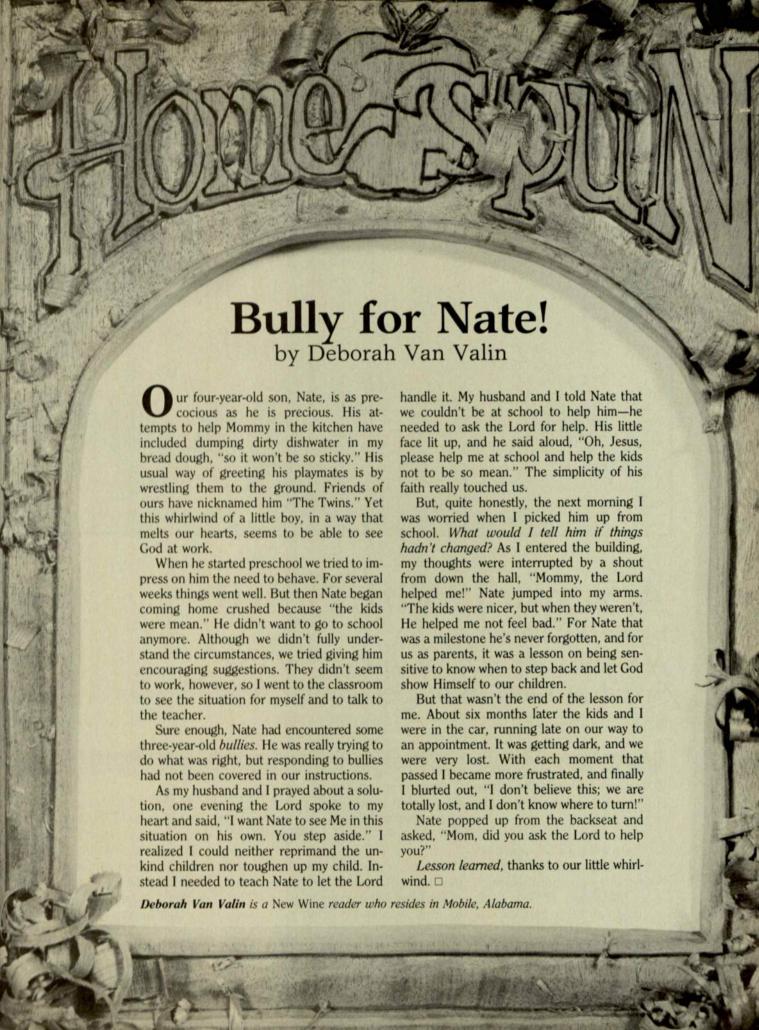
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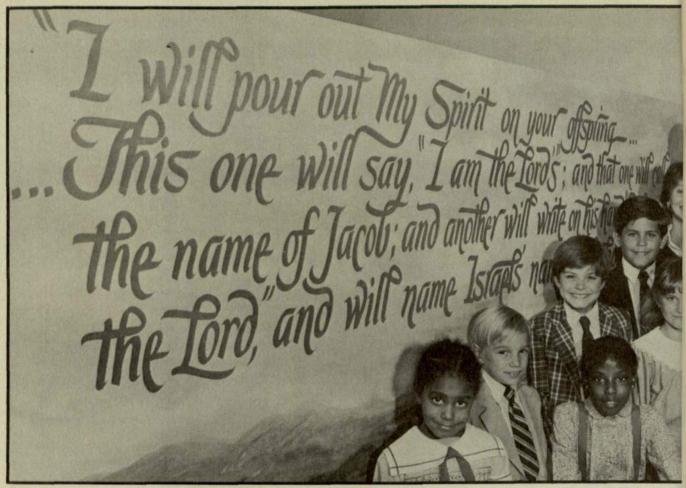
See page 32 for a special offer of In the Arena of Truth.



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Walter Roycraft

# A School With Spirit

by Becky Petrie
A Kentucky school visited by the
Spirit of God in a spectacular way

hen our church began its own school in September 1976, the Lord gave the elders the following scripture in Isaiah for our children.

"For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants; and they will spring up like grass among the waters, like poplars by streams of water." This one will say, "I am the Lord's"; and that one will call on the name of Jacob; and another will write on his hand, "Belonging to the Lord" (Is. 44:3-5 NAS).

