

Magazine **New Wine**

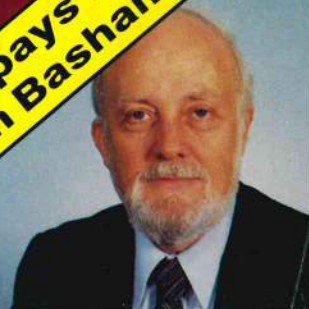
December 1986 \$1.95



THE INCARNATION AND THE NATIONS

What Christ's coming means for you and the world

**New Wine pays tribute
to Don Basham**



Give the Gift for All Seasons...



...This Season.

When you choose *The NIV Study Bible*, you choose a gift that never stops giving — through every season of the year, through all the seasons of life.

By stimulating interest in God's Word and kindling a desire to learn more, *The NIV Study Bible* encourages spiritual growth; by providing an almost limitless range of Bible resources, it helps make that growth possible.

Its text — the New International Version — is the most widely read modern English translation of the Bible. And *The NIV Study Bible* includes an extensive range of study aids: complete Introductions and Outlines for every book; nearly 20,000 Study Notes, conveniently located on the same page as the text; a comprehensive Cross-Referencing System; In-text Charts, Maps and Diagrams; the NIV Concordance; and much more.

Transdenominational in its expression — while remaining solidly evangelical in its perspective — *The NIV Study Bible* is an ideal gift for every Christian.

Winner of the ECPA Gold Medallion Award.

Available at fine bookstores everywhere in a variety of styles and bindings — including two new gift editions for Christmas: a special edition in blue bonded leather and a limited edition bound in gray cowhide.

**The NIV
Study Bible**

Open it... and understand.



ZONDERVAN
BIBLE PUBLISHERS

CONTENTS

The Incarnation and Nations

- 10 THE ESSENCE OF OUR FAITH**
by WC Dobbs
Why the Incarnation is so significant
to our lives

- 14 THE INCARNATION
AS EXPLANATION**
by Joseph Garlington
What Jesus revealed about the Father

- 18 "EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW"**
by Ern Baxter
What on earth is God saying about
discipling the nations?

- 23 GOD WITH US**
by Hugo Zelaya
The key to peace on earth
and goodwill toward men

- 26 AN ACT OF SALVATION**
by Charles Simpson
When the Son of God became flesh

- 31 CHINA MIRACLE**
An interview with Arthur Wallis

- 34 GOD IS A WORLD PERSON...
ARE YOU?**
by Paul Petrie
Our call to the nations isn't optional.

Features

- 29 JOY TO THE WORLD!**
by Diana Scimone
Nine ways you can share
the joy of Christmas

- 39 THE PRINCE OF PEACE**
by Bruce Longstreth
A daily devotional for December

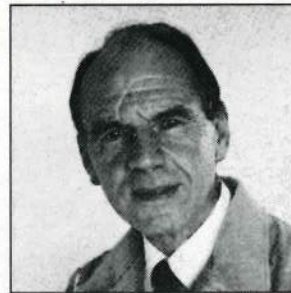
- 42 "I THIRST"**
by Max Lucado
What the humanity of Jesus means to us

- 44 A WORD OF THANKS
FOR DON BASHAM**
by Charles Simpson

Vol. 18, No. 12, December 1986



- 26. The Incarnation was
God's saving act for
man, who was drowning in sin.**



- 34. Jesus came to reveal
God's love; He now
sends us to tell of His love.**

- 18. God's people will one day
bring the nations into
obedience to Jesus Christ.**



- 31. Arthur Wallis tells of a
mighty move of God's
Spirit in China.**



Departments

- 4 EDITORIAL**—The new order
7 LETTERS
8 BOOKS OF INTEREST—Christmas gift ideas
38 THE WAY I SEE IT—"Love thy enemies"

Photo/Illustration Credits

Jeff Banashak, 23; Cityhill Publishing, 31-32; Becky Ford, 18, 20; Mitchell Funk/The Image Bank, cover; Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 29; ©ITC Entertainment Limited, London WIA IAG, England, 10-12; Michael Jarzombek, 30; Rich LaSalle, 42-43; Mobile (Alabama) Jaycees, 29; New York City Post Office, 30; Gary Null/NBC, "Disaster on Flight 90," 26-27; Shostal Associates, 34-35.

©1986 by Integrity Communications. All rights reserved. *New Wine* [ISSN 0194-438X] [USPS 382-520] is published monthly by Integrity Communications, 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36609. Second-class postage paid at Mobile and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *New Wine* Magazine, P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616. To subscribe: Send \$15 for twelve monthly issues (\$27 for a two-year subscription) to the above address. All subscriptions outside the United States and its territories add \$5 per year for postage and handling (U.S. currency only). Foreign subscriptions must be prepaid. If you have questions about your subscription, write us or call (205) 633-9000 (no collect calls, please). If you

move, please notify us at least six weeks in advance. Member of Christian Booksellers Association and National Religious Broadcasters. All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version unless otherwise noted. Bible verses marked NAS: Scripture taken from the New American Standard Bible. ©1960, 1962, 1963, 1972, 1975 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, California 90631. Bible verses marked NIV: Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright ©1973, 1978 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

IT'S A REAL FIND!



*A Goldmine in Christian Programming
24 Hours A Day!*

Available by Satellite
on SATCOM 4, Transponder 3
and many Cable Systems.

Featuring . . .

- Spanish Language
- Musical
- Dramatic
- Children's
- Sports
- Health & Fitness
- Ministry
- Much, Much More

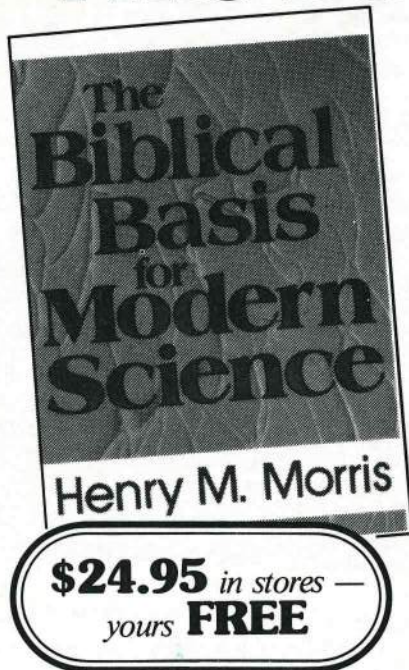
For a free programming schedule or more information, write or call:

ROCK CHRISTIAN NETWORK

640 Kempsville Rd. • Virginia Beach, VA 23462 • (804) 495-5300

DISCOVER IT FOR YOURSELF

FOR SERIOUS CHRISTIANS, THIS BOOK CRIED OUT TO BE WRITTEN



We quote from the editorial report that prompted us to select this book for the Conservative Book Club:

"Any honest believer will admit that he has often found himself facing uncomfortable difficulties and dilemmas when confronted by the pronouncements of scientists (genuine or pseudo) on matters that concern controversial Biblical passages involving scientific areas. We search for explanations, but too often come up with weak ones that don't even convince us.

This book should help straighten us out. Henry Morris brings together those key Biblical insights and instructions related to all the natural sciences. In his own words:

'Whenever a Biblical passage deals either with a broad scientific principle or with some particular items of scientific data, it will inevitably be found on careful study to be fully accurate in its scientific insights. Often it will be found even to have anticipated scientific discoveries.'

A large order, but I think Morris fills it admirably in what can only be called a monumental volume. The main thrust of the book is to reassure theists of the validity of the Scriptures not only as a guide to living but as an explanation of the facts of the natural sciences, of mankind, and of the world around us. *It may well be the means of liberating a reader from long-time doubts and give him ammunition for confrontations with the scoffers.'*

Dr. Morris has served for 28 years on the faculties of major universities — including 13 years as chairman of the Civil Engineering Department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He is the president of the Institute for Creation Research.

So isn't this book heavy going for the nonscientist? Again, our editor:

"The book is a mass of scientific exposition and evidences, but so clearly written and well arranged visually that it held the attention of even a layman with minimal scientific background like myself."

As for the theological position of Dr. Morris, our editor writes:

"Basically evangelical Protestant, but I think there's very little that's not fully consonant with conservative Catholic teaching. As a matter of fact, I found much of his thinking and even his style reminiscent of Chesterton's *Orthodoxy*. You could say Morris' overall argument almost parallels Chesterton's, with the addition of technical references!"

Answers questions no thinking believer can ignore

- ✓ Evolution, creation and the Bible: where the secular consensus goes wrong. Fallacies of evolutionists like Huxley and Teilhard de Chardin.
- ✓ Apparent discrepancies in Scripture. (Dr. Morris gives unbelievers a full hearing, answers their questions — and then fires some pointed questions right back at them.)
- ✓ Great pioneers in science who had no doubt that the Bible is the inspired word of God.
- ✓ "Miracles and the Laws of Nature."

- ✓ Problems with the "big bang" theory. Other modern theories of creation and solar system that don't hold up — even on scientific grounds.
- ✓ "Fossils and the Flood": new findings that strengthen the old arguments for Genesis.

One publication that would be unsparing if Dr. Morris failed to do justice to the case for inerrancy is *The Biblical Evangelist*. So its review carries great weight:

"Morris ... is the man to whom Biblical Christianity probably owes more in answering the pseudo-science of evolution than to any other.... The average reader will be amazed that the Bible and science are so inter-related."

• 516 pages • 41 tables and figures • 3 indexes: Scripture (over 1,000 citations), subject and proper name • EXTRA! "Global Processes Indicating Recent Creation"

How to get this important \$24.95 book FREE

How the Club Works

Every 4 weeks (13 times a year) you get a free copy of the Club Bulletin which offers you the Featured Selection plus a good choice of Alternates — all of interest to conservatives. ★ If you want the Featured Selection, do nothing; it will come automatically. ★ If you don't want the Featured Selection, or you do want an Alternate, indicate your wishes on the handy card enclosed with your Bulletin and return it by the deadline date. ★ The majority of Club books will be offered at 20-50% discounts, plus a charge for shipping and handling. ★ As soon as you buy and pay for 3 books at regular Club prices, your membership may be ended at any time, either by you or by the Club. ★ If you ever receive a Featured Selection without having had 10 days to decide if you want it, you may return it at Club expense for full credit. ★ Good service. No computers! ★ The Club will offer regular Superbargains, mostly at 70-90% discounts plus shipping and handling. Superbargains do NOT count toward fulfilling your Club obligation but do enable you to buy fine books at giveaway prices. ★ Only one membership per household.

CONSERVATIVE BOOK CLUB
15 Oakland Avenue • Harrison, NY 10528

Please accept my membership in the Club and send FREE the \$24.95 *Biblical Basis for Modern Science* by Henry M. Morris. I agree to buy 3 additional books at regular Club prices over the next 18 months. I also agree to the Club rules spelled out in this coupon.

NW-8

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The secret to growth and fruitfulness

The New Order

by Bruce Longstreth

I am the vine, and you the branches. He who dwells in me, as I dwell in him, bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing....This is my Father's glory, that you may bear fruit in plenty and so be my disciples" (Jn. 15:5, 8 NEB).

When anyone is united to Christ, there is a new world; the old order has gone, and a new order has already begun (2 Cor. 5:17 NEB).

For apostles John and Paul, connectedness to Christ was the secret of growth and fruitfulness. John saw a continual purging of the unproductive so that he could bear more abiding fruit. Paul saw the old self-serving order replaced by a new order characterized by total commitment to Christ.

Our life in Christ can never be static, arrived at, formulated, or reduced to ten basic steps. Instead, we must see it as part of a Kingdom that is ever expanding into wider horizons. As people of the new order, we are daily introduced to greater implications of that order, and as fruit-producing branches, we are never satisfied. The Father-vinedresser always wants more fruit, quality fruit, fruit that will last.

For two years now I've been privileged to be the editor of *New Wine Magazine*. It has been exciting to gather teaching from God's choicest vessels and send their anointed word to hundreds of thousands of people all over the world.

But, as you know, this is the

final issue of *New Wine*.

Dreams fulfilled, goals achieved, God's people blessed, I think to myself. But, as I do, I hear the vinedresser coming with His pruning shears.

"Much more," He says.

"But, Sir, this is a great work," I protest.

"Much more," He insists. "With more eternal character and quality."

I have faced this situation many times in my years of connectedness, of being part of the new order of King Jesus. Always the demand for "much more" is initially resisted. I would like to continue what I have been doing, especially if it has enjoyed the favor of the Father. But knowing the nature of God's ever-increasing kingdom, my response must be something different.

"Yes, Sir. Thank You for the opportunity to serve You and Your people for these past two years. Thank You for the people we have touched and those who have touched us through this ministry. My will is to do Your will. Yes, Sir, much more! Let the increase of Your government and the peace be realized in my life at this junction. Let the expression of Your glory and goodness be more clearly and fully seen than ever before. Much more, more eternal, less carnal. Be glorified, Father."

"I do always those things that please him (the Father)," said Jesus (Jn. 8:29), and to us He says, "If you are connected to Me, you will table your personal agenda and do as I do."

Like Father, like Son, like many

sons. He who was incarnated to do His Father's will once again is incarnated in a great company of people who say, "A body You have prepared for us. Lo, in the volume of the book it is written, we delight to do Your will."

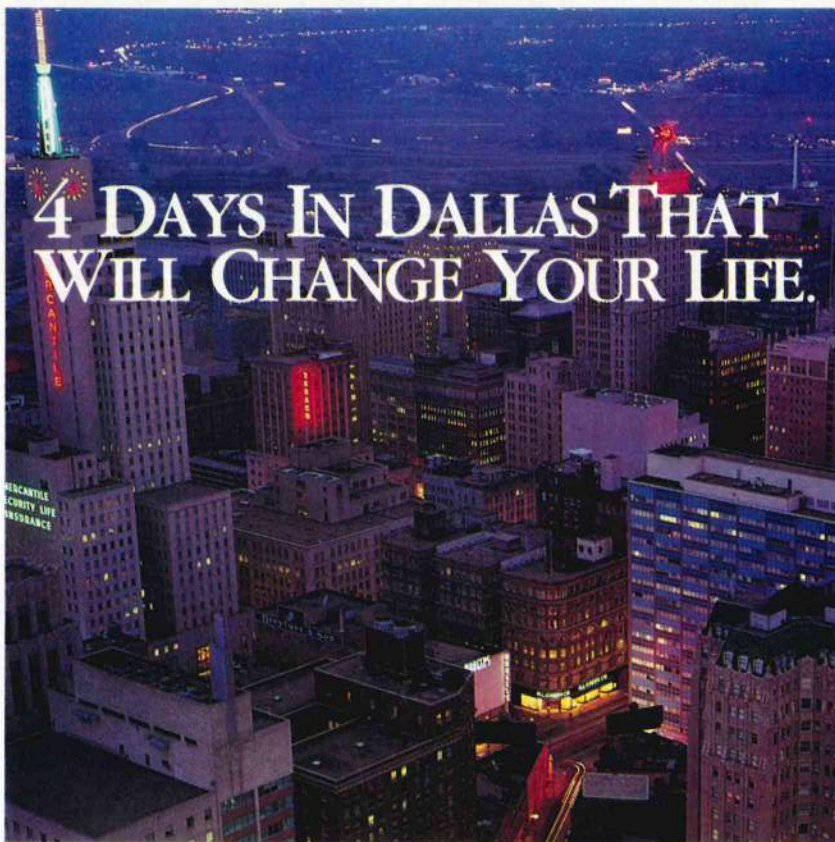
In response to the Lord's direction to us, in January *New Wine* subscribers will receive the first issue of *Christian Conquest*, our new bimonthly magazine. Through writers who have appeared in *New Wine*, *Christian Conquest* will equip its readers for action in response to a specific biblical topic each issue.

In this last issue of *New Wine* we deal with the principle of the Incarnation. The Lord of glory took upon Himself our likeness to accomplish our salvation at the bidding of His Father. Paul says, "Let this mind be in you" (Phil. 2:5), the mind of the incarnated Christ, who took upon Himself the form needed to accomplish the will of His Father.

New Wine has for a season been the "form" the Father needed to accomplish His purpose. As that form changes, we trust that you will join us as we join His mighty army worldwide in extending the new order to every nation. □



Bruce Longstreth is editor of *New Wine*.



JAMES ROBISON 1987 BIBLE CONFERENCE

DALLAS CONVENTION CENTER, DALLAS, TEXAS

JANUARY 7-10



James
Robison



Larry
Lea



Phil
Driscoll



Peter
Lord



Rick
Godwin



Jeanne
Rogers



Jack
Hayford



Dave
Roeber



Rhonda
Redmon



Dudley
Hall



Steve
Green

For further information,
call the James Robison
Evangelistic Association
office: (817) 267-4211.

This could be the event of the year for you—possibly the event of a lifetime. Through the inspired messages of some of the most anointed speakers in America, you will be led into the very presence of God. You will experience for yourself the mighty work of Restoration God has begun in the Church and the world.

Wednesday, January 7

Pastors' Seminar—9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

General Session—7:00 p.m.

Thursday-Friday, January 8-9

General Sessions

9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 10

Victory Celebration & Brunch

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

REGISTRATION FORM

- ☐ Hotel Accommodations \$55 per night
☐ Single ☐ Double ☐ Triple ☐ Quad
 Check-in Day _____ Check-out Day _____
- ☐ \$75 deposit per room enclosed
- ☐ Credit Card # _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Type of Card _____
- ☐ Yes, I will attend the Pastors' Seminar Wednesday, January 7.
- ☐ Yes, I will attend the "Victory Celebration" Brunch Saturday, January 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Please send me _____ tickets for the "Victory Celebration" Brunch at \$12 per person. Enclosed is check or money order for \$_____.

