

"Holding fast the Faithful Word . . ."



The **Word and Work**



"Holding forth the Word of Life"

OCTOBER, 1998

SATAN
and
MISSIONS

24th ANNUAL
CENTRAL LOUISIANA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
November 16-19, 1998

Theme: That We May Believe - John 20:31

DAY SESSIONS
THE BOOK OF JOHN

NIGHT SESSIONS
THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

MONDAY November 16

7:00 p.m. **The Christian Family** Dennis LeDoux

TUESDAY November 19

Prayer Time daily, Tuesday - Thursday: 9:30 - 9:55 A.M.

10:00-10:50 a.m. **1:1-3 From Eternity Past** Dale Foster
11:10-12:00a.m. **1:14 The Incarnation--"full of grace & truth"** Dale Offutt
1:15-2:05 p.m. **1:29 The Sacrifice for All** Jack Harris
7:00 p.m. **The Christian Family** Hank Tankersly

WEDNESDAY November 18

10:00 - 10:50 a.m. **Miracles 1, 2, 3:--2:1-11; 4:46-54; 5:1-9** Antoine Valdetero
11:10 - 12:00 a.m. **Miracles 4, 5, 6:--6:1-14; 6:16-20; 9:1-12** Harry Coultas
1:15 - 2:05 p.m. **Miracle 7: Chapter 11 & Chapter 20** Jerry Carmichael
7:00 p.m. **The Christian Family** Hank Tankersly

THURSDAY November 19

10:00 - 10:50 a.m. **Chap. 14: Exposition of the Chapter** Earl C. Mullins
11:10 - 12:00 a.m. **Chap. 15: Exposition of the Chapter** Earl C. Mullins
1:15 - 2:05 p.m. **Chap. 16: Exposition of the Chapter** Earl C. Mullins
7:00 p.m. **The Christian Family** Hank Tankersly

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THE WORD AND WORK

"Declare the whole counsel of God"

Alex V. Wilson, Editor

Dennis L. Allen, Missions

Bennie Hill, New & Notes

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Theme:

Satan and Missions

Dennis L. Allen

Since God's purpose is that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and that the earth be filled with His glory, we can expect that Satan, the present prince of this world, will fight to the end the fulfillment of God's purposes. One day Jesus' Name shall be great among the nations, but meanwhile, the adversary will miss no opportunity to thwart that fulfillment.

We should neither overestimate not underestimate the power of our enemy. We know that Satan received a death blow at the cross. John 12:31. How then is he still going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour? Why must we still give diligence not to be ignorant of his devices if he has had a death blow? Even at the time of the end we find him on earth full of great wrath because he knows that his time is short.

The devil has no *rights* since Christ's perfect redemption, but he is like a squatter. A squatter will stay until he is forced to move. Satan continues his evil work in every heart that will give him place. He could fill the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira. He seeks whom he may devour, sows tares among the good seed, even snatches away the Word, slanders and accuses the brethren and practices his wiles and devices even on the saints if they let him. But praise God we don't have to let him. In Christ by faith we can stand against him, resist him, refuse to give him place and his power is broken.

We are probably not aware of the vast range of Satan's insidious devices and perversions. Who is it that is so effectively keeping the church from seriously committing herself to the completion of the Great Commission? Who is behind the blindness and lethargy and unconcern that keeps us from praying, sending, giving and going into the harvest fields? Who makes us so ready to spend on ourselves and so slow to commit resources to launch out to the unreached peoples of the world?

May I suggest another area where the adversary attacks us? Jesus said the woman who came to Him with a spirit of infirmity had been *bound by Satan* for 18 years. Jesus healed her and "*all that were oppressed by the devil*". Satan is thus involved in the whole area of sickness and disease. Should we let this area be largely the responsibility of the World Health Organization and other worldly agencies? Might

not God give his people more insight in dealing with these issues that affect all of us if we seek Him about them?

Think of the plague of alcohol, nicotine, other drugs, and the enormous curse of cancer. Does the Lord expect us to shrug our shoulders and say, "It's too big for me". or to face these issues squarely and declare war in the Name of Him who came to set free the captives. These are problems that relate to missions. Malaria, tuberculosis, and diseases caused by water contamination are pressing problems for the third world. Missionaries, evangelists, translators and other Christian workers are cut down in the midst of their ministry by the same diseases that attack the population in general. God's work is hindered on the mission field by the debilitating diseases that attack the believers as well as the unbelievers.

The wonderful body God designed is competent to resist the myriad of disease germs when the immune system is maintained in a healthy state and normal rules of health are observed. God told the Israelites that none of the diseases that afflicted the Egyptians would afflict them if they would obey His voice. Sickness would not be a thing to be expected and dreaded. They would be free of it! What a blessing! Moses at the time of his death at 120 found his eye not dim nor his natural force abated.

I don't want to give simplistic solutions to enormously complicated problems, but I feel this is an issue that affects all of us. Many of us are facing or will have to face the problem of cancer—some say one of three Americans at some time in their lives. Cancer is now costing Americans 100 billion dollars a year. But this does not compare to the pain, grief and loss involved.

One specialist said that bone marrow cancer cells seem to be "designed to destroy other cells, and to fake hormones to block further production of the real thing. Cancer cells are not damaged cells. They are terrorist cells, ominously well designed to do their deadly work. They succeed only when your "good" cells are damaged to the extent they cannot fight off cancer cells. --Mission Frontiers

An enemy has done this. Rather than think God expects us to just grin and bear it, should we not rather look on it as an attack of the enemy and do battle? If changes are called for in our lifestyle may the Lord give us the grace to make them. If there are other factors and causes we are not yet aware of may the Lord give us the persistence and enlightenment to ferret them out. Who better could have true insight and discernment as to the solution to these problems than those in whom Christ dwells and are filled with His Spirit?

I think you will be thrilled and encouraged as I was to read of what God has done in Mongolia in the last nine years. God's Word is

sill living and active. Christ is still building His church, and Satan though active wherever the Gospel is preached will not prevail against it.

The experience in Mongolia, positive and negative, it seems to me, is also instructive for workers in other new fields. So many problems are averted when we do things God's way. Much heartache for ourselves and others can be avoided if we are humble enough to profit from the experience of others. The experience there with regard to unwise financial assistance is very instructive. In a future issue we hope to examine more depth this problem which all missionaries face.

Mongolia is just a small segment of what God is doing in the world today. (See book review on page 299.) We need to see as much of the big picture as possible, It will enlarge our vision, the scope of our praying, and encourage us to greater faithfulness in the specific work the Lord has called us to.

I think our hearts are also enlarged when we recognize what God is doing through other groups who may never have heard of us, but have believed in the same Lord and Savior and are committed to Him. Paul reminds us, "Receive ye one another as Christ received you to the glory of God." Rom. 15:7. We can rejoice in what God is doing wherever He is doing it and not limit or hinder, but rather encourage and cooperate where we have opportunity. This doesn't mean I should embrace every thing without discernment or give up any truth the Lord has shown me, but I can rejoice that Christ is preached.

Mongolia

Rick Leatherwood

Like a land outside of time, Mongolia was one of the last political countries in the world to gain a Christian church of any kind. It is hard to imagine an entire nation as late as 1990, complete with membership in the United Nations, whose people had no knowledge that Jesus Christ had ever lived and walked on the earth. Mongolia was a closed country. It knew very little of the rest of the world, and the rest of the world knew very little of it.

James Gilmore of the London Missionary Society went to Mongolia in 1872, and died there 21 years later. He could count his converts on one hand. The Mongols had nothing to count on but Buddhism and their own indigenous shaman. Yet, in some ways it was the most religious country in the world with the eldest son of every family being given to the monastery, just as Christians often did in the middle ages.

Swedish missionaries came to Mongolia at the turn of the century, a number of them paying the ultimate price when over 100 missionaries were slaughtered during the Boxer Rebellion. In 1921 Mongolia became the second Communist country in the world. All missionaries were expelled, and for the next 70 years the nation was sealed off from the rest of the world. But on January 27, 1987, diplomatic relations with the United States were established and then on March 11, 1990, Mongolia followed the way of freedom which Eastern Europe had taken a few months earlier as the people threw off the Russian yoke. The Mongols were free for the first time since the days of the great Khans. Unfortunately though, as Mongolia had been at the bottom of the Soviet Empire, it was left a social disaster and totally impoverished.

