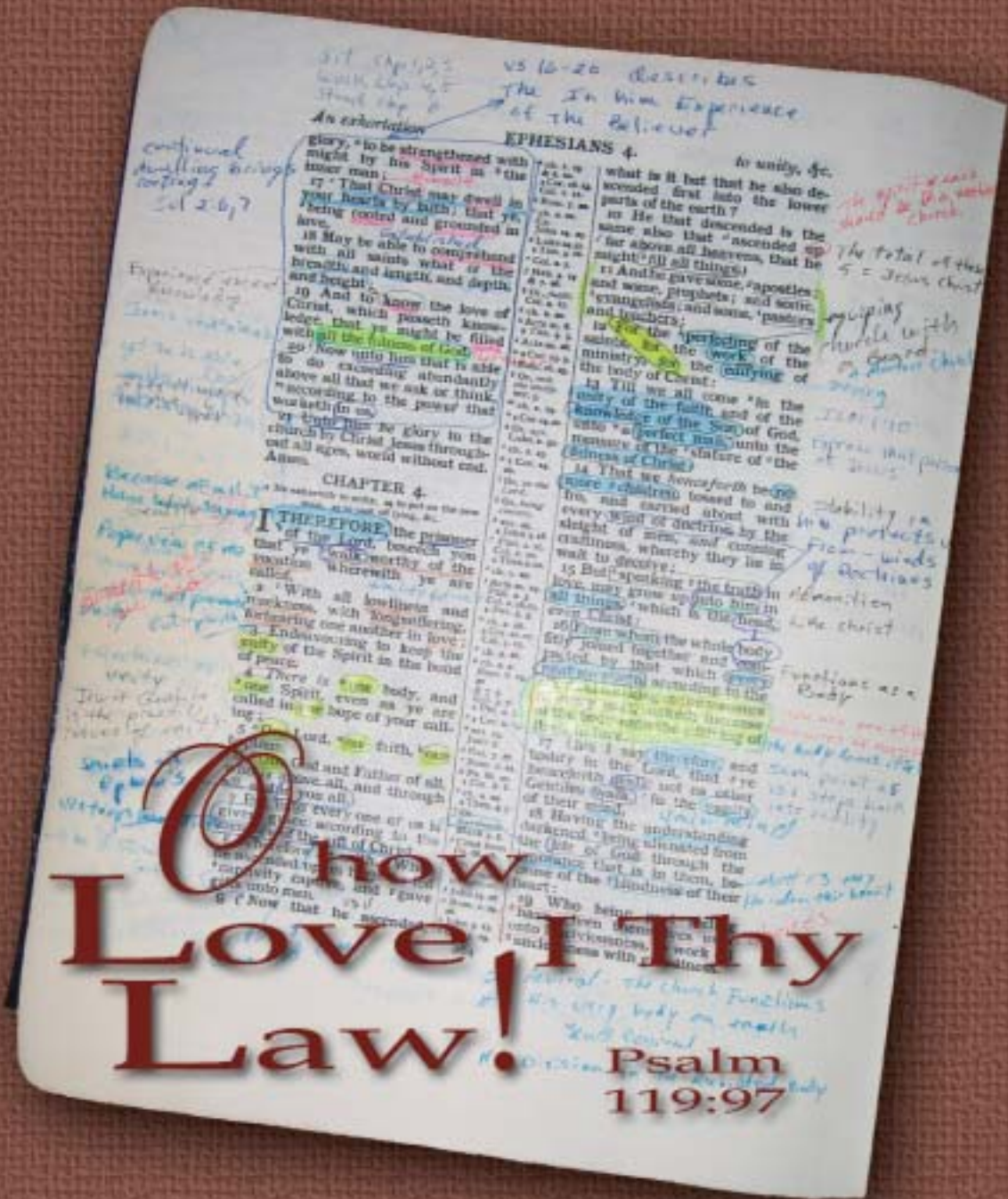


The Heartbeat of The Remnant



... is a Hunger for the Word of God

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

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Precious Letters from
Our Readers



RESOLVES

by

Cotton Mather 1663-1728

Editors comments:

Cotton Mather belonged to a Boston Puritan family. His father was Increase Mather, president of Harvard College and the foremost New England minister of his day. When Cotton entered Harvard at twelve, he could already read Greek, Latin, and Hebrew and had mastered most of the Greek New Testament. But because of a bad stammer he felt unsuited for the ministry and instead studied medicine. However, by 1680 he had overcome the stammer and began a ministry of preaching. Unfortunately, Cotton Mather became very involved in the Salem witch trials of 1692. However, later in his life, he changed many of these views. He wrote over 400 books, many of

which had to do with the raising of children and education. Taken from *The Puritans: A Sourcebook of Their Writings* (edited by Perry Miller and Thomas H. Johnson), the following is quoting Cotton Mather's writing entitled "Some Special Points Relating to the Raising of My Children."

Point #1

I pour out continual prayers and cries to the God of all grace for them that He will be a Father to my children, and bestow His Christ and His grace upon them, and guide them with His councils, and bring them to His glory. And in this action, I mention them distinctly, every one by name unto the Lord.

Point #2

I begin betimes to entertain them with delightful stories, especially Scriptural ones. And still conclude with some lesson of piety, bidding them to learn that lesson from the story. And thus, every day at the table, I have used myself to tell a story before I rise, and make the story useful to the olive plants about the table.

Point #3

When the children at any time accidentally come in my way, it is my custom to let fall some sentence or other, that it may be monitory and profitable to them. This matter proves to me, a matter of some study, and labor, and contrivance. But who can tell, what may be the effect of a continual dropping?

Point #4

I essay betimes, to engage the children, in exercises of piety; and especially secret prayer, for which I give them very plain and brief directions, and suggest unto them the petitions, which I would have them to make before the Lord, in which I therefore explain to their apprehension and capacity. And I often call upon them, "Child, don't you forget every day, to go alone, and pray as I have directed you!"