PREPAYMENT NECESSARY FOR GUARANTEED SPACE

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

TELEPHONE () _____

ADDITIONAL FAMILY ATTENDING:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

MAIL TO:

James Robison Evangelistic Association
 ATTN: Evelyn Johnson
 P.O. Box 18489
 Fort Worth, Texas 76118
 (817) 267-4211

ATTENTION NEW WINE READERS

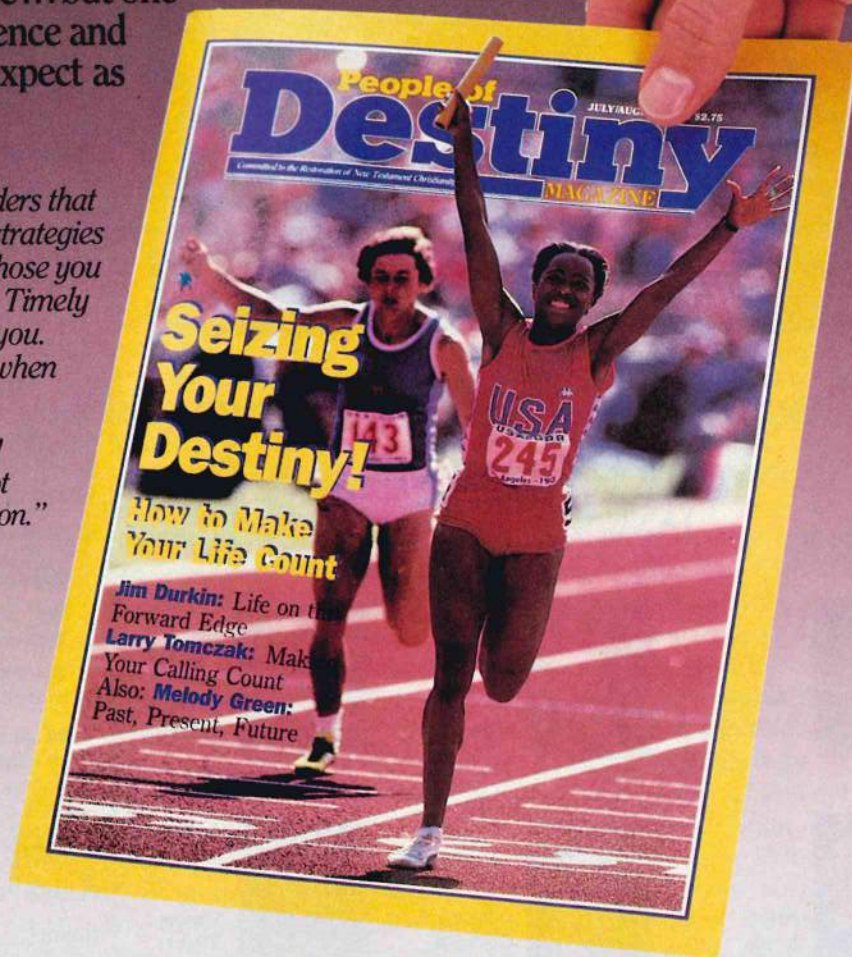
People of Destiny Magazine ...published for your success in God!

Not just another magazine... but one published with the excellence and purpose you've come to expect as a New Wine reader.

Articles by proven Christian leaders that go beyond inspiration to action strategies for daily living to help you and those you care about fulfill the call of God. Timely teaching on issues important to you. Encouragement and challenge when you need it most.

"You can fulfill your destiny in life! Our commitment to help you is not merely a preference, it's our passion."

Larry Tomczak
Editor



ARTICLES • FEATURES • INTERVIEWS

Larry Tomczak • C.J. Mahaney • Derek Prince • Bob Mumford • Pat Robertson • Loren Cunningham • Charles Simpson • James Robison • Edith Schaeffer • Josh McDowell • Yonggi Cho • Melody Green • Jamie Buckingham • C. Peter Wagner • Terry Virgo • Bob Weiner • John Wimber • Arthur Wallis • Larry Lea and more!

TOPICS WITH YOU IN MIND!

- Building Healthy Relationships • Seizing Your Destiny
- Godly Discipline • Invading the Youth Culture • Living in Purity • Effective Prayer • Moving in Signs and Wonders
- Evangelism as a Lifestyle

PLUS COLUMNS • EDITORIALS • AND WORLD NEWS YOU CAN USE!

RISK-FREE OFFER

SEND FOR YOUR NO RISK COPY TODAY!

Simply fill in and return the postage paid card facing this page. If card is missing write:

PEOPLE OF DESTINY MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 2335
Wheaton, MD 20902

People of
Destiny
MAGAZINE

LETTERS

"Dear New Wine,"

Blown Out of Proportion

I can appreciate the anger of both the author and the victims of what *appears to be* an inappropriate arrest due to inadequate investigation on the part of the social worker ("The Family on Trial," September). Where I take issue, however, is that I believe the author took some of the extreme cases to blow it out of proportion.

You could not get anyone to agree with you more about the ambiguity of the wording of the child abuse laws. However, the negative effects of this wording work both ways: It is detrimental, at times, to those unjustly accused and it is also that which can keep children in a home that is truly unsafe.

It is true that "unfounded arrests have reached epidemic proportions." Please keep in mind, however, that this trend is not limited to prosecution involving child abuse. Furthermore, "antichurch bias" is widespread *period*—it is not limited to the child abuse issue. However, there is a growing body of evidence indicting "strict religious background" as a factor in the profile of an abuser.

The author's indictment of the protective services "system" is somewhat warranted; I agree with the recommendations she proposed. But what about the church? What type of provision is there in the churches that can minister to this need? Is there any? Or are these individuals literally forced by the lack of services in the church to go to the world to get their needs met? I do not believe the answer is in the government system we have now any more than you do. I am of the very firm conviction that we, as the Church of Jesus Christ, are to have the "answer" through our relationship with Him and His Word

for these and other social issues. However, to address any issue adequately, there needs to be a clear representation of all the sides pertaining to the topic at hand.

Maureen Mickalonis
East Lansing, MI

Destroying the Children

You struck at the roots of many of the problems in the child abuse industry. In addition, I would mention that another grave problem with the system is that it actually destroys the children brought into it.

Government simply can't replace the family. Its proper response ought to be to properly define crimes against children ("child abuse" itself is an impermissibly vague term that begs to be distorted); arrest accused perpetrators; give them a fair, speedy, open trial; and enact biblical penalties for crimes of which they are actually found guilty. Nowhere in all this is there a need for coercive social work "therapy," bungling amateur investigations by social workers (what business do they have replacing the police?), mock trials behind closed doors with no civil rights for the accused, whimsical penalties ranging from known rapists being allowed to remain at large in custody of their victims as long as they undergo "therapy" to long jail sentences for parents found guilty of spanking, and knee-jerk foster care for children whose parents are accused of meaningless things such as "emotional neglect."

It would be hard to arrest a Christian parent for teaching her children the Bible, but it is easy to throw the label "emotionally neglectful" on that same mother and take her children. The whole process bypasses the open court system, and therefore does not

have to be "legal" in the strict sense. Whatever prejudices the juvenile court judge and the social worker may hold can be imposed with impunity on the parents, who have not been accused of any crime and therefore are not entitled to any civil rights!

Mary Pride
Author of *The Child Abuse Industry*
St. Louis, MO

Last Issue of New Wine

Someone gave me *New Wine* when I was newly baptized in the Spirit, and for fifteen years your magazine has ministered to me. You've been light for me when I felt in darkness. You've been confirmation when I was in doubt. The Lord is my source, and I have no fear. He will continue to teach me. But I will miss *New Wine*. Absolutely nothing else in my life has been so consistently used by God to speak to me (other than the Bible). My prayers go with all of you. I feel like I've just lost my best friend.

Barbara Cox
Middletown, OH

Editor's note: We will continue to minister with timely Bible teaching in our new magazine, Christian Conquest, which will begin publication in January.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION			
1. NAME OF PUBLICATION		2. PUBLICATION NO.	3. DATE OF FILING
New Wine Magazine		10/2/90	10/2/90
4. PRESENT ADDRESS		5. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ANNUAL OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
6. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		7. FULL NAME AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR (Use one entry only)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		Barbara Cox Middletown, OH	
8. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF EDITOR (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		9. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF MANAGING EDITOR (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
10. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		11. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
12. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		13. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
14. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		15. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
16. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		17. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
18. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		19. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
20. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		21. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
22. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		23. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
24. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		25. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
26. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		27. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
28. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		29. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
30. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		31. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
32. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		33. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
34. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		35. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
36. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		37. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
38. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		39. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
40. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		41. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
42. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		43. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
44. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		45. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
46. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		47. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
48. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		49. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
50. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		51. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
52. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		53. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
54. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		55. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
56. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		57. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
58. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		59. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
60. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		61. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
62. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		63. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
64. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		65. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
66. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		67. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
68. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		69. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
70. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		71. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
72. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		73. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
74. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		75. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
76. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		77. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
78. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		79. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
80. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		81. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
82. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		83. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
84. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		85. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
86. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		87. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
88. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		89. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
90. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		91. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
92. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		93. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
94. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		95. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
96. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		97. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
98. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		99. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	
100. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		101. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT (Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007		1000 Oak Road Berkley, MI 48007	

Publisher and President
Michael Coleman

Editor
Bruce Longstreth

Editorial Assistants
Jackie Conn
Diana Scimone

Chief Editorial Consultant
Don Basham

Director of Creative Services
Brian Banashak

Production Manager
Susan Fontaine

Production Coordinator
Cleve Collins

Graphic Artist
Natalie Vaughan

Typographer
Joni Beebee

Comptroller
Jack Wood

Director of Operations
Don Raymond

Marketing Director
Edward L. Lindquist

Director of Circulation and Advertising
Bill D. Turk

**Board of Directors of
Integrity Communications**
Charles V. Simpson, chairman
Don Basham
Bob Mumford
Ern Baxter
John Duke
Billy Duke
Bruce Longstreth

Contributing Editors
John Beckett
Larry Christenson
Terry Fullam
Dick Iverson
Terry Law
R. J. Rushdoony
Karl Strader
Ken Sumrall

**Other Ministries of
Integrity Communications**
New Wine® Tape of the Month, Hosanna! Music™, Charles Simpson's *Ministry Report*, "Challenge—With Charles Simpson" (radio program), *Vino Nuevo* (Spanish edition of *New Wine*)

New Wine Magazine seeks to promote the unity and maturity of the Church and individual Christians by presenting sound biblical teachings and testimonies from a variety of Christian authors.

Advertising in *New Wine* does not necessarily imply endorsement by the board of directors or the magazine staff.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

This month we offer a selection of Christmas gift books.

Choices...Changes by Joni Eareckson Tada (Zondervan, 1986, 277 pages, \$12.95). Sequel to *Joni*, focusing on her ministry, marriage, and the movie about her life. Frank, honest, and uplifting, and a good gift for Joni fans.

Christmas, the Annual of Literature and Art (Augsburg, 1986, 64 pages, \$6.95 paper, \$14.50 cloth). For fifty-six years, Augsburg has been publishing this oversize, full-color keepsake volume. This year's edition focuses on Christmas customs, art, and music of east European countries, and also includes "The Christmas Story" from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew illustrated by a batik artist. A welcome "thank-you" present for Sunday school teachers.

Consider the Lilies by John and Katherine Paterson (Thomas Y. Crowell, 1986, 96 pages, \$13.95). Forty-six plants of the Bible, from the "apple" in the garden of Eden to the red lentils in the story of Jacob and Esau. Each selection includes the symbolic significance of each plant, how the plants were used in biblical days, and colorful botanical drawings. A nice gift for gardeners.

Doorposts by Timothy R. Botts (Tyndale, 1986, 124 pages, \$16.95 until December 31, \$19.95 after). A stunning, joyful book of sixty calligraphic renderings of Bible passages. A visual delight that would make a gift to be cherished now and enjoyed for many years to come.

Faith for All Generations by Robert Flood (Accent Publications, 1984, revised 1986, 96 pages). A family devotional of dozens of inspiring, easy-to-read stories that com-

bine American history with scriptural principles. Great for students or teachers.

Growing Deep in the Christian Life by Charles Swindoll (Multnomah, 1986, 440 pages, \$14.95). An everyday approach to serious biblical truths written, says Swindoll, for the "truck driver, the athlete, the waitress," and others whose world "is practical, earthy, tough, and relentless."

Theirs Is the Kingdom by Lowell Hagan and Jack Westerhof (Eerdmans, 1986, 326 pages, \$16.95). The captivating events of the Gospels and the books of Acts and Revelation retold for young listeners. Beautifully illustrated. A charming gift for children on your list.

A Time to Be Renewed by Warren Wiersbe, edited by James Adair (Victor, 1986, 397 pages, \$12.95). What a good way to start 1987—with the first of 366 readings to help you walk with God. Each includes a Scripture reading and an "action assignment" to help you become a doer of the Word.

Twice Pardoned by Harold Morris (Focus on the Family Publishing, 1986, 180 pages, \$10.95). An ex-con who once faced back-to-back life sentences talks candidly to teens and their parents about not making the same mistakes he did as a youngster.

Wide Was His Parish by Edward L.R. Elson (Tyndale, 1986, 208 pages, \$12.95). An autobiography by the man who served as chaplain of the U.S. Senate for many years, and whose "parish" included the White House with "parishioners" such as Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower. History buffs will enjoy this behind-the-scenes glimpse of a seldom-seen side of Americana. □

NEW WINE® TAPE OF THE MONTH

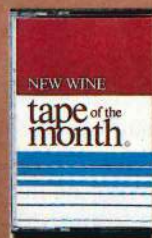
POWERFUL STRATEGIES FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

As a New Wine Tape of the Month member, you'll receive a newly released message every month by one of New Wine Magazine's regular teachers. The dynamic teachings of Don Basham, Ern Baxter, Bob Mumford, and Charles Simpson will equip you to meet the challenges of spiritual warfare in today's world.

Winning the everyday battles against the enemy requires specific weapons. You need to be equipped with an understanding of how the enemy works in your life. Tape of the Month gives you spiritual insights that help reveal his clever deceptions. You'll learn how to combat the lies of the enemy, how to rebuild the walls on God's sure foundation, and how to live in victory!

FIRST TAPE FREE!

We'd like to send your first tape absolutely free. Thereafter, as a member, you'll pay only \$5 for each monthly tape that you receive. If you're not completely satisfied, you may cancel at any time without further obligation and still keep your free tape.



NEW WINE
tape of the month
EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS FOR
SUCCESSFUL DAILY LIVING

How to Order: To receive your free tape and begin receiving New Wine Tape of the Month, send no money. Simply fill out the response card found in this issue, or write to New Wine Tape of the Month, P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616. This offer expires December 31, 1986. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your first tape.

It's Christmas again—bright colors, sparkling lights, green trees, and all the gladness that we associate with the Yule season. Our families will share with one another and perhaps feel closer than at any other time. Our churches will ring with carols and celebration of what is known traditionally as the Advent. Why all this joy and celebration? It all springs from what is called the doctrine of the Incarnation, the essence of Christianity.

The Incarnation is necessary to Christian faith and life. One might even say that the conviction that "God was in Christ" (2 Cor. 5:19) is the *sine qua non* of Christianity; without that conviction there would be no Christianity. It is as inclusive for the New Testament truth as creation is for the Old Testament. It is the point that makes a believer distinctly Christian. John puts it plainly in his first epistle: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God" (1 Jn. 4:2 RSV). There is no period in Christian history that this conviction is not stated as the essence of faith.

It is found throughout the New Testament:

In him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell (Col. 1:19 RSV).

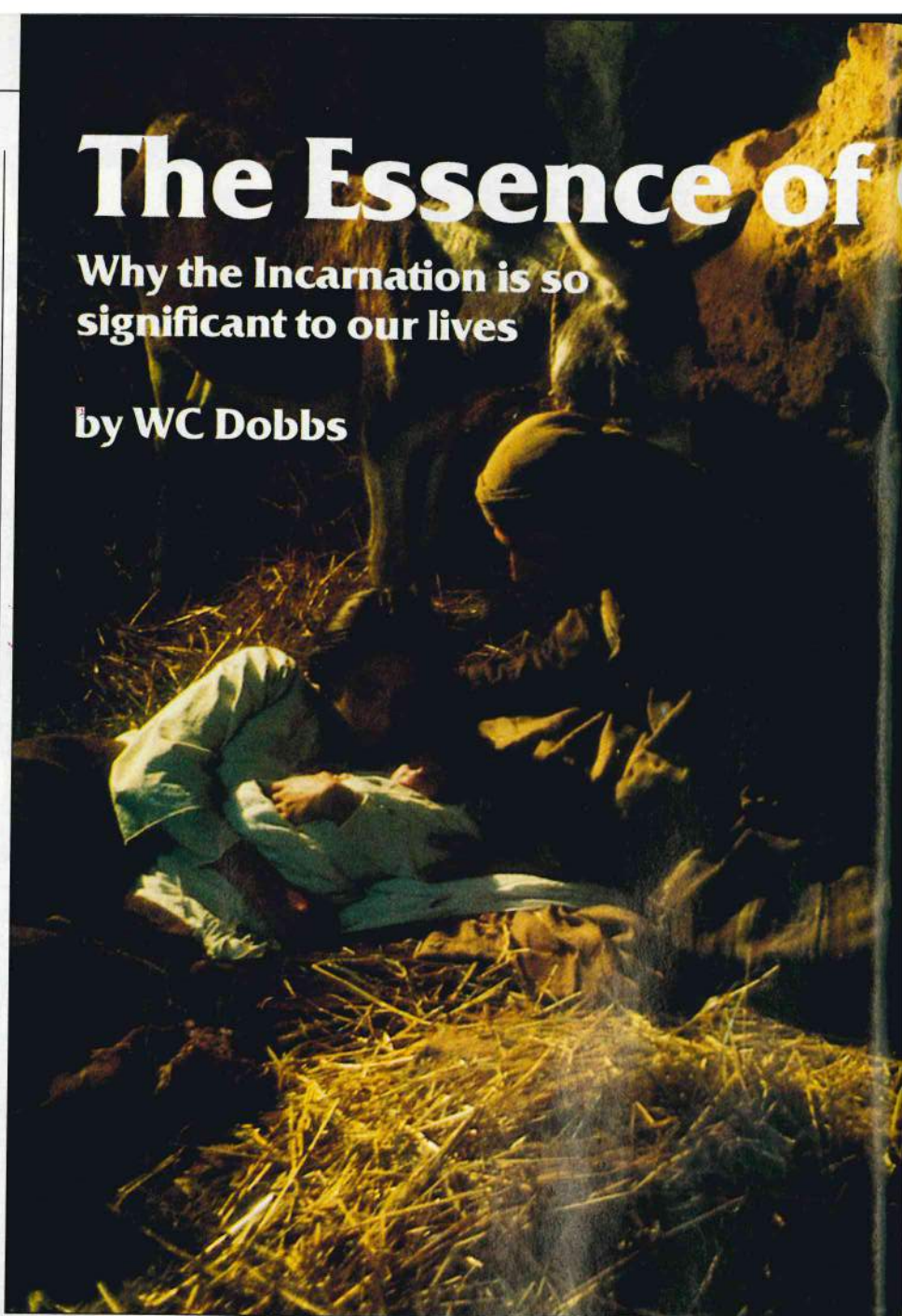
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father (Jn. 1:1, 14 RSV).