Three months after the democratic revolution, a Christian group whose members included four different tribes of Native Americans entered Mongolia as tourists. Having been isolated from the world for so long, the Mongols were eager to learn about anything from the outside world, even things of which they had never heard. It was this cultural bridge with the Native Americans which helped to open the door for the preaching of the Gospel. A number of Mongols responded, and then on June 10, 1990, two Mongolian believers were baptized.

Ten months later in April of 1991, an evangelistic team from America was heading out the door of the Ulaanbaatar when they were stopped by two people who identified themselves as reporters for the Associated Press. "Are you the guys getting ready to conduct a baptism?" inquired the reporters. Affirmative. "Would it be all right if we came to this baptism? Everywhere we go in this city people are talking about you." The seven-man evangelistic team had been in the country for two weeks and would be leaving the next day. They could not guess how many of the Mongols who had been following them for the last two weeks and had made a profession of faith in Christ would actually come forward publicly to be baptized. And they certainly did not know that what was about to happen would become history.

Thirty-four Mongols stepped into the waters of baptism that day as a mixture of people gathered around the pool. One Mongol journalist was present with a video camera and the people from the Associated Press took pictures like there was no tomorrow, as if they couldn't believe what they were seeing. An article appeared in a Minneapolis newspaper a few weeks later describing the event. And so began one aspect of the Christian movement in Mongolia.

Explosion

By August of that year, the number of Christians had grown to 70, and by Christmas there were more than 200 new born Mongolian be-

lievers! That number would multiply in the next year of 1992 to over one thousand, and seven years later, by April of 1998 the conservative estimate is that there are some 10,000 Mongolian followers of Jesus Christ congregating in more than 60 churches! It is without question the *kairos* moment for Mongolia. How are the missionaries working together with God to bring in this harvest?

Obviously, some things were done right, and, no doubt, some things were done wrong. What has happened in Mongolia offers the mission world some insightful case studies for penetrating into territory previously held by the enemy.

Much of the early growth of the church in Mongolia can be attributed to missionaries who came to Mongolia to teach English. Like young divers going off the high dive for the first time, they came and took the plunge; for though Mongolia is a nice place to visit, it is not an easy place to live. These teachers came with good organizations which trained and equipped them in the basics of cross-cultural communication. But more than just *teach*, it was clear that these missionaries really came to *love*. After a full day in the classroom, the teachers would also make themselves available to their students after class; and many found their way to their teachers' homes where they were treated for who they were, the chosen of the Lord.

The young began to flock to the church services at the invitation of their teachers and brought their friends who were equally eager to learn English as the sermons were being translated from English into Mongolian. Here, thousands of young people heard the Gospel for the first time and found that the eternity they felt in their hearts could be filled by the person of Jesus Christ. The three churches that had been started were filled with zeal and a sense of awe as the Holy Spirit moved in the Mongols' hearts.

By 1992, the word was out that Mongolia was open and missionaries began pouring into Mongolia from all over the globe. Long-term and short-term missionaries from major denominations and small independent organizations came to Mongolia to help bring in the harvest. Some taught English, others came as students, some brought in aid or engaged in social work as formal missionary visas were not being granted. For most of the missionaries, this was their first time on a mission field, and there was a strong sense of urgency in the mission community. Some came and stayed as they sensed Mongolia was a place where God was at work in a marvelous way.

In spite of the difficulties of the social dysfunction and the general chaos of the new government trying to find its way into democracy and freedom, there was a vigor in the air and a keen excitement in all

those who had answered God's call to come where few believers had been before. The Mongols were fighting for their lives. It was a privilege to join them and try to be of help during the time of transition in which they now found themselves.

A mission agency in Germany began to send in short-term evangelistic teams to go into the Mongolian countryside. They worked together with Mongol Christians who had learned to speak English or German and served as translators. In a little over three years, having brought in well over 1,300 people for short-term ministry, they had been to every province and covered much of the country, preaching and praying and handing out the Gospels of John or Mark which had been translated.

Another organization began sending Mongol evangelists on the train route that ran from China to Russia. The Mongols proved to be natural evangelists and for 18 months from the capitol of Ulaanbaatar, they boarded the trains, one week going south, the next week going north, and sowed the word up and down the railroad line giving their testimony and passing out tracts and gospels.

During all of this evangelistic activity, the government which was democratic in name only, opposed the church with harsh propaganda in all of their state-run radio, television, and newspapers. Though the missionaries were aware this was happening, they couldn't actually understand it due to the language barrier-so it was the young Mongol believers who had to withstand the barrage of criticism from the state. But this actually *promoted* the Gospel!

Then came the Parliamentary elections of 1996. The Communist party at the time held 73 of the 75 seats in Parliament and the "Democrats" were expected to gain only a dozen or so seats in the election. Weekly prayer meetings numbering upwards of 300 began, and were held each Sunday night for ten weeks leading up to the election. They heard a message of faith: that things *can* change; that God *can* call into being things that are not. And the people prayed accordingly. The meetings culminated the evening before the election in the large square in the center of the city. As this final prayer meeting began a rainbow broke out right over the square. The next day, June 30, 1996, the Mongolian people voted 50 "Democrats" into the Parliament and Mongolia made world headlines. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity...for there the Lord commands a blessing" (Ps. 133: 1,3).

The Church in Erdenet

The strongest and largest church in Mongolia is not in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar (pop. 700,000) but in the 3rd largest city of Er-

denet (pop. 70,000). The church there was begun in February of 1993, with the baptism of 14 teenage girls (not a likely beginning). Yet from this small beginning, there is a church today of over 800 people of all ages and levels of society. Though there are many success stories in Mongolia, no other church started before or after this has grown as much, nor has touched the mainstream of the Mongol society like this church. Why not? What do we have to learn from Erdenet?

First of all, the missionary team which planted the church understood who they were and what their goal was, namely keeping the Great Commandment *to love their neighbor*. Many missionaries come to the field with church planting as their main goal. But church planting can fail. Love never fails. The missionary must be careful not to put the cart before the horse. In Mongolia, as missionaries have loved people, then people have come to Christ and churches have been started. Having a good understanding of this priority is essential to laying the proper foundation for a church, and this has fortunately happened in many of the churches in Mongolia today.

Second, the missionary team in Erdenet had a good start in missiology and church growth principles. They began by learning the language and trying to blend into the Mongolian culture as much as possible. From the beginning they had a vision of the day they would be turning the church over to the Mongols. And so, from the very first, they trained Mongols for leadership, not just leadership to preach and lead singing, etc., but they taught the Mongol leaders how to deal with sin. Here was a big difference in the church in Erdenet from some of the churches in Ulaanbaatar. The missionaries in Ulaanbaatar, though they taught against sin, were weak in teaching their Mongol leaders how to deal with sin. As a result, many churches in Mongolia today continue to have various members of leadership fall into sin, usually sexual immorality.

In Erdenet when this happened, one of the missionary team would talk to the person in question to ascertain whether the allegation was true. If so, a larger meeting with the Mongolian leadership of the church would be called, the offense explained, and then the missionaries would ASK the group, "Now what does the Bible say about this?" Too often the tendency is for a missionary to *tell* a group what the Bible says. But if the missionary understands his roll of discipler correctly, and can keep his presence of mind to *ask the question* instead of making the statement, two things immediately begin to happen. One, the national leaders are forced to search the Scriptures for their answers, thus establishing God as the authority and not the missionary.

The group of Mongol leaders would then decide what steps of discipline should be taken. The brother or sister who had fallen was in-

formed by the leadership team that they would have to step down from leadership for a period of time, but not out of fellowship. The goal as taught from Scripture by the missionary team was to love and restore, but would have to step down from leadership. It is one thing to teach young national believers how to lead a service; it is quite another thing to teach them how to lead a church and keep sin out of it. Today the church in Erdenet has leaders who have been on both sides of this issue and know the value of keeping the church pure. This is strong leadership.

Third, the church in Erdenet was begun with a vision to be a cell group church. The believers were trained to understand that the cell is the church and not the large gathering for celebration. This allowed for new people to see that the ministry of the church was carried on by the laity and that they could move into positions of leadership without going through years of formal study. Baptisms were conducted by the Mongolian leadership, and the young Mongol leaders were taught to serve communion to their brethren in the cells. The church began to take on a Mongolian identity and consequently, to spread into the mainstream of the society in Erdenet.