Point #5

Betimes I try to form in the children a temper of benignity. I put them upon doing of services and kindnesses for one another, and for other children. I applaud them, when I see them delight in it. I upbraid all aversion to it. I caution them exquisitely against all revenges of injuries. I instruct them, to return good offices for evil ones. I show them, how they will by this goodness become like to the Good God, and His Glorious Christ. I let them discern, that I am not satisfied, except when they have a sweetness of temper shining in them.

Point #6

As soon as its possible, I make the children learn to write. And when they can write, I employ them in writing out the most agreeable and profitable things that I can invent for them.

In this way, I propose to fill their minds with excellent things, and have a deep impression made upon their minds by such things.

Point #7

I mightily endeavor it, that the children may betimes, be acted by principles of reason and honor. I first beget in them an high opinion of their Father's love to them and of His being best able to judge what shall be good for them. Then I make them sensible; it's a folly for them to pretend unto any wit and will of their own; they must resign all to me, who will be sure to do what is best; my word must be their law. I cause them to understand, that it is an hurtful and a shameful thing to do amiss. I aggravate this, on all occasions; and let them see how amiable they will render themselves by well doing. The first chastisement, which I inflict for an ordinary fault, is to let the child see and hear in me an astonishment, and hardly able to believe that the child could do so abase a thing, but believing that they will never do it again. I would never come to give a child a blow; except in case of obstinacy; or some gross enormity. To be chased for awhile out of my presence, I would make to be looked upon, as the sorest punishment in the family. I would by all possible insinuations gain this point upon them, for them to learn all the brave things in the world, is the bravest thing in the world. I am not fond of proposing play to them, as a reward of any diligent application to learn what is good, lest they should think diversion to be a better and nobler thing than diligence. I would have them come to propound and expect, at this rate, I have done well and now I will go to my father; he will teach me some curious thing for it. I must have them count it a privilege, to be taught; and I sometimes manage the matter so that my refusing to teach them something is their punishment. The slavish way of education, carried on with raving and kicking and scourging (in schools as well as families), is abominable, and a dreadful judgment of God upon the world.

Point #8

Though I find it a marvelous advantage to have the children strongly biased by principles of

continued on page 33

*APOSTLE OF
HOLINESS*

**Samuel Logan
Brenngle's**

H o m e L i f e

by Denny Kenaston

Colonel Brenngle was a well-known and beloved officer in the Salvation Army. This was the Christian army that fought with the devil for the souls of men. He was born in the year 1860 and passed on to his reward in 1936. Outside of the Salvation Army, he is best known for his famous book, *Helps to Holiness*. It is a classic, read and appreciated by Christians from every major denomination. In this book, he emphasizes the inner work of grace in sanctification as well as the outward aspects of a holy life.

Inside of the Army structure, he was their revivalist / evangelist. He was widely used all over the world to fan the flames of revival among Salvationists. He led thousands to Christ in his meetings, however, he was better known for his preaching on a holy heart and the holy life that follows it. Tens of thousands were inspired to seek God for a deeper work of grace and an enduement of power from the Holy Ghost.



His Heritage

Samuel Brenngle's family lines reach back into the early days of Colonial America. His ancestors were led by God to sail to America in search of religious freedom and adventure. They were a people whose hearts welled up with love for God, and with love for His Word.

Four generations of God-fearing Christians preceded young Samuel's arrival in the pioneering West, which was Kentucky and Indiana in those days. These generations of godliness were on his father's side of the family. He also had two godly generations on his mother's side.

Father and mother were warm-hearted, fervent Methodists. They served the Lord with all of their heart, mind, soul, and strength. His father, William Brenngle, was the Superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school. A fervent

Christian, he was often called upon to preach and lead out in the Methodist Societies. His mother, Rebecca Anne, had the most influence on his early life because his father died when he was young.

Early Tragedy

When Samuel was two, his father was called away to fight in the Civil War. Nine months later he returned home a very sick man and an invalid. He died three months later.

This tragedy changed the entire course of Samuel Brengle's life. Had it not been for the death of his father, he probably would have grown up on the higher side of society with all that he could ever want. Instead, his life became one of continual poverty, with all its privations, humiliations, and disciplines. We all know very well that God makes no mistakes as He rules in the affairs of men on earth. He uses tragedies to mold vessels for His glory. God was at work in Samuel's life. A long list of heart-rending circumstances followed the death of his father.

After two and one-half years of widowhood, his mother decided to re-marry. She felt it would be best for them both. Mother described her new husband as a good man and told Samuel that things would be better. Things did not turn out to be better, but instead, they brought more heartache for both mother and son. It seems the marriage was not good and there were continual tensions in the home. What a sad disappointment to a little boy who had lost a father that he idolized. He was forced into the difficult task of relating to a stepfather to whom he was not close. Samuel watched his mother's sweet, gentle personality change into one that was troubled and full of anxiety.

Samuel's stepfather, who was a doctor, did not do well in his profession. It was decided that farming would be a better way to make a living. A move was proposed, followed by another one after that. Farming turned out to be another bad profession for Samuel's stepfather; however, the burden of poverty fell on all

in the house. The long lonely hours of farm life were not translated into success, but rather more failure.

Loneliness set in to the young lad's life, and along with the loneliness, depression. He was not close to Dad, and Mom was very busy trying to make ends meet. Though he was very close to his mother, Samuel withdrew into his own little world. God used this loneliness and translated it into many creative things that molded his abilities for future ministry. I will write more on this later.

When Samuel was fifteen years old, another tragedy came his way. While he was away at school, he received his first telegraph. It read: "Come quick. Mother dying." He never made it home in time to say goodbye. He was stopped by a neighbor one mile from home and told, "You are too late; your mother just died." After the funeral, he wandered in the woods for days in despair. He returned to his studies, a sad and depressed fifteen-year-old boy. Samuel Brengle was on his own from the time of his mother's death and onward. It appears that he had very little to do with his stepfather. We can only read between the lines of this very silent subject in his biography. His stepfather's name is not even stated in the book.