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world (Heb. 1:1-2 RSV).

The Essence of

Why the Incarnation is so significant to our lives

by WC Dobbs



Unless a person is prepared to make this affirmation in some sense or other, then any claim he may make to be specifically a Christian believer with a specifically Christian gospel to share is, to say the least, extremely dubious.

Understanding the Incarnation

It is misleading to use *incarnation* as the conveyor of the essence of Christianity unless we are careful in interpreting the meaning of the word in Christian usage. Our English word has its derivation in Latin but is apt to suggest the dualism of Greek thought with its readiness

to think of the ingress of a divine principle into a mortal envelope essentially alien to it. Nothing is further from biblical thought.

The early Church as reflected in the New Testament and in the early Church fathers knew that the revelation of God it had experienced in Jesus was overwhelming in significance. The very magnitude of what happened made it difficult to find adequate articulation. The Church came to realize that something pivotal to history had occurred in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. We take for granted the dating of history according to His life but this

Our Faith



It says:

We believe...in one Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God, begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father through whom all things were made both the things in heaven and the things on earth.

Then the Church began to hone the concept of Christ so as to magnify His humanity. The Chalcedonian Confession (A.D. 451) has not been surpassed by any better understanding of His person. It states:

Following the Holy Fathers we all with one consent teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Deity and perfect in humanity, God truly and man truly, of a reasonable soul and body, of one substance with the Father in his Deity, and of one substance with us in his humanity, in all things like unto us without sin, begotten before the ages of the Father in his Deity, in the last days for us and for our salvation born of Mary the virgin, the mother of God, in his humanity; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, and only begotten, acknowledged in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of the natures being by no means taken away because of the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one person and one hypostasis, not divided, or separated into two persons but one and the same Son and only begotten God Logos, Lord Jesus Christ.

This is not only the historical order, but it is also the biblical order. The Old Testament says, "In the beginning God" (Gen. 1:1). The New Testament says, "He came

unto his own" (Jn. 1:11). It is likewise the believer's order: Jesus as God, Jesus as man, Jesus as God-man. The Incarnation does not mean therefore that some additional quality of Deity was added to Jesus' humanity, but rather that the Deity was expressed through the humanity.

Jesus as a Man

Jesus was a man in the full sense of the word. He was born of a human mother. He hungered, thirsted, slept, enjoyed friends, and made enemies. He died. It does not mean that Jesus was a god instead of an ordinary man (a Jewish Hercules). That would be a denial of both His humanity and of monotheism as well. It does not mean that Jesus was a being intermediate (a *tertium quid*—a third what) between God and man (as Arius thought and as Latter Day Saints teach in our own day). It does not mean that God inhabited a human body for a number of years (as in Gnostic Christianity and is held by Christian Science in our own century). It does not mean that Jesus' body was human but His mind or spirit divine (as in Patripassianism and in some groups of Unitarians). It does not mean that Jesus was first a man and then became divine (as in Adoptionism). Finally, it does not mean that God changed into a man. The Greek word for *God* is a proper name in the New Testament and no one could be Deity except God Himself.

As we have seen, the Church finally concluded that Christ was at the same time fully God and fully man. He was not more God by being less man, or less Deity by being more human. His humanity was genuine, complete, and absolute. The New Testament speaks of the Word becoming flesh, meaning all that is distinctly human, passions and appetites as well. Nevertheless we find God fully revealed in Him. In Christ we have not merely an indication or a sign

did not happen immediately; it happened historically as the result of a growing awareness of what His life meant. Paul wrote, "But when the time had fully come" (Gal. 4:4 RSV). The clear teaching was that God broke into history right on schedule in God's own time.

It is fascinating to note the order in which the Church refined its understanding of the person of Jesus. It first defined its understanding of Jesus as Deity. The Nicene Confession (A.D. 325) is still the normative understanding of the Deity of Christ among both Protestant and Catholic believers.

of something else but the real thing.

Human life is inescapably decisional in nature. Because Christ's incarnation was real, it was shown by His free human choice moment by moment. This is the wonder of His sinlessness in His humanity: He so chose to be. He was human, human so fully that the great majority of persons confronting Him never thought for a moment in any other way about Him. But in His choices and in His decisions God was at work. His life was not merely "of Himself" but "of God." People of faith from the Magi, Simeon, and Anna at the beginning to the centurion at the end were aware of that and confessed it. So it is now.

That is the way we must also look at His death. We can trace the tragic course of human events—the corruption of religious leaders, the jealousy of Roman power, the fickleness of the mob—but that does not explain the event. The New Testament clarifies that when it says: "He (God) who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all" (Rom. 8:32 NIV).

The Relationship Continues

The same relationship of God and man continues in His life following the resurrection. Theologically, the ascension means that His resurrected life is in its appropriate form the continuance of the Incarnation. That is why Christians regard the Incarnation as a once-for-all-time matter. Something took place that like all events in history was unique and unrepeatable.

We need to understand that the New Testament portrays Christ not only as a biographical event in history but as being somehow judge of history itself. That is, He is the one to whom all events prior to Him pointed and He is the one who set the direction and meaning of all events that followed. He becomes the touchstone of testing. Everything has value or disvalue based upon Him who is the revelation of God. Therefore the believer

must not enshrine sacred traditions or current progressive programs. That would be at the expense of present responsibility and future resiliency. The hallmark of the new age ushered in by Christ is freedom, freedom to break with the man of old, "to let the dead bury the dead," and to thus avoid all alliances with past traditions and present practices that might impede the advance of God's rule.

The Incarnation is the end or conclusive event in the history of Israel. In Him that history comes to a close and new history is begun. This new history is frontier history; it is, in other words, always history of restless pilgrims who are never quite at home in history and cannot become too attached to any of its transient forms.

Life in Christ becomes life in "the moment" (Kierkegaard). "The moment" is a time of opportunity in which the decision may and must be made to begin anew, to live in freedom from both the pride and guilt begotten of past deeds

and the anxiety or blind ambition prompted by future prospects. "If any one is in Christ," Paul wrote, "he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17 RSV).

A New Start

There is no theme more prominent in the New Testament than this theme of the new start. This is the gospel (the good news) we proclaim. "'Follow me.' ...Immediately they left their nets and followed him" (Mt. 4:19-20 RSV). "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 18:3). "Truly...unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (Jn. 3:3 RSV). "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Rom. 12:2 RSV). "The old leaven of corruption is working among you. Purge it out, and then you will be bread of a new baking" (1 Cor. 5:7 NEB). One translation of 1 Corinthians 7:19 says, "Circumcision is nothing, uncircumcision



is nothing; the only thing that counts is a new creation."

The history that Christ ushers in is that of a new age. The watchword for the participants in this new age was sounded by Paul at the very end of a lifelong pilgrimage:

Forgetting what is behind me, and reaching out for that which lies ahead, I press towards the goal to win the prize which is God's call to the life above, in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:13-14 NEB).

Jesus Christ is to be viewed not only as faith's object (the discloser of the divine purpose in history) but also as faith's pioneer. We have for our guidance not a mere dream, but a real life that was lived. He is not an imaginary projection but a fact of history. There have been some who have said that the historicity makes no difference, because whether Jesus ever lived or not, we have now the idea of the thing to guide us. But it makes a vast difference. One can dream anything, but will it work? This has worked and is working. Renan, the biographer who wrote *The Life of Christ*, has it:

Humanity seeks the ideal; but it seeks it in a person, and not in an abstraction. A man, the incarnation of the ideal, whose biography might serve as a frame for all the aspirations of time is what the religious mind sought.

One finds the ideal in Jesus Christ, whom Martineau, a nineteenth-century English Christian philosopher, called the realized ideal.

Majesty and Mystery of God

One of the most significant ideals we see incarnated in Christ is that of majesty. In the affairs of men, too often has majesty been a concomitant of tyranny. The great are powerful and exercise their power over others like colossi. Majesty or greatness in the secular

sense suggests overlordship, remoteness from one's fellows, and exclusiveness, superiority, and pomp and pride are all its marks. Often the great have used the poor and the weak as stepping stones to power. Multitudes have been trampled, slain to gratify someone's insatiable lust for power, to satisfy his greed, to enhance his glory. History bears convincing proof of this fact. The pride of man knows no bounds. He does not count the cost to others in achieving selfish ends.

In no particular area do God's ways differ so greatly from man's as in the concept of greatness. In Christ, God has revealed a new concept of greatness.

Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many (Mt. 20:25-28).

God's greatness is a majesty bereft of pomp, pride, or tyranny; it is the greatness of humility. That is the only kind that endures. Such greatness wins men; it does not wound them. It serves them; it does not slay them. "A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench" (Mt. 12:20).

Only God Is Great

The funeral of Louis XIV (the Great, the Grand, the Golden, the Sun King) was held in Notre Dame, Paris. The cathedral was decorated with utmost lavishness. In attendance was as distinguished a gathering of royalty as had ever assembled there. The body of the king was arrayed in rich adornment, as if

death itself could not rob that royal form of its majestic grandeur. The preacher ascended to the pulpit. The sophisticated men of nobility and power who had come from far and wide awaited the great eulogy that the occasion demanded. Instead they heard something else, something that must have chilled even as it startled them. The preacher spoke only four words: "Only God is great." Christ had said it long before: "Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever" (Mt. 6:13).

If men did not recognize God when He came in human form, it was because they had grown so accustomed to the human concept of greatness that they could not recognize the genuine. God did not come in royal splendor. Mary and Joseph were simple folk. Christ was born in a manger, not in a palace. God did not come in trappings of outward pomp and power but as a human infant: "Unto you is born...a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11). This sounds like contradiction: A savior saves; a lord is served. A savior offers service; a lord demands it. But this is the mystery of the Incarnation: the lordship of the Savior, the greatness of humility, the majesty of service, God born in a stable. This is the essence of Christianity. □

Scripture quotations marked RSV are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Copyrighted 1946, 1952, 1971 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and are used by permission. All rights reserved.



WC Dobbs is a professor emeritus of Mobile (Alabama) College and has been in the pastoral ministry for twenty-seven years.

THE INCARNATION AS EXPLANATION

What Jesus revealed about the Father

by Joseph Garlington

"Son, Your task if You choose to accept it is to go to earth and to deal fully with the misrepresentation of My nature, My character, and My integrity. You must by Your birth, life, ministry, and death demonstrate the infinite degree of love and concern I have for My people. You too will be misunderstood and rejected by many, but Your faithfulness will produce an indelible, irrefutable record of My love for mankind."

As a pastor, I counsel many people, and over and over again I come across the same problem: People simply don't trust God.

They live with the Sword of Damocles syndrome, that is, they think disaster hangs over their head by a thread. The real problem, of course, is they don't know the God of loving-kindness, the God David knew when he said, "Have mercy upon me, O God...according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies" (Ps. 51:1).

When Adam allowed the serpent to attack the veracity of the word of God, a sense of distrust was planted in him. The result for mankind was a deep distrust of the

Father. In the Incarnation, Jesus' mission was to rectify that problem. His commission from the Father probably sounded something like this: "Son, Your task if You choose to accept it is to go to earth and to deal fully with the misrepresentation of My nature, My character, and My integrity. You must by Your birth, life, ministry, and death demonstrate the infinite degree of love and concern I have for My people. You too will be misunderstood and rejected by many, but Your faithfulness will produce an indelible, irrefutable record of My love for mankind."

Of course, Jesus did not reveal anything different from what the Old Testament had already declared

about the Father; He simply embodied in human form the goodness that had always existed. The gospel as good news is not a New Testament idea, but rather an Old Testament revelation. In fact, in Luke 4:18-19 when Jesus spoke in the synagogue, He used a passage from Isaiah chapter 61 to give the reasons for the Incarnation. He said that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him because He anointed Him to preach the gospel to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, to grant recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the downtrodden, and to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord. Let's look at each of those five reasons because they reveal important aspects of the

Father's character.

Concern for the Poor

"He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor" (Lk. 4:18 NAS). By His message and ministry, Jesus said to the poor, "I have some really good news for you: You don't have to be poor any longer." He demonstrated the Father's affluence, both natural and spiritual, and His concern for those living in poverty, both natural and spiritual. "Your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him," He told the poor, adding that their prayer should be, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Mt. 6:8, 11 NAS). He also told them:

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!" (Mt. 7:11 NAS).

Not only did Jesus preach to the poor, but He also fed them—miraculously on some occasions. And He had a ministry offering financial assistance to them. In the account of Jesus' anointing in John 12:5-8, Judas says that the cost of the expensive ointment could have fed many poor people. John's editorial comment concerning Judas' propensity to steal refers to a money box that was used to feed the poor.

Freedom!

"He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives" (Lk. 4:18 NAS). The original Greek words used in this declaration tell much about Jesus' intent here. To be sent is to be an authorized representative. The word *release* means "remission," "dismissal," or "pardon," and the word *captive* describes a prisoner captured in war. Jesus was the Father's authorized representative on earth to herald release to the prisoners of war.

He brought release to those held captive by a legalistic religious system that caused a proselyte to

be in worse shape after his conversion than before. He brought release to those held captive by a political system that was as oppressive as any in history. He brought release to those held captive by occupations that had no hope or future; He made them "fishers of men."

Finally, He brought release to those held captive by the kingdom of darkness. In fact, Jesus' statement was a declaration of war; through it, He told the enemy that he could no longer have a field day with the people of God. The Incarnation was the beginning of "binding the strong man" (see Matthew 12:29), and demonstrated the Father's heart of compassion toward those oppressed by the devil. A significant aspect of Jesus' ministry was deliverance from evil spirits; some scholars say that almost one third of His ministry was to the demonized. In every case, the situation produced a powerful witness to the kingdom of God and the message of good news to the whole man.

Healing Blindness

"He has sent Me to proclaim... recovery of sight to the blind" (Lk. 4:18 NAS). In many ways, Israel's physical condition mirrored its spiritual condition. Its outer infirmities offered a graphic picture of an even bleaker inner predicament. The Lord exposed the people's attempts to dress up the outside when He referred to them as "whitewashed tombs"; they looked good on the outside but inside lay death and corruption.

The Scriptures contain more than thirty references to Jesus' healing the blind. But as powerful as His healing ministry was to the physically blind, His denunciation of the religious leaders was scathing. Jesus frequently described them as "blind leaders of the blind" and "blind guides." Spiritual blindness was all the more pathetic because in the case of the religious leaders it was an outright refusal to see.

Compare this to the story of the blind man Bartimaeus in Luke chapter 18. He cried out to the Lord, asking to regain his sight, and Jesus replied, "Recover your sight" (v. 42 Twentieth Century New Testament). It was as if Jesus told him, "You have something to do in this; go ahead and recover your sight!"

When Jesus' disciples asked why He spoke in parables, His answer referred to those who were spiritually blind and refused to recover their sight: "While seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand" (Mt. 13:13 NAS). The word *recover* implies an ability to do again what one was once able to do. Any proclamation of freedom or liberty, no matter how great, involves decisions and choices on the part of the hearer.

A Sense of Compassion

"He has sent Me...to set free those who are downtrodden" (Lk. 4:18 NAS). When Jesus arrived on the scene, He saw the multitude distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd, and He felt compassion. Their distress is graphically pictured in the word *downtrodden*, which means "to be shattered and broken in pieces." That was the state of the nation Jesus said He would set free.

One of the remarkable aspects of Jesus' ministry was His unexpected treatment of people who were considered second-class or worse, which was especially true of women. The traditional prayer of the Jewish male was to give thanks that he was born neither a woman nor a Gentile. Yet Jesus amazed His disciples by conversing with a woman in Samaria:

They marveled that He had been speaking with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?" (Jn. 4:27 NAS).

The Lord's willingness to speak with the Samaritan woman also

said something about His opposition to the racism that prevailed in Israel at that time, and was a restatement of Jehovah's injunctions concerning the care and compassion to be extended to the "stranger that is in thy gates." He demonstrated that the Father is no respecter of persons, and that He so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son for *all* the world.

Jesus' identification with the downtrodden was so real that even in the Incarnation itself, He came at a time when the Jewish people represented to the Roman Empire the epitome of disgust. The oppressive Roman regime hated the Jews, and the feeling was returned with equal passion. Yet when Jesus arrived, the objects of His attention and concern included not only the poor, the publicans, the castoffs of society, and the prostitutes, but even the occupying Roman army. He justified His affiliation with it by saying to the religious leaders of the time:

"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are ill....I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mt. 9:12-13 NAS).