We had a graphic artist paint this passage across the back wall of the school. It has reminded us to pray continually that God would reveal Himself to our children in a personal way, because we believe our lives are in vain if what we have in God is not carried on in the next generation.

#### Move of the Spirit

Last October we had a spectacular answer to our prayer. It began while a pastor was speaking to the senior-high students during a morning devotional time. The Holy Spirit began to move while he was sharing, and students stood and confessed sin and broken relationships, wept, and asked forgiveness. Two pu-



pils who had never accepted Jesus as Savior met Him; others received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Ministry to one another, healing, and deliverance went on throughout the day.

Across the hall in the first grade and kindergarten, several children talked about how they invited Jesus into their hearts the weekend before. Soon the little ones began to pray together. Before the day was over, nearly every child had met the Lord.

The next day the Spirit began to move again. The junior-high children began to repent and seek the Lord, ministering and confessing to one another. In the fourth and fifth grades, as the elders talked and prayed, nearly every child received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Students were praying for one another, prophesying, and seeing visions. A second-grader doing her school

work suddenly began to worship and speak in tongues.

#### **Sharing Words**

That evening 250 people gathered around one family's pool to baptize some of the students. Over the next four and a half hours, as fathers and elders baptized the children, each one received a prophetic word of encouragement that applied specifically to them. About twenty-five of the students were involved in sharing words and visions with their classmates.

Near the end of the evening, the twenty-two-year-old son of the family whose pool we were using came to visit his parents. He too was moved upon mightily by the Spirit, and he pushed through the crowd and asked to be baptized. In the pool he made a public confession of sin and was delivered. There was a shout of victory from him and the congregation as he came up out of the water.

The following day several senior-high students brought records and magazines that the Lord had convicted them should be destroyed in the presence of the entire school as an expression of their commitment to obey and follow Jesus.

#### God's Purpose Understood

After those events we all understood more clearly that God's purpose to mold and make us into His representatives on earth included our children as well—to fit them together, and use them.

Last school year was a landmark for us as a church. God began the year by pouring out His Spirit upon our offspring, and He has continued to draw them, confront them, and mold them.

Hearing our children confess, "I am the Lord's," and seeing Him write on their hands, "Belonging to the Lord," is a confirmation. We *know* He is faithful to keep His Word. □

Becky Petrie and her husband, Paul, reside with their three children in Lexington, Kentucky, where Paul is a pastor.

#### **NEXT MONTH**

Meet Ted Engstrom, president of World Vision, an organization dedicated to meeting the physical and spiritual needs of impoverished people throughout the world.



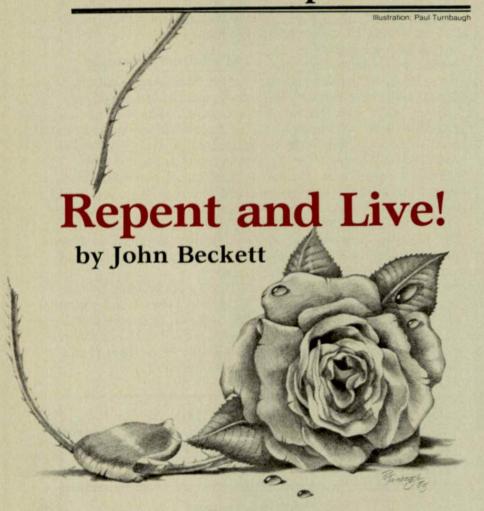
Ted Engstrom: next month in New Wine

Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Mary—what were their real feelings and fears that first Christmas? Don Basham shares his insights on the mixed blessing of being chosen by God.

The Supreme Court has become, in a sense, our country's final authority. In the second part of his article on the Supreme Court, Michael Ford suggests how we can pray effectively for this branch of our government.

All in the December New Wine

#### **Intercessors Report**



John Beckett is president of Intercessors for America.

"Repent and live!" Those words spoken by the Old Testament prophets to the people of their time, are also a vital message for us today. Repentance is absolutely essential if we are to continue experiencing the blessings we have long enjoyed as a nation.

Forgiveness is in the nature of God. We are familiar with His forgiveness to us as individuals—as we have confessed our sin and repented, He has washed away our guilt and shame.