Romans 8:28 states, "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*" This verse was being worked out in Samuel's life, though he did not understand it at the time. God was using the humility of failure, the disciplines of poverty and hard work, to build special abilities into His servant. In his loneliness, he learned creative thinking and imaginative meditation. In his poverty, he was motivated to get an education and learn all he could. God used all of this to bless multitudes of hungry people in his future ministry.

Mother's Christian Influence

We are going to backtrack for a few moments and look into the life of Samuel's

mother. Because his godly father died early in his life, she became the mainstay of his early years. Mother's fiery Methodist heritage translated itself into many Christian activities in her home. She carried the burden and responsibility to lead the family in devotions each day while father sat and listened along with the children. A portion of Scripture was read and explained on a level that the children could understand. She was also careful to spend time reading Bible stories to the waiting, imaginative minds of her little ones.

Samuel had many fond memories of long walks with his mother. They would walk and talk of all kinds of little boy things. She wisely wove the truths of the Word of God into all they spoke of. As they walked and talked, Rebecca read the book of God's creation to her son and inspired him to see God in all of it. These special times built a very strong relationship between them. I don't think Samuel could have made it through the many hard portions of his life, had he not been very close to his godly mother. The query, "What would mother think?" kept him through many times of temptation.

Mother's guiding words of counsel placed a determination in Samuel to keep himself pure, and to save his heart for the one woman God would give him. This commitment eventually brought the rewards of a long and happy marriage to a godly soldier in the Salvation Army. It thrilled my heart to read the accounts of their deep love for one another, which blossomed out of their pure courtship. They had many years of service together for the King of kings.

Saved Through the Methodists

God uses many different means to influence a life in the direction of His plan. As I studied Samuel's life and the many difficulties that he faced, it became very clear to me that the church played a major role in the development of his life.



Young Samuel Brengle grew up in the midst of a lively active Methodist church. Although it is clear that his stepfather made some mistakes in directing his home, one of the things he did right was to take the family to a

godly church consistently. In this atmosphere, Samuel saw much solid reality, which had a saving effect upon him. Because of the uneventful nature of prairie life, church life was the highlight of every week.

He saw hardened community sinners fall on their faces at the altar and arise transformed by the power of Jesus' blood. He saw a church full of godly people joyfully singing the great hymns of the faith. He heard the Word of God preached with power by laymen who lived it all week long. Their words only confirmed the words of his mother's teachings at family devotions during the week. All this and more had a profound effect upon him as he came closer to his age of accountability.

When Samuel was twelve years old he felt God's call to him. The nature of evil within caused him to despair at times, but God used it

all to bring him to that same mourner's bench where he had watched so many others go. It took several trips to the altar before he was finally at peace. One night, with his mother beside him giving counsel, he found salvation in Jesus Christ alone. She guided his heart to a simple faith and trust in Jesus. From then on, all was glory for months in his new life in Christ.

The structure of the Methodist Church societies gave him many opportunities to get involved from the very beginning, which stimulated quick growth in the grace of God. By the time Samuel was fifteen, he was assisting in the oversight of the local Sunday school. All these activities paved the way for a long life of Christian service that reached around the world.

Samuel's Books

In those days, education out on the prairies was limited to three to four months of the year. The farmers had it hard, and they needed their boys to help more than was good for them. Nevertheless, Samuel had an intense desire to learn all he could. Because of this, much of his early education was self-taught.

Family libraries were small out on the prairie, but the books there were the solid character-building kind. He read the same books repeatedly, developing his meditative skills as he went. Many evenings were spent reading the few books and picturing the things he had read. Samuel's imagination matured through this exercise, and God used it mightily in his preaching ministry. He gradually developed a love for words and saw them as vehicles of expression. God was training him.

What were some of these books? This is an important question in a day when children's books are filled with nonsense. *Pilgrim's*

Progress, Stephen's *History of Methodism*, Charles Dickens' books, the works of Josephus, and a *History of Wars*. When he desired a change, he would take the *Webster's 1828 Unabridged Dictionary* and study the meanings of the words. Through all this self-study, Samuel became a master of words and began to realize the power of right words.

Samuel Logan Brengle's biographer, Clarence W. Hall beautifully states the effect these books had on him. He writes that "Samuel developed an inner eye that could make pictures in his head, and an inner ear that could hear, enjoy and pursue words and their meanings. These were Samuel's possessions as a boy, possessions which then helped to relieve the monotony of prairie life, but later made of him an orator, a painter of word pictures, and later still, helped to make him a preacher of power, with the ability to present vividly and realistically the tragic terrors of hell and the transcendent delights of heaven."

Conclusion

A wise Heavenly Father tempered Samuel's brilliant mind with the rigors of poverty and prairie life, thus preparing a vessel of honor, humble yet alive with talent and ability. God is doing these self-same things through us and to our children. All these things work together to mold a life. Books are important. Materialism is a danger. Hard work is a benefit for all of our children. Oh, to have eternal eyes to see the importance of every move we make in the lives of our children. It seems that nothing is insignificant. Let us make every move count with purpose. And the purpose—let it be to the praise of the glory of God's kingdom. □

"Oh, to have eternal eyes to see the importance of every move we make in the lives of our children. It seems that nothing is insignificant. Let us make every move count with purpose."

A Quiet Place to Stand

by Rachel Weaver



"...in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. In returning and rest shall ye be saved..." Isaiah 30:15

*"Be still, and know that I am God..."
Psalm 46:10*

*"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him..."
Psalm 37:7*

*"...He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul..." Psalm 23:2,3*

*"Come ye yourselves apart...and rest awhile..."
Mark 6:31*

We live in a land full of hustle and bustle, noise, commotion, and coming and going. There is something to do, somewhere to go, and someone to talk to every minute of the day. Gone are the quiet woods, the peaceful countrysides, and the long winter evenings by the fireside.