Because of the way He identified with the downtrodden, Jesus was called a friend of sinners, a wine bibber, and a gluttonous person. In His life and ministry He was not haughty in mind, but associated with the lowly. He accepted hospitality from tax gatherers, worship from prostitutes, dinner invitations from self-righteous Pharisees, and became the mentor of hardened fishermen. He did not stand on ceremony, nor was He bashful about breaking the man-made traditions of the day, which He said had invalidated the word of God. He even touched lepers, a group of diseased people who had gone without a touch from another human, some for years. He was touched by a woman with an issue of blood who was enjoined by the law not

to touch another lest they both became unclean. Not only did He receive her touch, but He also declared her to be whole because of her faith.

He...healed all who were ill in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases" (Mt. 8:16-17 NAS).

Year of Jubilee

"He has sent Me...to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord" (Lk. 4:18-19 NAS). The final declaration served as the foundation for the first four. We find the message that underlies it in Leviticus 25:10:

"You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, and each of you shall return to his own property, and each of you shall return to his family" (NAS).

The year of jubilee was to follow the forty-ninth sabbatical year. If an Israelite had sold himself into slavery at anytime during the prior forty-nine years, then he was to be freed during the year of jubilee. Any property that was taken from him during that time was to be restored even if his family had been sold. But Israel had long since neglected those provisions, as it had many others. When Jesus declared that He was to proclaim a year of favor, He used a Greek word for *proclaim*, meaning "to herald." A herald or a proclaimer had to have certain qualities: a strong voice, an ability to deliver news exactly as given to him, and an ability to speak in the assembly on behalf of the chairman or president. This herald announced: "This is the year of God's favor. This is the time that fulfils all that was foreshadowed in the year of jubilee."

The Father had chosen to show

the riches of His grace toward His people. Like the expression "the day of the Lord," which describes a period of time often lasting much longer than a day, the "year of God's favor" was meant to last much longer than a single calendar year. Jesus was inaugurating a jubilee for us as a way of life.

Ministry of Reconciliation

The Apostle John says that Jesus was the explanation of the Father: "No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him" (Jn. 1:18 NAS). In those five statements from Luke chapter 4 Jesus reveals to us much about the Father. Whereas we distrust the Father because of our fallen nature, through Jesus we see the Father's goodness. He sent His Son to earth not only because His people were in need of healing and deliverance, but also because they had a much greater need to be reconciled to Him:

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them (2 Cor. 5:18-19 NAS).

Jesus revealed to us the Father so that we in turn could be reconciled to Him. □



Joseph Garlington is senior pastor of Pittsburgh Covenant Church.

**Lead Sheets and
Accompaniment Tapes
Now Available!**

***"Your music is a
breath of fresh air
in the body of Christ.
I am excited to see
someone bringing
quality music into the
Church."***

Dan Felty—Music Department
Family Worship Center
Tulsa, OK



Join HOSANNA! MUSIC™—A Leading Source of New Songs for Worshiping Churches

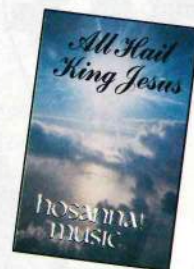
Music leaders, musicians, and pastors from across the country have shared with us how HOSANNA! MUSIC tapes have been an excellent source of new songs for them and their churches. Some leaders have played HOSANNA! MUSIC tapes in their small meetings, and others in their church's premeeting prayer times.

You'll find it easy to learn and to teach new songs because the words are printed on the back of each cassette box cover. Many people have appreciated the fact that they can also order lead sheets (which include the melody line, lyrics, and chords) from HOSANNA! MUSIC ministry for each tape.

You'll pay just \$7.95 (postage and handling included) for the tapes as you receive them. If you're not completely satisfied, you can return your tape without further obligation.

**Don't miss another HOSANNA!
MUSIC tape...order yours today!
SEND NO MONEY!**

To begin receiving HOSANNA! MUSIC tapes, to join the lead sheet program, or to receive information on the accompaniment tapes, simply fill out the response card found in this issue or write to HOSANNA! MUSIC, P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of your first tape or set of lead sheets.



hosanna! music™
New Songs for Worshiping Churches

"EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW"

What on earth is God saying about discipling the nations?

by Ern Baxter



Every knee should bow... every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11).

We tend to think of that New Testament scripture in a second coming or judgmental context. But if we trace its Old Testament roots, we find it was written in a gospel context. Isaiah 45:22-23 says, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth....That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear."

Before history winds down God will have a people who as the ultimate prophetic community will so obey Him and respond to the authority of His Word as to bring the nations into obedience to Jesus Christ. That community will be the delegated authority of God in the earth, which will speak to the nations, minister to the nations, heal the nations, and bring the nations under the rule of Jesus Christ. The Son will then offer the world up to the Father and He will receive it gladly as the work of His hands.

As part of that prophetic community, we must be informed, instructed, and inspired by the Word because the Word is ultimate. It is the final authority in all matters of what God is like, what man is like, and what nations are like. Because God intends to use us to affect the nations, we must see what God is saying through His Word about the nations and how He intends to deal with them.

God Creates Nations

First, I want to look at the nations providentially. Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." The world belongs to God. The Scriptures demonstrate that He creates nations; they don't just happen:

Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem

and Ham and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah; and from these the whole earth was populated (Gen. 9:18-19 NAS).

From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations (Gen. 10:5 NAS).

These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, by their nations....These are the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, according to their nations. These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood (vv. 20, 31-32 NAS).

Then in Psalm 86:9, we read, "All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord; and they shall glorify Thy name" (NAS). God has proprietary rights to all nations because He made them. They didn't come about by a fortuitous concurrence of atoms. They are the product of God's creative, providential purpose.

But God has not only made the nations—He has historically determined their geographical boundaries and their time periods. Acts 17:26 contains the finest account of the divine philosophy of history in the entire Bible:

And He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation (NAS).

God Chose One Nation

In all His creation, God made a

sovereign choice of one nation. Deuteronomy 32:8-9 says:

"When the Most High parcelled out the nations, when he dispersed all mankind, he laid down the boundaries of every people according to the number of the sons of God; but the Lord's share was his own people, Jacob was his allotted portion" (NEB).

When God made the nations, He made them in terms of some kind of angelic oversight, which the rest of the Bible bears out. But He reserved for His own immediate oversight the nation of Israel, which He chose not because it was greater or better, but out of the sovereign good pleasure of His purpose. He chose it to be the instrument of His communication and purpose to the world. "What advantage then hath the Jew?" says Paul. "Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God" (Rom. 3:1-2).

In Job 12:23 we read, "He makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away" (NAS). God determines history. History is not happenstance. It is tied in with the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. God has said, in effect, "I started this and I will perpetuate it until I'm ready to stop it. But I do not offer it to anyone else's jurisdiction."

Christians need to look soberly at what goes on throughout the world, for the earth is the Lord's. He sustains it; He administers it; and He has a purpose for everything He is doing. When history winds up through all the labyrinthine perplexities that historians have wandered, they will look back with wonder as they see a pattern of infinite intricacy that God has woven through the centuries. But if we as God's people do not believe He rules the nations, there is not much use for us to respond to His commission to preach the gospel to and to disciple all nations.

The Delegates of High Heaven

The Church is the prophetic community that shares in the oversight of the nations. We are not a bunch of slaves and underlings wandering through life aimlessly. We have dignity and poise as the sons of God. We are the delegates of high heaven. We stand and minister in His courts daily and go forth from His high presence to walk the highways of earth and speak into history as those who have been inspired in a prophetic community by the prophetic voice. We are the elect; we are the people of God; we are corulers with King Jesus. We are the men and women through whom history is going to be made. We are the people of God! We are important!

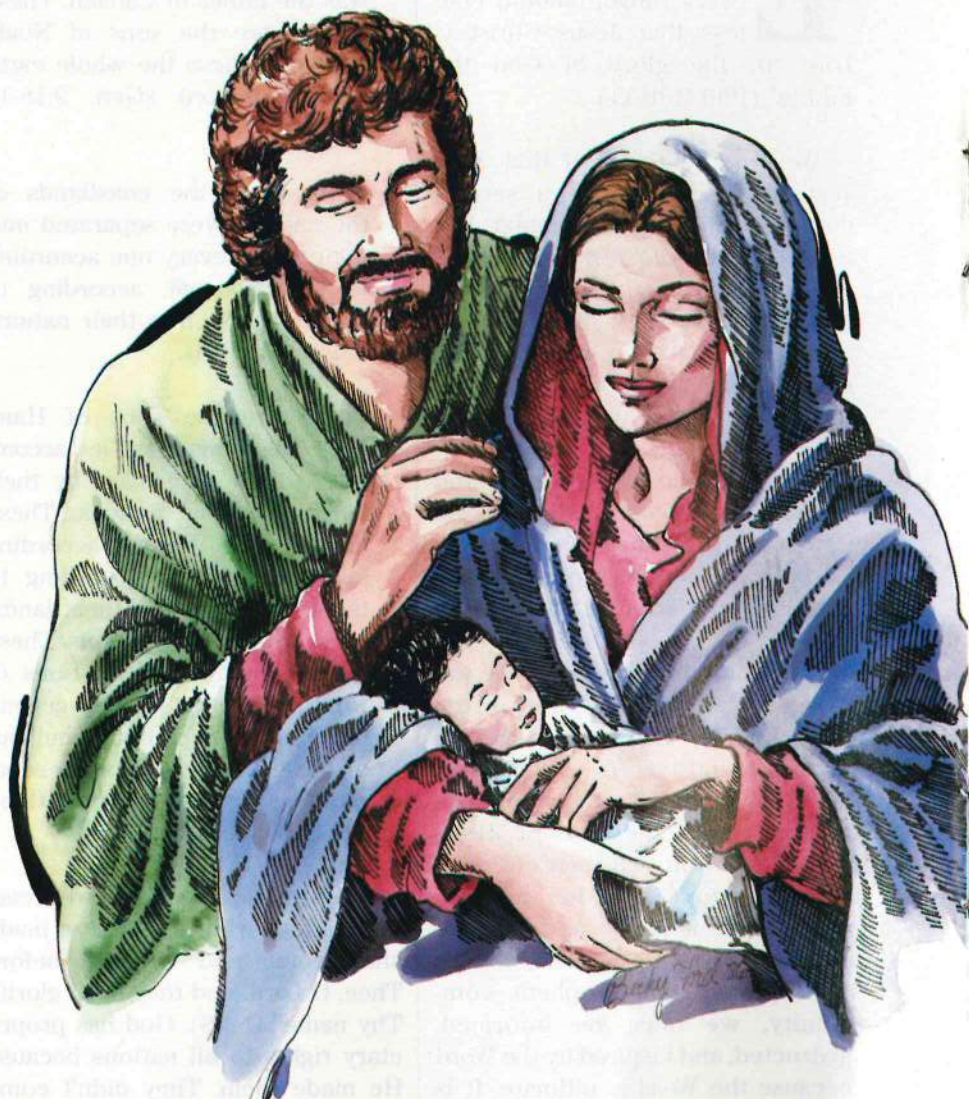
When we were converted to Jesus, we were called, as Lazarus was called, out of the tomb. D. L. Moody once said that if Jesus hadn't specifically said, "Lazarus, come forth," the whole graveyard would have come forth. All of us who name the name of Christ are the result of a direct command of God, who stood at the tomb of our spiritual deadness and cried our name, and we came jumping out in our grave clothes and stood there mumbling through our face cloth until godly men came and let us see light.

When Lazarus came out of the tomb he didn't have much light, but he had life. Jesus said, "Come forth," and there he stood bound with his face under a cloth. Interestingly, Jesus didn't go up and unwind him and take the cloth off his face. He turned to His disciples and said, "You loose him. You let him go." It's our job to take off the face cloth and unwind it.

Our destiny is something more than being a little knot of people waiting to die and go to heaven. We are here to light the earth and salt the world, and under God, make history, more so than anyone else.

Haggai 2:7 says:

"And I will shake all the nations;



and they will come with the wealth of all nations; and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord of hosts" (NAS).

Can we latch on to that? That word is spoken out of revelation to our faith. It's not grandiose talk. It's the Word, which was given to those who would become the molding force of God in history, and we are that people.

Acts 14:16 says, "And in the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways" (NAS). At times God permits nations to do things that are unseemly. That's part of His program—to let them fill up the cup of their iniquity to the brim. But while they are thinking they are

filling their cup and getting away with it, the enemy is subterraneously coming in under their palace. As the ancient king sat drinking wine from the golden goblets of the sanctuary, he looked up and saw handwriting on the wall and wanted to know what it meant. But even as he was reading the handwriting on the wall, the enemy was coming in through secret tunnels under the city to take his kingdom.

We don't know how God does things. That's entirely His business. Our business is to become a vital, participating part of a prophetic community that gets excited about everything that happens in the world because it knows that God is exercising His rulership over the nations. Nothing happens by chance but

by a grand design that was patterned before the world began. All things are operating under the counsel of His will. Whatever happens, we can get excited about it because back of it is the God who judges the nations.

The Redemption of Nations

We have looked at the nations providentially, and now I want to look at them in terms of redemption. We are inclined to preach a gospel of individual salvation, which is proper but not total. In the process, we've lost something. We've been so busy getting people saved that we have forgotten that God is the God of the whole earth. He is interested in what goes on in Washington, Moscow, and Peking because He has ordained the men who are there.

In Psalm 67:1-2 we see how God's redemptive plan relates to the nations:

God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us—that Thy way may be known on the earth, Thy salvation among all nations (NAS).

God's saving way among the nations must come out of the blessing that rests upon the redeemed community. That is based on the promise to our forefather Abraham in Genesis 18:17-18:

And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?" (NAS).

I have a hard time handling the exclusivism I hear coming from some Evangelicals. Jesus Christ tasted death for every man. When He sat down at the right hand of God as a prince and a Savior, He reached down and wrote His signature across the earth. He said, in effect, "I've placed My name over every nation. I claim every one."

That was His perfect right, for the Father had said to Him, "Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance" (Ps. 2:8 NAS).

God's purpose is to save the nations. If we doubt that, we can't obey the great commission. If we don't believe it is God's purpose to save every last man and woman in the earth, then we are not fit vessels to bear the gospel proclamation. It is God's purpose to exercise His sovereign election and selection, not mine. It is my business to speak to the nations and tell them to come under the lordship of Christ.

The Projection of Redemption

The projection of this redemption is found in Isaiah:

The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it will come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it (Is. 2:1-2 NAS).

God has spoken infallibly through the prophets. He is going to put His government at the top of all the governments, and the nations are going to flow unto it. He is going to bring nations to bow their feet before King Jesus at the trumpet voice of the prophetic community of His redeemed people.

Isaiah 25:6-7 says:

And the Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations (NAS).

God will not only remove the veil from Israel, but He will see to

a mass salvation of the Gentile nations. Someone might object, "Baxter, you don't read the newspapers. Things are only getting worse." I read the papers, and I watch the evening news, but I don't get my theology from either of them. I turn from their squalid, confined conjectures to the brilliant, revealed declarations of the God who makes history.

The Faith Factor

When Mary, the little peasant virgin, stood before that great imposing angel and asked, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" the angel said, "The power of the Highest shall overshadow thee" (Lk. 1:34-35). She still didn't understand the mechanics of it, but she let revelation speak to faith. She looked back over history to the degree she knew history and couldn't remember a single instance in which any woman had had a child apart from cohabitation with a male. But because she had a faith factor in her constitution, she responded to the revelation: "Be it unto me according to thy word" (v. 38).

When God says He's going to bring the nations under His government, my first response might be, "But I don't know how You're going to do it."

And He would say, "I will perfect my prophetic community until its voice is like a trumpet and its example is as pure and crystal as the little virgin girl. The power of the Holy Spirit will come upon it and there will be a time in history when I will do a work and it will be light at eventide. I will establish My government and the nations will stream to it."

I don't know how it's going to happen but I believe it.

Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Mt. 28:18-19 NAS). And He meant just that. It is a crying shame for us to bring that high mandate down to a place where it becomes a matter

of handing out a few tracts to salve our conscience. A mandate is resting on us as a prophetic people that requires that we disciple the nations of the earth.

I can understand when the spies went in to spy out the promised land and saw what they saw, men twice as tall as they were, walled cities that they had never even imagined, and chariots with human-sized projections from their wheel hubs that would cut them off at the ankles, that they returned and said, "We can't go in there. They'll eat us."

But God said, in effect, "You don't understand. I told you that I have given you the land. I have put the fear of you in them. I don't care if they're three miles tall, and the walls are six miles wide. I am speaking out of My ultimate authoritative word into what should be a faith receptacle, and I'm saying to look at My word and go in and take that land. If you're going to look at those giants and those walled cities instead of looking at My word, you're going to come up with ten thousand rationalizations why you shouldn't go in. But if you'll go in on the strength of My word, and one of those big fellows comes up and confronts you, you can just look up at him and blow on him and he'll fall over. I assure you."

We say, "Well, God, I don't know. I never saw a giant fall over when I blew on him." That's the problem, isn't it? It's hard for us to respond in faith to a revelation of God if we don't have a precedent to support it.

Practical Suggestions

In light of God's revealed will for the nations we as His people can take some practical actions. Here are six:

1. Think biblically of the nations, not politically, economically, or culturally. We must amass in the storehouse of our treasure all those scriptures that tell how God esteems the nations, and then start to think

biblically of them.

2. Contribute to the unity of the witnessing prophetic community. Jeremiah 4:1-2 says:

"If you will return, O Israel," declares the Lord, "then you should return to Me. And if you will put away your detested things from My presence, and will not waver, and you will swear, 'As the Lord lives,' in truth, in justice, and in righteousness; then the nations will bless themselves in Him, and in Him they will glory" (NAS).