But not only does God forgive individuals, He also forgives nations in response to their repentance—and even when He has already pronounced judgment. "If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it" (Jer. 18:7-10 NIV).

Jeremiah spent his life faithfully pleading on behalf of God for his nation to change its direction. "Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the Lord your God. Then the Lord will relent

and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you" (Jer. 26:13 NIV).

At one point in the book of Jeremiah, the example of King Hezekiah is used in an effort to turn the people from impending disaster. "Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord and seek his favor? And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them?" (Jer. 26:19 NIV).

God also sounded His warnings through the prophet Ezekiel, who was a watchman to the house of Israel. "Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit....Repent and live!" (Ezek. 18:30-32 NIV).

The prophets were rejected, however, and their prophecies largely ignored. Destruction, calamity, and captivity followed, just as God had warned.

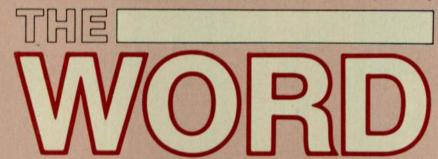
The Scripture gives other examples of God relenting and restoring nations as His people genuinely repented. These should encourage us and build up our faith (See 1 Kings 21:27-29, and 2 Kings 22:19).

In our zeal to see restoration in the Church and reform in society, we must pay heed to the means God has proclaimed. God requires repentance and prayer. No single scripture more clearly reveals this than 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (NIV).

Although more often preached than practiced, the truth of that verse remains a continuing challenge and a special responsibility of the intercessor. For believers, its promise of blessing is an eternal source of hope.

#### November 1983

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 four aspects of the Church: its unity, holiness, universal nature, and apostolic authority. We encourage our readers to use this feature daily, both for personal Scripture study and family reading.



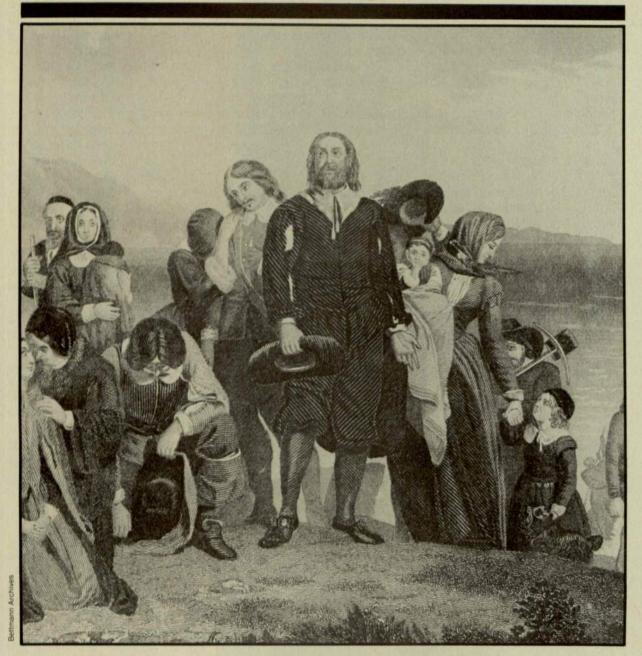
#### I believe in the universal Church because . . .

