

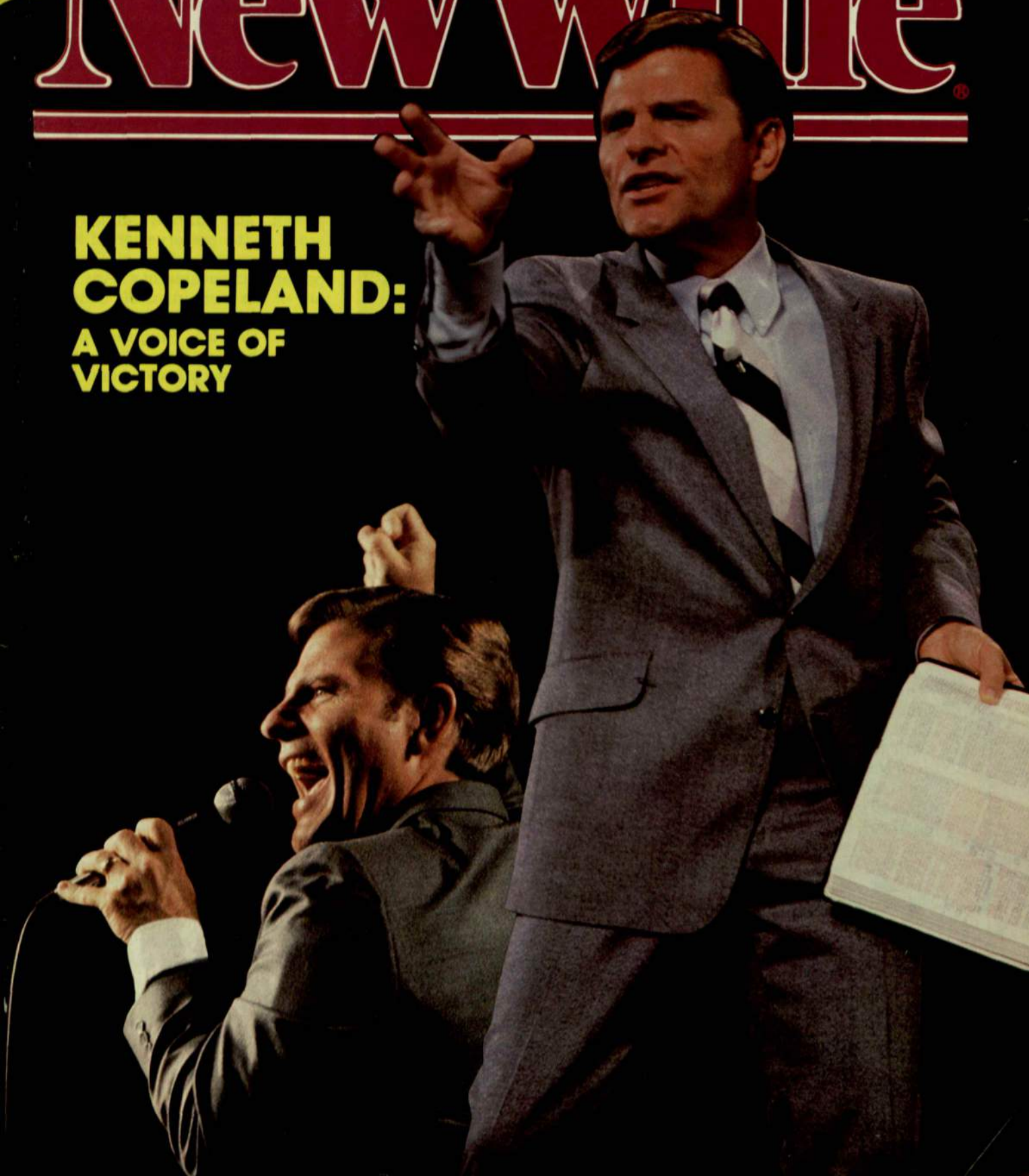
Integrity Communications  
presents

featuring:  
**Indomitable Hope** by Charles Simpson

January 1984

# Magazine **New Wine**

**KENNETH  
COPELAND:  
A VOICE OF  
VICTORY**





The first step into the new year

## Consecrate Yourself

BY DICK LEGGATT

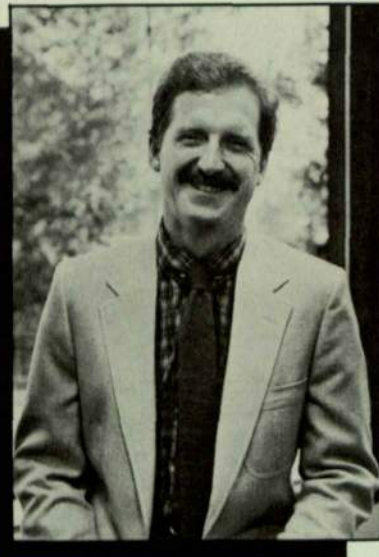
**C**onsecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" (Josh. 3:5 NAS). These were the words of Joshua as he prepared the tribes of Israel to cross the Jordan River into the promised land. They were standing on the threshold of a totally new season, one which would confirm and establish their destiny as God's people.

For many weeks now, those words of Joshua have been on my mind and in my heart as I look toward 1984. I sense God saying to all of us: "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow (and in the days that lie ahead) I will do wonders among you."

It would be easy to put the emphasis on the second half of that verse—the wonders God will do—because I believe 1984 will be a year in which we will see marvelous demonstrations of God's power. We, like the Israelites, will see the way before us opened up miraculously, even as the Jordan parted before them. We will see victories accomplished by obedience to God and the moving of His Spirit, just as the Israelites saw the walls of Jericho crumble and fall.

But as dramatic as the wonders in 1984 may be, I believe the emphasis for us as we approach the coming new year is to be on the first part of the verse: "Consecrate yourselves." Obedience

David Lay



to that command involves not only a fresh commitment to our destiny in God but also a realistic purging of anything in our lives that would keep us from walking after Him. As we read on in the book of Joshua, it is evident that consecrating ourselves is a continuing process (see Joshua 5:2-9; 13-15). If we are faithful to prepare ourselves through commitment and cleansing, I believe we will be ready to both see and participate in the wonders God will do tomorrow.

One of those wonders we may well see increasingly in 1984 is the unity of the Church. For many years this has been a consistent desire in the hearts of all of us associated with Integrity Communications and *New Wine Magazine*, and our hope is that 1984 will mark a substantial advance in the body of Christ working together more fully. That is one reason why we are grateful to begin this year with an interview with a man of God known to many of you—Kenneth Copeland. We trust his insights on intercession, spiritual warfare, and unity will inspire and challenge you, as will the excellent remarks shared by Charles Simpson, Bob Mumford, Ern Baxter, and Don Basham in their forum on the topic of unity.

A recurrent theme in the articles of this January issue is victory. It is a note distinctly sounded in the testimonies of Captain Rick Hamme and Gail Ohler, who tell how God has brought victory out of the death of Gail's husband, Michael, a Marine captain killed in Lebanon. Erik Krueger's insights into the release of God's power through our testimony and a simple proclamation of the gospel, and Marion Muhney's story of the preservation of her family are reminders of God's power and sovereignty. And in one of the most inspiring exhortations ever published in *New Wine*, Charles Simpson proclaims the victorious destiny we have when we place our hope in God. We trust this message will stir you to look toward the year ahead with hope for the many victories and wonders God will perform. We trust as well that in anticipation of those wonders, we will all be obedient to the command God issued through His servant Joshua: "Consecrate yourselves." □

*Dick Leggatt*

P.S. I'm sure you noticed the banner on the front cover, "Integrity Communications Presents." Some of our readers have not been aware that Integrity Communications is the overall publishing organization which produces not only *New Wine Magazine*, but also *New Wine Tape of the Month*, *Fathergram*, and Bob Mumford's *Plumbline* and Recommended Tapes. It also oversees Integrity House, our retail and wholesale distributor of books and cassette tapes. As we begin 1984, we at *New Wine* continue to be grateful that we are part of such an extensive outreach, touching people all over the world with the message of the kingdom of God.



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**Cover Photograph:**  
John Mikkelsen



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



David Lay

## Dear New Wine

### *Encouraged by Seasons*

The Lord has used recent issues of *New Wine* to minister to me and my family. In this respect, the November interview with Dee Jepsen was outstanding. My wife has recently begun working part-time as an academic counselor in a local business school. The other night she came home disturbed about not having reached the career goals she had set for herself before we were married. Comparisons she was making between herself and professional women she encountered on campus triggered the disturbance. I first washed her with the Word, reminding her of Paul's example, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." Then Mrs. Jepsen's example and comments encouraged her, particularly the insightful comment about seasons.

In short, *New Wine* is fulfilling its purpose in our home, and we are grateful to the Lord for it.

Ronald B. Mincy  
Lafayette, IN

### *A Softening Effect*

Our November issue of *New Wine* arrived today, and I have read and reread with deep satisfaction your cover story on Dee Jepsen.

I sense with gratitude the hand of God in directing you to include this interview at this particular time. For sometime I have wished that you would publish something I could send to my beloved daughter who is deeply involved in feminism—something that might challenge, even soften. Indeed, I was thinking of writing you to request such an article!

Your interview with Mrs. Jepsen is all I could wish. What a gracious, loving, wise woman she is. While I don't expect an immediate response, I know that what she had to say will have a softening influence in my daughter's life and be used of God to help bring about her true fulfillment.

Name Withheld

### *Learned How to Pray*

I just want you to know that the November issue of *New Wine* really blessed me, especially the article with Dee Jepsen. It showed me how to pray for my wife. I also appreciated Derek Prince's article, "Doctrines and Dented Fenders." I just want you to know that I really appreciate *New Wine's* ministry.

William T. Mitchell  
Crouston, RI

### *An Example of Womanhood*

I greatly appreciated the interview with Dee Jepsen and was glad that you were conscious of God's purpose for the interview as you shared in the editorial.

Christian women are constantly bombarded with the worldly views of womanhood, especially in the work environment. We need each other for strength in overcoming these views and showing the world a true example of womanhood.

Mrs. Jepsen is a wonderful example of a very feminine woman, secure in her love for the Lord and her family, and in a very important position. I'm thankful for her granting the interview, and for you seeking it.

Patricia Hoon  
Bowling Green, OH

### *Testimony Was a Reminder*

When I received the October issue of *New Wine* in the mail yesterday, I couldn't put it down, even though my kids were clamoring for my attention. I read straight through "Is There a Time for War?" and "When It's Right to Fight" and appreciated both of them. But when I finished "You'll Never Walk Again!" I cried not just a tear or two, but deep, heartfelt sobs.

I was at a loss to understand why I was so deeply affected by



this story. I suppose it was because for the last three months I've been working, by my request, in the "garbage pit" of the hospital with the mentally retarded, profoundly disabled, as well as the chronically ill and dying. The article reminded me I serve a Master who can do whatever He wants. When He chooses, He can give mercy and renewal to the hopeless.

In my work, I needed to know that, and I appreciate *New Wine* for reminding me. Just thought you'd like to know.

Linda Carol Mason  
Mount Pleasant, MI

#### *Moved by Katie Beers*

Your article in the October issue entitled "You'll Never Walk Again!" was most moving. I cannot think of another time that I cried so hard over something I read. What an honest and faith-moving article it was. My husband and I went through a similar tragedy, and I could sense the realism in her testimony. Thank you for printing that article.

I would also like to say a word about Ern Baxter's book, "*I Almost Died!*" Ern's book was very timely for us. When I first saw the book, I thought that it was not for me—that it would probably speak to a much older generation. Boy, was I wrong! It became clear that it is my generation the book is for. (I am twenty-four and my husband thirty.) Our eyes have truly been opened to the dangers we were headed for. After my husband had just gone through a small bout with cancer, a change was needed. Thank you, Ern, for such honesty and boldness.

Patricia A. Gibbons  
San Antonio, TX

#### *Directed to the Father*

I finished reading Don Basham's "Out of the Miry Clay"

(November), set the magazine down, and wept. Again, and a little deeper this time, I experienced the unfathomable love of God reaching down and touching me. Thank you, Don Basham, for consistently communicating words of hope and never failing to point me toward my faithful, loving, heavenly Father.

Tom Ravenscroft  
Seattle, WA

#### *November Enjoyed*

I enjoy your magazine very much and I especially enjoyed the article by Derek Prince in the November issue, "Doctrines and Dented Fenders."

Also, I like your Christian views of world events.

Kay Stoliker  
Elmira, NY

#### *A Changed Perspective*

My pastor introduced our church to *New Wine* Magazine almost a year ago, explaining that it always comes at most appropriate times. One day he was in his office asking the Lord about the crucifixion when the latest *New Wine* with Jesus' nail-scarred hand on the cover was slid under his door. Thank you for being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading in this way.

Recently, I've especially enjoyed reading the articles concerning war and America's Christian history. This perspective has changed my view of America's past, present, and future. It is great to know that the humanist philosophy that has crept into the Church is now being exposed.

I enjoy your inspiring magazine from cover to contents. The cover is colorful and creative. The content is thought provoking and relevant to my own personal convictions.

Clarence Dunbar  
Champaign, IL

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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.





John Mikkelsen

# A Voice of Victory

An interview with Kenneth Copeland

**W**hen New Wine published a report on Kenneth Copeland's 1982 World Communion Service, many of our readers expressed their gratitude. We have appreciated our contact with Kenneth Copeland's ministry since that time, and are grateful for his emphasis on unity and intercession, two topics dear to our hearts as well. Recently, Kenneth graciously consented to this interview with New Wine, and we are happy to present it in this issue.