From the beginning, it was the desire of the missionary team in Erdenet to plant an indigenous church, and so the Mongol believers were encouraged to contextualize the Gospel as much as possible. Missionaries taught the believers in the skills of drama, and the Mongols immediately began to develop their own skits which were presented on Sunday mornings. The everyday life of a Mongol was portrayed juxtaposed with the teachings of Christ. The watching Mongols could easily identify with the themes that were presented and the answers to life that a relationship with God offered.

Music is always important, and so the missionaries in Erdenet encouraged the Mongols to begin writing their own songs. These were composed mostly in a modern style because the writers were young. Once these songs were learned by the congregation, the church began to grow powerfully in its worship. With the vitality of the youth leading the way, it was common to see hundreds of people exuberantly praising the Lord.

True to their word, the missionary team turned the church over to the Mongols in the spring of 1996. At that time the clusters of cell groups, included upwards of 400 people. Now under complete Mongolian leadership, the believing fellowship continued to grow and by Christmas had reached 550. In February of 1998, they gathered to celebrate their fifth anniversary and what God had done. The first 14 girls from 1993 were asked to stand, and then the others who had been saved year by year. Suddenly everyone was looking around at an audi-

torium completely filled with people standing, praising and worshipping God!

The Bible

By 1993, a number of missionaries began to feel that a translation of the New Testament which had been printed in 1990 had severe flaws. It did not seem to be sufficiently literal.

As a consequence, a group of missionaries on the field started anew with a fresh translation of Scripture. A committee was formed of German, Korean, Japanese, and American missionaries who worked together with Mongolian translators.

It took three years to produce a new New Testament which was published in November of 1996. This new translation was received enthusiastically by the Mongolian believers. The first 10,000 copies sold out in just one month. It has become the standard Bible in Mongolia today.

In March of 1998, the same committee published 14 books of the Old Testament. This should greatly impact the church in the next year as Mongols begin to read Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Daniel, etc., for the first time. The hope is to have the complete Bible ready by the year 2000.

Hindrances

Ironically, outside money has often hurt rather than helped the Christian movement in Mongolia. One agency poured thousands of dollars into Mongolia during a 12-month period and saw little fruit. At the very same time, a seasoned missionary took a Bible study group of five and poured himself out in love to build a church. In ten months, the church numbered 350 and gave birth to a daughter church. All this didn't cost a dime... only the blood of Jesus and missionaries who were willing to pick up their crosses and follow Him.

At other times, someone would arrive in Mongolia from agency X in America and be introduced to a young Mongol pastor who was already being discipled by a resident missionary. Though the disciple-making is a rather delicate task, the man from agency X somehow figured he could do it better by remote control from the United States. He placed a couple of one hundred dollar bills into the young Mongol's hand to prove it. Agency X continues to send the young Mongol money, and advertises that it is planting churches while asking people in America to send money to the address printed in its glossy magazine.

Though this agency's motives may be pure, it seems it did not understand the nature of discipleship, accountability, or teaching national leaders how to obey God's word. Sad to say, not only has the ewe been taken from the resident missionary who had answered God's call to come to Mongolia, but a difficult stumbling block has been placed in the way of a promising leader of God's church. He is no longer a young shepherd learning to care for God's people and establish a self supporting, indigenous church. He has now been made a hireling of outsiders, thereby sowing the seeds of dependency among the Mongol people.

Three Bible schools have been started to help prepare the saints for the work of the ministry and each is filled to capacity with young men and women eager to grow in Christ. They are gaining more and more maturity with each passing day. The phase of development now in Mongolia is that of discipleship. The initial evangelism has produced a church that is fully capable of reaching the rest of the nation once it is discipled. What the Mongol church needs now are people who will come and live with them, learn their language and train them in the ways of Jesus Christ by works and example. This will require a true acceptance of one another, as the Mongols prefer unity to superfluous divisions.

In closing, it is necessary to step back from the various critiques which this article presents and simply praise the Lord for what He is doing in Mongolia! Ten years ago Mongolia was an unreached people posing an almost impossible challenge to the Church. Today the Christian movement is very much alive and in the spiritual dimension, one could say that Mongolia is actually being turned upside down to the glory of God.

Rick Leatherwood is a veteran missionary who has worked in Mongolia since 1990 when he helped bring Native Americans to Mongolia to witness to them. --From Mission Frontiers, July-August 1998

BOOK REVIEW

The Church is Bigger Than You Think

Patrick Johnstone
Christian Focus Publications/WEC. Great Britain

This is a book to enlarge your vision, encourage you to see that the goal of a church for every people and the gospel for every person is attainable, and yet it presents candidly the challenges and obstacles still ahead. Although there is emphasis on the size of today's church, especially because of the tremendous growth in Latin America, Africa,

and China, God's sovereignty in the world is emphasized. Johnstone also challenges our inherited pattern of thinking about the structure of the church.

He first sets forth God's vision of the church from eternity to be the bride of the Lamb--to share His throne. This necessitates her being prepared and trained for this queenly role. There was the great price that He paid--the great plan that He had.

Johnstone also unfolds the global vision inherent in Isaiah 52:13-53:12. As the author of *Operation World* he has devoted the last 25 years to researching the progress of the Gospel world wide and probably has a better concept of the big picture than anyone.

The purpose of the book is that the church gain a renewed vision for world evangelization. This is in line with God's eternal purpose for a Bride for His Son. This vision was largely lost by the church. Only in the last 200 years has the church begun to regain that vision. The change that has taken place is revealed by one statistic. In 1792 only 7 in every 1,000 Protestants was an African or an Asian, but by 1992 this had risen to 580 in every 1,000. There is still much to be done, but there is cause for strong encouragement from many quarters. In the beginning of the modern missionary movement those sent out were Caucasians from England, the U.S. and Europe. Today thousands are going out from third world countries. The level of cooperation is rapidly increasing.

The author chronicles the advances in Bible translation. For example, in the last 45 years more languages have received some Scripture than in all the previous centuries together. Similar advances have been made in Gospel radio.

To me one of the most encouraging parts is Chapter 10. "Growth Through God's Interventions." He shows how again and again traumatic events in history have been used by God's working to contribute to the harvest into God's kingdom. Things that seem unmitigated evil God has used for ultimate progress of the Gospel. For example, in China Mao Tse Tung who tried to destroy the church and was responsible for the death of millions, has possibly unwittingly contributed to more people coming into the kingdom than any other person in all of history! When the communists took over in 1949 there were less than one million Protestants and about three million Roman Catholics. At the height of the Cultural Revolution there were only two show churches left open in China and they were left only to impress foreigners. Now it is estimated there are between 25 and 100 million Christians. One reported secret government survey gave an estimate for 1992 of 63 million Protestants and 12 million Catholics. The Bible has

replaced Mao's little Red Book as the most desired and popular book in China. Mao is gone and largely repudiated. Similar examples are given from the Sudan, Iran, Argentina, Russia, and Spain. Truly the Lord makes the wrath of man to praise Him!

The author deals not only with what God is doing world-wide but also sets forth some of the challenges that lie ahead for the vision to be realized—geographical, people, urban, social, ideological, and spiritual. "It provides the framework to understand what God is doing in the world, why He is doing it, and how you can be a part of the action." You can get this book whose retail price is \$15.99 for a limited time for \$10.00 postpaid from Mission Frontiers, 1605 E. Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104. Ralph Winters says of this book: "I have no hesitation in saying it is the best single-volume introduction to the entire cause of missions. It is sparkling and readable but comprehensive and *very wise*." --Dennis Allen

Training Seminars in Enemy Territory

Have you attended a seminar or conference recently? For most of us, that means a nice hotel, gallons of coffee, handouts for every session and a skilled trainer who is expected to keep everyone motivated and entertained.

How different is the training environment in the Suffering Church!

Brother Samuel, an Open Doors co-worker in Africa, conducts Bible classes for leaders in southern Sudan, where the civil war rages. He writes:

"We all had to travel miles over hostile terrain to get to the seminar location. The very first seminar was ended dramatically by a government air raid. The familiar sound of an Antonov airplane made us all run for cover. I ended up in the nearest garbage pit. By the grace of God, no one was injured, although bombs were dropped on the compound where we were meeting.

"While traveling to another Bible class, I was ambushed by tribal fighters who wanted to avenge the killing of some of their men. It took me some time to persuade them that I had not been involved. They let me go safely, praise God!