Instead, telephones ring, computers and electronic gadgets beep and hum. Music is available on every hand. Even if we have chosen not to be connected to the television and the radio, our world is filled full to the brim with sound and activity.

Our own house is not a quiet place most of the time. It is a busy place, full of ten people or more. It has all the activity that comes with a house full of children. The refrigerator hums. The

I am convinced that most of us do not make enough quiet spaces in our lives for our families or ourselves... The Master's first call is to "be still, and know that I am God."

washer and dryer add their noise. We all communicate together. Only in the late hours of the evening, in the early morning, or the enforced quiet hour of the afternoon are there *really quiet times* when I can fully relax in the stillness.

This peace and quiet nourishes my soul. It gives me time to meet God, to pray, and to rest my soul in Him.

I am convinced that most of us do not make enough quiet spaces in our lives for our families or ourselves. We fill our days with chores and activities and fall into bed at night drained spiritually, emotionally, and physically. We tend to rise and rush through our devotions. We hurry into the next fast-paced day. We complain of frustration and burn out. We are focusing on the wrong things.

The Master's first call is to "be still, and know that I am God." He calls us to quietness, return-

ing, and rest for our strength and salvation. However, what does He say next? "And ye would not!" How true it is. The lifestyle most of us have chosen does not lend itself to quietness. We are caught up in the race to do and to be. We have set our standards for housekeeping and homemaking where our mothers had them. However, we may have many more children. We try to cook healthy meals, sew our own clothes, and home-school our children. Some of us help in our home business, or aid our husband in his ministry and calling. What then? How can we be quiet? How do we rest? Is there anything to do about this?

True quietness starts in the heart and soul. It is an attitude. It comes as I understand who Jesus Christ is and what He truly has for me. I find it as I accept His plan for my life and the peace that He holds out to me. It comes as I forgive others, as God has forgiven me. It deepens as I give all the expectations I have for my husband and children to Jesus and leave them there. It is as I pause long enough to fully experience God in my life that our whole family is more peaceful as well.

I have been pondering this quiet place to stand because I want it so much for my friends and myself. I suspect that mothers everywhere are yearning to live in peace and quietness and desiring to teach their children how to do the same.

I am finding that even a small shift in my own life and thinking helps a lot. Holding on to the vision of what God has offered me, and pressing on in His strength, I find it becoming a reality in our lives.

This is not about a major effort to change your lifestyle. It is about paying attention to the principles God has laid out in His Word. It is about enjoying the family God has given you and learning how to live right where you are.

There are as many ways to live your life as there are families. Yet even in the differences, we all walk a common path. We all need a close, meaningful relationship to Jesus, to our husbands, and to our children. All of us seem captive to the demands of family and church life. As we respond to the tug and pull of daily life, we tend to find it harder to remember that true rest comes only through knowing God and putting His principles to work in our lives.

Sadly enough, if we do not learn this lesson, we cannot pass it on to our children. It is up to us to show them, by the example of our lives, our desire for quiet time with God, for harmony with each other, and for a life lived in the wonder and joy of each new day.

The idea of enjoying today to the fullest needs to be recaptured. God has given us "this moment to hold in our hands and to touch, as it slips through our fingers like sand. Yesterday's gone, and tomorrow may never come, but we have this moment today."

Enjoy the daily dishes, reading together, and teaching your children.

Notice the bird's sweet songs, the lovely clouds, and the beautiful flowers outside your window. Thank God for them in the presence of your children.

My friend, Ruth, struggled through a losing battle with cancer. One day, while in remission, she made the comment, "We are so busy. We do not take time for the little things. But I have learned, after looking death in the face, to be grateful for a friend's visit, that friendly smile, and the fresh smell of the wind on my newly-washed sheets. Each thing, each day is a gift from God."

Peep into my window. I was facing a challenge in my busy day. I was frustrated, sure that I could not do another thing. But God spoke to

"We are so busy. We do not take time for the little things. But I have learned, after looking death in the face, to be grateful for a friend's visit, that friendly smile, and the fresh smell of the wind on my newly-washed sheets. Each thing, each day is a gift from God."

me, "In returning and rest shall ye be saved. Return to Me, My child. I have all the grace and strength that you need. You said you would be a servant. You want to be like Me. I have offered you the chance." Chastened and humbled, I repented of my attitudes and my lack of a servant's heart. I sought His grace.

To my surprise (O ye of little faith) the major challenge of schedules disappeared. Things went smoothly, and I even enjoyed the interruption. As I told a friend later, "It had everything to do with my attitude." A quiet and thankful spirit is healing oil on any situation.

Nothing had changed but me. When the tension left me, the edginess disappeared. The children cooperated beautifully. We were able to prepare for our unexpected guests and have fun doing it.

How often the busyness is "in my mind." God has called me to serve, sweetly, without recognition, because I love Him. It is my mission field. He will never give me more than I can bear. I must commit my mind to Christ.

One writer said, "Beware of your thoughts. They will mold your character." So return and rest in your Heavenly Father. Let Him help you with your heart. Out of that sanctified heart will flow rivers of joy. What a promise follows this! "For the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:10b).

When you feel completely worn out and frazzled, stop and meet with God.

In one of my old books, a missionary remembers seeing his mother on a chair by the fireside with her apron thrown up over her head. He said that as children they learned not to disturb her then, because she was praying. The cottage was small, the weather was cold, and there was no other place to go. So that dear, godly mother withdrew into the quiet recesses of her heart and met with God to find the quietness of soul she needed.