L	God's Government Reaches to the Ends of the Earth		
	A. The Lord possesses the heathen	Ps. 2 Nov	. 1
	B. The Lord is worshiped by the nations		
	C. The Lord is feared by the peoples		
	D. The Lord commands all to be saved	Is. 45:20-25 Nov	4
	E. The Lord's salvation is seen by all	Is. 52:7-15 Nov	5
	F. The Lord's greatness is known by all	Mic. 5:1-5	6
	G. The Lord will govern the earth in peace	Zech. 9:1-10 Nov	7
	H. The Lord redeems from every kindred and nation		
П.	The Church's Commission Is Universal		
	A. To all nations and every creature	Mt. 28:16-20; Mk. 16:14-20 Nov.	9
	B. From Jerusalem to the remotest part		
III.	The Church's Response Was Directed Outward		
	A. "In one place"	Acts 1:12—2:4	. 11
	B. "From every nation under heaven"	Acts 2:5-41 Nov.	. 12
	C. "At ease in Zion" before the persecution		
	D. The scattered Church at work in Samaria	Acts 8:1-25 Nov.	. 14
	E. The gospel extended to Ethiopia		
	F. The first Gentiles baptized		
	G. The church at Antioch	Acts 11:19-30 Nov.	17
***			
IV.	The Church's Growth Extended Throughout the Worl		
	A. Cyprus and Pisidian Antioch		
	B. Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe		
	C. Philippi	Acts 16	20
	D. From Thessalonica to Athens		
	E. Corinth		
	F. Ephesus	Acts 18:18—19:7 Nov.	23
V	Apostle Paul Has a Global Vision		
٧.	A. "I must see Rome also"	Asta 10-9 22 No.	24
	B. "I must finish my course"		
	C. "I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die"		
	D. "Brethren and fathers, hear my defense"		
	E. "I obeyed the heavenly vision"		
	F. "Keep up your courage I believe God"		
	G. "Salvation has been sent to the Gentiles"	Acts 28 Nov.	30



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# Rediscovering America



What was the vision that brought our forefathers to America's shores?

#### by Steven Schiffman

istory is the record of what God has done in His creation. To study history is to study God at work. When we examine

the history of America, we see divine intervention throughout the establishment of our country and a recognition of that intervention by the people who were making that history. But many people today seem to be unaware of the Christian influence during the formative years of our country and are shocked when they learn that America was founded as a *Christian nation*.

In 1892, Supreme Court Justice Josiah Brewer, in an opinion that was based on an exhaustive study of historical and legal evidence, declared, "There is a universal language pervading... having one meaning... that this is a religious nation." Justice Brewer added, "...this is a Christian nation."

In twentieth century America, however, the true story of our heritage has been forgotten and neglected. Not only has our Christian heritage been neglected but there is also evidence of deliberate suppression of our true beginnings. Over the past one hundred years, American history has been distorted, deleted, and tainted by a secular, anti-Christian perspective. For example, Charles A. Beard (1874-1948) wrote more than fifty books on American history, many of them with a socialistic slant. Through the vears his works have been widely used in public schools.

Horace Mann, prior to Beard (1796-1859), contributed to obscuring our Christian heritage in the public schools. He considered many biblical teachings outmoded, and therefore worked to secularize education by replacing the religious basis for education

with a social or civil basis. Under the influence of Mann, American education began to move away from a biblical foundation.

Considering this combination of neglect and secularization, it's no wonder so few people are aware of our Christian heritage, and so many have lost sight of the Christian vision our forefathers had. But perhaps as we look back on our ancestors, in particular the Pilgrims, our vision can begin to be restored.

#### Vision for a New Society

The date is November 9, 1620, and standing on the unsteady deck of the tiny Mauflower is a group of Pilgrims. The horizon that was moments earlier filled with nothing but the unknown begins to give birth to new shapes: a shoreline comes into view, then a scrub pine, and then sandy fields of grass. As land is sighted, Elder Brewster leads the Pilgrims in prayer. They fall on their knees and bless the God of heaven, who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean and delivered them from all its perils and miseries.

What could have motivated these 102 Pilgrims to seek out the New World? What prompted them to leave their homes, and civilization itself, to strike out for an unknown land? Were they after gold like their fellow countrymen to the south in Virginia? Did they come merely to escape the harsh working conditions in Europe? No. They had a *vision*—a vision of a new land where Christians could set up a society directed by God's Word. That indeed was the American vision 360 years ago.

William Bradford, governor of the colony of Plymouth, describes the Pilgrim mission: "[They had] a great hope and inward zeal... of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way thereunto, for propagating and advancing the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world; yea, though they should be but even as stepping-stones unto others for the performing of so great a work."

When the Pilgrims left for the New World to accomplish their mission, their original destination was the Hudson River area (at the time, the northern part of Virginia), but because of the wind and weather (and undoubtedly the providence of God), they landed several hundred miles north of their original destination. This apparent accident had far-reaching consequences for the Pilgrim's future and for ours.