*In recent years, Kenneth and his wife, Gloria, have traveled throughout the world, sharing the message of the victory we have through Christ. In 1968, he founded Kenneth Copeland Ministries, an outreach that now touches millions of people every day. Kenneth's radio program, "The Believer's Voice of Victory," is aired daily on 570 stations, and his television broadcast is carried by 200 stations, as well as cable satellite networks and 290 Spanish International Network stations.*

NEW WINE

**New Wine:** Would you share your perspective on what you see God doing throughout the Church, and the key areas God is emphasizing among His people?

**Kenneth Copeland:** The area that has always been a priority with God—particularly right now—is that of Christians coming together and being willing to intercede for one another. It's hard to intercede for someone whom we've been criticizing, but if we start interceding, we'll stop criticizing. So intercession is a very key thing right now and, I believe, will be until the Lord returns.

Intercession is such a priority that the Bible says it's what Jesus lives for. "He ever liveth to make intercession." It's going to have to become that way with us—we're going to have to live for intercession.

**NW:** Would you elaborate on this emphasis on intercession?

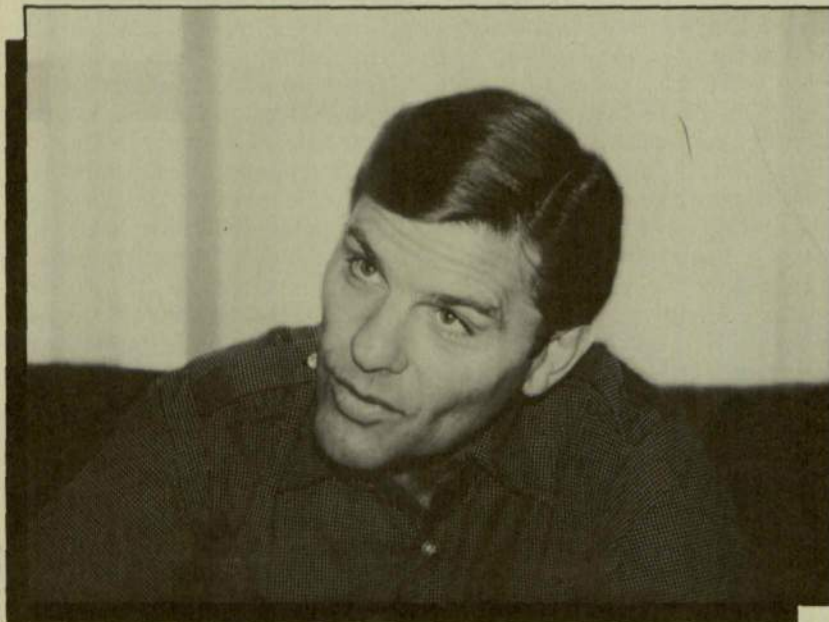
**KC:** We've been through a time, particularly during the last ten years, of tremendous emphasis

on teaching, which has involved a large portion of the body of Christ. Pastors have been teaching, nearly all the field ministries have been teaching; it's been a great time of training.

But I believe with all my heart that right now God is shifting the emphasis. Teaching is not over with, nor will it be a backseat ministry, because what we're going into now will win more souls than ever before in the history of the world—and they will have to be taught. But the emphasis is now going to be that we use what we've learned to come into a place of intercession that will pull us together.

**NW:** If we're supposed to pull together, what is keeping us apart?

**KC:** Many times we let doctrines divide us. But in the book of Ephesians, Paul reminds us "to be no more children tossed to and fro by the wind of doctrine." Separation over any doctrinal point has got to be childish. The doctrine isn't childish but allowing it to blow us apart is child-



*Kenneth Copeland's aim is that those who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior can learn to live victoriously over any of life's problems.*



ish. And so the only way to stop that is to begin to intercede for one another and then to become visible to one another. We've got to get together.

As I was preparing for this interview, I was thinking about Bob Mumford. I met Bob one time, and I like him. I like his boldness. I've been around him several times while he was ministering, and I miss him. I don't know anything about what Bob preaches. He's not on television, so I don't see him, and for some reason or other I haven't been anywhere close to where he's been preaching—if I had been, I would have gone. Frankly, I really don't care what other people say he's preaching. That doesn't mean a thing in the world to me.

Somebody wrote a letter to me not long ago that said, "I've got some disturbing letters about this stuff you're *supposed* to be preaching." And he undertakes to chew me out for something I'm *supposed* to be preaching, and he hadn't even heard me. That's childish.

I miss Charles Simpson and Derek Prince too. I've been listening to Derek's radio broadcast—he's doing the best teaching I've ever heard him do. I love that man. One of the first real revelations I ever heard in my life was from Derek in a Full Gospel Businessmen's meeting. I had only been saved a short while when I heard Derek preaching, and I'll never forget what he said: "When you speak the Word of God out of your mouth, it *is* the Word of God, and it has the same authority as when God said, 'Let there be light.'" I'll never forget that as long as I live. I had never heard anything like that—it really got down into my insides. And it turned out to be the bedrock of this ministry—the Word of God in the mouth of a believer.

I haven't seen these men in a long time, and I miss them. No



*Copeland says it is time for Christians to stop criticizing each other and to start interceding for one another.*

doctrinal points should separate us, and I don't know that there are any. I've heard there are, but I don't know that because I've never heard them say anything that was crosswise with me at all. I do know this: I know Charles Simpson, and I know Bob Mumford. I know they love Jesus, so where is the problem? I know Derek Prince. I know he loves Jesus, so where's the problem? I know Oral Roberts. I know he loves Jesus, so where's the problem? I know James Robison. I know he loves Jesus, so where's the problem?

I guarantee that if every one of the men I have named would sit down with one another long enough, we would inevitably find something that we see differently. Probably, if we really searched out what those differences were, it would turn out that one of us had gotten some information and knowledge on a subject that the others hadn't. And if we would listen to each other's wisdom, we would all come out with something that

none of us knew. And, again, the only way we're going to come to a place of doing the work that God has wanted us to do together is by beginning to intercede for one another.

**NW:** Is this something we're just beginning to realize, or have we always felt it and just not done anything about it?

**KC:** We've always known this was true, but now it's not a matter of what we *ought* to do, it's a matter of what we're going to *have* to do. We've fooled around too long, played around, when we should have been pulling together and winning this world. Now our backs are up against the wall, and we're going to have to come out under a declaration of war and win this thing. And we're going to do it.

We are still the most powerful group of people in the history of the world. We are the end-time army. We've got more spiritual knowledge, and more of everything else that it takes, than any other generation in history. Therefore, we've got more responsibility. If we're going to win the world, we've got to come together.

**NW:** What other adjustments and realizations do we need to make?

**KC:** The body of Christ needs some basic changes in attitudes. One change has to do with our attitude toward spiritual warfare. Our thinking in the body of Christ has been: "I'll do the best I can until I am attacked, and when I'm attacked, I'll do the best I can to repel the attack." But the Bible presents the body of Christ as a military organization. Jesus didn't say anything about a holding action. He said, "Go, *take* the fight to the enemy. Go into the whole world, laying hands on the sick, and casting out the devil."



We've got a lot to do. And to do it, we've got to change our minds. We've got to develop a warlike attitude—not toward one another but toward the devil. We've got to base our actions on the fact that we are at war, realizing that when we are at war, we do things that we don't do otherwise. The battle takes priority, and we drop our "civilian affairs," sacrificing things we normally wouldn't sacrifice.

I was a little boy when World War II broke out, and I still remember how *everything* was based on that war. Even the time zones were changed to match the war. Everything nationwide was based on a war mentality. There was a marked difference in the Korean War because the people were not war-minded. And in Vietnam, the lack of war-mindedness was so great that it almost destroyed the nation. Why? There was no

war declared. It was only a holding action or a police action. And that's the way the body of Christ has been trying to fight this spiritual war all this time. But it won't work—it never has, it never will. It doesn't work in the natural, and it won't work in the spiritual realm. So what we have to do is come to a place where the body of Christ declares war on the devil and all of the darkness of hell.

We must come together with one another and take our training with one another. And when we finally pull together, somebody will be using the weapons God gave him for me, so I won't need to worry about defending myself, because I will be using my weapons for someone else also. Thus, the whole body of Christ ought to be covered on a much higher level than what we can do on our own.

The things I am saying here I believe with all my heart are top

priority with God right now. As many believers as there are in the earth today, just in simple population, we're getting to the point where we've got Satan on the edge. He can't take all of us now—there are too many of us if we get together. But if he can keep us apart, keep us doing our own thing, he can keep us ineffective. But we are not going to stay apart any longer. We're wising up.

**NW:** Unfortunately, many Christians have been divided over the issue of faith, some because of inaccurate reports of what is being taught on that topic. We know you have experienced some opposition and misrepresentation in that area. Instead of somebody else incorrectly saying what you believe about faith, could you tell us what you believe concerning faith?

**KC:** Faith is a very simple thing on one hand, yet on the other hand, it is a very deep, very complex force. But the use of it is simple. Faith comes from the Word of God. The mistake many people make is trying to judge faith by what they feel or what they see.

Intercession, like everything else, has to be by faith. Faith has to be a key element. Prayer doesn't make faith work—faith makes prayer work. So whatever prayer it is, whether a man is praying the prayer of agreement or in intercession for someone else; whether he's praying the prayer of faith for the sick or in the areas of his own needs, faith is an element that must be there because faith is what makes spiritual law work. It is the power that spiritual law receives and releases to cause it to function.

Take, for instance, the area of healing. It's not really a question of who has enough faith or whether God heals everybody. The true issue is going to the Word and staying there until



John Mikkelsen

*"The Believer's Voice of Victory," Copeland's radio program, which began in 1975, is now aired daily on approximately 570 stations.*



you know. I've had people ask me, "Do you think I should take my medicine?" "Do you think I should take my glasses off?" "Do you think I should take my brace off?" *If they have to ask, they better not take them off.* We must stay in the Word until we know.

I like the way Oral Roberts puts it when he says, "You just know that you know that you know that you know." It is an inner knowing. It is a deep conviction that settles down inside of you. People usually don't have difficulty exercising faith for salvation and the new birth, for example, but they *do* when it comes to physical healing. We know we are saved by faith, and that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. The same principle applies to healing. The only difference is that one thing has to do with our spirits and the other our bodies.

If we go to the Word of God,



John Mikkelsen

*Copeland and his wife, Gloria, travel thousands of miles each year to conduct Victory Crusades in major cities throughout the United States and in many foreign countries.*

we're on solid ground. I'm not bothered by the devil trying to tell me I'm not saved. I've been to the Word so many times concerning my salvation and confessed it so many times that faith has come. It's full-blown in me. We can, and should, apply the same principle where healing is

concerned. Go to the Word and meditate on those scriptures. Listen to messages preached on healing, not messages preached against it. That's no way to cultivate a crop of faith—to let some guy out there come and dig it up. Instead, we go to the Word concerning healing and stay there

## FORUM: Perspective on Unity

**New Wine** teachers share their burden for unity in the body of Christ.



Mike Reed

*Charles Simpson, third from left, shares that he sees unity as a developing unanimity among the leadership of the Church as to what the Spirit of God is saying. From left are Don Basham, Ern Baxter, Simpson, and Bob Mumford.*

**B**ob Mumford: We appreciate so much Kenneth Copeland's remarks in his interview and his identification with us, his expressions of love and appreciation toward us. And, of course, we have a deep respect for him and the other men with whom he is associated.

One thing all of us have learned through the opposition we have experienced is that when a biblical truth is revealed to us, we cannot cease to preach it because some people misapply it. We feel an identification with Kenneth and those other brothers because of what we have experienced. What they have gone through in teaching the faith message is so analogous to what we have experienced that it's brought a certain sense of camaraderie.

**Ern Baxter:** I was impressed by what Kenneth shared about our



until faith has had an opportunity to blossom and mature. Then it will be released from our spirits and into our bodies, and begin to drive out the things that are causing our problems.

What people also need to learn where faith and healing are concerned is not so much about getting healed but staying well. We must stay in the Word of God. It causes our faith to get stronger. I believe it was Smith-Wigglesworth who said, "Don't ever wait until you need your faith to do anything about it." Faith is very simple. It comes by hearing the Word of God; faith is rooted and grounded in the Word.

**NW: What do you see happening right now in the Church that encourages and excites you most?**

**KC:** A new outpouring of the Spirit of God with signs and wonders—the thing that Christians have been praying about for fifty years—is happening. A combina-

tion of all the revivals that we've known in the twentieth century all rolled up into one big granddaddy of them all has already started—it's already under way.

Outstanding things are happening—God is doing sovereign things. We're going to have more fun in the middle of the worst spiritual warfare we've ever had in all of our history, but that's the nature of revival. And we'll win. I know people have heard this before but I've read the back of the Book—we are the winners. So it's time we start acting like it.

God is pouring out His Spirit—it is happening. I'm seeing more people getting born again, almost by accident, than we used to by really working at it. These are hungry, hungry people, who two years ago wouldn't have given God the time of day. But now they're looking for Him, searching Him out.