Let us try that today. Sit beside the still waters of the Word. Take a long, cool drink. Then, nourished by that, set some time aside to enjoy your children, the day, and all that God has for you. Miss a few dirty corners. Take a walk with your children, or sit on the floor and

read a sweet story to them. Thank the Lord together for His wonderful handiwork and blessings. When everyone is refreshed, come back and see if the chores or schoolwork will not go twice as smoothly as before. Keep a song in your heart and a twinkle in your eyes, and bless the Lord at all times!

If we could understand this principle and put it to work, it would change the atmosphere of our homes. It would make them into havens of rest. This will be a most rewarding challenge for you. God bless you as you grow in standing in that joyful, quiet place. □

If we could understand this principle and put it to work, it would change the atmosphere of our homes. It would make them into havens of rest. This will be a most rewarding challenge for you.



God's Faithfulness Through Tragedy

by Doris Nolt

Friends have suggested that we submit our story to the *Remnant*. However, I was not feeling impressed to write until one day as I was reading an issue of the *Remnant*. When I read "The Blessing Corner" title, I sensed a witness that this is where our testimony of God's faithfulness belonged. For it is through the last year of much suffering and grief that we have been in God's blessing corner. We have been carried by God's grace as never before.

We have seen God's faithfulness and our hearts are overwhelmed. We have been challenged and very blessed by the love and support shown to us in so many ways. We have built new friendships and have had many opportunities to be a testimony for Christ. I have been made to realize in a very real way how very important it is to have a close relationship with the Father, so that when we're confronted with such trials, He is eager and willing to pour grace upon us. Going through this experience has

made me less fearful of facing persecution. For truly this great grace would sustain and comfort at such a crucial time as well. If I had been able to see all that was going to happen to our family, I would have said, "No, no, it's too much!" That's when we desperately need a solid relationship with Christ, a firm foundation to keep us from crumbling. That can never be over-emphasized!

Did you ever try to build a house in the middle of a major storm when the winds are howling and the rain is pounding upon you? I cannot begin to imagine our response and the outcome, had it not been for our foundation, Jesus. I am not saying we did not experience pain, many tears, much heartache, sleepless hours, and unshakable grief. I am not saying we were always strong. Some days all I could do was picture myself in Jesus' arms and Him crying with me. Over and over again people shared the following verse with me—often in cards that were sent. It became very

personal to me, a direct word from the Lord. "*Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness*" (Is. 41:10).

It was the evening of May 15, 2002. We attended prayer meeting at Harmony Christian Fellowship. Traveling home that evening, Warren and I both experienced a spirit of peace and quietness in our van. It was even above the normal. We chatted happily. The boys remember Nathanael talking about Agatha giving him gum. All of a sudden there were loud crashing noises. I remember thinking, "Did Warren drift off the road?" A young girl had failed to heed a stop sign and hit the side of our van. She spun around and hit us again, which in turn pushed our van into someone's front porch. The impact was incredible!

I blacked out for a short time. When I regained consciousness, the van was stopped. I unfastened my seat belt and crawled out.

Warren, Douglas (7), and Shawn (5) followed. We were in pain, so we lay down on the porch and in the grass. Micaiah, 10 weeks old, was crying in his car seat. Otherwise everything was quiet.

I had to wonder what the whole scene would have looked like had I been able to see into the spirit world. I believe the angels were encamped around us. Some angels would have been seen carrying our little Nathanael, who was 2 ½ years old. He died instantly of major head trauma and was carried home to be with Jesus. Zachary, our nine-year-old, was unconscious from a hard blow to his head, resulting in severe head injury. I'm sure there were angels hovering over him. I do believe God himself was present, for even in the midst of this traumatic time we experienced a measure of peace. The girl at fault, who is not a Christian, was hysterical. Onlookers spoke of an obvious difference. The young girl was not badly injured. The people whose porch we struck were actually a part of our home school group. They called for help, brought blankets out, got Micaiah out of his car seat, and comforted him. Zachary was flown by helicopter to the hospital while the rest of us were taken by ambulance. Before I left the scene I heard Warren telling Douglas, "I believe Nathanael went to be with Jesus."

Loved ones came to the hospitals to be with us even though it was late at night. Warren with Shawn and

Douglas were taken to one hospital, while Zachary and I were taken to a different one because of our serious injuries. Micaiah was sent with me, but thankfully he was not injured. He was released the next day to my sister who loved and cared for him as she would her own. I knew he was in good hands, which was a big help to me!

Warren was hospitalized for five days due to a back injury and shattered wrist. Douglas, uninjured, and Shawn, with a broken elbow, were released in the early

morning hours and went to live with a family from church. I was in the ICU for three weeks due to internal



**Warren & Doris Nolt and family
left to right: Zachary, Douglas, Shawn, Micaiah**

injuries, broken ribs, back injury, collapsed lungs and pneumonia. I was quite near to death's door. Many prayer chains were started. Our pastor came and had an anointing service. When they left that day they were rejoicing for the big improvement they saw. God had touched my body and in His mercy spared my life!

Zachary was in a sedated coma for 2 ½ weeks. A drain was inserted to relieve the pressure of fluid around his brain. He developed an infection around the drain and began to run a fever. One week after the accident I was taken by trauma chair to see him. I cried. Seeing my active, healthy firstborn, totally unresponsive, being kept alive by machines, was heartrending.

That same day I was taken to the hospital chapel to view our pure, sweet, little Nathanael. He was our fourth boy. At age 2 ½, he brought so much joy to our home! I prayed in my heart, "O God! Can this all be true?" Little did I know on the day of the accident when Nathanael talked about heaven, that he would be there that very day. Little did I know that when he learned the verse "*Prepare to meet thy God!*" for family sharing time at church, that it would be used in his own funeral message challenging the people to prepare.

Our relatives, friends, and church body supported us in ways you cannot imagine. Even the doctors and nurses were amazed by our support!

We were so blessed in the midst of tragedy. Schedules were set up for transportation needs for Warren to get to and from the hospital and for people to stay with Zachary at night. Meals were brought in for 3 ½ months. People committed themselves to keeping our fresh produce business open. A fund was set up at a bank and much financial help was given. We are very suspicious that God himself contributed. Praise to God! Our bill was paid!