"It took me almost a year to train five tutors for our theological leadership course. In fact, the young men selected for the course had all at one time or another been beaten and jailed for their faith. But

they have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the task of working with the Sudanese church, so that today four of my ex-students have started their own classes. They are highly motivated."

Low profile

In the West, we usually seek out a quiet location with a panoramic view to attract people to seminars. In Vietnam, it is exactly the opposite. Their idea of a good location is one where they can disappear, as described by Sister Mei:

"One of my biggest problems is finding a 'safe' location where the security police won't discover us. Last year, we found a suitable building, but the police recently visited it, so we had to look for another.

"The place we found is above a factory. Whatever sound comes from the upstairs meeting room is muffled by the hammering and sawing being done in the shop. The noise provides a good cover for our seminars.

"On the first day of the meeting, I tell the students what to do if we have unexpected visitors. I show them the exit doors and make sure they know which route to take. Each person is assigned a particular door to insure a fast and smooth exit."

Train As You Go

In the Suffering Church, the training schedule is determined neither by the convenience of the participants nor the schedules of the trainers. Rather, it is based on the opportunity of the moment. Finding and grabbing that opportunity is crucial, for it may never come again.

Brother Joshua, a trainer in China, explains:

"God was faithful to me as I ran. He was always ahead of me to pave the way. As I ran from one place to another, I did not stop training. In one city far away from my house, I had to hide in a factory. I was so glad to discover that there were believers, I conducted the training right on the spot.

"One evening during a training session, six uninvited 'guests' barged into the room. Since three key house church leaders were also present, it seemed impossible to get out of the situation without major casualties. All we could do was pray.

"Then a miracle happened. The police chief looked at each one of us, then decided to take his team and go. We were in a state of glorious shock. Even now, we really do not know what ran through his

mind and heart to make him leave the way he did. But we are sure that only God could have made it happen."

Straight to Business

Instead of spending time on introductions and getting to know one another, Open Doors trainers go straight to the business at hand. They open the Bible as quickly as possible and start teaching. Rarely are there opportunities to sing or say prayers out loud.

Even though there a few breaks, nobody falls asleep and no one leaves despite the lateness of the night. Everybody pays close attention to the teacher, scribbling notes and taking every principle as more precious than gold.

For the trainers every hardship is worthwhile. And for visiting teachers who come from the West the contrast is startling. Wrote one pastor, after conducting an Open Doors seminar for some 50 young Chinese pastors in a remote village, "As I left them, I wept. I wept because I had to go back to a world where God is not taken half as seriously. I wept to return to a church where if I do not insert enough clever illustrations, eyes glaze over and no one listens to my talks. I wept to return to a lifestyle that would regard me as mad if I kept trying to rise at 4:30 a.m. for prayer. I wept because I really wanted to stay with those 50 teachers and learn to love God as they did."

--From Open Doors Newsbrief, October 1998

How God Works

Ravi Zacharias

From a message delivered at Wheaton College, 1996

In 1971 I preached in Vietnam, and my interpreter was a seventeen-year-old man name Hien. Seventeen years later in 1988, my phone rang one night when I was on the west coast of Canada, and it was Hien.

"Hien," I asked, "what's happened to you through the years?"

He told me how he was imprisoned in Vietnam, accused of having worked for the CIA. They tried to brainwash him, giving him the writings of Engels and Marx-and only in Vietnamese or French, never in English. One morning, out of sheer frustration, after months of brainwashing, he thought to himself, *Maybe God doesn't exist. Maybe all that I heard the missionaries tell me is not true. I'm not going to pray anymore, I'm not going to think about him anymore.*

That day he was assigned by the commander to clean the latrines in the prison camp, a task, of course, that he detested. As he began to clean

a tin can that held excrement and used toilet paper, he recognized that one of the pieces of toilet paper had words in English printed on it. He lifted the paper out, washed it, and put it into his hip pocket, planning to read it that night. After returning to his room, once everyone had gone to sleep, he read the right hand corner: "Romans, chapter eight." And he started to read, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." He continued to read that glorious chapter, that neither life nor death nor things present nor things to come, could ever separate him from the love of God which was in Christ.

He fell to his knees and said, "God, I tried to run from you for just one day, and your arm of love reached out for me even here." He walked back to the commander the next day and asked to clean the latrine again. And every day he would pick up a sheet out of the New Testament, wash it, and study it at night-carrying on with his own devotional life.

After finally being freed from prison, Hien, along with 52 others built a boat to escape the country. Days before they were to leave, four Viet Cong had approached him and said they found out he was trying to escape.

"Is this true?" they asked.

"No," he answered, and they left him.

Hien prayed, "Here I go again, Lord, trying to run my own life. Forgive me. Lord, if you send them back again, I'll tell them the truth."

Hours before departure, the four Viet Cong returned. One of them grabbed him by the collar, rammed him against the wall, and asked, "Hien, are you trying to escape?"

"Yes, gentlemen, with 52 others. Are going to put me back in prison?"

They leaned forward and said, "No, we'd like to go with you."

In their boat on the high seas, they were whipped about by a storm.

And God used those four Viet Cong, with their skippering ability, to steer the boat safely into Thailand; without them, the group would most likely have been lost at sea.

Today, Hien, a businessman on the West Coast, testifies of how precious God is, how merciful He is, and how He intervenes even when our faith is fragile.

PRAYER & PRAISE

Missionary Couple Freed

RUSSIA--A Swedish missionary couple held hostage in the southern Russian region of Dagestan (near Chechnya) for nearly six months, has been freed by law enforcement agencies. Daniel and Paulina Brolin said that during their captivity they had been kept in a dim, unheated cellar and were not allowed to go outside. They survived the ordeal by exercising rigorously and memorizing verses from the English-language Bible they had with them when they were seized. "We have not been sick a single day, and not even had colds," Paulina Brolin said.

Religion Law Adds Criminal Charges

UZBEKISTAN--Uzbekistan's new Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations effectively makes unregistered religious activity a criminal offense. Organizing an unregistered religious group could be punishable by five years in prison. Private religious teaching could land someone in prison for three years, as could missionary activity of any kind. Uzbekistan's regulation of religious activity is the harshest in the former Soviet Union. Christians compare the new law to the worst period of Leonid Brezhnev's Soviet rule in the 1970s.

Peruvian Christian Prisoner Released!

On Friday, June 5, an Open Doors Agape Team was in Peru, debuting the new Latin American docudrama "Stronger Than Guns" to 700 pastors and leaders at a training conference.

Hanging over the conference was the knowledge that despite five years of fervent international prayer, Wuillie Marcelino Ruiz was still in prison on false charges. Ruiz, a Methodist lawyer, was arrested on false charges in 1993 as part of an anti-terrorist sweep and sentenced to 20 years.

Wuillie's wife Silvia was asked to come on stage as the group joined in prayer. That same night, half a world away, many prayer groups in Holland were holding all-night meetings, including prayer for Wuillie's release. Other groups around the world were praying at exactly the same time.

Thus, it was an incredible joy when the next day, the news was announced that President Fujimori had just signed a paper for Wuillie's release. (One prayer warrior had prayed specifically that Fujimori would come in on a Saturday--a day he would not normally be in

the office--and sign a release.) Everyone was jumping up and down like little children, laughing and crying for joy!

Upon the release, the prime minister asked the prisoners for forgiveness on behalf of the nation, Wuillie, who holds no betterness, replied, "You do not need to ask us for forgiveness; you need to ask God." When they were asked to be "radicals for democracy," Wuillie replied, "I am a radical for Jesus Christ."

After the Open Doors team left Peru, the good news continued. On June 19, 30 more prisoners were released, including five believers. A few days later, Lt. Colonel David de Vinatea--also the object of focused prayer--was acquitted on one of his two convictions for drug trafficking, which carried a 30-year sentence.

We can all rejoice and give glory to God. It belongs nowhere else, as we are again reminded: In His time, in His way, God answers prayer!

MANILA

The church at Quiricada in Manila has signed contracts and begun the first stage of a new building program which was long overdue. (The old building has served the church and Central Bible College but is in dangerous dilapidation.) Brother Frank Kwong is in charge of the project. The work will be carried out in stages to cause as little disruption as possible. Funds are still needed for the completion of the project. Those who wish to help may send funds to Church of Christ World Wide.