Along with that, I'm encouraged that we're finally falling in

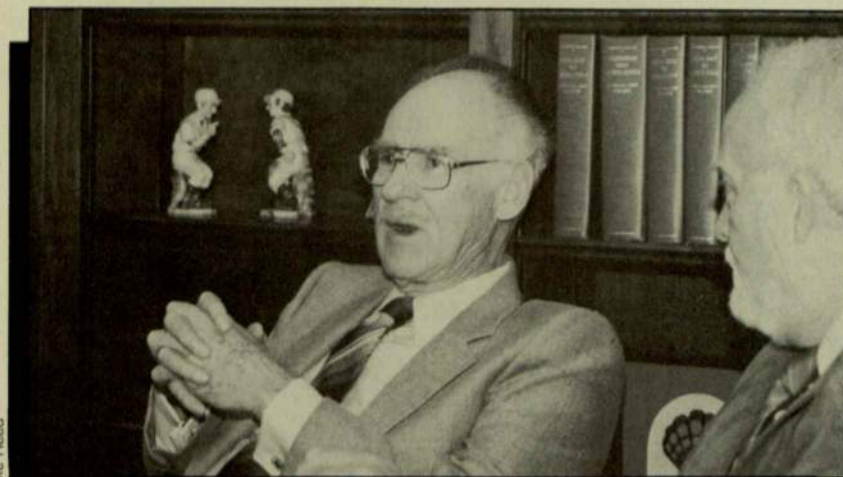
love with one another. That's probably the most exciting thing. We're finally getting smart enough to start loving one another—doing things just because we love one another. We're helping one another and being a little creative about it. I'm looking forward to the day when whole churches will go over to another pastor's church just to fill up his building and give him a shot in the arm—and encourage him.

This desire to love one another is on us right now. It's coming in strong. We're going to see more of it than we've ever seen before as God moves in our midst in amazing ways. That's what real joy is all about—becoming involved like that. And all of this goes back to the principle we began with—intercession. Love is an outcropping of intercession. Love is intercession out on the surface where you can see it. □

need for unity, because for the past several years we have made a deliberate attempt to build bridges. It is a strong desire in our hearts.

Unity has nearly always seemed to be an unattainable goal. Instead of unity, we have had a proliferated division. Hopefully, that division has reached its saturation point. Indications are that a kind of desperation has set in so that even the most successful religious operation is aware that the world isn't going to be impacted by the gospel unless we get some kind of Christian consensus.

We have a responsibility to do everything within our power to effect proper relationship with the Christian community, because not only is unity a part of the ultimate purpose of God, it is the only means by which the gospel can effectively touch the world. The Lord Jesus said,



*Unity, says Ern Baxter, center, is the only means by which the gospel can effectively touch the world.*

"Father, I want them to be one as You and I are One *that the world may know* You have sent Me." If the world is to be touched by the message of redemption, it's got to come from the platform of Kingdom unity.

**Don Basham:** In the last few years, we have noticed a growing sense of dissatisfaction among Christian leaders about the atmosphere in which people have continually criticized one another. There is a growing real-



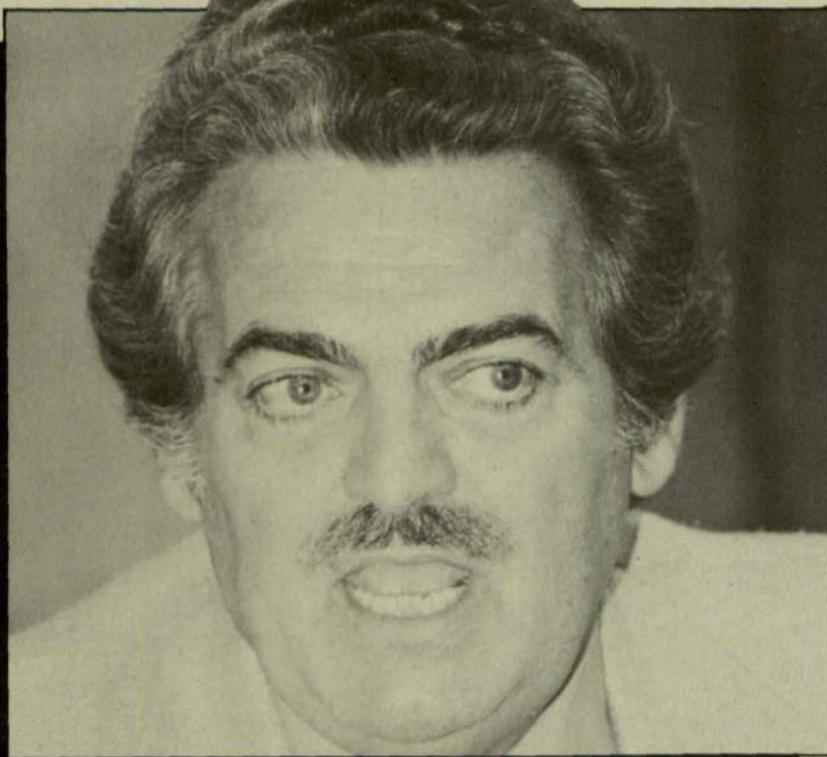
ization that in that kind of climate, we'll never accomplish what God has commissioned us to do. I think there's a climate change now toward an increasing reluctance to fight and accuse. We've gone into a more constructive phase where people desire to relate redemptively and positively, instead of squaring off at one another.

What needs to take place is a visible, responsible unity that would speak to the world around us—the establishment of working models of committed people who care for one another and who relate together with other groups. We must have that kind of visible demonstration of care, commitment, and love. We need the kind of involvement in one another's lives that Kenneth referred to. Without it, even if we could all get together in some official way, I don't believe that would change the world. But *with* that kind of unity, the world will know.

**Bob Mumford:** Don used the word *climate*. I think climate speaks of a change in attitudes, which I see taking place in two ways. First, the climate of attitudes is changing in that individual Christian groups and denominations are beginning to see that by themselves, they are an incomplete expression of the larger message and vision.

Second is the cessation of strife, accusation, and competition Don referred to. It seems to me that God is acting in history right now. Attitude change doesn't come by just adjusting or agreeing on doctrine, or mutually recognizing some new move of the Spirit. It comes as a result of a sovereign intervention, and that is taking place now.

**Charles Simpson:** I believe the primary task of the Church has always been to carry out the commission of the Lord to convert nations to the kingdom of



Mike Reed

*Bob Mumford says Christian groups and denominations are beginning to see that by themselves, they are an incomplete expression of the larger message and vision.*

God, to disciple them, to teach them to serve, and to teach them to observe all that He has said. One of the biggest difficulties in fulfilling our commission has been the fracture of the Church. The divided Church cannot proclaim the kingdom of God effectively because division is a denial of the message.

What seems to be happening now, however, as Kenneth commented, is that a lot of Christian groups are beginning to realize they can't do the job by themselves. As a result, they are reaching out to one another to get help in fulfilling the Lord's commandment. But there has to be a spiritual impetus. There has to be a visitation from God. And there has to be a redemption from carnal attitudes.

The unity that I see talked about in the Scripture is a unity of lordship, a unity of spirit, a unity of faith, and a unity of relationship. I don't see it as a

unity of organizations because organization by itself is merely a means.

I see unity as a developing unanimity among the leadership of the Church as to what the Spirit of God is saying. I don't view that as a matter of organization. I view it as a spiritual permeation of the Church with the attitude and activity of Jesus Christ.

I believe God is saying that all of us in our various Christian groups need to approach one another humbly, being tolerant of variety and willing to learn from one another. It's very important that we resist the natural tendency to be isolated. We have to take definite steps toward one another and definite steps toward being part of the broader Church. □

*Derek Prince was in Israel at the time of this forum and was thus unable to participate.*



## TESTIMONY

**T**he situation in Lebanon, particularly in the light of recent events, has been viewed by most as tragic. But at least one story of victory has emerged. The death of twenty-eight-year-old Marine Captain Michael J. Ohler has brought glory to God through the testimony of his wife, Gail. Here is Michael and Gail's story as told by their close friend, Marine Captain Rick Hamme.

The last time I saw Mike Ohler was in May, when his unit arrived in Beirut to replace ours. I was able to get ashore to see him, and we spent a good while talking together. Mike and I had been close friends for years. We had attended the Naval Academy

at Annapolis, Maryland, together in the mid-seventies, had taken some of our flight training together, and more recently had both been involved in Officer's Christian Fellowship, a Bible study group at the base in North Carolina. In our time of fellowship in Beirut, we talked about our families. This was Mike's first real separation from his wife, Gail, since they had been married, and he was missing her and his daughter, Sara, terribly. But after a good time of prayer together, he was encouraged.

### Giving Glory to God

It was our long-standing relationship as Christian brothers that enabled me to be with Mike's wife, and help her with

all that happened after she called me on Sunday, October 16, to inform me that Mike had been killed. To the best of our knowledge, Mike was hit by either a sniper round or a stray round that afternoon in Beirut. He had been moved out of battalion headquarters (which was later bombed) to a Lebanese university just about a mile from the northern boundary of the airport. He was a forward air controller there, directing air support for his battalion when they were under attack. When the shot hit Mike, he was killed instantly and did not suffer. That was a great comfort to Gail and me and everybody involved.

What was of even greater comfort was knowing Mike was with the Lord. He loved the Lord with all his heart, and his faith was the guiding foundation in his life for everything he did.

But it was Gail's faith that God used at the time of Mike's death. Of the six American soldiers who had previously been killed in Beirut, I think she was the first wife who spoke out by way of the national news media. Her desire was to give glory to God, and by her tremendous composure under traumatic circumstances, God dramatically used her testimony, which was carried on the national news.

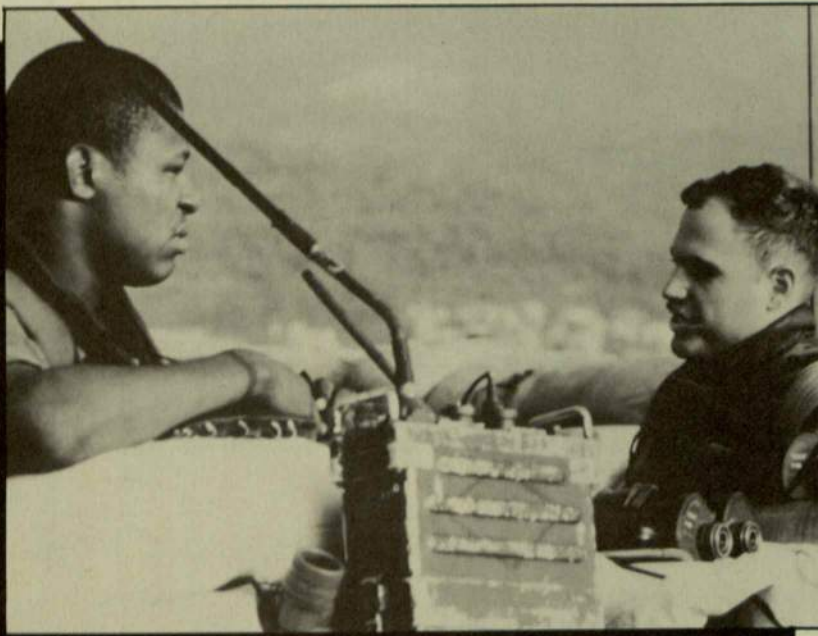
### Representing Mike

I believe, frankly, that the newsmen were hoping to get a political statement out of Gail—a widow in the depths of her sorrow, who might lash out against the politics of the President or our presence in Lebanon. But she knew that the Lord would want her to represent Mike for what he was—a Christian officer doing his duty over there. When she was interviewed, she stated that she was praying for the President and supporting him. As she talked and testified to God's grace, the real story became how strong Gail's faith was.

## Triumph in the Midst of Tragedy

BY CAPTAIN RICK HAMME

A Marine's death in Lebanon leads others to Christ.



Roland Neveu—Gamma Liaison

*"No one can hurt me unless the Lord allows it or unless He's ready to call me home"—Michael Ohler, right.*



Her story even reached the President. She received a phone call from him, and he said that Mike would be proud of the way she was handling herself. He also expressed appreciation for her prayers for him.

Many people from all over the country called and shared how they were touched by Gail's testimony of God's grace. She began getting mailbags full of letters from people who, not knowing her address, simply wrote in care of the postmaster in Pensacola, Florida.