Zachary was able to come home after six weeks. He needed to relearn everything. He had to start from the beginning with learning how to swallow. He said his first word 5 ½ weeks after the accident, which was "hi." We were elated! His first sentence was, "Yes, Jesus loves me." He required much care and therapy. Someone took him to therapy three times a week. In addition, home therapy was done.

God met our needs so beautifully in providing help for all these things. My sister and her husband moved in with us for three months so Micaiah could be here. God was very interested in meeting our needs. I cannot think of one area where we did not witness God's faithfulness!

We bless and thank each one of you who interceded on our behalf. We were awed by all the prayer support. We were told that people across the world were praying. One lady told me, "I would get up at night and early in the morning to pray for you." She said,

"I thought, 'If you can't sleep, why should I?'"

Another lady, whom I don't personally know, was working in her garden. Her testimony was, "I could not concentrate on my work anymore, so I went in to pray for you."

Another lady I don't personally know said, "God woke me at night, and I thought He must want me to pray for you."

A nine-year-old came to his mother, having heard about our nine-year-old Zachary's condition, and told her he would like to fast on behalf of Zachary. That's only to name a few of the powerful workings of God.

Next week it will be one year since our accident. We praise the Lord for the emotional and physical healing! Zachary is still going for therapy. He walks pretty well. His speech is limited, but still improving. Although his right arm and hand are not functioning well, we are still seeing improvement. We are so very grateful for his happy spirit. Warren is well recuperated. I am recuperating from what we hope was my last surgery. It was my third one since I was discharged. This one was to remove my kidney that was damaged, only functioning 10% and causing hypertension.

It is our desire that Jesus be glorified by the testimony of our lives. This is the conclusion of the matter: Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father. □

Charity Gospel Tape Ministry & The Heartbeat of The Remnant

April-June 2003 Financial Report

**-Attention-
-Attention-**



**We have an
*urgent need.***

The finances for the Tape Ministry are in critical condition. Since the new Godly Home Series was released, the orders are pouring in to the tape ministry for them. However, the funds are not coming in to match the orders. Many have not helped to cover the cost of these tapes. As you can see from the financial statement, we are in the red by about \$40,000.00. We are asking for prayer and help from whoever can help. We know that all can pray, and some can give.

-- the Tape Ministry

04/01/03 Beginning Balance	\$5,818.42
Receipts	
Tape Ministry Donations	\$65,748.26
Remnant Subscription Donations	\$6,585.00
Total Receipts	\$72,333.26
Disbursements	
UPS & Postage	\$12,163.47
Tapes, CD's, Albums & Labels	\$83,057.77
Equipment & Software Purchases	\$10.11
Equipment Maint & Repairs	\$1,488.35
Mailing & Office Supplies	\$2,401.21
Rent	\$1,800.00
Telephone	\$1,008.27
Website Development & Maintenance	\$412.74
Miscellaneous	\$383.15
Payroll Expense	\$8,930.01
Books & Catalogs	\$247.21
Remnant Publishing & Mailing	\$5,431.66
Total Disbursements	\$117,333.95
06/30/03 Ending Balance	-\$39,182.27
Difference	-\$45,000.69

“Lord, look down upon us.”

Primitive Christianity

by Charles Wesley



HAPPY the souls who first believed,
To Jesus and each other cleaved,
Joined by the unction from above,
In mystic fellowship of love!

Meek, simple followers of the Lamb,
They lived and spake and thought the same;
Broke the commemorative bread,
And drank the Spirit of their Head.

On God, they cast their every care:
Wrestling with God in mighty prayer.
They claimed the grace, through Jesus given;
By prayer they shut and opened heaven.

To Jesus they performed their vows:
A little Church in every house,
They joyfully conspired to raise
Their ceaseless sacrifice of praise.

Propriety was there unknown,
None called what he possessed his own;
Where all the common blessings share,
No selfish happiness was there.

With grace abundantly endued,
A pure, believing multitude!
They all were of one heart and soul,
And only love inspired the whole.

O what an age of golden days!
O what a choice, peculiar race!
Washed in the Lamb's all-cleansing blood,
Anointed kings and priests to God.

Where shall I wander now to find
The successors they left behind?
The faithful whom I seek in vain,
Are 'minished from the sons of men.

Ye different sects, who all declare,
"Lo, here is Christ!" or, "Christ is there!"
Your stronger proofs divinely give,
And show me where the Christians live.

Your claim, alas! Ye cannot prove,
Ye want the genuine mark of love:
Thou only, Lord, thine own canst show;
For sure thou hast a Church below.

The gates of hell cannot prevail,
The Church on earth can never fail:
Ah! join me to thy secret ones!
Ah! gather all thy living stones!

Scattered o'er all the earth they lie,
Till thou collect them with thine eye,
Draw by the music of thy name,
And charm into a beauteous frame.

For this the pleading Spirit groans,
And cries in all thy banished ones:
Greatest of gifts, thy love, impart,
And make us of one mind and heart!

Join every soul that looks to thee
In bonds of perfect charity:
Now, Lord, the glorious fullness give.
And all in all forever live!

Part 2.

Jesus, from whom all blessings flow,
Great Builder of thy Church below,
If now thy Spirit moves my breast,
Hear, and fulfill thy own request!

The few that truly call thee Lord,
And wait thy sanctifying word,
And thee their utmost Savior own,
Unite, and perfect them in one.

Gather them in on every side,
And in thy tabernacle hide;
Give them a resting-place to find,
A covert from the storm and wind.

O find them out some calm recess,
Some unfrequented wilderness!
Thou, Lord, the secret place prepare,
And hide and feed "the woman" there.

Thither collect thy little flock,
Under the shadow of their Rock:
The holy seed, the royal race,
The standing monuments of thy grace.