Voices from the Fields

Mark and Candy Garrett

August 20, 1998

When English is your second or third language, irregular verbs can confuse you. The students in our English classes were no exception. I taught two levels of students in evening classes that lasted three months. Why are we teaching English? First, it allows us to build relationships with non-believers who are from the middle class (a part of society we haven't really touched yet). Second, we use Bible texts as part of the curriculum, which we hope will interest some in reading the Bible for themselves. Also, this enables us to serve the community in the area of a felt need.

All eight of my students this term were Muslims. They had all previously studied English for several years in high school, so they had a base of understanding on which to build. But this didn't insure

that they could easily understand even a simple Bible version in English.

One day the assignment was to write a summary of Genesis 2 which explains the Garden of Eden. It was obvious from their summaries that the students didn't understand it very well. So, I read them the same passage in Wolof. As I read, the "lights turned on" in their heads. Then they rewrote their summaries and did marvelously. We hope that some of them will now become interested in reading the Bible in their mother tongue.

The upper level class was reading the feeding of the 5,000 from John 6 when one student asked how Jesus fed all those people with just five loaves and two fish. Before I could answer, one of the other students responded that it was a miracle. But don't think that this is a breakthrough. Most Muslims here believe that Jesus was a prophet and that he did miracles. It is the meaning of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection that they don't grasp.

One Saturday we invited all the students over for an "American breakfast". They enjoyed pancakes and scrambled eggs and we got to know them on a more personal level. Later, one of the students invited us to supper in his home and we were able to meet his whole family! We pray that relationships like these will open up new opportunities for witness and will bear fruit for the sake of the Kingdom.

Please pray with us in this way. And pray that God will send us some short term missionaries. With another teacher or two we could reach more people. Do you know anyone interested in serving in this way?

LABORING ON LABOR DAY

May 1 (Labor Day) is an official holiday in Senegal. Most people have the day off but we were very busy. Our team hosted a conference for Wolof speaking Christians at our Ministry Center. Over 120 Senegalese believers from all over Senegal attended the day of singing, Bible teaching, Bible study, and great fellowship. Of course, just the fact that all those believers were in one place encouraged many who sometimes feel very alone in their walk with Christ.

One of the activities was a case study discussion of interpersonal conflict. We divided the people into groups of ten. It was great to see the people in our discussion group wrestling with real life issues like this:

A man borrows money from another man on the pretext of buying medicine for his sick wife. When the borrower doesn't pay on time,

the lender goes to find him and discovers that the man's wife wasn't sick after all. An argument ensues and now the two, who are both Christians, won't speak to each other any more. What is the root of this problem? What should be done to reconcile these two brothers in Christ? Who is responsible to take the first step toward forgiving the other? What are *your* answers from Scripture?

RADIO PLOWS THE GROUND

In a land where over 90% of the population is Muslim, a Christian radio broadcast is pretty rare. However, there is freedom of religious expression here. Most of what fills the airwaves here is teaching about the Koran, etc., or secular music. Add to this that Senegal has one of the lowest literacy rates in Africa and you can see how effective a radio broadcast might be in "plowing the ground."

Yoonu Njub (The Way of Righteousness) is a series of 100 Bible lessons in Wolof. It progresses chronologically through the Old Testament prophets and ends with the life, death and resurrection of Christ. It especially addresses the issues a Wolof speaking Muslim must work through when considering the claims of the Gospel.

These broadcasts have already aired on the AM national radio network. Now with the coming of FM commercial stations in Senegal, fewer people are listening to the AM chain. SIM and HCJB are currently involved in a project to fund these programs on popular FM stations. These will be in a daily format in the capital and a weekly format in our city, Thies. Each broadcast costs about \$70. To participate, send your donations to SIM, designating "Senegal Radio Broadcasts" Project # SN95695.

What was it like to return to our home in Senegal? An indoor lizard greeted us on our return to Thies. He had chosen our drinking water reservoir as his swimming pool. I trapped him with a spaghetti spoon and dispatched him with a fork. Yuck! Then we had to clean and purify the water tank, first with vinegar and then with bleach. The amazing thing was that we didn't get sick from drinking the water that the lizard had contaminated before we discovered him. Our new E-mail address: mgarrett@telecomplus,sn

David Moldez **Novaliches, PI** **August 30, 1998**
President, Central Bible College in Manila

We thank the Lord as CBC already reached more than half of the semester this school year. Most of the students have shown interest and perseverance in studying God's word. We are so thankful that we

are not yet affected by typhoons and floods. Please pray for they say by October there will be heavy rains here in the Philippines.

Church work here is progressing. The church in Novaliches is thinking of having two Sunday worship services to accommodate more people. We are able to continue our two Sunday afternoon worship and outreach at two areas. Last Sunday, we started another one in another area. Most of those who work in these outreaches are presently studying at CBC.

Our Vietnam Mission was successful (Dave ministered in Vietnam August 3-7. DLA). We were able to train 15 "underground" pastors and church planters who minister to 200 to 1500 members. When South Vietnam was occupied in 1975 by the communists, I honestly worried about the Christians who were left behind. What will happen to them? When we were at Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), I witnessed that the church is much alive though there are persecutions and restrictions. Though they miss congregating and worshipping in a church building every Sunday, yet small house churches are in different parts of Vietnam. They divided themselves in groups of 15-30 in different homes to worship. Some members build baptistries in their homes as they can not do baptisms in public. We also meet "secretly" in Vietnam as we conduct the training. This has encouraged me to continue our cell groups in different homes and train more workers to minister to the small house churches.

The Auxteros are inviting me for a training in Bohol this October semester break. I am planning to come God willing to minister and visit the work there and then I can give you a first hand report. I hope I can also invite two or three students from CBC to have a ministry exposure in the province. I hope we can do the same in Mindoro by December and perhaps visit the Jabians this summer. Please pray with us about this.

The building construction is in the preparation stage. By second semester, all the dorm residents will move out to prepare the place for the transfer of the church and school to the dormitories. Then the church and school building will be torn down to start their construction hopefully by January 1999. We will keep you informed about this.

May the Lord continuously bless us as we work together for His glory and for the salvation of lost souls.

Joy & Robert Garrett
Ruwa, Zimbabwe

Rockwood Bible Camp

July 28, 1998

It is midwinter and quite chilly this evening. I have my small electric heater on and have had 2 sweaters on all day. After washing clothes, I defrosted our freezer. It is rather chilly for such a job, but it needed it desperately. In a month it will be hot. It doesn't seem to go from winter to spring, but winter to summer. The we will be using the ice.

Last weekend we were in Barket on Saturday for our monthly all day Bible Study. This time Raffingord and Barket together must have been a hundred. Bob spoke in the morning on the 1000 year reign of Christ and to the men in the afternoon on qualifications of elders. I taught the women on the Tongue.

August 31, 1998

South Africa Meeting - Bro. Bob Morrow - Twenty five souls came to the Lord in Ganzankulu, South Africa in our meeting there in July. Bro. Bob Morrow had come from the US and I joined him there from a week's meeting. The meeting was held mornings and afternoons. Attendance varied from over 75 to about 150. Unfortunately, there is a serious problem, among the leadership which, if not corrected, will prohibit our return to that one spot. We tried to address the issue in meetings with the leadership and taught the Word in the Gospel meeting, but there are some stubborn hearts who, like Diotrophes, seek power and position and whose lives are a moral misery and disgrace in the marriage realm. There are a few other congregations in that area that took part in this meeting whose leadership is good where we may be able to return if they can truly take their stand on the Word of God.

Men's Camp August 11 and 12 - The men's camp this year was one of the finest ever held. There were 92 men from 17 congregations.

Epworth - The concrete foundations have been poured. It required 116 bags of cement (50kg = about 100 lbs each), and about 20 cubic yards of gravel and 15 cubic yards of river sand. The old concrete mixer worked well with its new engine. The work was done over two Saturdays by the men of the churches coming together to do the job. As there was no water at the site I had to carry water from Ruwa. Fortunately Epworth is only about 15 minutes from here. I had a large tank, which I once used to store diesel fuel years ago. It holds about 400 gallons. We cleaned it up and mounted it on the 2 Ton Ford truck plus six 40 gallon drums. After the water in the tank was finished and

they were starting on the drums, I drove back to Ruwa to refill the tank. On the way something went wrong with the transmission, It jumped out of fourth gear and began making a rattling noise. I found that I could get it into other gears and drove home slowly, filled up the water tank and returned slowly, unable to use fourth gear, but could skip to the fifth gear.