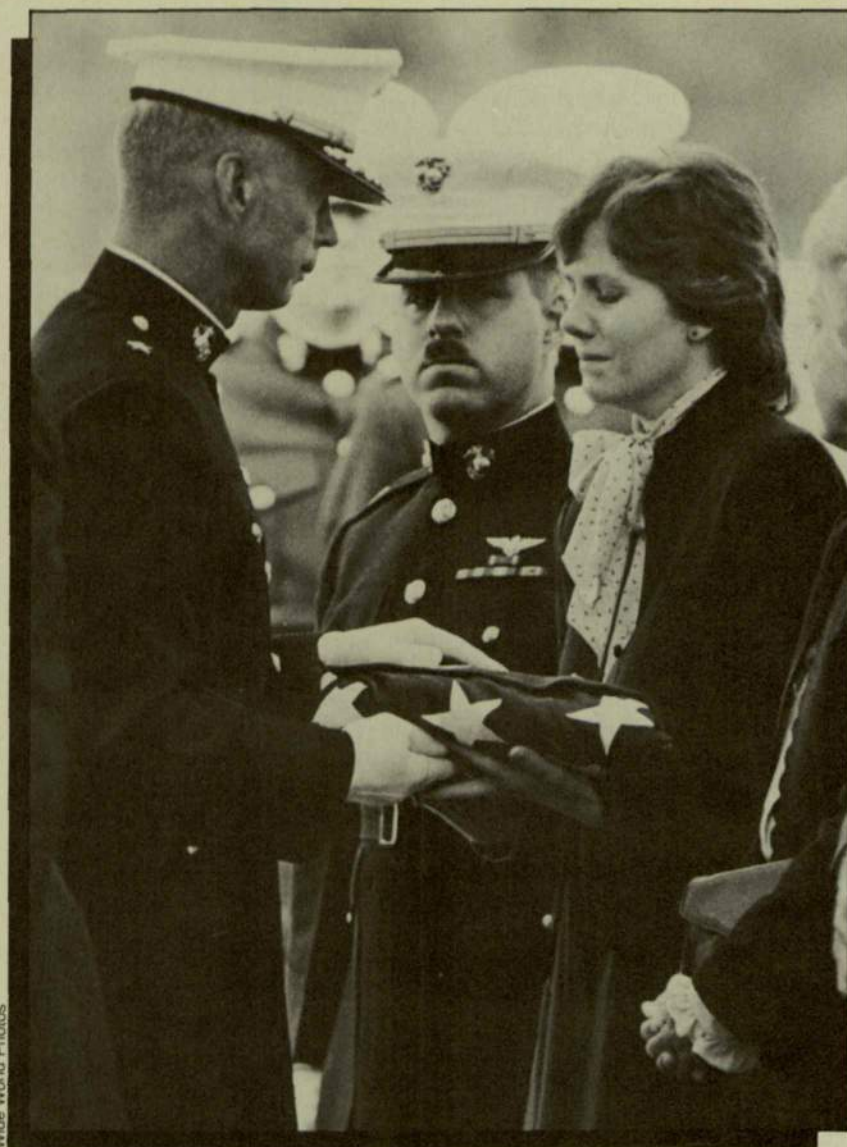
God has used the situation and Gail's faith in Jesus Christ to bring glory to His name. Perhaps Paul Harvey, after hearing of Gail's story, summarized it best in his radio broadcast: "Gail Ohler of Pensacola, Florida, whose husband was killed in Beirut, Lebanon—your faith has been an inspiration to us all. You and your husband both deserve medals of gallantry." □

*Captain Rick Hamme is stationed at Marine Corps Air Station New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where he lives with his wife, Jan, and son, Erick.*



**O**n Sunday night, October 16, I was getting ready to give my baby a bath when my mother came into the room. By the things she said, I knew that representatives from the Marines had come to give me news about my husband, Michael, who was stationed in Beirut, Lebanon. As I was hurrying down the hallway, I prayed that Michael would only be wounded. But it was much worse news than that. They told me he had been killed by sniper fire early that morning.

After the Marines left, I was able to be by myself for a little



*Gail Ohler receives the flag that draped the coffin of her husband, Marine Captain Michael J. Ohler, who was killed by a sniper October 16 in Beirut, Lebanon. Left is Brigadier General Robert Milligain, and center is Captain Rick Hamme.*

## "All Things Work Together for Good..."

BY GAIL OHLER

Her strength emerged out of the hardest times.

while. The first thing that came to my mind was Romans 8:28: "We know that God causes all things to work together for good to them that love Him." Reflec-

ting on that, I prayed a quick prayer: "Lord, if You would, sometime in my life let me see some of the good that will come out of Michael's death."



The answer to that prayer came much sooner than I had expected. Some of God's purpose began to unfold the next day when the national press arrived. God gave me strength and helped me to answer their questions, despite my natural tendency toward shyness, allowing me to share my faith in the Lord with people all over the world. Newsmen asked me questions like, "Are you bitter about what has happened?" Honestly, the thought of bitterness hadn't occurred to me, and I realized that I really wasn't bitter. I think it surprised them.

### Preparing Other Wives

Besides giving my testimony through the national news media, I was also able, without realizing it, to prepare other Marines' wives for the tragedy yet to come in their lives. Many of them called expressing their condolences and asking how I was doing. I shared with those wives what the Lord had done for me—how He had comforted me. I told them about the night I had heard the news, with my mind so filled with many thoughts, that suddenly a clear thought had hit me, *What would I do if God wasn't here with me?* If it had been just me alone with my thoughts, I would have been ready to end it all. But I realized, *I've got the Lord to bear this burden with me.*

I asked many of the wives when they called whether they would be alone with only their thoughts or whether they would have the Lord to help them through if they were ever to be in my position. Of course, just one week later, the headquarters in Beirut was blown up and many of the wives to whom I had spoken went through that same awful experience, facing the death of their husbands. Some of them later told me that what I had said caused them to look to God. That was another good thing

that came out of Michael's death.

Something else positive is that our family and friends have been drawn closer to the Lord. One of Michael's best friends wrote me that before Michael's death he had been a backslidden Christian. But rereading the letters Michael had written him moved him to make Jesus Lord of his life again.

### When He's Ready

As I look back now, I see that God had begun to prepare us for this day even before we were married. I had had to come to terms with the fact that Michael was a pilot and that danger would be involved in his flying. Michael had said to me, "Let me tell you two things. First of all, no one can hurt me unless the Lord allows it or unless He's ready to call me home. Until then, I'm invincible." And the second thing was, "If the Lord were to make a choice between me and someone who didn't know the Lord, I would hope the Lord would call me home and give that other person more time to come to know Him."

Amazingly, in fulfillment of the latter statement, two men's lives were spared because of



*Gail Ohler, right, knew that the Lord wanted her to represent her husband for what he was—a Christian doing his duty.*

Michael's death. One was the forward air controller sent from the headquarters to replace Michael at the university. The other was the executive officer of the battalion, who escorted Michael's body home. Those two men, because they were not at the headquarters when it was blown up, lived. And I'm praying that something might come out of it spiritually for them.

### God Was in Control

Many good things have happened, but above and beyond it all, I am thankful that God had readied my heart for what was to come. Not only did I have the assurance beforehand from Michael that his destiny was in God's hands, but also the night before he was killed, I had a refreshing time with the Lord. Up until then, I had been missing my regular quiet times with Him. Also, I had been struggling not to be nervous, but rather to trust Him with my life. But that night I had asked the Lord to take over again. Looking back, I can see how He emptied me of anxiety at that time so that I would be ready for Him to use me in the circumstance I was to face. By nature, I'm a shy person, not a strong person, but the Lord helped me to speak out as I did after Michael's death. He had to use someone who was weak so that everyone would know that it was the Lord coming through. I'm thankful that He would use me in this way.

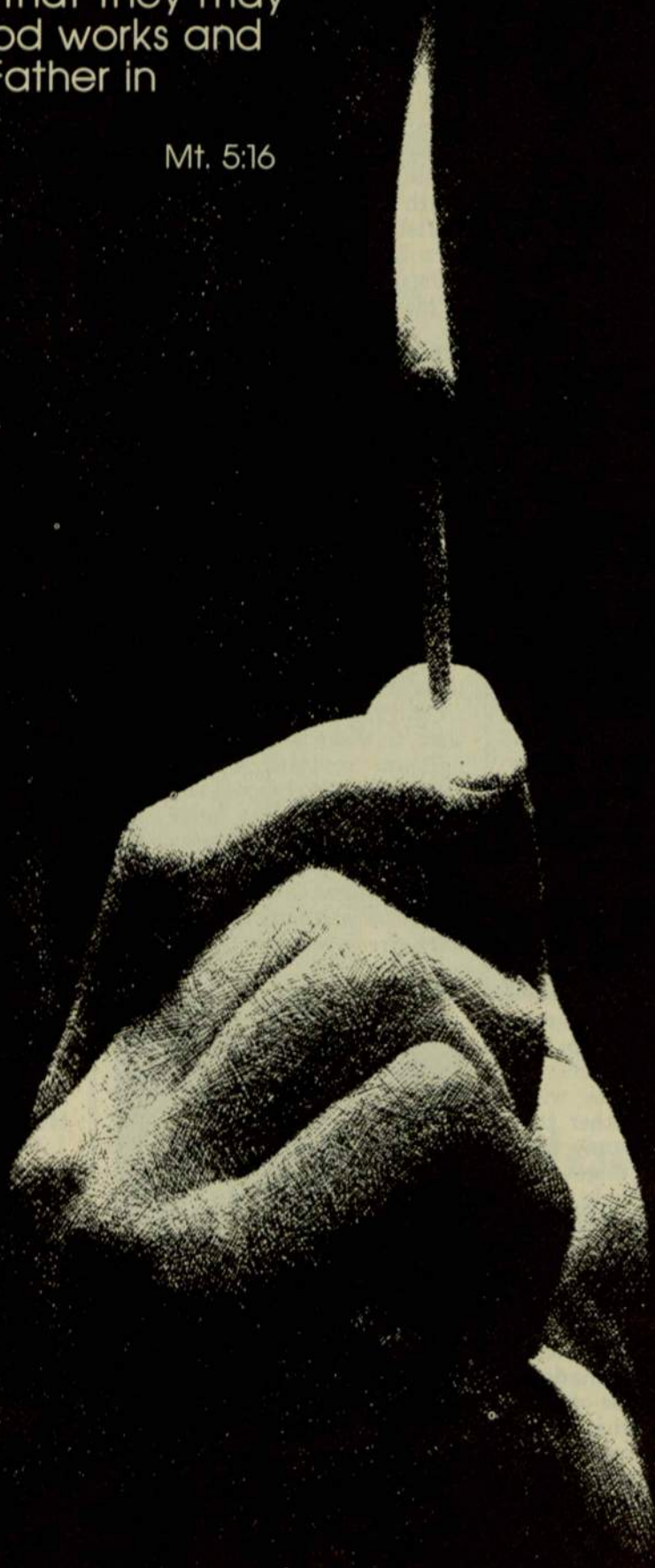
One last positive result that has come out of this is I've come to realize more personally that this life is just a place we're passing through. It's not our real home. I take comfort in knowing that Michael is in our real home—heaven—and I'll only be separated from him for a short while. □

*Gail Ohler lives in Pensacola, Florida, with her two children, Sara and Ben.*



Let your light so shine  
before men that they may  
see your good works and  
glorify your Father in  
heaven.

Mt. 5:16





WALKING IT OUT

# The Power of Your Testimony

BY ERIK KRUEGER

God uses the simple gospel and a changed life.

**S**ometimes things are simpler than we think. It's that way with our testimony as Christians to the world around us. In Philippians 2:15-16, the Apostle Paul exhorts us:

[to] become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life (NIV).

What he's saying is that our responsibility as Christians is very basic: to shine as lights in the midst of an increasingly dark world by living holy lives and to hold out the Word of life—the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are entrusted with God's message—the message of salvation—for the human race. What is this gospel that we have both the privilege of and responsibility for conveying to those in the world who are dying?

Basically, it is a very simple message, and we should all know it. It consists of three essential "facts of life" that are the power of God for the salvation of men:

...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 NIV).

In the midst of much talk about human rights, perhaps the most important, legitimate right every man should have is to hear

those three simple phrases. So important is this gospel that when it has been presented in all the world so all men have had an opportunity to hear it clearly, then the end of this age will come (see Matthew 24:14). Today many people in the world still have not heard. We need to tell them.

## Paul Knew the Power

When I think of someone who was very effective in presenting the gospel, I think of Paul. He was a gifted, capable, and learned man who kept the gospel *simple*, and in so doing, the power of God was released through his words. Paul said in Romans 1:16:

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (NIV).

Paul knew the power of God was in the gospel. Nothing in the universe is stronger, and nothing can ultimately withstand it. The Greek word used for *power* in this scripture is the root form of the English word *dynamite*. Thus, the gospel is the "dynamite" or "atomic bomb" of God for the salvation of men.

The devil did not like the power that was released against him through Paul's confession and witness, so he sought to intimidate Paul, trying continually to make him afraid or ashamed to preach the gospel. Paul fought the same fights we face today.

Satan seeks to intimidate Christians in various ways and to cause us to apologize for the gospel.

## Ridiculing Christians

One of Satan's schemes is to cause us to be ashamed of what God has done in our lives. He works to make us look foolish for what we believe. Among his tools are the humanists around us who would have us believe we are naive and our convictions are mere fairy tales. I know that experience only too well.

In the early seventies, before I was a Christian, I taught psychology at a university, and one of my favorite pastimes was ridiculing Christians. If class became boring, I would pick on the Christians, trying to make them look silly for what they believed. Under that kind of pressure, most of them would begin to back down and act apologetically. They were polite and tried to appear sensible in defense of their beliefs, but I do not remember any of them actually presenting the simple truths of the gospel.

One day my younger brother, who had just finished high school, came to visit me in East Lansing, Michigan. He had always been the sort of guy who had a knack for getting into trouble. But he and some friends had just returned from Florida where, through a group of Jesus people, he had encountered Christ. He had changed radically overnight.

When he came to visit, he shared the gospel with me in a



simple, honest way—the basic facts: Christ died for my sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again from the dead according to the Scriptures. (We must not forget that these gospel facts are more than intellectual or philosophical truths; they are *historical* facts.)

### Under God's Thumb

The only reason I pretended to listen to my brother was because I believed in the right of every individual to be heard, no matter how crazy his views. As usual, I attacked various statements he made in expressing his beliefs, posing several questions

and hypothetical situations to stump him. But he just said that he honestly didn't know all the answers to these questions I raised, nor how God was going to work out a lot of these concerns. The whole thing seemed foolish to me, and when he finally went away, I thought nothing further of our conversation. I dismissed it easily, thinking I had been the intellectual victor.

But I was never quite the same after my brother shared that simple gospel with me. God put me under His thumb. I began feeling opposed and thwarted in a way that seemed beyond mere coincidence, as if God were try-

ing to get my attention and show me my need in life. My girlfriend, Mary (who later became my wife), and I found ourselves getting extremely frustrated with our lives.