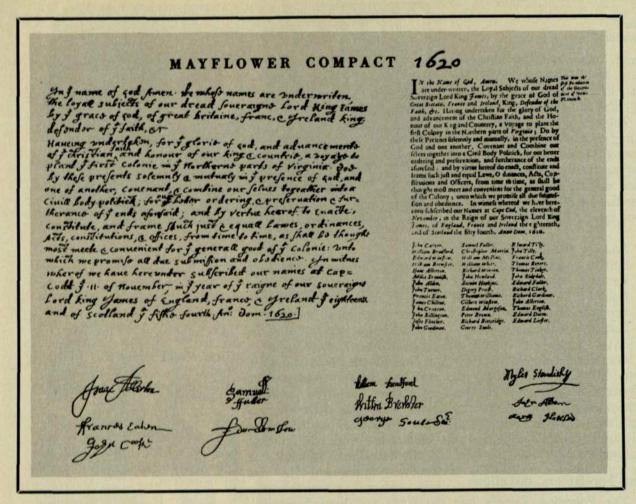
Because their original charter was designated only for Virginia and they feared not being under some form of government, they were forced to draw up a charter of their own, the Mayflower Compact. The compact was the first document for self-government drawn up in the New World. In it they established themselves as a people under God's authority.

#### The Cost of Commitment

Despite the hardships they faced, the Pilgrims showed a strong commitment to reach their goal. The first months at Plymouth were filled with suffering and privation. Forty-seven of the settlers died. Of the eighteen families who came, only three families re-



Steven Schiffman is president and founder of American Vision, an education and communications organization dedicated to restoring America's biblical foundation



The Mayflower Compact: America's first document of Christian selfgovernment

mained unbroken by death. But even after a terrible winter for the Pilgrims, the testimony of their determination and commitment is one dramatic fact: When spring came and the *Mayflower* returned to England, *not one of them went back*.

Against incredible odds, they began to carve a civilization out of the wilderness. Bradford himself noted the Pilgrims' influence when he wrote, "As one small candle may light a thousand, so the light kindled here has shown unto many; yea, in some sort to our whole nation... We have noted these things so that you might see their worth and not negligently lose what your fathers have obtained with so much hardship" (italics mine).

Unfortunately, America today acts like a nation that has lost its memory. We have largely abandoned the biblical principles that

our country was founded upon. We have abandoned the covenant our Christian forefathers made with God. But although we may have forgotten the terms of that covenant, God has not. He still blesses obedience and curses disobedience (Deuteronomy 28). If we are to escape the judgment of God, we as a nation must repent and return to God's revealed will in Scripture (2 Chronicles 7:14).

#### Rediscovering Our Destiny

To reestablish our Christian foundations, we must study the Scriptures and learn God's view on every aspect of our lives. Only when we have saturated our minds with God's *Word*, can we hope to comprehend God's *world*.

The Bible speaks to all of life because Christ is Lord of all: family, church, civil government, economics, business, education, science, the arts, law, health, recreation, and every other area of human activity. Biblical principles have implications for and applications in every area of life without exception.

Today we stand at a crossroads. The direction we take as a nation in the days ahead will determine our destiny. "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in" (Is. 58:12).

Christians must lay the groundwork to reclaim our country for God. We need a vision and indomitable determination as our forefathers had. Then we can be assured of God's continued blessing and the restoration of our Christian heritage. Ford

continued from page 13

more toward men for laws, we have seen a corresponding decline in morality, and an increase in crime and divorce.

Thomas Jefferson said that a firmly established religious belief among the people as the basis of law was the only way to maintain their respect for the rights and liberties of other men over the long run.

And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?<sup>9</sup>

God didn't bless America because He's an American. He blessed us because our forefathers acknowledged their dependency on Him and our government and laws were founded on the laws of Nature.

#### Our Forefathers' Intentions

The Founding Fathers had something else in common with Christians today besides dependency on God; they feared a large, powerful federal government. Why then did they establish a Supreme Court in which the judges are not elected by the people, their decisions are not reviewed by the people, and they are not subject to removal by the people?

The Supreme Court was originally intended only to hear cases arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States, treaties, and cases between states. But their authority was clearly limited, and what authority was not explicitly given to the federal government in the Constitution was reserved for the states by the Tenth Amendment. Never was it intended for the Supreme Court or the federal government to have the sweeping powers over individuals and



" I'M NOT FEELING VERY INFALLIBLE TODAY ! "

Courtesy of Wayne Stayskal

states they now have. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights erected a wall of law with the federal government on one side and the people and states on the other, and both subject to it.