We must do everything in our power to bring about the renovation, restoration, and adjustment of the redeemed community, working avidly and industriously at breaking down the causes of disunity. It is only as the redeemed prophetic community is functioning in the purity of its calling that the nations will hear the trumpet call of the gospel.

3. Consider ways to address the nations. We've given altar calls for years on a Sunday night, with one or two dribbling up to the altar, while the nations have become further entrenched in darkness. But Psalm 2:10 says, "Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth" (NAS). Addressing the nations falls primarily to the Church leaders, so we must pray for them that they will know how to speak the word.

4. Proclaim truth as it relates to every area of life: economic, educational, political, and social. The lordship of Jesus Christ is not just over a soul that's going to hell; it's over an entire being that needs to function under the government of God.

5. Remind the nations of what they've forgotten. Psalm 9:17 says, "The wicked will return to Sheol, even all the nations who forget God" (NAS). I'm glad for men who are reminding the nations of what they've forgotten. I'm glad for men

with moral courage in politics who have stood up and under the fire of nasty and cheap darts of critics boldly and straightforwardly have said to America, "You have forgotten the sanctity of human life, the sanctity of the human body, and God's right to declare His law." When we call a nation back and remind it of what it's forgotten, we stand in the true tradition of the prophetic community.

6. Engage in regular and unceasing community prayer for all men and leaders. First Timothy 2:1-4 says:

I urge that entreaties and prayers...be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved (NAS).

Until we respond to that mandate, we have no right to criticize a nation. We have no right to point a finger of scorn at a rotten politician until we have corporately importuned God to release righteousness into high places.

The time has come for us to be more than a soul-saving force. The time has come for us to be a nation-saving force, a world-saving force, to become a community that represents the Word of God, which says that all nations shall come to Him. We are the prophetic instrument to bring it to pass. □



Ern Baxter, a longtime leader in the charismatic renewal, pastored a large evangelical church in Canada for more than twenty years. A popular conference speaker, he has traveled extensively during the past fifty-three years. He is senior pastor of Christ Chapel in San Diego, California.



God With Us

The key to peace on earth and goodwill toward men

by Hugo Zelaya

Christmas has always been a special time for me—not because I received many toys when I was a child, or gifts later on when I was a teenager. Life was rough on the banana plantation where my father worked as a laborer, and toys were a luxury we could not afford. Christmas gifts were usually shoes and clothes for the school year. It was the best our parents could do for us, and I am still grateful for their sacrifice in giving.

Christmas has a way of taking us back to our childhood like no other time does. As I look back I remember so many events in my life that are related to the Scriptures.

Like Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem, we traveled from Nicaragua to Costa Rica by ox cart and donkey. Golsito, where we would make our home, was a frontier town in the jungle, and like Bethlehem was inhospitable. Yet my memories of those days are of a happy childhood, full of life, adventure, and the love of my parents. And that also is what Christmas is about.

I remember the air of mystery surrounding the supernatural events as my parents would tell us the Christmas story year after year. Angels and men were mixed in a plot never acted before or since. God had suddenly lifted all heavenly

restrictions and allowed His creatures to mingle in the rare privilege of looking on the greatest event in human history. The angels were freely coming and going, bringing the message of peace and goodwill among men. The night was radiant with all of nature's splendor. The stars were shining in an open sky, with one star closer than all the others. Its light was brighter and pointed to a definite place.

Men, rich and lowly, wise and simple, great and small, took notice of this extraordinary star, and with amazement found themselves irresistibly drawn to where it pointed.

But was there a mistake? The center of the heavenly attention was not a great or well-known city. It was Bethlehem, a small and obscure town. There was no palace, not even a humble dwelling. The God-child had been born in a stable, and was lying in a manger. Joseph, who would raise Him, was a carpenter, and Mary, His mother, was a humble woman. But the glory of God was in the midst of the place, upon all of them, and the Son of God was also their son, the Son of Man.

The fullness of time had come and God had sent forth His Son (see Galatians 4:4). The whole of God's design had been moving to this particular moment in time. His eternal purpose was being fulfilled right on schedule.

The Word Made Flesh

John, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and without hesitation, declares the Deity of Jesus: "The Word was God" and "the Word became flesh" (Jn. 1:1, 14 NAS). The meaning of Christmas is the coming to earth of God's greatest gift to man: God Himself. Jesus as the Word made flesh is the communication of God, the declaration of His mind and of His will. The value of the Incarnation is that Jesus came to reveal God to humanity and to represent God to the world. The writer of Hebrews says it this way:

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son....And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature (Heb. 1:1-3 NAS).

That means that when Jesus of Nazareth spoke, it was God speaking. "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me" (Jn. 7:16 NAS). When He acted, God was speaking. "The very works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me" (Jn. 5:36 NAS). When He awoke in the middle of the storm, God was speaking. "Why are you timid, you men of little faith?" (Mt. 8:26 NAS). It was as if He were saying: "Didn't you hear the Father speaking?" Just because He was Jesus, God was speaking. "This is My beloved Son...hear Him!" (Mt. 17:5 NAS). Jesus is the Word made flesh.

Remember:

Friday, December 5, is a national day of prayer and fasting.

This month, please focus your prayers on these topics:

- Terrorism: Bind the forces of darkness that control international terrorism; pray for protection for travelers and public officials, and for the safe release of men and women being held hostage.
- Missing children: Pray for protection for and safe return of missing children, and encouragement for their families.

"Thou shalt break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor....There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace" (Is. 9:4, 7 NAS).

God had made Himself known before. When He created the universe, God spoke and made Himself known, for it tells of His glory without speech, words, or voice (see Psalm 19:1-3). When He made man, God expressed Himself, and He wanted man to continue speaking for Him. Man was created to tell and to live in representation of God. Through disobedience man lost communion with God and thus the power of communicating Him.

God spoke through the prophets and through His mighty acts so that man was not left ignorant of His will and desires. But in most cases it was secondhand communication, and was not entirely satisfying to Him. He has always wanted to speak for Himself. At Mount Sinai He would have communicated directly with His people, but how could a terrible and awesome God do it without fulminating such frail creatures as we mortals are? We judge not Israel for trembling and staying at a distance and asking Moses to let God speak through him, "lest we die" (see Exodus 20:18-21).

When He spoke to Moses on the mountain, Moses asked God to show him His glory. "You cannot see it, for no man can see Me and live," was God's reply. "But there is a place and a time and a mountain where you will see just a little of My glory" (Ex. 33:20-23, free translation).

And He was transfigured...and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses...appeared to them, talking with Him (Mt. 17:2-3 NAS).

Moses' desire to see God was a reflection of God's own desire to reveal Himself directly to man. Jesus is God in the flesh, the Word incarnate, Immanuel, God with us.

The Meaning of the Incarnation

There are many things that can

be said regarding the meaning of the Incarnation. But they can all be reduced to one tremendous, all-important purpose: the redemption of man—not just for man's sake, but for God's sake as well.

The very name Jesus, given to Him by the Father, means "Savior." "It is He who will save His people from their sins" (Mt. 1:21 NAS). His coming as the Savior of mankind reveals the condition of man and the eternal purpose of God for him.

All of humanity suffered the consequence of Adam's disobedience when the serpent mislead him, offering him a different way, a shortcut to be like God. (Was not that also Satan's aim when he tempted Jesus in the desert?) Adam knew he was made in the image of God, and that he was to pattern his life according to God's revelation of Himself. The picture the serpent painted of God was not God at all. Nevertheless, Adam believed it, disobeyed God's commandment, and sealed his and humanity's downfall.

God wanted man to be the revealer of divinity in the earth. He made him capable of coming to a place of such intimate communion with Him that He Himself would be seen in man. God has always wanted more than just a reflection in man. He has always wanted to be in man and man in Him.

The false picture that the serpent painted of God is what man ultimately became: independent, self-sufficient, self-seeking. Wanting to be like God without waiting for God to pattern Himself in him, Adam became totally unlike God. How different is the attitude of our Lord, totally obedient, always depending on the Father, forever deferring to Him.

In the Incarnation, God shows us what He is really like, and offers humanity a second chance to become like Him. It is also a way to satisfy His justice if man is to be redeemed. He must come down Himself to do it, and not as God,

but as a man. In the book of Revelation, God identifies Himself as "Him who is and who was and *who is to come*" (Rev. 1:4 NAS, italics mine). The whole of sacred history is a series of His comings, but none was total or complete until Jesus came. Then the glory of the Lord was revealed and all flesh saw it together (see Isaiah 40:5).

A New Man

The Incarnation means more than God in Jesus. It is us in Him as well. The constitution of the new man is one of Paul's favorite themes; he says that we were created in Christ Jesus into one new man (see Ephesians 2:10, 15).

When God became man in Jesus Christ, He opened the door for humanity to fulfil the eternal purpose He had for Adam: that man be so intimately related with Him as to allow the divine nature to be the dominant factor in his life, although not to the obliteration of his human nature. Jesus proved that man can have the two natures and be guided by the divine. The implications are both individual and collective.

Jesus draws men to form with Him that new man, which is the Church, the people of God, the body of Christ. So real is His identification with us that when Saul persecuted the Church, Christ took personal offense (see Acts 9:4).

The meaning of Christmas is that God "sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him" (1 Jn. 4:9 NAS) in that new man.

The Mission

The greatest revelation of the gospel is the boundless love of the Father for the unlovely and the unwanted. "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8 NAS). The Church exists because the Son of God came in the flesh to initiate its mission in the earth: to bring sin-

ners unto salvation.

The mystery of the Incarnation cannot be reduced to the exultation of the Church only. Its mission is to communicate the love of God in the gospel of salvation. What Jesus did to manifest the love of the Father on earth, the Church must do also.

I, like many others, have felt the burden and the urgency to proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom. In 1971, after living in the United States for fourteen years, my wife, Alice, and I returned to Costa Rica as faith missionaries. In the past fifteen years we have seen the power of the gospel in the people here.

The Church in Costa Rica has been experiencing revival, and we have seen the Protestant church become a significant force in society. Our own home groups have grown to become a church with four congregations in San Jose, with five full-time and two part-time pastors, supported entirely by their congregations. We have also worked in fourteen other areas in Costa Rica, and with ministries in Mexico and other parts of Central America.

Jesus did not shun the miseries of men. He bore the consequences of sin to free humanity from those same consequences. The mission of the Church is to break the chains that keep men from attaining the highest aspirations that God has for them. And even though it may seem simplistic to some to attribute to sin all the miseries of men, nevertheless it is so. All the factors that make men miserable derive from the corruption and depravity of man; even those elements in nature that contribute to it are the results of the curse pronounced by God because of man's disobedience (see Genesis 3:17-19).

I have seen the power of the gospel redeem men from that curse. God has helped us touch many different people, such as the Guaymi Indians from both sides of the Costa Rica-Panama border. If there are people who exemplify misery, they are the Indians in Latin America.

They are heathens in the strictest sense of the word.

The first Guaymi who came to us were Tereso and his wife, Antonia, and their six children, a family that had been exploited by Panamanians who use Indians as cheap labor. The pastor in one of our fellowships in that area had been crossing the border into Panama to evangelize and Tereso heard the gospel from him. One night, at about midnight, the pastor heard a knock at his door. It was Tereso and his family, who had walked six hours to get there. After the pastor recovered from his surprise, he asked them what they were doing there.

"I came because of what you said," replied Tereso. "I want you to be my shepherd."

The pastor ushered them into his already full house, put them up for the night, and began a relationship that has endured since.

Through Tereso and the Word made flesh in this pastor, fourteen other Guaymi families have come out of darkness into His marvelous light. Soon, a young Indian couple will be sent from that church as missionaries to their own people. The gospel they will preach will be the gospel that delivered them, the gospel that has the power to set men free from the curse.

The Incarnation is the revelation of the power of God to redeem humanity and nature from the curse brought on by Adam's sin. The proclamation of the gospel has the power to deliver the nations from the miseries of the curse. May God help us do it so that there would be peace on earth and goodwill among all men. □



Hugo Zelaya is editor of *Vino Nuevo*, the Spanish-language version of *New Wine Magazine*.

When a man swims the icy waters of a river to rescue a drowning passenger from a sinking plane, our society responds with admiration and applause, and well it should. Such an act is a natural response from the image of God within us. God is a Savior.

I know of no more important statement that *New Wine* could make in its benediction than to declare God's grand act of salvation through the incarnation of Jesus Christ, and to declare the Incarnation's legacy to mankind. His great and compassionate act commands our admiration and worship.

Infinite Interests

It's not as though the rescuer on the banks of the icy river has no other interests. He has a wife and children, a job, hobbies, and much himself to live for. But at that moment, his whole attention is focused on one overriding issue: rescue the perishing.

God Himself has broad interests. Can we say just how broad? David tries in Psalm 8.

How majestic is Thy name in all the earth, who hast displayed Thy splendor above the heavens!...When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained (vv. 1, 3 NAS).

David was inspired as he meditated on the infinite work of God. What if David had had access to modern telescopes themselves floating in space to peer beyond the distortion of earth's atmosphere? He would have seen some stars that are no bigger than a large city, and others that are as big as the sun's intersolar system. If those bigger stars were positioned where our sun is, they would push the earth millions of miles into space. Earth's landscape would be overshadowed by one giant star from horizon to horizon.

With such stars lumbering

through space one might think it's terribly crowded with large numbers of behemoths moving at high speeds, crashing into one another. But that is not the case. Space is no mere puddle. It's so vast that when one wasp flies over Europe, Europe is more crowded with wasps than space is with stars. Space is an ocean so large that the great galaxies flee away from each other at blinding speeds, yet still seem as close as before and never find the outer shores of space.

A Special Interest

Our God has broad interests. Who can tell of His wonders and works out there? What amazed David and amazes us most of all is not that He has done such great things, but that having done all those things, He is still able to be mindful of man, who is drowning in the icy waters of his own sinfulness. God stood on the brink of His sovereignty and at the edge of our own offending willfulness, as it were, and "dove into" our situation to help us.

When I consider Thy heavens... what is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him (Ps. 8:3-4 NAS)?

This is the most amazing thing. God is able to put His infinite vitality into focus for one mission of mercy. He loves mankind. Mankind bears His image. Mankind is His special interest.

Among the countless stars of amazing size and all the planets in orbit around them, not one is so favored as earth, this terrestrial ball that was created as a habitation for mankind. Mankind, that species of God-like creatures, bears the image of God and is His special interest even though he is fallen.

The God who splattered space with orbiting wheels of light suddenly focused on an isolated, drowning mankind, and began telling His prophets, "I'm going to do some-

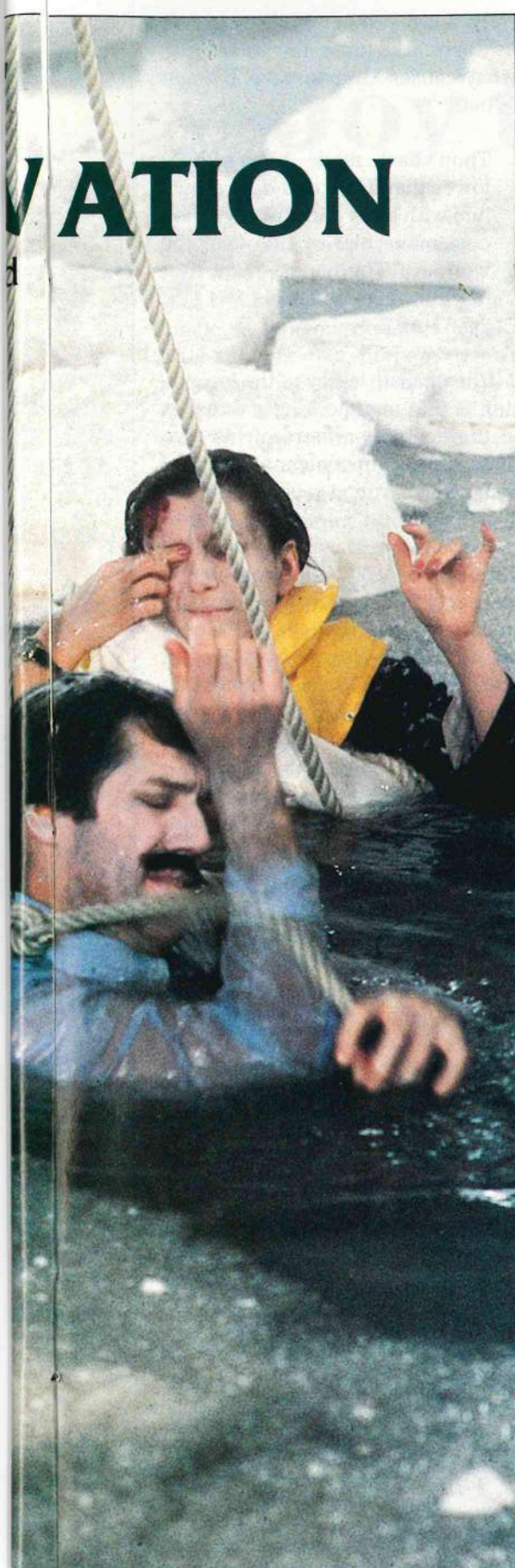
AN ACT OF SALV

When the Son of God became flesh

by Charles Simpson



VATION



thing to deliver him."

It's recorded by Isaiah that the Lord said, "Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel (God with us)" (Is. 7:14 NAS). Again He said to Isaiah:

A child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this (Is. 9:6-7 NAS).

Over and over again the prophets relay the message, "God is preparing to act. He is mindful of man. His rescue will be through a child that will be His own Son. His Son will save us!"

The Incarnation

Religious leaders knew the references but, jaded by repetition and consumed with their priestly duties, the "fullness of time" overtook them. Far from Jerusalem's busy priests and the cacophony of animals awaiting sacrifice, the mighty angel Gabriel stood before a pure and simple woman who deeply loved God.