Often I would think of my brother, inevitably picturing him with his peaceful look, reading his Bible in a state of contentment and confident assurance. I resented him for being so happy while I was becoming increasingly distraught. More and more I became convinced that whatever he had was real.

Finally, one night when extreme frustrations forced me out for a walk in the darkness, I cried out: "God, I do not even know who You are. My brother says that the only way to You is through Jesus Christ. I do not understand that; but if Jesus Christ is Your Son, reveal Him to me, and I will serve Him as Lord."

Within a month, God answered that feeble prayer of frustration. On a dare, I had gone to a little Pentecostal church that could not have been more culturally and socially unappealing to me. I do not remember what the preacher said except for the last sentence: "Does anyone here want to know Jesus better?"

### Hit by the Truth

What had captured my attention at that service was the very real presence and power of God. It was so strong in the meeting place that I was apprehensive about leaving, for fear of literally being knocked down. Suddenly I realized I knew two things without knowing exactly how I knew them: that Jesus was the Son of God and had died for my sins, and that the Bible was the Word of God. Intellectually, no one had ever convinced me of these truths.

I knew that I needed to respond in some way right then. I thought if I did not, I would live a lie the rest of my life and might

## Did You Know?

*Did you know that there is a wealth of teaching material waiting for you?*

Occasionally, when someone asks to be added to our mailing list, we will send him a few back issues of the magazine to "catch him up" on topics covered in past months. Truthfully, if we could send enough to catch up all of our readers on everything we have published over the past fourteen years, we would do it. Of course, that's impossible, but it would be tremendous for you because over the years we have carried some landmark teachings—classic messages such as Ern Baxter's "Life on Wings" (his famous eagle sermon) and foundational works from other teachers regularly featured in *New Wine*.

Because many of you are relatively new to the Integrity Communications family, you may have missed many of these pivotal articles, books, and tapes that have profoundly influenced the direction of this ministry. But now the good news—all of this material is still on hand, and it's available to you. These classics, as well as exciting new tapes and books, are featured in our 1984 catalog.

You may have already received a copy of the catalog in the mail. If you haven't, write us at P.O. Box Z, Mobile, Alabama 36616, and we'll be glad to send you one. We want to make sure that you don't miss these life-changing messages, and we thought you'd like to know. □



never again have the opportunity to respond. So, to everyone's amazement, I lifted my hand and walked forward. People gathered around me and prayed as I knelt at the altar. God, showing me I needed to turn from my way of life, flooded me with a sense of His love and saving grace, and I had a very real awareness of being a "new creature." Immediately, what Jesus did for me on the cross became a reality, as if it had happened that day. The simple truth of the gospel hit me full force—like dynamite.

Later, I found my situation described perfectly in the Bible:

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18 NIV).

#### God Chose the Foolish

What is it about God that appears to be "foolish"? It is the cross. When Jesus allowed himself as God incarnate to go to the cross, he looked foolish and weak. Even the devil himself thought he had won the fight and that darkness had put out the light. Little did he know that in that hour of weakness, God was perfecting strength for the salvation of many.

God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power (1 Cor. 1:27–2:5 NIV).

#### Keep It Simple

What I see in that passage and in my experience is that as

we seek to fulfill our obligation to witness, we must not empty the cross of its power (see 1 Corinthians 1:17) by getting overly sophisticated or complicated. The Holy Spirit does not enable most of us to be preachers, but He does give us the power to be His witnesses. In a court of law, a witness testifies *only* to what he has seen and heard; he does not offer theoretical explanations.

Jesus told the disciples they would receive power through the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses, even to the ends of the earth (see Acts 1:8). We must not get too systematized or clever about sharing the gospel, because if we do, we will rob it of its power. The best program for evangelism is the Holy Spirit working in and through human vessels. We may be "the smell of death" instead of "the fragrance of life" (see 2 Corinthians 2:14-16) to some we share the gospel with, yet once we have presented the reality of the gospel, the Holy Spirit takes over as the "hound of heaven" to bring conviction. We do not have to determine the results. They are up to God. Our responsibility is to be His witnesses—to release the dynamic power of the gospel in our testimony.

The Holy Spirit makes our witness credible by the new life behind it, and we "shine like stars...as [we] hold out the word of life" (Phil. 2:15-16 NIV). For my brother's bold and honest witness and the illumination a changed life brought to me, *I will be eternally grateful.* □

*Erik Krueger is a former university psychology instructor whose conversion to Christianity led him into a ministry that eventually became New Covenant Christian Church in East Lansing, Michigan. Erik currently travels extensively in ministry throughout the United States and around the world.*



Bob Mumford: next month in New Wine

## NEXT MONTH

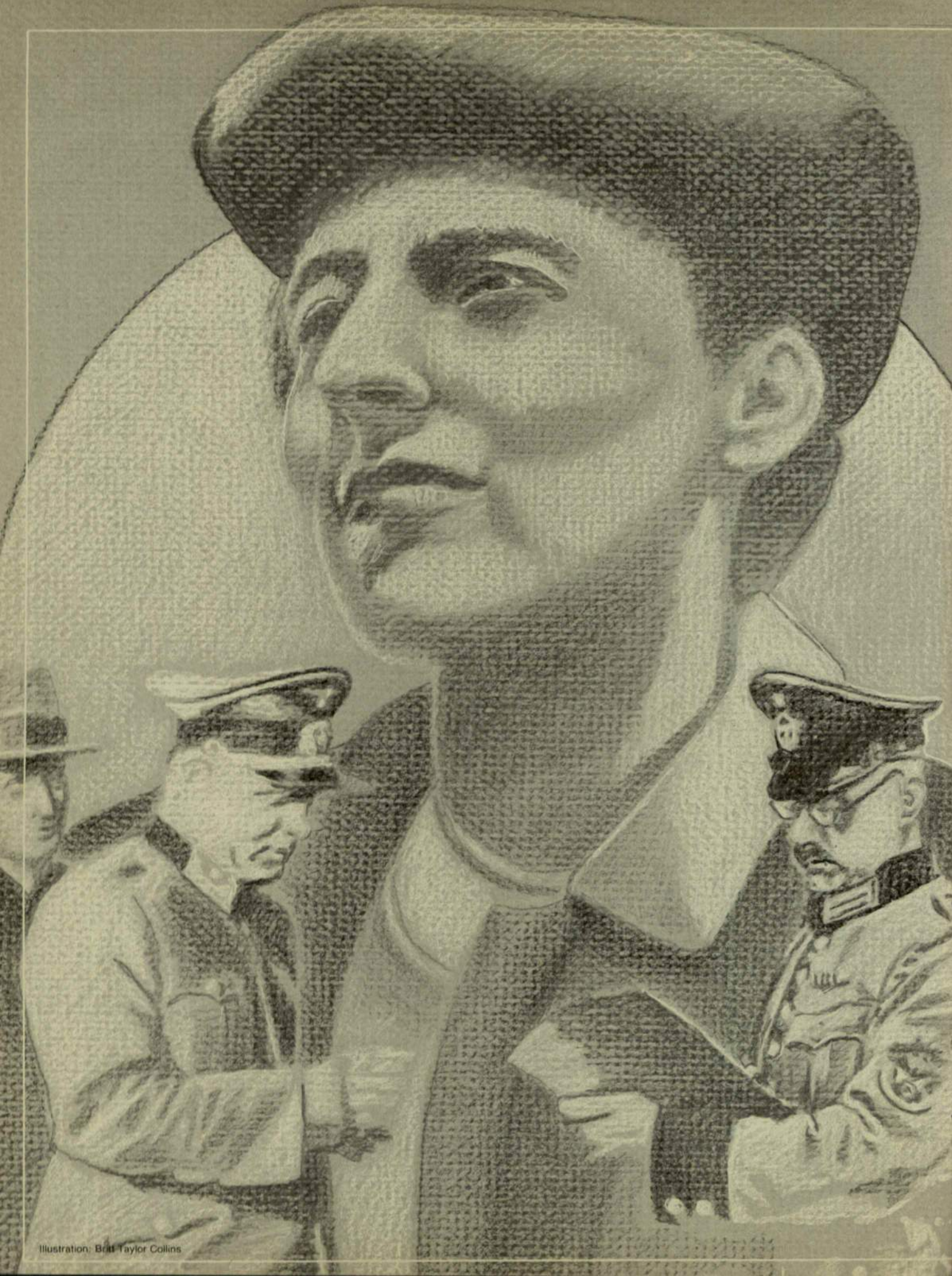
Bob Mumford—the man and his ministry. Next month, New Wine interviews Bob, and he shares, from a prophetic viewpoint, what he sees God doing in the body of Christ.

When David and Jonathan made a covenant with each other, they were living in a society that understood the true nature of covenant. Ern Baxter examines David and Jonathan's relationship and explains how we can still be men of covenant today.

Charles Colson, president of Prison Fellowship, shares his insights on the responsibilities we Christians have to our society as citizens in the holy nation—the kingdom of God.

All in the February New Wine







# Survival in Nazi Germany

BY MARION MUHNEY

God spared no miracles in fulfilling this family's destiny.

**L**ooking back over my family's past, I consider the fact that I exist a miracle. I know God has a specific destiny and purpose for my life because before I was born, He spared my parents from certain death many times as they lived through the horror of Germany during Hitler's reign. The trouble God went to for my family amazes me everytime I think of it....

Arranging for my parents to be married was the first obstacle God had to take care of; con-

sidering the contrast in their parents, they were unlikely candidates for marriage. My paternal grandfather came from a Jewish home but married a Christian woman—a Lutheran. Although he remained devoted to his Jewish faith, my grandfather allowed my grandmother to raise their children in the Lutheran Church. On the other side, my maternal grandfather was an agnostic who was politically aligned with Hitler. His wife, however, was a Lutheran who found great comfort in her

faith during their troubled marriage and divorce.

Despite objections from their absolutely opposed fathers, my parents married in 1942. Although they were very young, their faith in God and in the future helped them in their struggle for survival. Their marriage took place at the apex of the reign of Hitler and the Nazi party, which had been on the rise since the early thirties when my parents were children. The swing to Nazism had begun with the treaty at Versailles, which Germany had been forced to sign in 1919 after their defeat in World War I. In the postwar period, with the loss of much land, natural resources, and money, Germany saw terrible inflation, unemployment, and political chaos, and as a result, the Germans had lost their sense of unity. They had become ripe for a new leader.

**M**any young people at that time were mesmerized by Hitler's dreams of German revival and superiority. He boosted their egos and morales with his talk of future victory and ultimate power. Many did not recognize the evil in him; others saw the evil, but willingly overlooked it, hoping to see Germany shine once again. In 1934, Hitler declared himself fuhrer.

Opponents of Hitler and Nazism lived in fear. The threat of the gestapo infiltrated every home, every relationship. Informants violated family ties, bonds of marriage, and friendships, reporting suspicions of nonconformance to Nazi guidelines. Meanwhile, Germany's aggressive attack on neighboring nations was in full swing, as well as its insidious war on millions of Jews, Protestants, Catholics, dissidents, and the elderly, sick, and dependent.

In the midst of that awful cli-



mate, my parent's marriage was blessed by God, and during those turbulent times, my oldest brother was born. But in the summer of 1944, my father and other half-Jews were sent to a forced-labor camp, and my grandfather was imprisoned in a concentration camp. The gestapo had ignored them until that time because of the non-Jews in the family.

Shortly after my father was taken, my second brother was born. By God's grace, my father was allowed to see his wife and two sons briefly before they were separated again—this time by the war.

As the Russian army advanced in 1945, cities and towns in eastern Germany were being evacuated. My mother and her two infants, along with hundreds of thousands of other civilians, had to leave their home and join the ever-growing number of refugees. My mother went to her

parents' home in central Germany, but even this area, which had previously been spared from major aerial attack, was being systematically destroyed. Bombers would go up and down the streets each day till sundown, and then at dawn the next day, would pick up at the exact point where they had stopped. But somehow, at the end of a cul-de-sac where the ground dipped a little, the bombers missed my grandparent's house. The ground troops that patrolled looked up and down the side streets checking for survivors, but the house was not visible from their vantage point. So my mother and grandparents escaped detection while all around them houses crumbled and burned. The hand of God was on them.

By May 1945, the war had finally ended, but the terror was still there. Russian troops began their occupation of German ter-

ritory. It was a time of unchallenged atrocities against helpless women and children, and my family remained in hiding.

My mother strongly believed that my father had also survived and would be trying in vain to find his family at what used to be their home. Not fully realizing the dangers, but driven by love and hope, my mother left her two children in the care of her parents and journeyed to find my father in their hometown. Dressed as a man to avoid the attention of the Russian soldiers, she hiked and rode in coal cars on freight trains. But when she arrived at the destroyed town, she found only disappointment. No one knew my father's whereabouts.

God saw her safely back to where her parents and children were, and there she collapsed from physical exhaustion and emotional trauma. For weeks my grandmother struggled to keep her and the children alive on begged food that sometimes was nothing more than potatoes and water. The younger of my two brothers was very sick, and before my mother was fully recovered herself, she took him to a government doctor. He suggested that the child be left to die because, in his opinion, he had no chance for survival. His advice only made my mother more determined to survive, and God spared them all.

As was learned much later, the Lord had also protected my father. In early 1945, he, along with many others of Jewish descent, was taken prisoner by the Russian army. Under heavy guard, he was transported by cattle cars to Russia. Starvation, sickness, and despair ravaged the prison camp he was in. The number of men there dropped from eleven hundred to six hundred within a few months. Miraculously, my father survived and was among a group of sick prisoners sent back to Germany.