The following Monday we removed the transmission and opened it up. The bearing that joins the spigot shaft to the main shaft had seized and ground its way into the main shaft and eventually broke half the gear off. The local engineering shops can repair the shaft at a fraction of what a new one would cost but we must find bearings and other small parts. During the rest of the week I tried to find the necessary repair parts. Managed to find some but the remainder were only available in South Africa, so Joy and I drove down there Saturday the 22nd. We were with Raglan Broderick and his family over Sunday, got most of the parts on Monday, the remainder were promised for Tuesday morning. However they failed to materialize so we returned that day to Zimbabwe anyway. Raglan will send them up when they eventually come.

Young Families Camp - The last Sunday of August was Young Families Camp. It was our second one-day camp this year for this group. We had 26 couples plus 4 halves whose better half could not attend. There were a total of 56 attendees along with a number of small children. It was a very profitable time for all. The Lord willing, we will have another such camp in January. These sessions are very helpful and encouraging to our young families. From these will come the leaders in the churches in a few short years.

MISSIONARIES' ADDRESSES TO HELP YOU KEEP IN TOUCH, PRAY, AND SUPPORT

AFRICA

Brooks, Martin & Susan, (Temp. til Jan.) 1228 Cooper Ave. Louisville, KY 40219. Field of labor, Mozambique. Email mkbrooks@maf.Org

Garrett, Dollie, 399 College St. Winchester, KY 40391, Tel. (606) 744-5233

Garrett, Mark & Candy, La Mission, B. P. 274, Thies, Senegal, West Africa, Phone/Fax 001-221-51-1737 (add 5 hrs. To EST for

Senegal time) Send gifts to SIM USA, P.O. Box 7900 Charlotte, NC 28241

Garrett Robert & Joy, P.O. Box 30, Ruwa, Zimbabwe, Africa, Sponsoring Congregation, Portland Ave. Church of Christ, 2500 Portland Ave. Louisville, KY 40212

ALASKA

Allen, Irene, 12731 Spring Brook Drive, Eagle River, AK 99577, Tel. (907) 694-9186

AUSTRALIA

Yates, Tim & Dawn, (Leaving for Australia in October, hopefully.) At present, mail or donations may be sent to: Mission Services Association, P.O. Box 13125, Knoxville, TN 37920. Tel. (423) 251-2264 (home), (423) 251-2318 (office) Email: timyates@jbc.edu, Internet: www.jbc.edu/missionaries/yates

BRAZIL

Earikson, Rachel Johnson, C.P. 3006 - Coxipo da Ponte, 78060-200 Cuiaba, MT, Brazil, Email: rachele@nutecnet.com.br (U.S. forwarding address: P.O. Box 82, Zebulon, GA 30295)

GREECE

Galanis, George & Sophia, 126 Erythroy Stravroy Str., 186.48 Drapetsona, Piraia, Greece, Tel. 011-30(1)-462-0874

JAPAN

Nakahara, Michiya & Tomoko, 9-25 Toyohara-cho, Shizuoka City, Japan, Tel. 054-285-1476 (home), 054-285-3398 (church). Treasurer: Bob Yarbrough, 19930 County Rd. 324, Terrell, TX 75160

Nomura, Moto & Yuriko, Bethany Home, 1381 Koarama, Nagasaka-Cho, Kitakoma-Gun, Yamanashi-Ken, Japan 408, Tel. 551-32-5579, Fax. 551-32-4999 (from U.S. first dial 011-81-then listed number)

Tomura, Jenei & Kazuko, c/o Yamazaki, 5-16-18 Shimo-Ochiai, Yono-Shi Saitama, Japan

PHILIPPINES

Auxtero, Nemesio & Myrna, P.O. Box 2635 cpo, Manila, Philippines

Gesulga, Cyrus, Contact Iroquois Church of Christ, Philippine Mission Fund, P.O. Box 18140, Louisville, KY 40261

Moldez, David & Linda, P.O. Box 2635 cpo, Manila, Philippines, President of Central Bible College in Manila, David is also an evangelist and mentor to preachers in training.

RUSSIA

Kitzmilller, Paul & Virginia, 630 Pennsylvania Ave. Sellersburg, IN 47172

Mullins, Earl & Ragen, 4136 Hickman St. Louisville, KY 40213, Tel. (502) 485-0659

Wilson, Dan, 231 S. Galt, Louisville, KY 40206, Tel. (502) 897-2831.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Ashley, James & Karen, Presently serving in Wycliffe Bible Translators headquarters in Dallas, Home: 1214 Lansdale Dr., Duncanville, TX 75116. Tel. (927) 283-2751

THAILAND

Rideout, Ken & Sandra, P.O. Box 202 Chiang Rai, Thailand 57000

MISSIONARIES IN U.S.

Brady, Ken & Cindy, 107 Rogers Drive, Waynesboro, GA 30830.

Broaddus, Victor & May, Church of Christ World Wide, Sponsored by Cramer & Hanover Church of Christ, P.O. Box 54842, Lexington, KY 40555, Tel. (606) 269-1312 (office), (606) 253-9834 (home)

Crowder, Hall & Alice, P.O. Box 194, Waynesboro, GA 30830

Eniego, Arsenio & Pat, 260 N. Oakland Ave. #6, Pasadena, CA 91101. Working with Filipino congregation at Fuller in Los Angeles, CA.

Funds may be forwarded to any or all of the above missionaries via Victor Broaddus.

Modern Israel at 50, and the Jews through the Ages

(Part 3: Conclusion. Parts 1 & 2 were in May & July)

Alex V. Wilson

The existence of the modern state of Israel is no surprise to us today. There it is, and has been for fifty years now--despite powerful opposition from without, and struggles and failures within. But anyone merely observing conditions in the world ninety--or nine hundred--years ago, would have found it laughably incredible if someone had predicted the events which have happened. For during a period of 1813 years (from 135-1948 A.D.) there was no Jewish state at all. There were many Jews, but they possessed no land of their own, and had no government of their own. They were bitterly hated and violently persecuted, as we saw before.

Yet during those centuries, there were people who--despite all appearances--looked for Israel to re-emerge as a state, back in its original land. Many who embraced this hope were Jews, of course. But some were Christians who believed that God's promises in Scripture had not expired.

Boll's Views 50 Years Ago--and Much Earlier

When the modern state of Israel was born in 1948, *Word and Work* editor R. H. Boll wrote the following: "The new State of Israel is an accomplished fact....So after almost 2000 years the Jews take their place again as an autonomous nation in the old 'land of Israel'!" He goes on to show that God originally gave the Jews that land, but "on condition that they keep His covenant." (Lev. 25:23; 18:24-28.) Thus He took it from them due to their treachery toward Him. Yet, Boll continues, it was

promised them that in [the] latter days, when after much bitter experience they shall have returned to the Lord, that He would plant them in their own land, and they should possess it, and be moved no more for ever. (II Sam. 7:10; Jer. 30:3; Amos 9:15.)....

The prophetic scriptures make it clear that, preliminary to their final repentance and restoration, Israel will re-gather to their land in unbelief and in defiance of God....In Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones, two steps are seen in the revival of the nation--the first, the great stirring when bone is gathered to its bone, and the skeletons are clothed with sinews, flesh and skin; but as yet no life is in them; the second, when the breath of life enters them, and they stand up, a great living host before Jehovah (Ezek. 37). The former appears to be coming to pass now. The people of Israel are

going back in unbelief, dead in their trespasses and sins. They go back for trouble--such trouble as never they experienced before and never shall see again; but the nation--a remnant--shall be saved out of it (Jer. 30:7). ["The State of Israel," June 1948; pages 121-24; emphasis added.]

Observe that he said that Scripture taught that Israel would re-gather to their land, but in unbelief--not trusting in Jesus as Messiah, nor even rightly believing in the God of their fathers. (80% of Israelis today are either agnostics or atheists.) Notice that he did not say these things merely because they had just occurred. Rather, this had been his teaching for decades, long before they took place. In his written debate with Leo Boles during 1927, Boll declared,

We have seen from the testimony of the Scriptures:

1. That the nation of Israel scattered by God's hand shall by his hand be...regathered and restored to their own land.
2. That they shall accept their Messiah, be converted and saved.
3. That all the blessing and promises shall come unto that people just as surely and as literally as their predicted punishments have come upon them.
4. That once so restored, they shall never again fall away or be removed from their land.
5. That their national conversion and restoration will be a blessing to all the world. (p. 60)

Though only point #1 has come to pass so far, remember that not many decades ago that point seemed as unlikely to be fulfilled as #2-5 seem today to those who disregard the promises of God which we examined last month, plus those mentioned above.