"Hail, woman richly blessed! The Lord is with you" (Lk. 1:28 NAS). Mary stood awed and mystified by this agent of the majestic creator of the heavens and earth.

"Do not be afraid," he continued. "You will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus (Deliverer). He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever;

and His kingdom will have no end" (vv. 30-33 NAS).

Mary asked what one would expect: "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" (v. 34 NAS).

The answer was clear. It would be God's action. Gabriel explained:

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God" (v. 35 NAS).

The incarnation of God's Son in human flesh was God's act. He took the initiative, not Joseph, not Mary, not humanity, but a sovereign, saving God bridged the gulf from heaven to earth, from the holy to the unholy, from strength to weakness. The Lord chose Mary, sent Gabriel, sent the Holy Spirit, came upon Mary, and overshadowed her, and she conceived. In a unique way this child would one day turn His face toward heaven and say, "My Father."

Faced with the angel, the message, the promise, and the choice, Mary said, "Be it done to me according to your word" (v. 38 NAS). In a few days, she would be filled with the Holy Spirit and overcome with joy. She would then declare:

"My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name" (vv. 46-49 NAS).

Mary's praise was a direct result of recognizing that the Incarnation was God's action.

The Legacy

Mary continues her praise with things that the Lord has accomplished in the Incarnation. Each

one of these accomplishments begins with "He has." They are God's acts. She has been blessed to gestate the purposes and power of God:

1. "He has done mighty deeds with His arm" (v. 51 NAS). God's arm was not too short to reach and rescue.
2. "He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart" (v. 51 NAS). Those who thought God could not bypass them indeed were bypassed as God reached to the humble.
3. "He has brought down rulers from their thrones" (v. 52 NAS). His arm would remove oppressive rulers and deliver His people from ungodly governments.
4. "He...has exalted those who were humble" (v. 52 NAS). His Son would be with sinners and common people. Mary saw herself included among the common people.
5. "He has filled the hungry with good things" (v. 53 NAS). Jesus' ministry would fill those who hungered and thirsted for the things of God.
6. "He has...sent away the rich empty-handed" (v. 53 NAS). The Son of Majesty would not be impressed with human purchasing power. His deliverance would be free.
7. "He has given help to Israel His servant...as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and His offspring forever" (vv. 54-55 NAS). Jesus would be the promised seed to save the sons and daughters of Abraham.

Mary's faith and praise were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Incarnation did all of that, and it keeps on doing great things. A man wrote to me in response to my radio program:

I was about to commit suicide. I'd lost my wife and everything. But I heard you talk about a purpose for living. I've come to Christ and now have a reason to live. I'm doing something with my life.

The Incarnation did that.

The Incarnation bridged God's supply to our need. It was and

remains an act of salvation. His success is more than the conception and birth of Christ. God's mission of mercy entered into Mary's womb, issued a baby named Jesus, produced perfect obedience, submitted to the cross, bore all sin, conquered the grave, and ascended to the Father's right hand. His mission of mercy must be seen as one complete act. Should the rescuer fail in one aspect of the mission, the entire mission would falter. But not so with Christ. Every phase of His redemptive visitation to this planet accomplished its purpose.

The Incarnation bridged God's supply to our need. It was and remains an act of salvation.

The Legacy Continues

John tells us of the personal legacy that is ours in 1 John chapter 5. Verse 1 says, "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (NAS). Verse 4 continues, "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world" (NAS). Verse 5 continues, "And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (NAS).

The Incarnation is not only a historical act; it is an eternal act that continues to transform those who believe that God sent His Son, Jesus. Literally millions of people are being made conquerors over all kinds of opposition by simple faith in the act of salvation that God performed in Jesus Christ. He is still Immanuel, God with us.

David reflected all of us when he asked, "What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him?" But the

Holy Spirit doesn't leave David or us there. He gives the answer to what causes God to take thought of man:

Thou hast made him a little lower than God, and dost crown him with glory and majesty! Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet (Ps. 8:5-6 NAS).

The ultimate legacy of the Incarnation is that man no longer thrashes in the deep icy waters of his own lostness; he becomes a restored son, an heir ruling regally over the creation of God.

New Wine Magazine has tried faithfully to carry the gospel and to teach people how to grow up in Christ. We believe it closes on its highest theme. Next month, you will receive our new bimonthly magazine, *Christian Conquest*, which will come to you by virtue of your unfulfilled subscription to *New Wine*. As subscriptions expire, it will be continued to all who make contributions to Integrity Communications or any of its several ministries.

The purpose of this new magazine will be "equipping you for action." It will contain the same timely teaching in a noncommercial format. The teaching will be aimed at activating members of Christ's body to become doers of the Word and to fulfil the universal purpose of the Incarnation. *Christian Conquest: Equipping You for Action* makes the statement that we want to make to the individual, the Church, the world, and creation: Because Jesus came and conquered sin, Satan, and death in the flesh, we will triumph through Him. □



Charles Simpson, senior pastor of Covenant Church of Mobile (Alabama), ministers extensively throughout the United States and abroad. He is also chairman of the Integrity Communications Board of Directors.

Nine ways you can bring Joy to the World!

by Diana Scimone

It happens every Christmas. Somewhere between the tree trimming, cookie baking, and mistletoe hanging comes a sneaky little thought that perhaps there's something missing. In spite of the flurry of activity that is part of this season, how come when January 1 rolls around, it often brings with it an empty feeling?

Without casting aside the traditional ways of celebrating Christ's coming, there are ways to experience the real meaning of His birth, and at the same time share it with others. Here are a few ideas:

Christmas Shopping Tour

Buying Christmas gifts for family members is part of the holiday season, but for underprivileged children it's as much a fantasy as Santa and his elves. The Jaycees organization, however, has been turning dreams into realities for years with its annual Christmas Shopping Tour, sponsored by many of the 5,489 Jaycees chapters around the coun-



One outreach at Christmas is entertaining foreign students.

try. Each December variety stores, such as F. W. Woolworth, set aside one Saturday morning for the tour. Volunteers escort children around the store and help them pick out gifts for family members.

To volunteer: Call a local Jaycees chapter.

Recycling Christmas Cards

Shortly after Christmas most people wonder what to do with the row of Christmas cards draped across the mantle. They're too pretty to throw out, but there's no room to store them. Here's the answer: Each year neglected and abused youngsters who live at St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Nevada have a project to help them earn pocket money by recycling used Christmas cards. Simply cut off the fronts of attractive religious cards and drop them in the mail.

To volunteer: Write St. Jude's Ranch for Children, P.O. Box 985, Boulder City, Nevada 89005-0985.

Operation Santa Claus

Fifty years ago, clerks at the New York City Post Office found a way to respond to the hundreds of letters to Santa Claus they received at Christmastime. They dug into their own pockets to purchase food and toys for children who faced the prospect of empty stockings on Christmas morning. Through the years the program has grown, and last year the New York City Post Office received almost twenty thousand letters from children and elderly all over the world. Each year the public is invited to "play Santa" to the letter writers by sending them the gifts they've requested.

To volunteer: Write "Operation Santa Claus," Office of Public Affairs,

General Post Office, Room 3023, New York, New York 10199-9810. Volunteers can request a letter from a child (specify age) or an elderly person, either in New York City or in their own state.

Project Angel Tree

Children of inmates face the prospect of a bleak Christmas. Often the parent who remains at home cannot afford much in the way of presents or toys. Prison Fellowship has been working to change that with Project Angel Tree. Each December, volunteers set up Christmas trees in malls and decorate them with paper angels, each bearing the name of a child of a prisoner along with what the child would like for Christmas. Shoppers can purchase gifts for the children, and return them to the volunteers, who see that the children receive them in time for Christmas morning.

To volunteer: Volunteers are needed to staff the booths and serve as "angels" by purchasing gifts for



The Christmas Shopping Tour helps many underprivileged children.



Operation Blessing sponsors Christmas banquets for the needy through local churches.



Through the post office, volunteers help needy children and elderly who have written to Santa.

children. To find the nearest angel tree, contact Barbara Byar, Prison Fellowship, P.O. Box 17500, Washington, D.C. 20041; (703) 478-0100.

Alternative Christmas Campaign

Christmas doesn't have to be a major financial blowout, but each year we Americans spend twenty-five billion dollars on gifts and all the trimmings. The Alternative Christmas campaign encourages people to estimate what they spent last year on presents and decorations, and consider channeling twenty-five percent of that amount to a charitable project at their church. The group even has a film with information on how to sponsor alternative Christmas festivals and workshops geared to helping us resist holiday pressures.

To volunteer: Contact Alternatives, Box 429, Ellenwood, Georgia 30049; (404) 961-0102.

Operation Blessing

Operation Blessing is the humanitarian outreach sponsored by the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN). Although it is a year-round program, there are special events each Christmas, which volunteers can help with. Last Christmas, for example, needy farm families in Iowa received food and toys, and special donations went to children in war-torn Lebanon. The fifty Operation Blessing centers around the country also distribute food bas-

kets, and sponsor Christmas banquets for the needy in cooperation with local churches.

To volunteer: Contact Operation Blessing, CBN, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23463; (800) 420-0700.

International Students

Many international students cannot afford to go home for Christmas, and usually spend their vacation in deserted dorms. They would undoubtedly welcome the opportunity to spend part of the holidays with an American family to see what our Christmas celebration is like.

To volunteer: Call the international student office of a local university.

Or for a more structured program that a church might want to participate in, try Friendship International House, a Southern Baptist ministry that arranges for international students to spend the Christmas holidays in a city other than the one where they attend school.

To volunteer: Contact Friendship International House, 127 Ninth Avenue, N., Nashville, Tennessee 37234; (615) 251-2780.

A similar program is offered by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, which last year sponsored fourteen "Christmas Houseparties" in the United States and Canada.

To volunteer: Contact Inter-Varsity International Student Ministries, P.O. Box 7895, Madison,

Wisconsin 53707; (608) 257-1103.

Ronald McDonald House

When some children are in a hospital far from home, it's especially difficult for their families, who want to be near them but can't afford lengthy hotel stays. Ronald McDonald Houses provide a warm, homelike place for families to stay. Each December they need volunteers to help decorate the homes for Christmas and organize parties for the families staying there.

To volunteer: Contact a local Ronald McDonald House, or write 500 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611; (312) 836-7129.

Food for Christmas

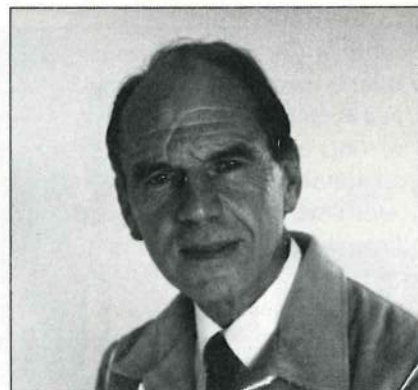
Temporaries, Incorporated, has been sponsoring a Food for Christmas drive for the past thirteen years in thirty cities around the country. During that time, it has collected more than a million cans of food to distribute to local charitable organizations. Volunteers are needed not only to donate canned goods, but also to staff collection points at grocery stores, malls, and other spots.

To volunteer: Contact Temporaries Food for Christmas Foundation, 1308 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 460-7840. □

Diana Scimone is an editorial assistant for New Wine.

CHINA MIRACLE

An interview with Arthur Wallis



It's difficult not to get excited about what's happening in the People's Republic of China (PRC) when you talk with Arthur Wallis, who has recently written a book, *China Miracle*, about the move of the Spirit there. As we talked with him, he stirred up in us an enthusiasm about the revival sweeping across this land that is seemingly closed to the gospel. We hope you'll be excited too when you read what he has to say.

New Wine: Would you give us some background on your interest in China?

Arthur Wallis: I've been interested in China since I was a small boy. I had met missionaries who served there, and had read the biographies of Hudson Taylor, John Sung, the Chinese evangelist, and several others. So when news began coming through about what God was doing in the PRC, I gathered all the

information I could about it.

NW: What would you say is the "China miracle"?

AW: The miracle is that in a strongly Marxist regime, which has been one of the most repressive regimes in the world, there has been a powerful spontaneous movement of the Holy Spirit that has the marks of New Testament Christianity clearly stamped upon it. It's not as though some big preacher or organization has set something in motion. This is God who has been at work here.

It's a miracle because it came out of a time of great pressure when it was thought that Christianity was completely destroyed. It has touched not only the provinces where the early missionary movement took place, but places where there was no missionary movement at all.

In an amazing way, the Spirit of God has been at work so that there are hardly any provinces in

the PRC where the marks of this move are not apparent, some manifesting much more powerfully than others. It's happened right across the country, from Inner Mongolia in the north, a sort of Chinese Siberia where people are banished for religious reasons, right down to the mountainous tribes on the borders of southern China.

One area where this move is apparent is in the communes. A commune in China is more than a farm with a few hundred workers; it sometimes consists of a number of towns or villages, and comprises several thousand people. At times, whole communes have given "thumbs down" to communism and "thumbs up" to Jesus. Christian workers from Hong Kong have visited a place and found only a few believers there. Six months later when they have returned, they have found there are only a few unbelievers. The whole commune has turned about, and there have



The "China miracle" is that despite a repressive Marxist regime, a powerful move of the Spirit of God has occurred there.



Hudson Taylor's life had a great impact on Arthur Wallis.



John Sung led many thousands of Chinese to the Lord.



There are now hardly any provinces in China where the marks of this current move of the Spirit of God are not apparent.

been confessions of Christ, even among party officials.

It is a miracle because all of this took place initially without any outside help from Christians in the free world apart from radio broadcasts, and in the face of a desperate shortage of Bibles, hymn books, and all forms of Christian literature. Sometimes there would only be three or four Bibles among several hundred believers.

Next Month: Christian Conquest Magazine

Look for the premiere issue of *Christian Conquest*, the magazine that will equip you for action. If you subscribe to *New Wine*, in January you'll automatically receive the first issue of *Christian Conquest* on the power of righteousness. You can look forward to these articles:

Charles Simpson shows that righteousness is vital to ensuring Christian victory. Ern Baxter points out that only God, and not man, is capable of generating the kind of righteousness that would make man acceptable to God. And we'll feature a special public affairs article to help you act on what you have read, as well as a question-and-answer column in which Charles Simpson responds to your questions.

All in the January *Christian Conquest*

NW: What has been the overall impact of this miracle?

AW: This is probably one of the swiftest advances of Christianity in the history of the Church, considering that at the time of the Communist takeover there were perhaps four million professing Christians in China. The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), in the period of Mao Tse-tung's leadership, seemed to destroy a great deal of what was nominally Christian, but out of it came a movement that now is conservatively estimated at thirty million—some would say fifty million—believers. Whether all those are born-again as we understand it, we have yet to fully discover. But at least they have turned "toward" Christ. A great proportion are genuinely born-again. They are Bible-believing Christians with a simple faith and a simple understanding of the Word of God, and we would recognize them and embrace them as brothers.

NW: Is the church in the PRC very open now?

AW: Not if you are meaning the official church, known as the Three-Self Patriotic Movement, that comes under the Religious Affairs Bureau, which is entirely political, and is responsible to the Chinese government for all that goes on in the official church. Christians can't evangelize or work with youth with-

out breaking the law. Yet the gospel is being preached and many are being saved. In the last analysis, however, the Chinese must obey their Communist bosses, which means Caesar is lord rather than Christ. The massive turning to Christ, with experiences of supernatural healing, angelic visitations, and so forth, that I record in *China Miracle* has been mainly in the unofficial house-church movement.

NW: What is the future of the Church in the PRC?

AW: The failure of Marxism in China has resulted in the frustration and disappointment of the masses. Into this vacuum has come the gospel. A lot of hardship, starvation, and loss of life have come through Communist policies. Mao Tse-tung was responsible for policies that wiped out thirty or forty million people, and that has left an indelible mark on the nation. So it's really the day of God's opportunity in the PRC, but we need to be careful not to spoil what God is doing there by acting presumptuously should the door to China open more widely.

NW: In *China Miracle* you mention that when the Communists took over they tolerated Christians because they needed their gifts and abilities, but once they got set up they just eliminated them. Is the reverse now true?

Are there some contributions that Christians can make to the overall progress of the country?

AW: Yes, and it's interesting that there is great opportunity for people from the West to go to the PRC to teach English. You don't have to be an English teacher, nor do you have to know Chinese. But there have been some bad experiences with westerners who have gone to their universities and gotten involved in drugs and sex. As a result, there have been cases where the Chinese authorities have actually expressed a preference for English teachers who are Christians. That's amazing!

NW: Are there any final comments you'd like to make?

AW: There's one aspect of what is happening in the PRC that is not so easy to receive: God wants us in the West to face what it really means to be a disciple of Christ. That is one great truth the Chinese Church is demonstrating. The people realize that Jesus never promised a picnic. He never suggested that we only need to face the cross when we get converted, and that after that we could leave it behind and press on into the enjoyment of the goodies. He said that we've got to pick up the cross and carry it with us.