Illustration: Britt Taylor Collins



Most of the men did not live through the tortuous conditions of the trip. The few survivors, including my father, were released upon arrival.

My father made his way into the western part of Berlin, which was occupied by British and U.S. forces. There he started his search for his family. He worked for the United States as an interpreter and after some time managed to learn that his wife and children were living in the eastern zone. The city and the country had been carved into many sectors and passage into or out of these restricted areas was almost impossible. One of the officers in the occupation force befriended my father and made tremendous efforts to help him in his desperate search for his family. He not only located my mother and communicated with her but also arranged to have her and my two brothers transported safely into the U.S. sector of Berlin. Again, the hand of God was upon them, enabling them to survive and reunite against tremendous odds. Once they were reunited, my father's vision turned toward emigration to the United States.

**I**n 1947, my mother bore another son, and in 1951, in the midst of their emigration procedures, I was born. Before we could leave Germany, we needed a sponsor in the United States who would take responsibility for us. Through the Church World Service organization we were matched with a sponsor in Ohio and were finally permitted to leave in November of 1951. But upon arrival at New York, my parents discovered that our original sponsor had dropped out!

God, however, had a specific destination for us. A little Baptist church in Chicago heard of our plight, volunteered to sponsor us, and took responsibility

for helping my father find a job.

For the next ten years we lived in Chicago. Adjusting to a life of freedom in our new country, though difficult at times, was a joy. Our friends and activities revolved around our church, where my parents were always active participants. In their own quiet way, my parents credited God with their survival of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and for bringing them to a place where their family could be established.

During this time, we lived less than a mile from where my future husband, Michael, lived with his parents. In 1961, he and his family moved out to the southern suburbs of Chicago, and six months later, my parents moved within a quarter of a mile from his parents. But God did not have us meet until our senior year of high school. Our relationship continued through college, and we married in 1972. We now

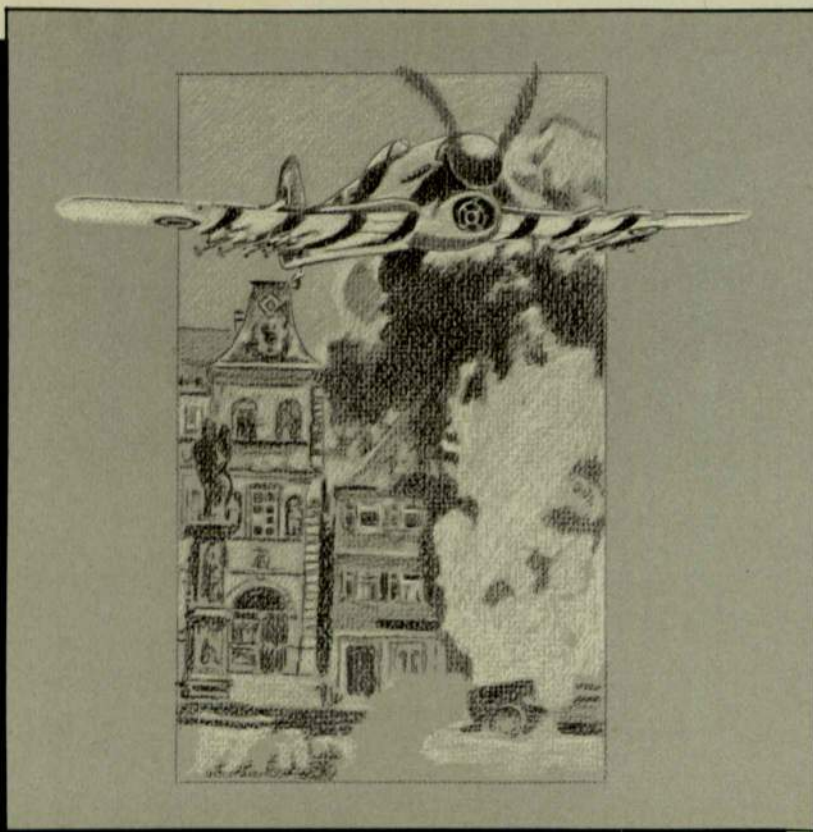
live in the Dallas area with our three children.

My family's history is a constant reminder to me that had God not intervened at any one of numerous critical moments in my parents' lives or mine, I would not be where I am today. He truly knew me before I was born and spared no miracles in fulfilling His plans for my life. He even had a specific man all the way across the world in mind for me when He spared my family. I am so thankful!

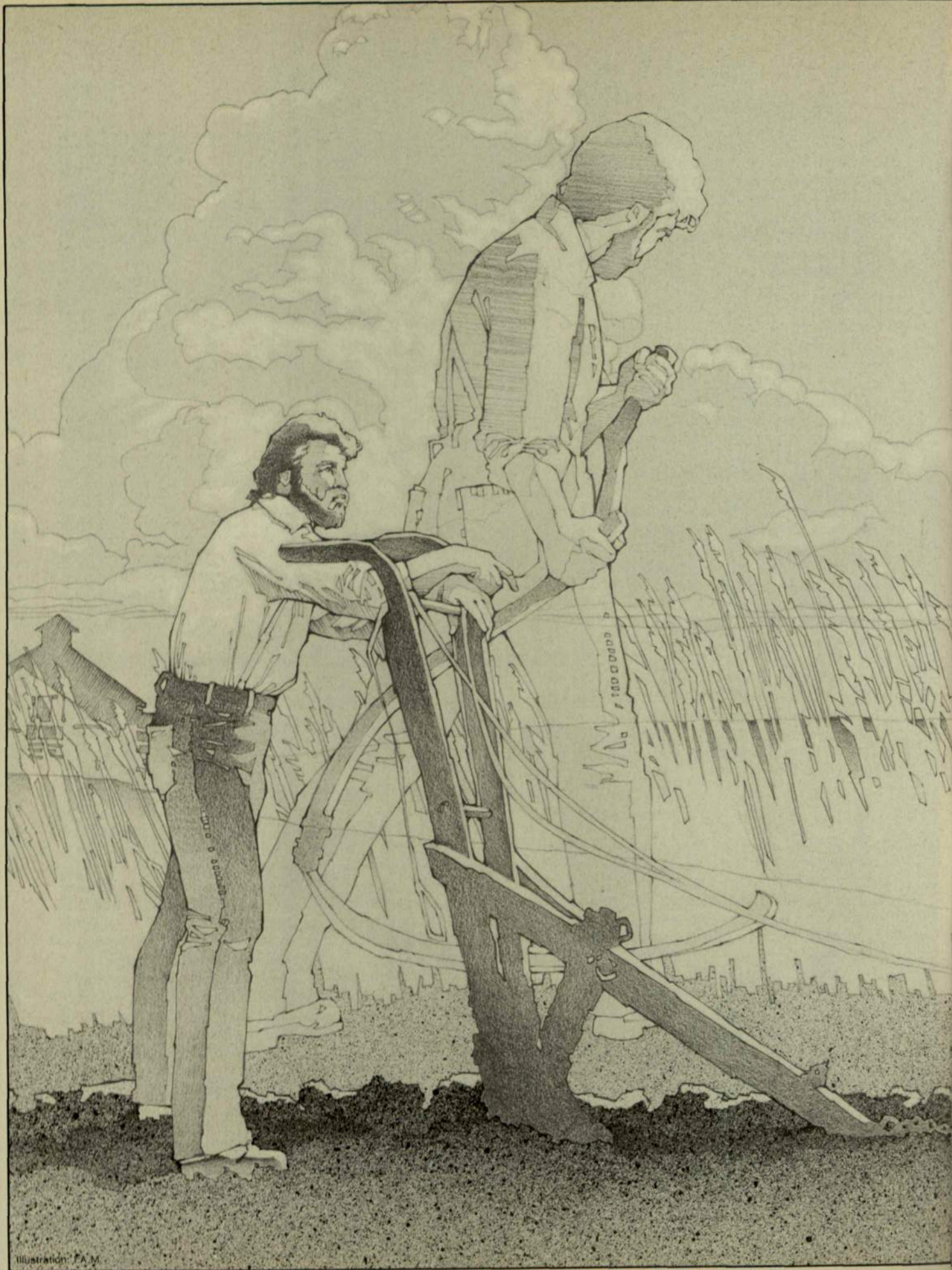
I know His purpose does not end with me. And so, for Michael and me, our task is to pass along to our children a vision of their destiny and purpose in the Lord, testifying all the while of His faithfulness to bring it to pass. □

*Marion Muhney resides in Bedford, Texas, with her husband, Michael, and their three children.*

Illustration: Britt Taylor Collins









Hope lifts us above  
the valley of our  
present labors to see  
over the hill of time to  
the harvest of God's  
promises

## Indomitable Hope

BY CHARLES SIMPSON

**I**n Jeremiah chapter 32, we find the prophet Jeremiah imprisoned for warning Judah about the coming Babylonian captivity. But in the face of the oncoming downfall of the Jewish nation, God gave Jeremiah some strange instructions. God told him to buy a field. Even though the entire land would soon be overrun by Babylonian soldiers, God said to buy it.

Jeremiah obeyed, and as he took the deed to the property, he prophesied, "For this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of

Israel, says, 'Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land' " (Jer. 32:15 NIV). There in jail, surrounded by his own countrymen who hated him for his prediction, and facing the approach of bloodthirsty Babylonians, Jeremiah began to praise the Lord, saying, "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you" (Jer. 32:17 NIV).

What was it that caused Jeremiah to take such seemingly foolish action in the face of such obviously disastrous circum-

stances? *Hope*. Jeremiah had an indomitable hope in God!

### Living Hope

*Hope* is a very prominent word in the Scriptures, for it is hope that has always played a major role in the preservation and motivation of God's people. Hope has always moved the Church whenever the Church has moved.

The apostle Peter said we have been born into a living hope (see 1 Peter 1:3). That means we are born by the seed of hope into a family named hope. We are hopers, born of hopers,



producing hoppers. As Jeremiah viewed the ruins of judged Jerusalem, he said in Lamentations 3:26: "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." With hope we can quietly wait because we see the salvation of the Lord. Even when the rest of the world lies judged in ruins, the hope of God produces a quiet confidence in our spirits that God and His people will ultimately arise.

Much of history is written by and about multitudes of men and women who never lost hope, who refused to be buried in despair or

to be numbered among the mundane, but were motivated by hope to seek a better reward. Our parents and forefathers were among them.

We see in history that hoppers have nearly always won the day. In 1777, General George Washington, facing the fading hopes of a woefully unprepared people and a woefully ragged army, wrote to a friend:

We shall never despair. Our situation has been unpromising before, and it's changed for the better, so I trust it will again. If new difficulties

arise, we must only put forth new exertions and proportion our efforts to the exigency of the time.

### A Hopeful Generation

Men of this quality left us a legacy that men of cynicism and despair cannot. We need, and we will produce by God's grace, a new generation of youth who know God and, therefore, who have an indomitable hope—a generation who will not cast off their hope because hope will be a part of their nature.

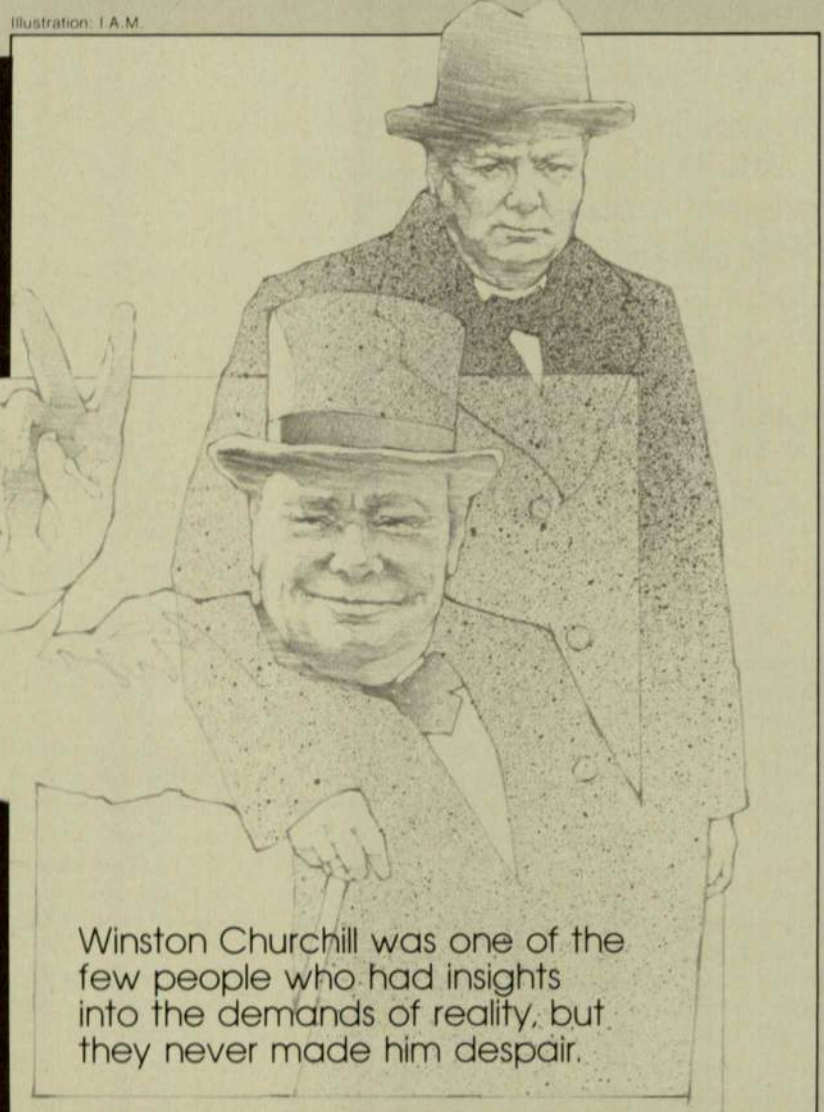
Hope is not a garment we wear only in good circumstances but rather the seed of our birth in the Spirit of the living God. Hoppers have always risen to shake off the dust of despair. In the 1930's, Winston Churchill emerged. He was no naive Neville Chamberlain, pandering to a preening, demented Hitler. No, he was realistic, and yet he maintained an indomitable hope. Churchill was an interesting character, indeed a courageous hero of the age, one that all of our young people would do well to study, lest we have to repeat the misery that he helped his nation confront. The same factors and forces he faced are at work in our generation. He was one of the few people who had insights into the demands of reality, but they never made him despair.