O let them all thy mind express,
Stand forth thy chosen witnesses!
Thy power unto salvation show,
And perfect holiness below:

The fullness of thy grace receive,
And simply to thy glory live;
Strongly reflect the light divine,
And in a land of darkness shine.

In them let all mankind behold
How Christians lived in days of old;
Mighty their envious woes to move,
A proverb of reproach—and love.

O make them of one soul and heart,
The all-conforming mind impart;
Spirit of peace and unity,
The sinless mind that was in thee.

Call them into thy wondrous light,
Worthy to walk with thee in white;
Make up thy jewels, Lord, and show
The glorious, spotless Church below.

From every sinful wrinkle free,
Redeemed from all iniquity;
The fellowship of saints make known;
And O, my God, might I be one!

O might my lot be cast with these,
The least of Jesus' witnesses!
O that my Lord would count me meet
To wash his dear disciples' feet!

This only thing do I require,
Thou knowest tis all my heart's desire,
Freely what I receive to give,
The servant of thy Church to live:

After my lowly Lord to go,
And wait upon the saints below;
Enjoy the grace to angels given,
And serve the royal heirs of heaven.

Lord, if I now thy drawings feel,
And ask according to thy will,
Confirm the prayer, the seal impart,
And speak the answer to my heart!

Tell me, or thou shalt never go,
"Thy prayer is heard, it shall be so"—
The word hath passed thy lips—and I
Shall with thy people live and die.



A
Personal
Interview
with
George
Mueller

*by Pastor Charles R. Parsons
1897*

A warm summer day found me slowly walking up the shady groves of Ashley Hill, Bristol. At the top there met my gaze the immense buildings which shelter over two thousand orphans, built by a man who has given to the world the most striking object lesson in faith it has ever seen.

The first house was on the right, and there among his own people, in plain, unpretentious apartments, lived the saintly patriarch, George Mueller. Passing through the lodge gate, I paused a moment to look at House No. 3, one of the five erected at a cost of \$600,000 (four and a half million today).

The bell was answered by an orphan who conducted me up a lofty stone staircase and into one of the private rooms of the venerable founder of that great institution. Mr. Mueller had attained the remarkable age of ninety-one. As I stood in his presence, veneration filled my mind. "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man" (Leviticus 19:32).

He received me with a cordial handshake, and bade me welcome. It is something merely to see a man by whom God has accomplished a mighty work; it is more to hear the tones of his voice; far greater than either is the privilege of being brought into immediate contact with his spirit, and of feeling the warm breath of his soul breathed into one's own.

The communion of that hour will be graven on my memory while life shall last. This servant of the Most High opened his heart to me, counseled me, prayed with me, and gave me his blessing.

In that hour the source of George Mueller's great spiritual strength was clearly made manifest. The aged saint with all his faculties unimpaired, was eloquent the whole time on one theme, the praise of Jehovah, the great Hearer and Answerer of His people's prayers. My own words were few.

"You have always found the Lord faithful to His promise, Mr. Mueller?"

"Always: He has never failed me! For nearly seventy years, every need in connection with His work has been supplied. The orphans, from the first until now, have numbered nine thousand five hundred; but they have never wanted

a meal. Hundreds of times, we have commenced the day without a penny; but our Heavenly Father has sent supplies the moment they were actually required. There never was a time when we had no wholesome meal. During all these years, I have been enabled to trust in the living God alone. Seven million five hundred thousand dollars have been sent to me in answer to prayer (50 million today). We have needed as much as two hundred thousand dollars in one year (one and a half million today), and it has all come when needed. No man can ever say I asked him for a penny. We have no committees, no collectors, no voting, and no endowment. All has come in answer to believing prayer. God has many ways of moving the hearts of men to help us, all over the world. While I am praying, He speaks to one and another on this continent and on that to send us help. Only the other evening while I was preaching, a gentleman wrote a check for a large amount and handed it to me when the service was over."

"I have read your life, Mr. Mueller, and noted how greatly your faith has been tried at times. Is it so now?"

"My faith is tried as much as ever, and my difficulties are greater than ever. Besides our financial responsibilities, suitable helpers have constantly to be found, and suitable places provided for hundreds of orphans constantly leaving the homes. Then often our funds run very low; only the other week we had come nearly to the end of our supplies. I called my beloved helpers together and said to them, 'Pray, brethren, pray!' Immediately five hundred dollars was sent to us, then a thousand, and in a few days seven thousand five hundred came in (\$54,000.00 today). But we have always to be praying, always believing. Oh, it is good to trust in the living God, for He hath said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee' (Hebrews 13:5). Expect great things from God and great things you will have. There is no limit to what He is able to do. Praises forever to His glorious name! Praise Him for everything! I have praised Him many times when He sent me ten cents, and I have praised Him when He has sent me sixty

thousand dollars (\$500,000.00 today)."

"I suppose you have never contemplated a reserve fund?"

"To do so would be an act of the greatest folly. How could I pray if I had reserves? God would say, 'Bring out those reserves, George Mueller.' Oh no, I never thought of such a thing. Our reserve fund is in heaven. The living God is

"Seven million five hundred thousand dollars have been sent to me in answer to prayer.."

All has come in answer to believing prayer."

our sufficiency. I have trusted Him for one dollar, I have trusted Him for thousands, and never trusted in vain. 'Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him'" (Psalm 34:8).

"Of course you have never thought of saving for yourself?"