Will Levitical Worship be Re-established during the Millennium?

Another matter deserves clarifying, for many even in the so-called premill churches do not realize this fact. In the Boles-Boll debate, Brother Boll complained that Brother Boles falsely and without evidence accused him of teaching that during the millennium the law of Moses would be restored--carried out by the Aaronic priesthood and including animal sacrifices in a temple rebuilt by God's order. Boll asked, "Where is his proof...that I teach such things? I invite him to present one iota of evidence...." (Page 304; also 387.)

Boll *did* believe that the Jews, once restored to their land but still without faith in Jesus as Messiah, would build a temple again and carry on Judaism's rituals there--as some Israelis currently wish and are preparing to do, by the way. (He based this on Matt.24:15ff--with vv.29-31 showing the timeframe and that more is included here than

70 A.D.; also Dan.9:27; plus 2 Thes.2:3-4; Rev.11:1-2 & chap.13.) But their re-establishing of Judaism's temple and rituals would not be by God's ordaining nor with faith in Jesus as Messiah. (Pages 364-5 and 388-90.) And these events would not be during the millennium but before Christ's return in power and glory, which precedes the millennium. Boll's presenting those beliefs just mentioned is doubtless what led Boles to think that he believed in a restored, God-ordained Judaistic worship during the 1000 years. Some dispensationalists (such as John Walvoord and Hal Lindsey) do hold this latter belief, but Boll did not. (The present editor agrees with him. Study it for yourself.) The eternal New Covenant having been established at Christ's first coming, the God-given but inferior and temporary Old Covenant will never be restored. (See Hebrews.)

"As We were Saying, Hundreds of Years Ago..."

Another fact to notice is that Boll was not at all the originator of this view-point, as some people seemed to imagine. In the Stone-Campbell movement alone, we can mention examples of others who long before him taught more or less similar views. Outstanding scholar **J. W. McGarvey** wrote a series of four articles in *Christian Standard* in 1903 entitled "Why Are the Jews Yet with Us?" One statement he made there was, "When Israel shall have been restored to the land of promise, and the people shall all become believers in their own Messiah, and all the nations of the earth shall have been blessed through the seed of Abraham, they shall be the most grateful...people on the face of the globe." And before that, in 1881, he wrote of the return of the Jews to the Holy Land, "which seems to be demanded by many predictions in the Word of God."

Then there was **J. T. Barclay**, Alexander Campbell's son-in-law and the first overseas missionary sent out by the Stone-Campbell movement--to Jerusalem! He wrote much on this subject. As early as 1861, he wrote an article in the *Millennial Harbinger* entitled "Conversion of Israel." Some of its subheadings were: "God hath not cast off his people;" "All Israel destined to be saved; but not while dwelling amongst the Gentiles;" "Testimony of prophets and apostles;" "The Jews return unregenerate."

Alexander Campbell himself wrote, "God has not kept them [the Jews] these many ages for nothing. He will use them again, and yet again bless all the nations of the earth by the seed of Abraham His friend...." (*M.H.* 1849.) Again he said, "The unbelieving Jews...though no longer the depositories of the Oracles of God...are, in their present position, the subject of special prophecy and of special promise." (*Popular Lectures and Addresses.*) Here's one more quote. He wrote, "Can anyone believe that the following predictions have yet

been accomplished? Isa. 50:16-21; 60; 62; 63; 65:17-25; 66:10-24. Also Jer. 30:1-3, 17-24; 31; 32:36-42; 33:1-26. Ezek. 36 and 37.... Can anyone say that these prophecies are now fulfilled? And if not can anyone show how they are to be fulfilled after the end of the world?" (1842.) Examine those references and see what he was saying.

Then there is **Barton Stone**. In his magazine *Christian Messenger* (1844) he wrote on "The Future Restoration of Israel." He opens by saying, "This doctrine has never been disputed till a few years past, and then it was set aside by some to suit their theory of the second advent of Messiah and destruction of the world in 1843." [He is referring to the date-setter William Miller and his many followers.] Stone then expounds Romans 11 at some length, arguing for "the Jews' restoration, the whole of them, and their future holiness." He ends by saying, "This appears decisive that Paul believed in the return of the Jews [to God in faith] in the latter days."

Lest anyone think that such beliefs were held only in the Stone-Campbell movement, let's look at what Bible scholars outside that movement taught. Also, if somebody has the idea that nobody believed ideas like these till after dispensationalists like Darby and Scofield came along and concocted them, that is totally wrong. The following men predated them by a long time, and held some theological views different from theirs. Yet they agreed on Israel's renewal.

Dr. Elhanan Winchester was a preacher both in England and America. In 1800 he penned these words:

The return of the Jews to their own land is certain.... This event may be easily accomplished if the nations that shall weaken the Turks [who ruled Palestine then and for over a century afterwards!] make this one of their demands, namely that they yield up the holy land to its rightful owners, the Jews, to repossess that which God sware to give to the patriarchs and their posterity.

A Puritan in America named **Increase Mather** was president of Harvard from 1685-1701. During his lifetime, the Holy Land was a desolate wilderness, controlled by the Turks and almost totally devoid of Jews. Yet Mather wrote a book entitled *The Mystery of Israel's Salvation Explained*. There he set forth his beliefs in the regathering of the Jews to their land, and their conversion. He wrote, "The Scripture is very clear and full in this, [so] that you see not how it can be justly denied or questioned."

John Owen was one of the greatest of the Puritan preachers in England. He served as chaplain to Oliver Cromwell, and authored many volumes on Biblical subjects. In 1673 he wrote, "The Jews shall be gathered from all parts of the earth where they now are scattered, and brought home into their homeland."

Don't misunderstand my reasons for quoting the preceding men. The fact that they held such beliefs does not prove the beliefs are true. Maybe all these writers were wrong! But the fact that so many thorough Bible students from various times and scattered places all came to the same conclusion leads us to ask, "Why?" (Numerous others could be added to this list, too.) The answer is, "Because all of them took God's promises at face value, both those made through OT prophets and the explanations of such made in the NT as well."

Study it for yourself. Perhaps you will conclude with R. H. Boll, "Behold the Jew, and believe: God's covenant is sure! Behold the Jew, and tremble: God's judgment is sure! Behold the Jew, and rejoice: God's promise is sure!"

In Remembrance of Carl Kitzmiller

Paul A. Clark

Carl Kitzmiller did many things not only for the churches where he preached but also for the brotherhood at large. Although he was determined to be primarily a preacher, as he told me one time, he was evangelist for the radio program, writer of the quarterly, writer for the Word and Work, and often featured speaker at the Bible Conference. He has preached in large and small churches over the brotherhood--often going to churches that were still mission points. In recent years, I have enjoyed having him and Phyllis in Johnson City where he preached at Locust Street church and I preached at the Mountain View church. Locust Street was his home church, the place where he started.

He and I were roommates when we went to Harding College. Along with Eugene Pound and Jule Miller we all lived for two years in one room in a dwelling Harding had temporarily converted into a men's dorm. Although I had never met or even heard of Carl before, we were quickly acquainted because we arrived at Harding on the same train. Carl was from Johnson City and Robert Boyd was his preacher. We had many hours of good fellowship at Harding which has kept us close through the years. Carl was the best scholar of us all. He kept that same careful scholarly approach in his work in the church.

Carl used his model preaching and excellent writing to give us good leadership in the church for many years. We praise God for his life.

Goodbye to a Good Soldier

by Bruce D. Chowning

I first had an extended acquaintance with Bro. Carl Kitzmiller in the early 1960's when I was invited to hold two meetings at Southside Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, where he was the located minister. I stayed in the Kitzmiller home, and I was very impressed by Carl's devotion to his wife Phyllis and his Christian fatherhood in his relationship with their children, Paul and Susan. That love affair with Phyllis continued for fifty-one years. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Paul has been a minister for a number of years, and he and his wife Virginia are now involved with mission work in Russia. Susan and her husband Danny are active in the Lord's work wherever they live.