The framers of the Constitution had just won freedom from an English monarchy in which King George had exalted himself above the laws of Nature and the common law. Under the principle of the divine right of kings, the king's word was law. The king was unelected, answerable only to God, and beyond removal. Samuel Rutherford's book, Lex, Rex or The Law and the Prince, written in Britain in 1644, had influenced the colonists greatly. Rutherford's thesis was that all men, even the king, were subject to both the laws of Nature and the laws originating from the Bible. Thus all men were "created equally" under the authority of God's Word. This familiar concept is found, of course, in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The functions of governmental departments then become clear. Congress should discover and embody these natural laws in legislation. The President should implement these laws. The Supreme Court should apply these laws to factual disputes that arise in their implementation.

This system ideally protects the people, most accurately reflecting their will, and the government, from the domination of men. It is a government of laws, not men. But is that the way the system is operating today? What happened?

Next Month: Part 2 of this article—"The Subtle Conspiracy or How Shall We Then Pray?"

#### **Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup>DeSpain v. DeKalb County Community School District 384 F. 2d 836 (7th Cir. 1967).

<sup>2</sup>Joseph H. Brady, Confusion Twice Confounded: The First Amendment and the Supreme Court (South Orange, N.J.: Seton Hall University Press, 1954), p. 46.

<sup>3</sup>Goodwin v. Cross County School District 394 F.Supp. 417 (E.D. Ark. 1973).

<sup>4</sup>Peter Ferrara, Religion and the Constitution, A Reinterpretation (Washington, D.C.: The Congress Research and Education Foundation), p. 13.

<sup>5</sup>William Blackstone, Commentaries on the Laws of England (Tucker Edition: 1803), pp. 39-40.

<sup>6</sup>G.E. White, University of Virginia Law Professor, quoted from "Moses, Blackstone, and the Law of the Land," in *Christian Legal Society Quarterly*.

<sup>7</sup>Doe v. Irwin 615 F.2nd 1162 (6th Cir. 1980).

<sup>8</sup>Meltzer v. Board of Public Instruction of Orange County, Florida 584 F.2d 559 (5th Cir. 1977).

9Ferrara, op. cit. p. 37.

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# DEAR NEW WINE

Perseverance Pays

I have just finished reading "Sylvester the Horse" in my September copy of *New Wine*. I couldn't help but think of the parallel between Josh's ride on Sylvester and the Christian life.

We would usually like a smooth ride through this life, but in reality there are times in all of our lives when we have to hang on (to Him) for dear life. I believe that one of the primary reasons that Josh was able to say at the end of the ride, "That was great, Dad!" was because he persevered. May we do the same!

Ann Sikes Cincinnati, OH

#### Honesty and Humor

Every month I so enjoy *New Wine* Magazine and the practical help each article offers. Dick Leggatt's editorial and also the "Homespun" article, "Sylvester the Horse," blessed me. I appreciate the honesty you share along with a tremendous sense of humor that I find so very important!

Fern Mann Kremmling, CO

#### He Is There

I just read Don Basham's article on "Spare Parts." It is no coincidence that God's blessings and goodness are always there even when we are going through many trials. Thank you for your excellent magazine.

Kathy Gerardi Putnam, CT

#### Be Prepared

I appreciated Gary Bergel's article "Where Is the Peace Movement Really Taking Us?" In most "movements" there is usually an element of truth. The current peace movement is no different. To desire peace is a noble and biblical goal, but losing sight of the sinfulness of man's fallen nature is both naive and dangerous. Until the rest of the world aligns itself with the redemptive work of Calvary, we must be prepared for "wars and rumors of wars."

Bill Buckley Lexington, KY

#### A Real Heart

Your recent article by Charles Simpson on "Our Place in Prayer" was a real help in bringing me to a more honest place before our Lord. Previously I called areas of sin, "areas of weakness." However, the section titled "Facing Reality" in Charles' article helped me a great deal to do just as the heading suggests.