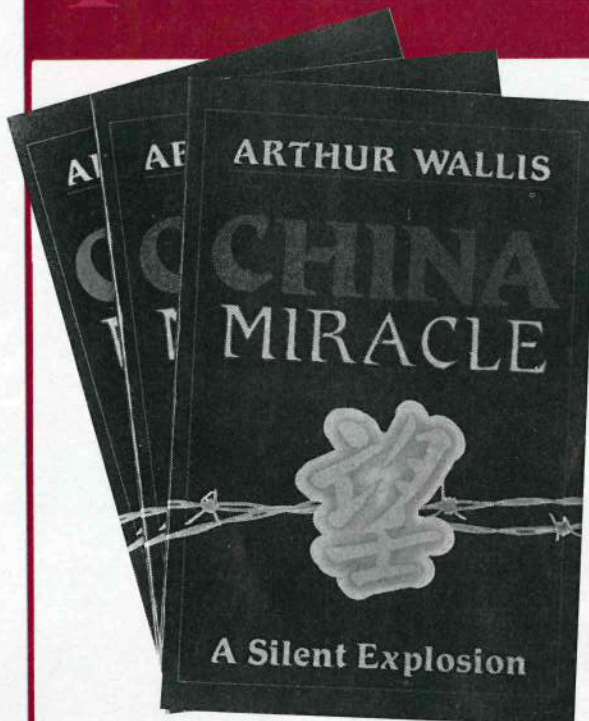
When the Chinese face becoming Christians, they are asked if they are prepared to suffer for Jesus. If you're not prepared to suffer, forget it, because you can't be a Christian in the PRC without suffering. It's going to cost you something. I think more and more we who live in the comfort and affluence of the West are going to have to realize that to be totally dedicated is going to cost us something, but the rewards and recompenses far outweigh anything we might feel by way of cost. Was it not so for Jesus? He endured the cross and despised the shame *for the joy set before Him*. That is a joy the Chinese Church experi-

ences and demonstrates.

Another point worth mentioning is that there is a spontaneity about the work of the Spirit in the PRC—in the signs, the wonders, and the miracles of healing. Healing is commonplace there. It's not that great anointed healers are traveling around. They haven't got the liberty to do that. Most of the healing is spontaneous: They pray, and God

heals. Sometimes He heals without their praying. There's a general faith among the believers that when they are sick, they expect God to heal. They have a most simplistic view of the promises of the Bible. No one has told them God doesn't do things like that today. So they expect deliverance, healing, and sometimes even raising from the dead—and it happens. □

The church in China has a message for you ...



"Arthur's new book is AWESOME! If you want to be stirred to new realms of faith for what God can do in these climactic hours of history, lay hold of **China Miracle ... today.**"

— Larry Tomczak
Apostolic Team Leader
People of Destiny, Intl.

In a country where believers face relentless persecution and Bibles are rare, the true church is not only surviving, it's thriving.

What is their secret?



Available at your local bookstore or direct from Cityhill Publishing.

Also available from Cityhill Publishing:

Called Out, A journal devoted to building the local church. Send for a complimentary copy.

Please send _____ copies of **China Miracle** at \$5.95 each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Add \$1.00/book for shipping. Enclose payment with order.

Send to: Cityhill Publishing,

4600 Christian Fellowship Rd., Columbia, MO 65203.

New from Arthur Wallis,
best selling author of
God's Chosen Fast

God Is a World Person...
Our call to the nations isn't optional.



Are You?

by Paul Petrie



Far away, Daddy! Far away!" said Phillip, our two year old, after a five-and-one-half-hour flight over trackless jungle. It was hot and humid on the isolated mission airstrip of central Africa.

Yes, we were "far away" geographically, and as we were welcomed by the beat of African drums and the villagers' dancing in their native dress, we realized that we were also "far away" culturally. We had come to visit missionaries sent from our church to the Otetela people of central Zaire.

We were participating in the great "going" enterprise of the Church, which has been commissioned by Jesus Himself to disciple nations and fill the earth with the knowledge of God.

Jesus is the pattern of going because the Father sent Him to the world. The "cultural adjustments" He made certainly were the most extreme. If He had been able to talk the day He was birthed by a teenage Hebrew girl in a Bethlehem barn and laid in a feeding trough, He too might have said, "Far away, Daddy. Far away." He was far away from the glory and the power of His throne. God the Son had clothed Himself with mankind. The creator had put Himself in the hands of one of His creatures to be cared for. The Word of God had bound Himself in the body of an infant that could articulate nothing but a cry. The omnipotent God, for whom nothing was impossible, couldn't feed Himself or change His diaper. Charles Wesley in one of his hymns said it this way:

Our God, ever blest,
With oxen doth rest,
Is nursed by His creature,
And hangs at the breast.

God became man. He left His place of invulnerability and made Himself one of us, eventually to die at our hands.

God Loves the World

As Adam's Father (see Luke 3:38), God has a paternal affection for all mankind. Even in the face of our rebellion and sin, God's desire is the redemption of the entire human race. Jesus came for the world.

Several years ago I heard Ern Baxter say that God is a world person: "God so loved the world" (Jn. 3:16). "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn. 1:29 NAS). "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Mt. 28:19 NAS). "God was in Christ reconciling the world" (2 Cor. 5:19 NAS). "He is the atoning sacrifice...for the sins of the whole world" (1 Jn. 2:2 NIV). Throughout the Scriptures God reveals His intention toward the world.

At the beginning of redemptive history when God chose Abraham to be the father of the nation from which the redeemer would come, God had the world in mind. Three times God spoke to Abraham and told him that His ultimate purpose was to bless all the families of the earth, all nations.

At the end of history when we stand before Him, there will be men and women redeemed from every tribe and nation. In fact, the end will not come until the gospel has been taken to the ends of the earth:

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come" (Mt. 24:14 NAS).

In that manger in Bethlehem, a gift was given that was destined for all mankind. God's intention is toward the world.

A Great Outpouring

Much prophecy has been given in recent years that the greatest

outpouring the Church has ever known is about to break on the world. It will be a time when God's Spirit will be poured out on all flesh. The activity of God will be such that men everywhere will have their hearts prepared and their consciences sensitized to the need for redemption, which is preparatory to a great sending forth of laborers into the world. We are

in a great era of spiritual activity.

The age of modern missions began around 1800 when William Carey journeyed from England to India. More people have been won to Christ and more Christian churches have been planted in the 186 years since then than the total 1800 years previously. Church-growth expert C. Peter Wagner writes:

We are in the springtime of Christian missions. The last couple of decades of the twentieth century hold forth more promise for the dynamic spread of the Christian faith around the globe than any other period of time since Jesus turned the water into wine.¹

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, only eight percent of the world's population was Christian. Most of them were in western and eastern Europe. By the end of the century, as a result of the labor of tens of thousands of missionaries, twenty percent had become Christians, and they were found on every continent and most islands scattered across the Pacific.

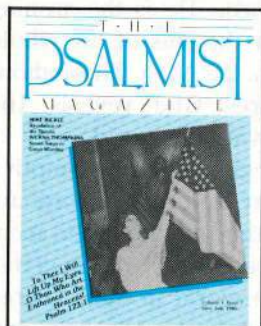
Today a thousand new churches are established in Asia and Africa each week. In many parts of Latin America, Protestant churches are growing at three times the rate of the population. In 1900 there were only fifty thousand Protestants in Latin America. By 1980 the figure was more than twenty million; by the end of this century there may be as many as one hundred million. In 1900, there were less than ten million Christians in Africa. Now there are more than two hundred million, and the projection for the end of the century is four hundred million, or from nine percent of the African population to forty-eight percent. Every day, a new African independent denomination is born.

Christianity is already the most widespread of all world religions, the most numerous, and the most representative among all races, languages, and cultures. Those facts show us that God's intention to fill the earth with the knowledge of Himself is well under way in our age.

An Increase in Missions

The last ten years have seen a dramatic upswing in interest in missions. For several decades now Inter-Varsity has held a major missions conference every three

Praise and Worship... Serving Local Churches



THE PSALMIST MAGAZINE

The Psalmist Magazine is a bi-monthly publication. The focus of the magazine is on the areas of praise and worship. Its goal is to refresh, challenge, and instruct those involved in music and worship.

The Psalmist Magazine was begun in April 1985, and currently has subscribers coast to coast as well as several foreign countries. The magazine features articles by such nationally known teachers as Judson Cornwall, Graham Truscott, Iverna Thomkins and more. Besides these and other

teaching articles some of the additional regular features include:

- "Expressions of Praise" — a tear-out section that gives the melody line, guitar chords and medley suggestions for five popular praise and worship songs.
- "America Worships" — depicts what is happening in praise and worship in churches across the country.
- "Inside Music" — full of practical helps for improving your musical ability.
- "Worship Analysis" — question and answer format addressing tough problems in leading worship.

Here is just a part of one of the many letters received by **The Psalmist**:

"Being a worship leader your magazine ministers to me like no other can. It lifts me, builds, encourages, and guides me in so many areas of my life." — L.G. — Minnesota



Send for your
FREE COPY today!

THE
PSALMIST
MAGAZINE

9820 E. Watson
St. Louis, MO 63126

Please send me a **FREE SAMPLE**
issue of **The Psalmist Magazine**.
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State / Zip Code _____

Church Name _____

years in Urbana, Illinois. At the end of the 1964 conference when the call for commitment to missions was given, 8 percent of the conferees responded. In 1984, 18,000 conferees attended the conference, and when the call for commitment to missions was given, 83 percent responded. In the last 10 years, the number of Christians enrolled in training for missions has more than quadrupled. That increase is not a result of some movement initiated by some group of people or the consequence of the efforts of some missions speakers. It is the activity of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

The present dynamic activity of the Holy Spirit is to motivate and enable the Church to fulfil the great commission. If God is a world person, then we as His subjects must become world Christians. It is vitally important that we have all the interests of the redeemer in our hearts and minds.

Becoming a world Christian does

not necessitate going to another culture or learning to speak another language. Some will go next door, down the street, or to the next office. But all of us need to have the world in our hearts and prayers.

"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (Jn. 20:21 NAS). The Incarnation was the beginning of missions. Jesus came to reveal the love of God to the world and to bring all nations to Himself. He in turn sent—and still sends—men and women as messengers of His love and intention. The world is waiting. We have the message. We cannot wait for the world to come to us, to adapt to our life-style, to comprehend our language, or to seek us out. We, the representatives of God, must go into the world and seek the lost. God has gone before us by His Spirit, so wherever we go, we'll find Him already at work there.

It has been said that becoming a Christian is optional. But once

we choose to become a Christian, involvement in missions is not optional. Whether we actually minister on the mission field or support missionaries through our prayers and finances, God is a world person—and we must be world Christians. □

Footnote

¹C. Peter Wagner, *On the Crest of the Wave* (Ventura, CA: Ventura Books, 1984).



Paul Petrie is president of International Team Ministries. He spends part of the year in Brussels, Belgium, ministering in Africa and Europe, and part of the year in Lexington, Kentucky, ministering in North and South America.

MAKE A DRAMATIC DIFFERENCE!



The young people shown here are doing just that! But performing drama for foreigners in their native country is just one way you can make a difference. You'll also help construct a church, join in exciting meetings and rallies, but most importantly, show them your special love for Jesus.

You can choose from several locations including Holland, El Salvador, Nepal, Mexico, New York City, Scotland, Argentina, Belize, Dominican Republic, India and others. In addition to Spain, Portugal and France for a purely evangelistic mission.

So call or write today for your free brochure and take the first step in making a dramatic difference in others and yourself. Summer program: June 20 - August 7.



Teen World Outreach

A Charismatic Missions Ministry
Joseph E. Nettleton, Executive Director

Clip and mail to: Teen World Outreach, Elim Fellowship,
7245 College Street, Lima, New York 14485. (716) 582-2790

Name: _____	Age: _____	Sex: _____
Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	
Zip: _____	Phone: _____	
Church: _____	Address: _____	

THE WAY I SEE IT

"Love thy enemies" is easier said than done

Preach on Love, or Else!

by Don Basham

We all share an amazing ability to be certain that what we believe is right, simply because we believe it. That is especially true of our religious convictions. We want them set in concrete, never to be tampered with. That's one reason why Bible teachers periodically face overheated critics who become upset about certain things we teach.

At a Bible conference a few years back, I was teaching several lessons on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. At the close of my message on the gift of tongues, I saw an agitated young woman bearing down on me, open Bible in hand. Because I could almost see the steam coming out of her ears, I knew I was in for a verbal shellacking.

She shoved her open Bible right up under my nose and began jabbing the page with an offended index finger. I wasn't surprised to see that she was gouging 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

"I want to know why you didn't read this chapter," she said, her voice full of accusation. "You read chapters 12 and 14, but you deliberately ignored chapter 13!"

"You are absolutely right," I agreed. "Chapter 13 is about love and I didn't teach on love. I taught about speaking in tongues. And Paul talks about that gift in chapters 12 and 14."

"But Paul said love is the most important thing!" Her voice rose half an octave. "The church needs more love! Why don't you teach on love? All that talk about speaking

in tongues just gets everyone upset! Jesus said we're to show love to one another!"

I knew it would only make matters worse but I said it anyway. "You mean like the love you are showing me right now?"

That really tore it! She glared at me as she slammed her Bible shut. For a moment I thought she was going to haul off and swat me on the side of my head with it. Instead, she whirled around and stalked up the auditorium aisle, angry heels denting the floor with every step.

Watching her go, I thought once again how difficult it is for Christians to disagree agreeably. I recall times during the years when people became so upset over something I said that they accused me of being heretical. Thankfully, some critics whose convictions later changed came and asked forgiveness. "You aren't as crazy as we first thought," they said. I'm sure they thought that would make me feel better.

The older I get, the more I desire to be tolerant and forgiving. But I still tend to get upset when my critics suggest that I'm a false prophet. I know Scripture says, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Mt. 5:44 NIV). And I believe we should all try to do that. I really do. But Scripture also says, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Rom. 12:19). And in Romans chapter 13 it says that on earth, God uses delegated, human authority.

So in my weaker moments, I

nurse a secret dream that some day a group of believers will feel called to exercise God's delegated authority by forming a Christian "hit squad," and will avenge the Lord by permanently dispatching certain of His critics—and mine!

But then I remember those times when I preached sermons or taught Bible lessons that deserved to be criticized—immature, needlessly controversial messages that made me feel smug while I was "letting them have it!" but afterward left me wishing fervently that everyone who heard me would forgive me for what I said and forget I ever said it.

All of which means we need to have more patience with one another, and more love for one another. We need to be more tolerant and more forgiving of one another.

At least, that's the way I see it. And anyone who doesn't see it that way—well, I just may hit them with my Bible! □

Don Basham is chief editorial consultant for New Wine.

"The Way I See It" column will continue to be published in Don Basham's new monthly newsletter, *Don Basham's Insights*. For a free sample copy, write Don Basham, P.O. Box 1720, Elyria, Ohio 44036, or return the post-paid card found next to this page.

The Prince of Peace

A daily devotional for December

by Bruce Longstreth

The angels said to the shepherds, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Lk. 2:10).

In this season when we seek to honor the Prince of Peace, all God's people, like the shepherds, should be free from fear. Rather than the usual Bible study this

month, we present thirty-one "fear not's" and their corresponding "why not's" to help us enjoy the season provided by the reign of the Prince of Peace. Read one each day this month, meditate on it, and find strength in God's command to fear not.

DO NOT FEAR

WHY NOT

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1. The unknown | God is our shield. | Genesis 15:1 |
| 2. Death | God hears our prayer. | Genesis 21:17 |
| 3. Being homeless | God is with us. | Genesis 26:24 |
| 4. Injustice | God alone is the judge in our situation. | Deuteronomy 1:17 |
| 5. Enemies | God has spoken to us. | Deuteronomy 1:21 |
| 6. Impossible tasks | God fights for us. | Deuteronomy 3:22 |
| 7. Foreign armies | God will not fail us. | Deuteronomy 31:6 |
| 8. The future | God goes before us. | Deuteronomy 31:8 |
| 9. Other gods (Demon spirits) | God is our Lord. | Judges 6:10 |
| 10. Past failures | God will not abandon His people. | 1 Samuel 12:20, 22 |
| 11. Overwhelming odds | God is greater than those who are
against us. | 2 Kings 6:16 |
| 12. Discipline | God disciplines and delivers. | Job 5:17-27 |
| 13. Despair | God lifts our heads. | Psalms 3:3-6 |
| 14. Darkness | God is our light and our salvation. | Psalms 27:1 |
| 15. Change | God is our refuge and strength, and
abundantly available in tight places. | Psalms 46:1-2 |
| 16. Wicked schemers | God is for us. | Psalms 56:4, 9 |
| 17. Terrors of the night | God is our dwelling place. | Psalms 91:5-10 |
| 18. Sudden disaster | God is our confidence. | Proverbs 3:25-26 |
| 19. Man | God delivers from the fear of man. | Proverbs 29:25 |
| 20. Rejection | God will strengthen, help, and uphold
us. | Isaiah 41:9-10 |
| 21. Weakness | God has made us a sharp threshing
instrument. | Isaiah 41:13-16 |
| 22. Oppression of the enemy | God will torment our tormenters. | Isaiah 51:12-23 |
| 23. Disaster | God in our midst is a victorious warrior. | Zephaniah 3:14-20 |
| 24. Lack of peace | God saves us so that we may
bless. | Zechariah 8:10-13 |
| 25. Being abandoned | God values us. | Matthew 10:29-31 |
| 26. Your low estate | God has visited us with good news. | Luke 2:8-20 |
| 27. Unanswered prayer | God delights to give us the Kingdom. | Luke 12:32 |
| 28. Suffering for Christ | God gives us a spirit of power,
love, and sound judgment. | 2 Timothy 1:5-12 |
| 29. Intimidation | God gives us a reason for the hope
within us. | 1 Peter 3:13-16 |
| 30. God the judge | God's love casts out fear. | 1 John 4:17-18 |
| 31. Death and eternity | God has conquered death and hell. | Revelation 1:17-18 |