As years passed by, I was equally impressed with Carl's knowledge of God's word and his earnest desire to impart it to others. His lessons in the Word and Work quarterly were always very helpful, and they will be greatly missed by many who have used them through the years. His speaking on the Words of Life radio program extended his influence to many parts of the world, and in so doing he followed the Lord's great commission: "Go into all of the world and preach the gospel."

Carl was my brother, and I with many others will miss him; but we will look forward to that eternal reunion and we rejoice that for him it is now "far better."

NEWS and NOTES

Edited by Bennie Hill

Linton (Jerry Carmichael) We are happy to announce that Steve Wade has accepted the position of deacon in our church. We have enjoyed Steve, Janet, Bart and Logan as a part of our church family for several years. The ordination will take place during our morning worship service of Sept. 20th.

PCS Alumni Association is announcing the Diamond Anniversary White Elephant Sale for November

14, 1998. If you have items to be donated to the sale, please call Lisa Nethery at (502) 778-6114 or Paula Grimes at (812) 246-5897. Why not ask your employer to donate to your alma mater? This is also a great day to renew old acquaintances. Come to PCS (2500 Portland Ave.) and help keep the spirit of celebration going!

Buechel Church of Christ (Bud Ridgeway) hosted the First Annual Men's Leadership Conference on

Sept. 12th. There were 33 men from 14 different churches represented. It was an uplifting meeting with emphasis on practical application of local leadership. Plans are to host a similar meeting again next year on the second Saturday in September. If there are other churches who would like to assist in this program - contact Bud Ridgeway at (502) 499-0724 or email at BRidge3470@aol.com.

From Portland Oregon: A Christian brother who subscribes to the Word & Work is requesting church bulletins from any of our Pre-millennial congregations. Would you add him to your mailing list? . Gene Richter, 3942 SE 168th Ave., Portland, OR 97236-1740.

Cramer & Hanover - The Young Adult Sunday School Class under the capable leadership of Alan Carter hosted its first Church Retreat. About 26 members gathered at Antioch Christian Camp Oct. 2-3 for an "Experiencing God" weekend. There was food, fun, and fellowship. The seminar was very encouraging and uplifting and everyone in attendance came home with a positive - upbeat attitude. We've learned that others can and will do when given the opportunity!

Martin Brooks...For those of you who would like to contact us via telephone, our number is (502) 968-8607. Our e-mail while in the States is: MartinkBrooks@yahoo.com

We will be in the States until Jan. 6, 1999 assuming we are granted the student visa from Portugal.

School of Biblical Studies...started its Fall Semester with 19 different people enrolled in the classes. 9 are taking the classes for credit. January 4, 1999 begins the Spring Semester, January 4, 1999

and runs through April 26th. Classes being offered include: Work of the Church (Burks); Isaiah/Jeremiah (Carmichael); Hermeneutics (Wilson); Letters of Peter/John (Abbot); Personal Evangelism (Hill) For complete schedule, registration information, contact SBS at 2500 Portland Ave., Louisville, KY. 40212

Thanksgiving Service...at Atherton High School (Louisville, Kentucky) will be held November 26th beginning at 10:00 a.m. The PCHS and 75th Anniversary Choir will be presenting the special music.

52nd Kentucky/Indiana Christian Fellowship: August 1999! Mark your calendar now and plan to attend! Last conference of this decade!

Parksville (John McNerney) - Bennie Hill just concluded a revival meeting with the Parksville brethren and was tremendously encouraged by the love and fellowship that exists there. John & Sheila McNerney are to be commended for their faithfulness in continuing to minister there. The study for the week centered around the first three chapters of Revelation with special emphasis on the vision of Jesus Christ in chapter one. It was especially good to see the building full on Sunday for Homecoming.

Fallfest '98...is scheduled for Nov.14th at Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond Louisiana. Randy Gill will be the featured speaker and Full Access will conduct the entire worship service the next morning. For more information contact Don McGee at P.O. Box 732, 301 E.Mulberry, Amite, LA 70422

Avenue "E" (Bro. Val) The end of August was a time of honor for Bro. Val and Sis. Jean who have

been serving the congregation there for 28 years. A "teapot set" was presented with special instructions for Bro. Val not to touch them. The money was equally divided. Mutual love was expressed and thanksgiving to the Lord for the privilege of serving this congregation for 28 years.

Jennings (Dan Ford) In early November, this church will celebrate 81 years of ministry in the local area. It was the first Sunday in November, 1917, that "seven precious souls were baptized" in Jennings. The Finance Committee recently decided to make a special effort November 1 to lower the indebtedness on the Family Life Center. There have been at least 17 young men who have gone out to preach the Word and at least that many young women who are serving as the wives of the elder or deacon's, Sunday school teachers, and faithful Christians from this church family.

Welcome to Stephan Thalman, exchange student from Stans, Switzerland. He will attend Lake Arthur High School as he spends the year in the home of Doug & Joyce Broyles.

Lake Arthur High Bible Club...sponsored by Joyce Broyles, began with a total membership of 16 students.

Acadiana Bible Institute Opens...in Crowley Louisiana. Bruce Runners's class, "Survey of the Gospels" meets on Thursday evening during Sept. Jack Harris will teach the Oct. class on "Sermon Preparation."

Turkey Creek (Harry Coultas) recently ordered 25 more copies of A New Creation. That, of course, is a book specially for new converts. Churches that are growing keep ordering it. Since Harry & Kate's move to Turkey Creek - there have been 11 baptisms and 53 renewals. Of that total, 4 were baptized and 19 came for rededication during a recent revival with Nathan Burks.

Gallatin (Julius Hovan) The theme for Homecoming '98 (Oct.4th) was "Come Before Him with Singing." Dr. Dale Jorgenson was on hand to lead some special and congregational singing and to speak. He is a retired college professor and choral director. War of the Worldviews, featuring Dr. John Morris of Institute of Creation, was conducted the middle of October.

Missions: \$5,000 was sent to Honduras this past summer to equip a kitchen for the training of Honduran women. This gift came from the Edith Mayberry Mission Fund.(Gallatin Church) The kitchen is complete and women are being trained in all aspects of cooking so that they can prepare nutritional meals for their families and secure employment as cooks.

Letters We Like: "I want to congratulate you on a splendid August Word and Work. The treatment of Proverbs is especially well done, and it was so appropriate to include some modern proverbs..." (Leroy Garrett)

"Congratulations on your articles about the Proverbs. They were very well done. I've sent copies to several friends." (Dave Reagan)

"Thanks for including the item on our Jamaican mission efforts. I have been surprised in News & Notes by the difference that a small congregation with a relatively small mission budget can make in a particular mission field. (Gary Pearson, Westminster, Md)

The 70 A.D. Doctrine...is the idea that Jerusalem's destruction by Rome's armies in 70 A.D. fulfilled all Jesus' forecasts in the Gospels re: His return in glory. It is dependent on the view that the book of Revelation was written before 70 A.D. If you want a great deal of evidence supporting the view that Revelation was written in

the mid-90s instead (thus refuting the other whole idea), you may order The Identity of Babylon and the Dating of Revelation, by Stanley Paher: 4135 Badger Circle, Reno, NV 89509, \$5.95. You may not agree with everything.

A Fine Example From Long Ago: In News & Notes of April, 1931, Charles Neal (then minister at the Winchester KY. church) wrote: "I am preaching every Sun. morning on missions home and foreign and have lately read and reread the lives of Livingstone, Carey, and Paton. I plan to use each of them in 3 missionary talks later. Our people generally are very ignorant of missionary work and missionaries, either from our own or other bodies."

Goin' Fishing... Paul & Virginia Kitzmiller returned to Kineshma on October 12th. Their 90 day visa will allow them to remain there until sometime before Christmas. Re-

ports, update, or general information can be received by writing "Goin' Fishing, Earl Mullins Sr., 4136 Hickman St., Louisville, Ky. 40213

Woodland Bible Camp reports: Major improvements: New Mattresses; New Septic System; Use of Camp: 6 camp weeks; 2 retreats; Total attendance: 384 for camp weeks; 58 for retreats; Baptisms: 13. Praise the Lord! (Mike Abbott, President) There is a need for camp representatives from each congregation. This needs to be a person who is highly motivated about Woodland Bible Camp and young people. Please call me at (812) 967-4280 or e-mail at: covbridge@wcrtc.net.

Bro. Hartle Goes Home-Word has come from Capetown of the homegoing of Thomas Hartle on Sept. 26. A fuller report and tribute will appear in Nov. W&W