In a speech to the Royal Society of St. George as early as 1933, Churchill made the following observations that could easily be applied to the Church:

The worst difficulties which we suffer do not come from without. They come from within. Our difficulties come from the mood of unwarrantable self-abasement, into which we have been cast by a powerful section of our intellectuals. They come from the acceptance of defeatist doctrines by a large portion of

*continued on page 28*

Illustration: I. A. M.



Winston Churchill was one of the few people who had insights into the demands of reality, but they never made him despair.



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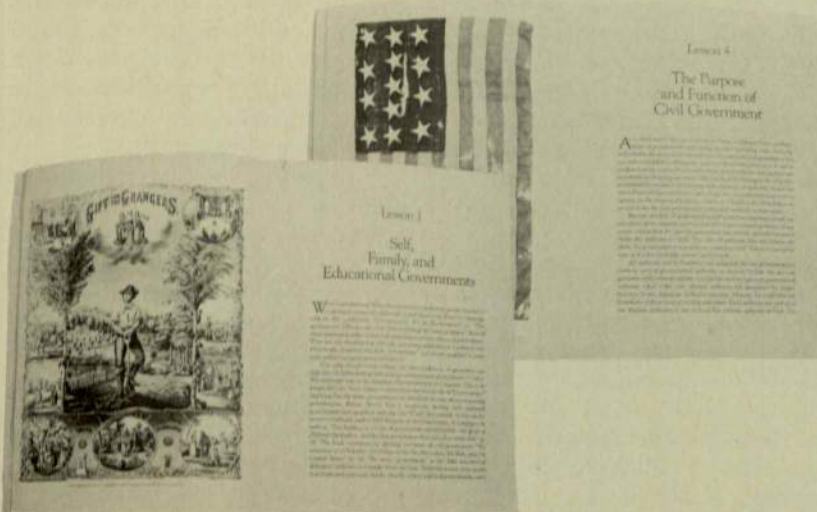
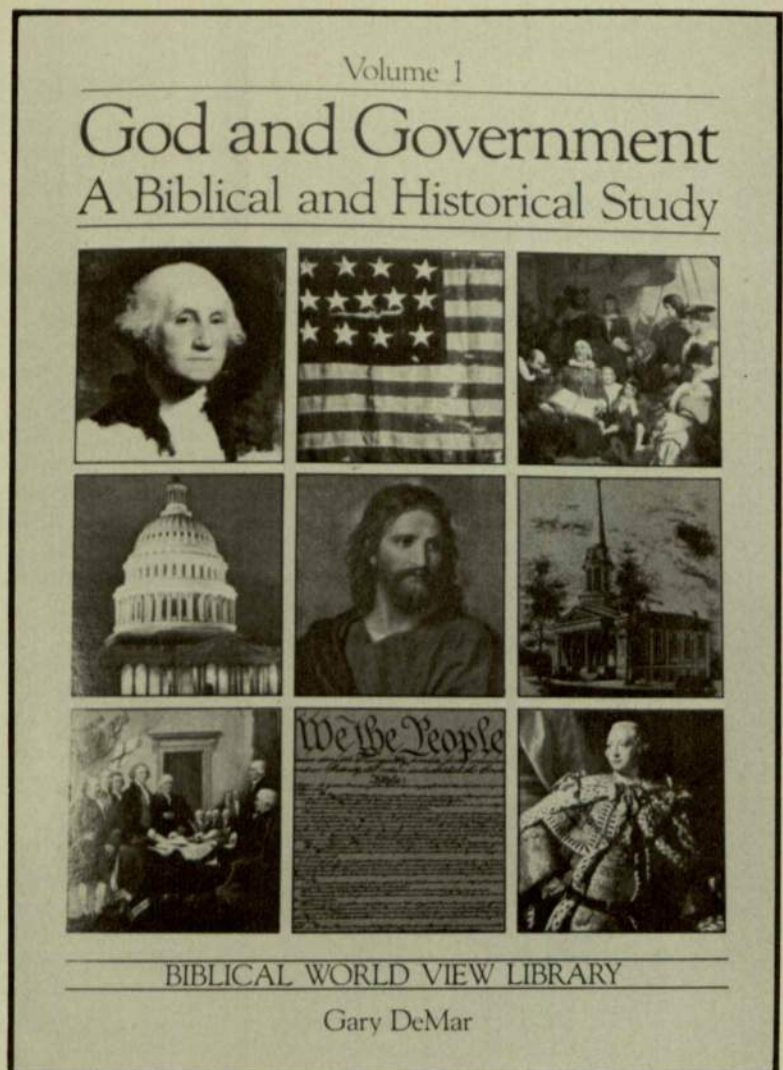
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See response form on page 33.



**Indomitable Hope**  
continued from page 26

our politicians.

We ought as a nation, and as an empire, to weather any storm at least as well as any other existing system of human government. It may well be that the most glorious chapters in our history are yet to be written. Indeed the very problems and dangers that encompass us and our country ought to make English men and women of this generation glad to be here at such a time. We ought to rejoice at the responsibilities with which destiny has honored us and be proud that we're guardians of our country in an age when her life is at stake.

That's an indomitable hope.

Our hope must not be naivete

**REMEMBER:  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, IS A  
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
AND FASTING.**

for the pottage of resignation and mediocrity. We're not at the mercy of some deterministic notion that tells us we're victims—victims of race, victims of genes, victims of parents, victims of society, victims of some meaningless cosmic accident that exploded life into existence like some uncontrollable malignant growth.

Though *man* in his rebellion turned the garden into a jungle, through the Man, Christ Jesus, it will be a garden again. We're

somehow lead us into a beautiful utopian order of purity, trust, and health?

And in what do the Marxists hope? Is there hope that their past and present history without God will produce a future of righteousness, joy, and peace? Can they hope that the malignancy of terrorism they have nurtured, trained, and deliberately loosed upon all nations will suddenly become a lamblike supporter of social tranquility once it eradicates injustice? Or will not their dream turn into a nightmare as in poor Lebanon, that once peaceful and beautiful nation now a hotbed of terrorism and murder.

As Proverbs says, "The hope of the wicked perishes," but we are those whose hope is eternal because it is rooted in God. It sustains us even in the face of difficulty.

**Looking to the Rewards**

God delights in those who look beyond the heat of the present to the cool rewards of the promises of hope. Enoch lived in a wicked generation but he hoped in God. He walked with God, was translated into the presence of God, and did not taste death.

Noah looked beyond the scoffers and mockers and a hundred years of hardwood hewing to see a vision of hope that eventually became reality. From hope's high and lofty perch, he looked down on mountains covered with water and up into a heaven covered with salvation and rainbows.

Abraham looked beyond a childless marriage to a multitude of descendants, among them the Son of God. Moses looked beyond exile and loneliness to a nation of priests and kings. Some of those recorded in the Scriptures defied overwhelming circumstances to gain amazing victories. Others refused to accept reprieve in this body and accepted death in hope, knowing

Hope is something godly that God will put in you if you'll open your heart and your mind and breathe in the Spirit of God.

and idealism, but rather it should be anchored in reality as Churchill's was. If God gives us the ability to see reality, we cannot let it destroy our hope. We must be seers of reality and bearers of indomitable hope.

All real Christians are hopefuls. Hope is essential to the fabric we call Christianity. Religion of any kind that's dark, despairing, or sorrowful has lost the spark that makes it authentically divine. Without hope is another way of saying without God.

**We Are Not Victims**

We're not among those who have sold the birthright of hope

not victims. We're children of the sovereign Creator in whom we live and move and have our being. No, we're not victims—we're more than conquerors through Jesus Christ who loved us. We have on our side the Son of God. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31 NIV).

In what do the secularists hope? Can those men who have already given us a world ravaged by wars, disease, and poverty give us a state-operated utopia? Can the same social engineers that gave us the bankrupt morality that has loosed a plague of venereal disease on society



that an eternal hope cannot lie locked forever in the grave. Such men with such hope are indomitable. They are our fathers, and we are their sons if we have hope.

the predominant motive of the current generation of youth because all they have heard is cynicism. Today's young people are a great, vast vacuum out there, but we have an eternal,

that is indomitably eternal—God's own nature.

If you're feeling weary, weak, and heavy laden, like a bruised reed or smoking flax, and you feel that the fire in you is about to be put out by the evening dew, I pray that the Holy Spirit will blow on those flames and coals in your spirit. I pray He will stoke them with the good tender wood of the Word of God, and breathe on them so that your fire will flame in the night to be seen for miles around. I pray that God will strengthen the feeble knees and the hands that hang down, lifting them up in His presence to give praise. I do not pray necessarily that God will change your circumstances, but that He will stoke the furnace of your soul with His own nature—the nature that caused Jesus to look past the cross; the nature that caused Paul to look past the sword that hung over his outstretched neck; the nature that caused Peter, James, and John to endure in the midst of difficulty.

I pray that the Lord will strengthen the hope of His people until we break forth on the right and on the left with a positive word, with true faith, and with encouragement for one another that will overwhelm Satan and all his negative talk. I pray that we can boldly rebuke the devil, refusing to listen to him; instead, laying hold of the Word of God with hope in our souls, and marching to Zion. Glory to God! □

*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, Alabama, with his wife, Carolyn, and their three children.*

## We can create a generation of hopers because our God is a hoper, and He's put His hope in us.

"Encourage one another," the Holy Word says. "Encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:25 NIV). More and more, we must guard our words, not letting them be arrows that shoot down soaring hopes, but rather making them wings to lift the heavy laden.

Arise, O men of God. Arise, O women of God. Proclaim hope to a generation who has not dared to believe beyond today and who is stalked every moment by great shadows of fear. Fear is

unlimited resource. We can pour hope into the souls of millions and see them arise and grasp an answer they need and God's got. We can create a generation of hopers because our God is a hoper, and He's put His hope in us. We must rise in God and encourage one another in His hope.

### Renewed Hope

Is your hope running low? Hope in God and be renewed! The salvation of the Lord is to those who hope and say with Paul that "hope is my salvation." Don't cast aside your hope.

Don't judge the quality of hope by weeks; don't judge the quality of hope by months; don't judge the quality of hope by decades. The men and women whose names are written in the Word of God aren't there because one day they had a flash of hope. They're written there because hope was inscribed in their hearts. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, they were hopers. Some died hopers and from the balconies of heaven watched their hope work in the earth. This hope is eternal.

Hope is not the adornment of good circumstances, nor good fortune. Hope is something godly that God will put in you if you'll open your heart and your mind and breathe in the Spirit of God. He'll put something in you

## ARE YOU IN PRISON?

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# THE WORD

January 1984

## *I Believe in God, the Father Almighty...*

- I. Who Created the World, All Living Things, and a People for His Name
  - A. In the beginning God created . . . . . Gen. 1:1-31 . . . . . Jan. 1
  - B. The Lord made heaven and earth . . . . . Ps. 146:1-10 . . . . . Jan. 2
  - C. The Lord made every living thing . . . . . Job 38:1-41; 42:1-6 . . . . . Jan. 3
  - D. The Lord established the earth . . . . . Ps. 104:1-35 . . . . . Jan. 4
  - E. The Lord stretched out the heavens . . . . . Is. 40:12-31 . . . . . Jan. 5
  - F. The Lord formed Israel with His hand . . . . . Is. 42:1-43:7 . . . . . Jan. 6
  - G. The Lord created Jacob . . . . . Is. 45:1-13 . . . . . Jan. 7
  - H. The Lord gives power to become His sons . . . . . Jn. 1:1-18 . . . . . Jan. 8
  - I. The Lord sustains His servants . . . . . Acts 4:23-35 . . . . . Jan. 9
  - J. The Lord can be known through His creation . . . . . Rom. 1:18-25 . . . . . Jan. 10
  
- II. Who Is Faithful to Keep His Covenant
  - A. Faithful to those He loves . . . . . Dt. 4:32-40 . . . . . Jan. 11
  - B. Faithful to His word to Abraham . . . . . Dt. 7:6-11 . . . . . Jan. 12
  - C. Faithful to His promise to David . . . . . Ps. 89:1-29 . . . . . Jan. 13
  - D. Faithful to His eternal plan . . . . . Is. 25:1-12 . . . . . Jan. 14
  - E. Faithful to His unfaithful bride . . . . . Hos. 2:14-23 . . . . . Jan. 15
  - F. Faithful to the prophets' words . . . . . Lk. 1:67-79 . . . . . Jan. 16
  - G. Faithful to the new covenant in Christ . . . . . Mt. 26:20-30; 1 Cor. 11:17-34 . . . . . Jan. 17
  - H. Faithful to Himself . . . . . Heb. 6:13-20 . . . . . Jan. 18
  