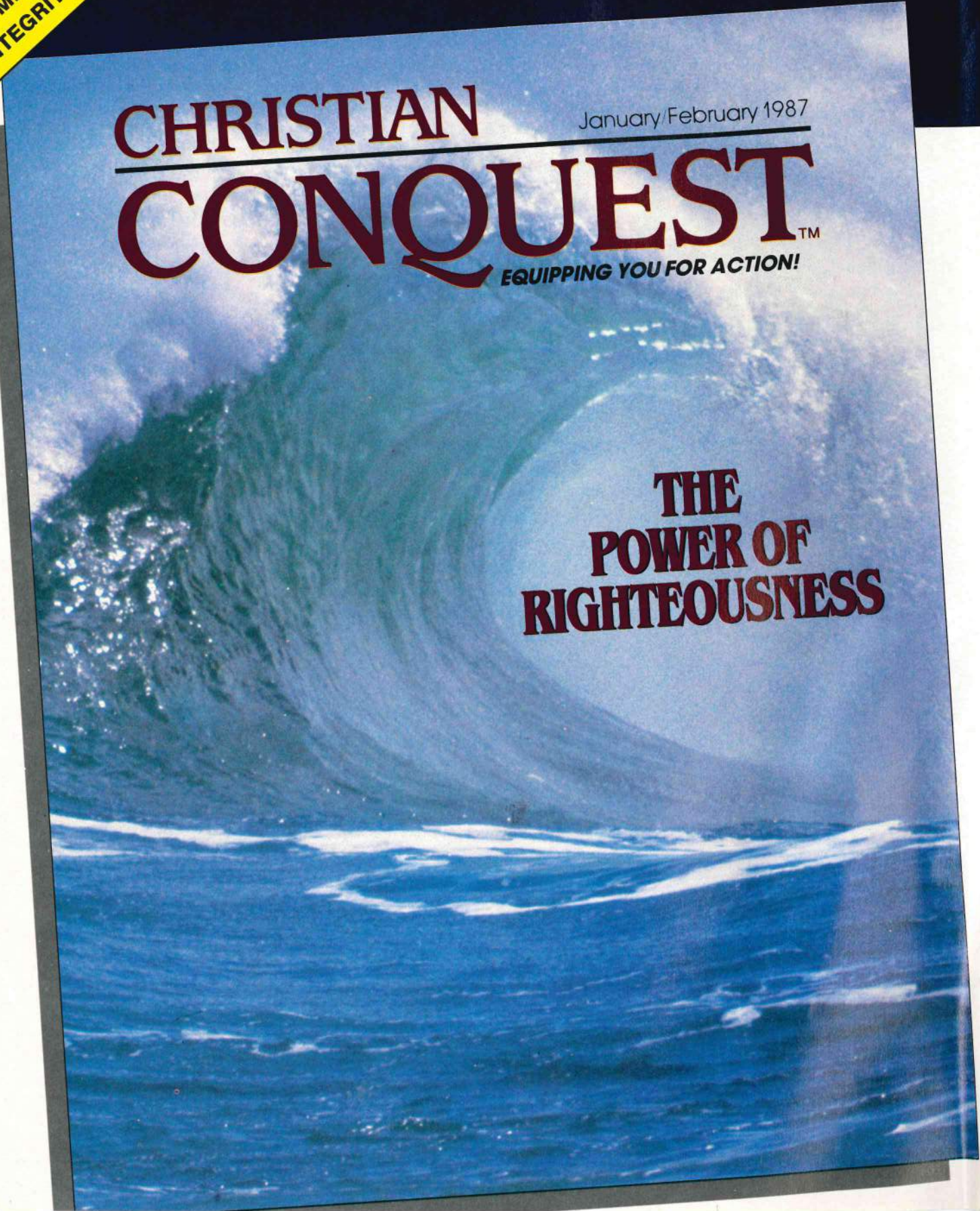
COMING IN
JANUARY FROM THE
MINISTRY DIVISION OF
INTEGRITY COMMUNICATIONS

ANNOUNCING...CHRIST

CHRISTIAN
CONQUESTTM
EQUIPPING YOU FOR ACTION!

January/February 1987

**THE
POWER OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS**



TIAN CONQUEST™ MAGAZINE

A new bimonthly ministry designed to equip you for action!

EMPHASIS ON ACTION!

Christian Conquest is designed to provide you with timely, biblical teaching, and enable you to **put that teaching into practice**. Its goal is to help you succeed at whatever God calls you to do. *Christian Conquest* will put power in your hands: the power to bless, the power to pray, the power of spiritual gifts, and much more. It will show you **how to be victorious!**

IN-DEPTH TEACHING

Each issue of *Christian Conquest* will **focus on one topic**, such as the kingdom of God, prayer, the family, spiritual warfare, worship, and more. The format will include a thought-provoking article by Charles Simpson, a lively interview with a guest minister, and an in-depth teaching by the same guest minister. Charles will have a regular feature in which he answers readers' questions. There will also be a practical "action article" designed to show you **how to implement** what you've learned.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Charles Simpson, senior pastor of Covenant Church of Mobile (Alabama), ministers extensively in the United States and abroad. Charles has been a member of the editorial board of *New Wine* Magazine since 1970 and is currently chairman of the board of Integrity Communications. He is one of the cofounders of Oral Roberts' Charismatic Bible Ministries, is a member of the advisory board of the Network of Christian Ministries, and serves on the board of Liberty Christian College in Pensacola, Florida. His daily radio program, "*Challenge—With Charles Simpson*," is heard in 6 major cities. In his new book, *The Challenge to Care*, Charles shares insights from his 29 years of pastoring.



HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

Christian Conquest will be supported solely by contributions. Everyone who contributes to the ministries of Integrity Communications will receive *Christian Conquest* for one year. Those who have subscribed to *New Wine* will automatically receive *Christian Conquest* beginning in January 1987 for the time remaining on their past paid subscription.

CHRISTIAN
CONQUEST™
EQUIPPING YOU FOR ACTION!

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty" (John 19:28).

I.

"I'm tired," he sighed. So he stopped. "You go on and get the food. I'll rest right here." He was tired. Bone-tired. His feet were hurting. His face was hot. The noon sun was sizzling. He wanted to rest. So he stopped at the well, waved on his disciples, stretched a bit, and sat down. But before he could close his eyes, here came a Samaritan woman. She was alone. Maybe it was the bags under her eyes or the way she stooped that made him forget how weary he was. "How strange that she should be here at midday."

II.

"I'm sleepy." He stretched. He yawned. It had been a long day. The crowd had been large, so large that preaching on the beach had proved to be an occupational hazard, so he had taught from the bow of a fishing boat. And now night had fallen and Jesus was sleepy. "If you guys don't mind, I'm going to catch a few winks." So he did. On a cloud-covered night on the Sea of Galilee, God went to sleep. Someone rustled him up a pillow and he went to the boat's driest point and sacked out. So deep was the sleep, the thunder did not wake him. Nor did the tossing of the boat. Nor did the salty spray of the storm-blown waves. Only the screams of some breathless disciples could penetrate his slumber.

III.

"I'm angry." He didn't have to say it; you could see it in his eyes. Face red. Blood vessels bulging. Fists clenched. "I ain't taking this no more!" And what was a temple, became a one-sided barroom brawl. What was a normal day at the market, became a one-man riot. And what was a smile on the face

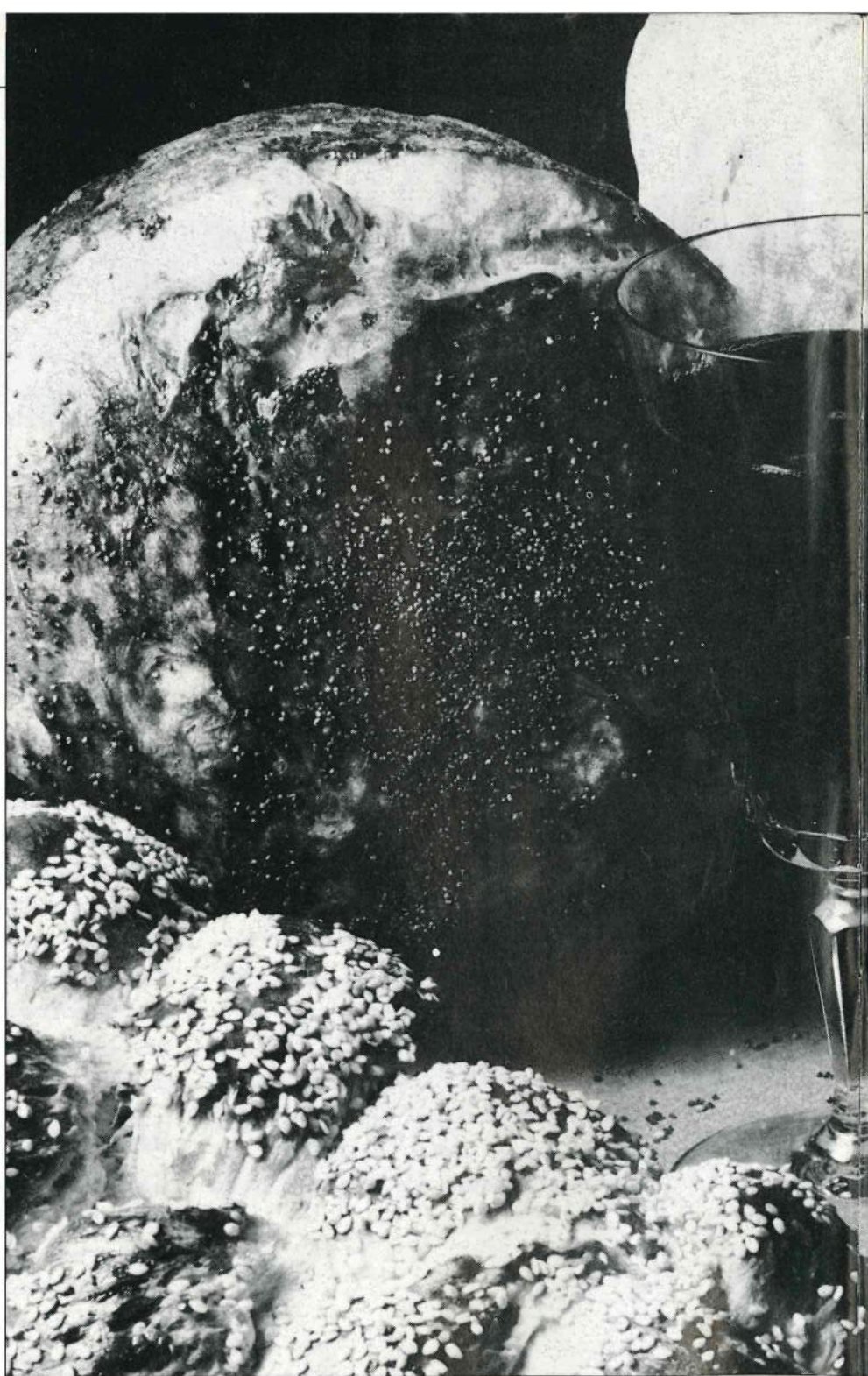
of the Son of God became a scowl. "Get out of here!" The only thing that flew higher than the tables were the doves flapping their way to freedom. An angry Messiah made his point: don't go making money off religion or God will make hay out of you!

We are indebted to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John for choosing to include these tidbits of humanity. They didn't have to, you know. But

they did—and at just the right times.

Just as his divinity is becoming unapproachable, just when his holiness is becoming untouchable, just when his perfection becomes imitable, the phone rings and a voice whispers, "He was human. Don't forget. He had flesh."

Just at the right time we are reminded that the one to whom we pray knows our feelings. He knows temptation. He has felt dis-





“I THIRST”

What the humanity of Jesus
means to us
by Max Lucado

couraged. He has been hungry and sleepy and tired. He knows what we feel like when the alarm clock goes off. He knows what we feel like when our children want different things at the same time. He nods in understanding when we pray in anger. He is touched when we tell him there is more to do than can ever be done. He smiles when we confess our weariness.

But we are most indebted to

John for choosing to include verse 28 of chapter 19. It reads simply:

“I’m thirsty.”

That’s not THE CHRIST that’s thirsty. That’s the carpenter. And those are words of humanity in the midst of divinity.

This phrase messes up your sermon outline. The other six statements are more “in character.” They are cries we would expect: forgiving sinners, promising para-

dise, caring for his mother, even the cry “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me” is one of power.

But, “I thirst”?

Just when we had it all figured out. Just when the cross was all packaged and defined. Just when the manuscript was finished. Just when we had invented all those nice clean “ation” words like sanctification, justification, propitiation, and purification. Just when we put our big golden cross on our big golden steeple, he reminds us that “the Word became flesh.”

He wants us to remember that he, too, was human. He wants us to know that he, too, knew the drone of the humdrum and the weariness that comes with long days. He wants us to remember that our trailblazer didn’t wear bulletproof vests or rubber gloves or an impenetrable suit of armor. No, he pioneered our salvation through the world that you and I face daily.

He is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, and the Word of Life. More than ever he is the Morning Star, the Horn of Salvation, and the Prince of Peace.

But there are some hours when we are restored by remembering that God became flesh and dwelt among us. Our Master knew what it meant to be a crucified carpenter who got thirsty. □

From the book NO WONDER THEY CALL HIM THE SAVIOR by Max Lucado, copyright 1986 by Multnomah Press, Portland, Oregon 97266. Used by permission.



Max Lucado, author of On the Anvil: Thoughts on Being Shaped Into God’s Image, has served as a missionary in Rio de Janeiro, and as an inner-city minister in churches in St. Louis, Missouri, and Miami, Florida.



A Word of Thanks for Don Basham

by Charles Simpson

On behalf of our readers and the staff of Integrity Communications, I want to express gratitude to the Lord and Don Basham for his ministry through *New Wine Magazine*. Since its inception in 1969, Don has been a mainstay in its ministry to many hundreds of thousands of people.

Don grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas, and left a promising career as a commercial artist to become a minister. He graduated with bachelor of arts and bachelor of divinity degrees from Phillips University and its graduate seminary in Enid, Oklahoma. After seminary, Don held pastorates in Canada and the United States. He has written *Face Up With a Miracle*, which has sold thousands of copies, and eleven other books, including his latest, *Lead Us Not Into Temptation*.

I first met Don in 1968 at a conference in Washington, D.C. I was impressed by two things: First, he was matter-of-fact and quiet in his delivery of the gospel. Second, he got results. Later, I came to

know him much better and was impressed with other qualities. I heard him in 1970 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and made a crucial faith decision as a result of his message. Since 1970 I have walked in a committed brotherly relationship to Don and have shared life with him in many ways. He has often given me pastoral counsel and support.

Don is well supported by his wife, Alice, and their five married children. All of them serve the Lord and stand together as a family in Christ. They all manifest a deep love and respect for Don.

Since 1976, Don has served as either editor or chief editorial consultant for *New Wine*. He has given his gift to making *New Wine* a quality publication and an effective teaching tool. Every editor on staff has learned much from Don and has recognized his writing skills.

Don and Alice are beginning a new season of ministry, an exciting time of launching. Don offers much in the areas of faith, spiritual warfare, family life, Christian character,

and communication. He will be launching a regular newsletter, traveling in ministry, and caring for spiritual leaders. I want to do three things: first, express deep gratitude for his labors with me and the local body of believers; second, encourage you to encourage him during this time of transition; and third, encourage you to receive his ministry as you find opportunity.

These are times of great possibilities. It is possible that a great release of ministry is happening that will activate the Church in a new way and equip it for action. It is possible that a new sense of international and universal purpose is coming to the Church. And it is possible that a new dimension of power is being released. To realize these possibilities we need to come to a deeper expression of our love for the Lord and one another. We love you, Don and Alice, and pray that you will realize the greatest and most joyful of all possibilities.

—Charles Simpson and Staff

NEW WINE[®] TAPE OF THE MONTH

**INGREDIENTS
FOR SUCCESSFUL
FAMILY LIVING**



SPIRITUAL FOOD TO STRENGTHEN YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

As a New Wine Tape of the Month member, you'll receive a newly released message every month by one of New Wine Magazine's regular teachers. The dynamic teachings of Don Basham, Ern Baxter, Bob Mumford, and Charles Simpson will equip you and your family to meet the challenges of today's world.

New Wine Tape of the Month gives you prac-

tical answers for the demands of daily family living. You'll receive fresh insight on husband-wife relationships, the responsibilities of parenting, and other topics of concern to Christians. You'll find, as so many of our listeners have found, that each month's topic seems to meet the situation that you're facing right then.

FIRST TAPE FREE!

We'd like to send your first tape absolutely free. Thereafter, as a member, you'll pay only \$5 for each monthly tape that you receive. If you're not completely satisfied, you may cancel at any time without further obligation and still keep your free tape.



**NEW WINE
tape of the month**

**EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS FOR
SUCCESSFUL DAILY LIVING**

HOW TO ORDER: To receive your free tape and begin receiving New Wine Tape of the Month, send no money. Simply fill out the response card in this issue, or write to New Wine Tape of the Month, P. O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616. This offer expires December 31, 1986. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your first tape.

**Lead Sheets and
Accompaniment Tapes
Now Available!**

**"I listen every day in my car....I can't
remember what life was like before
HOSANNA! MUSIC."**

Barbara Pepe
Boca Raton, FL



Join HOSANNA! MUSIC™ today. Receive a new praise and worship tape every other month!

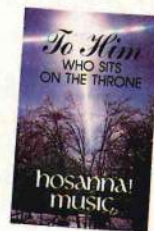
HOSANNA! MUSIC praise and worship tapes have made a difference for commuters across the USA! Listening to these tapes while driving in rush hour traffic can make good use of otherwise empty time in your day. You'll sense the difference in your day when you've spent time worshipping the Lord on your way to work.

Every other month you'll receive a new praise and worship tape that will improve the quality of your time spent driving in the car. You'll find it easy to learn new songs because the words are printed on the back of the cassette box cover.

You'll pay just \$7.95 (postage and handling included) for the tapes as you receive them. If you're not completely satisfied, you can return your tape without further obligation.

**Don't miss another HOSANNA!
MUSIC tape...order yours today!
SEND NO MONEY!**

To begin receiving HOSANNA! MUSIC tapes, to join the Lead Sheet program, or to receive information on the accompaniment tapes, simply fill out the response card found in this issue or write to HOSANNA! MUSIC, P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of your first tape or set of lead sheets.



hosanna! music™
Brings you into the presence of God!