Also, John Stanko's "Eight Ways to Avoid a Stale Prayer Life" convicted me very deeply because the Lord has been dealing with my grumbling attitude. I try to fast one day a week, but lately it has become a great chore. I have found myself thinking more about the food I am missing than being thankful to the Lord for all He has done.

Well, on a recent day of fasting, I sensed the Lord saying just a few hours into the fast that He would rather have me eat with a thankful heart than fast while grumbling.

Richard Rothbard Toledo, OH

#### Our Manna Jar

John Stanko's "Eight Ways to Avoid a Stale Prayer Life" held a hidden pearl for our household.

God told Moses to place a jar of manna in the Ark of the Covenant. And brother John wrote, "It is important for every household to have a jar, figuratively speaking, so that when our children say, 'What's in there?' we can say, 'Those are answers to prayer.'"

Well, we decided to make up a literal jar for our family. We wrote out all of the answered prayers we could think of on tiny slips of paper, along with all of the dates we could remember. We put them in an unmarked, clear glass jar, and we put it in a prominent place in the livingroom. We will continue to add to the jar each answered prayer. So when family, friends, or new visitors ask about the jar, we can show them God's answered prayers for our family. And on Thanksgiving, our family's big holiday instead of Christmas, we'll each reach into the jar and pull out an answered prayer to read as we thank God for His mercies, His lovingkindness, and His abundant provisions. It also serves as a living source of hope and faith for us in times of frustration and doubt. Thank you.

Ronn Brackin Laurel, MD

#### Billheimer Interview Helpful

I have been reading New Wine for several years now and would like to express my appreciation for all the articles written. The interview with Paul Billheimer in the August issue was very helpful at this time. The Bible study group I belong to has had for awhile a burden to understand more about the importance of prayer. I plan to use this article when it is my turn to lead our group.

Thanks again for articles that always seem to come at the right time!

Randi Baldwin Bella Coola, B.C.

#### **Prayer Points**

My family and I appreciate *New Wine* every month. We reviewed the articles on prayer around the table this morning. They were especially meaningful because two of our children are going off to college, and the many points laid out within your articles summarized a course of action we all can learn from.

Your prayers for us as a family during this time of change are being counted on, and you can be assured of our prayers for your ministry and individual needs.

> Alfred E. Pilong Sandwitch, MA

#### Keep It Flowing

I have been receiving *New Wine* for nearly fifteen years. It has been, since the beginning, the most consistently anointed publication I receive.

I have saved each copy and use them as a reference library for myself and my congregation.

I pray that God will keep your consistent and balanced prophetic word flowing.

Rev. David V. Massimi Richmond, OH

#### Praying Right?

Your September issue dealing with prayer was needed and welcomed. I have often had battles in my mind as to whether or not I was praying the "right" way. Your articles really helped me.

Greg Magnan Chula Vista, CA

#### Feeding on "The Word"

When we first received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we looked to *New Wine* for information concerning our new relationship with the Lord, and we found much to feed on there, and the feeding has continued ever since.

We also use your daily Bible study, "The Word," and find it to be a wonderful guide for daily meditation. We found August's study on the fruits of the Spirit particularly fulfilling.

Mike & Denise Mills Greenville, NC

#### Wide Vision Appreciated

I appreciate most your broad vision that includes different parts of the world and different cultural backgrounds. Your most recent issue included an article about the peace movement which was excellent, thought-provoking, and challenging. This summer's issue that contained the testimony of a former activist of the sixties was very moving and stands out as a highlight in recent months.

Julie Morse Minneapolis, MN

#### Thanks for Openness

We have been receiving *New Wine* for almost ten years and have always found it a great teaching tool and for the most part a magazine open to all faiths. I can't remember reading anything in the articles that was prejudiced against my faith, which is Catholic. Thank you for your ministry, and may the Lord continue to bless you in this outreach to His people.

Mrs. Paul Reichenbach Pequot Lakes, MN

#### Making Jesus Real

I consider your magazine the No. 1 Christian magazine of the many that come into my home. Each one has had an article that met my spiritual need at the time. The magazine has helped me many times in preparing Bible teaching, but most of all, it has made Jesus more real to me.