- III. Who Is Holy and Righteous in All His Ways
  - A. A holy ground: direction for leadership . . . . . Ex. 3:1-12; Josh. 5:13-15 . . . . . Jan. 19
  - B. A holy Deliverer: help for the needy . . . . . 1 Sam. 2:1-11 . . . . . Jan. 20
  - C. A holy temple: refuge for those who are saved . . . . . Ps. 11:1-7 . . . . . Jan. 21
  - D. A holy nature: judgment for the nations . . . . . Ps. 99:1-9 . . . . . Jan. 22
  - E. A holy King: cleansing for His servants . . . . . Is. 6:1-13 . . . . . Jan. 23
  - F. Holy vessels: sanctification for the community . . . . . Zech. 14:1-21 . . . . . Jan. 24
  - G. Holy seed: redeemed for sincere love . . . . . 1 Pet. 1:13-25 . . . . . Jan. 25
  - H. A holy throne room: a pattern for worship . . . . . Rev. 4:1-11 . . . . . Jan. 26
  
- IV. Who Is Slow to Anger and Who Is of Great Mercy
  - A. Mercy abounding to God's inheritance . . . . . Ex. 34:1-9; Num. 14:1-24 . . . . . Jan. 27
  - B. Mercy received with a thankful heart . . . . . Ps. 107:1-43 . . . . . Jan. 28
  - C. Mercy continuing to each generation . . . . . Ps. 136:1-26 . . . . . Jan. 29
  - D. Mercy extended to sinners . . . . . Rom. 5:1-11 . . . . . Jan. 30
  - E. Mercy unites a scattered people . . . . . 1 Pet. 2:1-12 . . . . . Jan. 31

A monthly Bible study by Bruce Longstreth

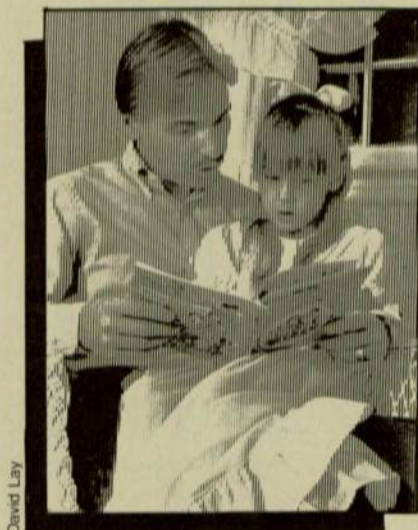


## TIPS FOR FATHERS

How to handle family illnesses

# The Father and the Flu Bug

BY BRUCE LONGSTRETH



David Lay

**M**y four-year-old daughter lay in bed, sick with a fever, aches, and an upset stomach.

"Daddy, I feel bad," she sighed.

"You must have a flu bug," I said.

"What does the flu bug look like?" she asked.

I had to resist the temptation to tease her by describing a "blue-green fuzzy critter with beady little eyes that spins around in your tummy until you throw up." Instead, I tried to be factual: "A flu bug is a way of saying you have something in your tummy that's making you feel bad. It's not really a bug at all. You'll feel better tomorrow."

Surprisingly, she accepted my answer. But as she drifted off to sleep, I began to think of all the things a dad needs to consider to take care of his family when a child is sick.

"A Christian is like tea: His real strength comes out in hot water." I'm not sure who said that, but it is certainly true of fathers as they face the pressure that comes with family illnesses. Our desire to show loving care is frustrated many times by our reactions to sickness, which run the gamut from cold indifference to panic. But where in that spectrum of reaction can a father find a genuine attitude of caring that ministers to his family when a child is ill?

All day long on the job a father is called upon to take charge, administrate, and lead. When a family member is sick, Dad comes home to find that the needs of his family have tripled because of the illness. He must find the strength to dip into a "reserve tank" to give life to his family on these occasions.

For the apostle Paul, strength for difficult circumstances didn't come from just knowing certain principles. Paul knew that the true source of strength came from his faith in Christ: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9 NIV).

Every endeavor to do something for our families should be preceded by a simple prayer: "Father, strengthen me to do what I know is impossible for me to do alone. Help me to minister to my family and give them Your strength." Then by faith we can try some of these suggestions when our children are sick:

1. *Pray for your wife and children.* For any family illness, the

first step is to gather together and pray for healing. As dads, the prayer "Father, we belong to You and depend solely upon You for strength" needs to be ever present in our hearts and minds.

2. *Don't hide your emotions.* A nurse once told me how her husband became very quiet when their child was critically ill. "I wish I could have known what he was thinking and feeling. It would have helped me through that difficult time," she recounted. It's not a help for a father simply to be a silent observer.

3. *Pain and illness hurt.* When our child says, "Daddy, I don't feel so good," what he means is that he hurts. We're all guilty at times of trying to keep our children from reacting to pain or the effects of illness. The worst thing we can say is, "Don't cry"; "It doesn't really hurt"; or "Don't be a baby." It is better to say, "I know that hurts, and I'll stay with you to make you feel better."

4. *Help your child to not feel isolated.* While your child is confined to bed, talk about what's happening in his world during his absence. Hearing more than what pertains only to his illness takes his focus off his sickness and puts his mind on happier thoughts.

5. *We almost forgot Mom.* The most important thing we can do for our wives during a child's illness is to be there. More than having all the right answers, a father needs to be available to his wife, willing to help in any way he can.

Whether a cold, flu, serious illness, or injury, the bottom line for dads is that sickness disrupts the home and requires a special response from us. Our involvement in what we can do to help is the key. But most important is that we rely on the One whose "grace is sufficient" and whose "power is made perfect in our weakness." □

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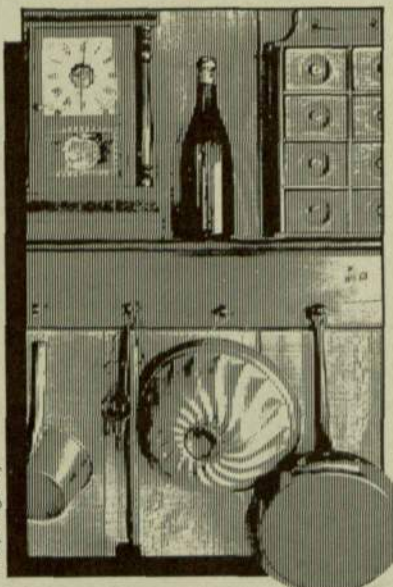
# Still Caring for Frances

BY CINDI LEGGATT

**S**ometimes God brings an unlikely person into our lives for us to care for, perhaps just because He wants one of His children to be loved. One of mine is Frances.

When my husband, Dick, and I were newlyweds, I worked as a teacher's aide in an elementary school to help make ends meet. It was a great place to work. The school was small, having only one class for each grade, and all of us who worked there became friends. Many of the students were from good homes but some came from very low-income and troubled families. These children generally reflected their lack of care by being disciplinary problems. Some were belligerent and others withdrawn, but each of these troubled kids had a certain hardness that was frightening to see. Although it disturbed me greatly at first—I had to learn to leave it all behind at the end of each day. And that's exactly what I did—until I met Frances.

When I first saw her, Frances was walking into her second-grade classroom. A quiet slip of a girl with large hazel eyes, she was wearing a gaudy dress big enough to fit an adult. In fact, most days her clothes were much too large, and her sandy-colored hair was often uncombed. Whenever I worked with her, I sensed a deep, private sadness, and it troubled me. Sometimes, though, while I was reading to the whole class, if I caught her eye, a wide grin would take over her face. I began to notice that she would end up sitting the closest to me during story time, or I'd feel a small hand slip into mine on the



Phelps Agency

playground, or she'd just come and stand close beside me when I came into her classroom.

One day on the playground, Frances got a nasty cut on her knee. After I had treated it, her whimpers of pain gave way to laughter as we almost lost our balance putting her torn tights back on her. When I changed the bandage for her the next day, we both laughed again as we fumbled with the tights. I sat her down and put one of her oversized white tennis shoes on her left foot. But as I went to put the other one on her right foot, I realized that it was also a left shoe—two left shoes. *Frances was wearing two left shoes.*

"Can I go outside now, Mrs. Leggatt?"

I hugged her tight, trying not to cry. "Sure, Frances."

This was too much. I couldn't stand it any longer, simply wondering about the lack of care for Frances and not doing some-

thing about it. I met with the principal to see if I could buy Frances some new shoes—ones that fit.

"No, Cindi. I understand your concern, but that sort of thing is against school policy. It would put us in an awkward position with the community." Noticing my expression, he gently added, "Cindi, nothing anonymous either. I'm sorry." The case was closed. His hands were tied, and so were mine. I wanted so much to be a part of the solution but I couldn't.

The months passed, and in the course of my work, I continued to care for Frances as much as policy would allow, doing my best to make school something special for her and trying to give her something extra from me. But later that year, a move took Dick and me to North Carolina, and I had to say good-bye to the little sad-eyed girl in oversized dresses.

In the years since my work as a teacher's aide, my thoughts have often returned to Frances, and because my concern remains, I pray for her. At those times when she comes to mind, I ask God to intervene in her life and to bring her into the fullness of all He has for her. I still want to go and find Frances and care for her, but that's impossible. Perhaps if I had been able to buy her a pair of shoes it would have "gotten me off the hook," and I wouldn't have carried the burden for Frances that I do. But praying for her is something that I *can* do, and by putting my hope in God for Frances' well-being, I have an expectation of someday finding out how He *did* intervene. And when all is said and done, perhaps I will have done more for Frances by praying for her over the years than by simply replacing a pair of two left shoes. □

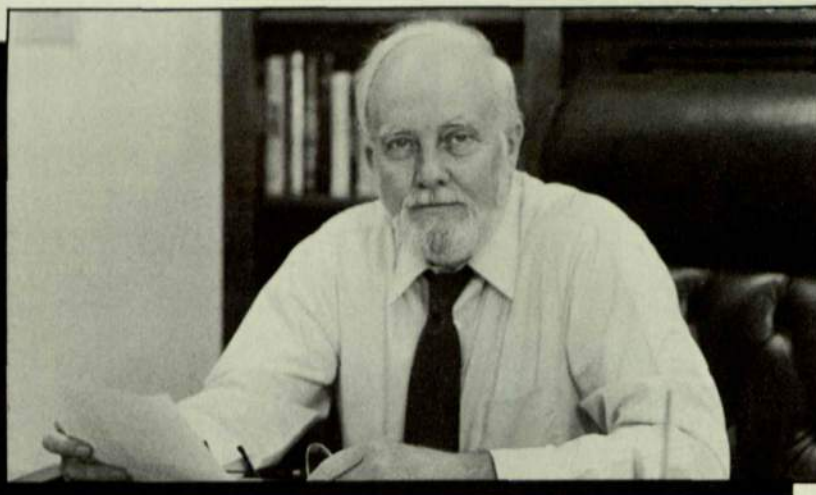
*Cindi Leggatt is the wife of New Wine's editor, Dick Leggatt.*



# Spend Your Words Wisely

BY DON BASHAM

If words were dollars, we would all be millionaires.



David Lay

**F**or out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks" (Mt. 12:34 NIV).

Genesis chapter 1 tells us how God created the heavens and the earth: He *said* it, and it happened! He *spoke* all of creation into existence. God's word is an extension of His own creative nature. Genesis also tells us that God made man in His own image and likeness. Therefore our words too are an extension of ourselves, having within them the potential to build up or tear down, to create or destroy. No wonder Jesus said that on the day of judgment men will have to give an account for all they have said (see Matthew 12:36-37).

To consider what words can do, to contemplate the power of the tongue, is a sobering exercise. The little book of James devotes an entire chapter to taming the tongue—the ability to control what we say. He makes it clear how crucial a member of the body the tongue is: "If anyone is never at fault in what he

says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check" (Jas. 3:2 NIV). In other words, mastery of the tongue signifies mastery of the whole person!

James goes on to say:

Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue...corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire... (Jas. 3:5-6 NIV).

Notice how James is describing the effects evil speech has, not just on those who hear it, which is terrible enough, but on the person who speaks it. When we indulge ourselves in critical, accusing talk, we seldom consider the devastating spiritual effect it is having on us. Evil speech is like a boomerang. We speak it only to have it return to inflict the greatest injury on ourselves. Paul stated it just as clearly another way. "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. *A man reaps what he sows*" (Gal. 6:7 NIV, italics mine).

Most of us are only dimly aware of the power of our words. We have an awesome freedom to speak words that can create a hell or a heaven. We can speak hateful, fearful, doubtful words; words that enrage, torment, or destroy; we can speak words of envy and spite; wicked words that slander and betray, and in the process minister death to ourselves and those to whom we speak.

Or we can speak truthful, grateful, joyful words; words that comfort, heal, encourage, and strengthen; we can speak words of faith, hope, and love; blessed conversational words that forgive, redeem, and restore, and in the process minister life to ourselves and those to whom we speak.

If words were dollars, we would all be millionaires because we have daily access to an unlimited supply of them to gather and spend wherever and however we choose. But we must remember we can gather from two different storehouses; we can spend two kinds of currency. We can draw our words from one source and darken the day as ministers of misery, spreading suspicion, fear, hatred, and betrayal like the devil's own garbage all over God's creation while inevitably soiling our own souls in the process. Or we can draw our words from the other source and light up the day as philanthropists of hope, spending words of praise, encouragement, and faith with royal extravagance on every person we meet, enriching their lives and our souls in the process.

One way promotes the prince of darkness and the evil kingdoms of this world; the other way exalts the Prince of Peace and the kingdom of God on earth.

At least, that's the way I see it. □

*Don Basham is chief editorial consultant for New Wine.*



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