Lloyd Liesemer Ontario, Canada

#### Letters Are a Blessing

Normally I read each issue from cover to cover and rarely miss any part of your magazine. Consequently I was very surprised when I read "Dear New Wine" in the August issue and discovered that a reader had been through a situation very similar to mine, and that she had been greatly helped by an article that I did not remember. I lost my 52-year-old father two years ago and have three daughters who, as they group up, will miss that special grandpa.

I dug through my old issues and found the April issue with the article by Ern Baxter called "The Keys to Life and Death." The blessing to me was twofold. Ern Baxter expanded my understanding of the words the Lord gave to me to comfort me in the loss of my dad. The timing was also very special. I found and read the article on my dad's birthday, a day when I really appreciated the comfort of knowing that God is in control. I wanted you to know that even the letters from readers can minister to other readers.

> Marcia Malloy Arlington, VA

#### A New Avenue to Praise

Bob Mumford's article in the August issue was right on target for me.

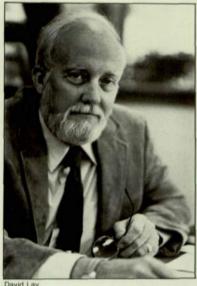
I've been a minister for many years, but I haven't felt I was giving God adequate praise for the miracles He has been giving us. This article opened up a new avenue for me to release praise to Jesus!

Rev. Cecil Stover Pontiac, MI

Thank you for your letters. We always appreciate your comments and suggestions, and we are glad to hear what God is doing in your lives.

## The Way I See It

by Don Basham



## Out of the Miry Clay

Then I was a boy growing up in Texas, every summer our family drove to the Colorado mountains for a week of trout fishing. An experience I have never forgotten occurred the summer I was seventeen.

My father and I were fly-fishing along the edge of a mountain lake. It was late afternoon, and trout were hitting the top of the water everywhere. I waded into knee-deep water, casting my fly line ahead of me. Suddenly my feet plunged deeply into a soft section of lake bottom. Struggling to lift my right foot, I felt my left foot sink deeper into the mire. Trying to lift my left foot sunk me even deeper. Every effort to extricate myself made matters worse.

Cold lake water was soon pouring in over the top of my hip boots as the water level crept steadily toward my waist. Fighting panic, I looked around for something to grab hold of. Nothing was in reach. The solid rocky shore was less than ten feet away, but it might as well have been a mile.

#### Deliverance

I was about to yell for help when I saw my father racing toward me. From several hundred feet down the shoreline, he had seen my dilemma. Scarcely breaking his stride, he snatched a long dead tree limb from the water's edge and, reaching the nearest point on shore, thrust the dripping limb toward me.

"Son, throw your fly rod ashore, and grab the limb with both hands!" he instructed. I did as I was told, and moments later I was standing safely on dry ground, soaked to my armpits, covered with muck from the waist down. and minus one boot that had been swallowed by the mire. Deliverance came because I had a father watching over me who cared and who could do for me what I could not do for myself.

I've since come to see that scary experience has significant spiritual application to life itself. especially in the painfully difficult situations where we are prone to rely on ourselves—trying rather than trusting.

#### David's Experience

Scripture often makes the same point. No one tried harder to serve God faithfully than David, the shepherd king. He had many glorious successes. Yet David was human, and sometimes, as David himself testifies, his own sins and mistakes created difficulties too great for human solution. Only God could save him.

He [the Lord] lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand (Ps. 40:2 NIV).

If you readily identify with the problem David and I both had, it may be because you are presently mired in some painful situation so impossibly complex that every effort you make to change things just puts you in deeper. I know how you feel and hope my own experience will help you.

That rescue by my father took place forty years ago. He is in heaven now, and in my thirty years as a minister and Bible teacher, I have spent much more time fishing for men than fishing for trout. Yet I have had to experience that same kind of rescue more than once.

#### Reminded

Occasionally forgetting how complex human relationships can become while doggedly pursuing some worthwhile ministry of my own, I fail to watch my footing and find myself sinking into a complicated, muddy situation.

Usually as I flounder in my own efforts, it takes the shock of cold water pouring over the top of my boots to remind me that my salvation lies in trusting, not in trying. Chastened, I look up and remember that watching over me is One who cares and who will do for me what I cannot do for myself: that farther down the shore. Father has seen my dilemma and with deliverance in hand is racing in my direction.