Not easily nor soon shall I forget the dignified manner in which I was answered by this mighty man of faith. Hitherto he had been sitting opposite me with his knees close to mine, his hands clasped, his eyes betokening a calm, quiet, meditative spirit. Most of the time he had leaned forward, his gaze directed on the floor. But now he sat erect, and for several moments searched my face, with an earnestness that seemed to penetrate my very soul. There was a grandeur and majesty about those undimmed eyes, so accustomed to spiritual visions and to looking into the deep things of God. I do not know whether the question sounded to him as a sordid one, or whether it touched a lingering remnant of "the old self" to which he alludes in his discourses. In any event, there was not a shadow of doubt but that it roused his whole being. After a brief pause, during which his face was a sermon, and the depths of his clear eyes flashed fire, he unbuttoned his coat, and drew from his pocket an old-fashioned purse with rings in the middle separating the character of the coins. Placing it in my hands he said quietly, "All I am possessed of is in the purse — every penny! Save for myself? Never! When money is sent to me for my own use, I pass it on to God.

As much as five thousand dollars has thus been sent at one time; but I do not regard such gifts as belonging to me; they belong to Him, whose I am, and whom I serve. Save for myself? I dare not save; it would dishonor my loving, gracious, all-bountiful Father.”

I handed the purse back to Mr. Mueller. He told me the sum it contained, and what he himself had given to the orphanage and the

“The great point is to never give up until the answer comes. I have been praying for fifty-two years, every day for two men, sons of a friend of my youth. They are not converted yet, but they will be! How can it be otherwise?”

Scripture Knowledge Institution. These matters, however, together with a few others, I am not at liberty to disclose.

There was a glow of holy enthusiasm in the face of this aged, faithful man as he related some of the incidents pertaining to his preaching tours in forty-two different countries; and how in traveling from place to place, in some instances thousands of miles apart, his every need had been supplied. Hundreds of thousands of men and women, of almost every nation had come to hear him, and his great themes were the simple message of salvation and the encouragement of believers to trust in the living God. He told me that he prayed more about his sermons than anything else, and that often the text was not given him until he had ascended the pulpit stairs although he had been praying for it all week.

I asked him if he spent much time on his knees.

“Hours, every day. But I live in the spirit of prayer, I pray as I walk, when I lie down and when I rise. And the answers are always coming. Tens of thousands of times have my prayers been answered. When once I am persuaded a thing is right, I go on praying for it until the end comes. I never give up!”

These words were spoken in an exulting tone. There was a ring of triumph in them, and the man’s countenance was aglow with holy joy. He had risen from his seat while uttering them, and had walked around to the side of the table.

“Thousands of souls have been saved in answer to my prayers,” he went on. “I shall meet tens of thousands of them in heaven.”

There was another pause. I made no remark, and he continued: “The great point is to never give up until the answer comes. I have been praying for fifty-two years, every day for two men, sons of a friend of my youth. They are not converted yet, but they will be! How can it be otherwise? There is the unchanging promise of Jehovah, and on that, I rest. The great fault of the children of God is, they do not continue in prayer; they do not go on praying; they do not persevere. If they

desire anything for God’s glory, they should pray until they get it.”

“Oh, how good, kind, gracious and condescending is the One with whom we have to do! He has given me; unworthy as I am, immeasurably above all I have asked or thought! I am only a poor, frail, sinful man; but He has heard my prayers tens of thousands of times, and used me as the means of bringing tens of thousands into the way of truth, in this, and other lands. These unworthy lips have proclaimed salvation to great multitudes, and very many have believed unto eternal life.”

I asked Mr. Mueller whether he had any idea whereunto the work would grow when he first began. After speaking of its commencement in Wilson Street, he answered:

“I only knew that God was in it, and was leading His child into untried and untrodden paths. The assurance of His presence was my stay.”

“I cannot help noticing the way you speak of yourself,” I said, conscious that I was approaching a subject at once tender, sacred, and closely allied with his deepest spiritual moods and personal relationship to God, and I half-reproached myself as soon as the words were uttered. He disarmed my fears by exclaiming,

“There is only one thing I deserve, and that is hell! I tell you, my brother, that is the only thing I deserve. By nature, I am a lost man; but I am a sinner saved by the grace of God. Though by nature a sinner, I do not live in sin; I hate sin; I hate it more and more; and love holiness, more and more.”

“I suppose through all these long years in your work for God, you have met with much to discourage you,” I asked.

“I have met with many discouragements; but at all times my confidence has been in God,” was the reply. “On the word of Jehovah’s promise my soul rested! Oh, it is good to trust in Him; His word never returns void! ‘He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might. He increaseth strength’” (Isaiah 40:29). This applies also to my public ministrations. Sixty-two years ago, I preached a poor, dry, barren sermon, with no comfort to myself, and I imagined, with no comfort to others. But a long time afterwards I heard of nineteen distinct cases of blessing resulting from that sermon.”

I told him a few of the things that had discouraged me, and expressed a hope to be used more of God than ever.

“And you will be used of God, my brother,” he exclaimed. “God Himself will bless you! Toil on!”

“May I venture to ask you to give me a word of special counsel in regard to my own work for God,” I asked, “that I may pass it on to other Christian toilers in the great harvest field of souls?”

“Seek entirely to depend on God for everything,” he answered. “Put yourself and your work into His hands. When thinking of any new undertaking, ask, ‘Is this agreeable to the mind of God? Is it for His glory?’ If it is not for His glory, it is not for your good, and you must have nothing to do with it. Mind that! Having settled that a certain course is for the glory of God, begin it in His name, and continue in it to the end. Undertake it in prayer and faith, and never give up!”

“And do not regard iniquity in your heart. If you do, the Lord will not hear you. Keep that before you always. Then trust in God. Depend only on Him. Wait on Him. Believe on Him. Expect great things from Him. Faint not if the blessing tarries. And above all, rely only on the merits of our adorable Lord and Savior, so that according to them and to nothing of your own, the prayers you offer and the work you do will be accepted.”

I had no word of answer. What was there to say? My eyes were filled with tears, and my heart was overflowing, and besides:

“There was the speechless awe that dared not move,

“And all the silent heaven of love.”

From another room Mr. Mueller fetched a copy of his life, in which he inscribed my name. His absence afforded me an opportunity of looking around the apartment. The furniture was of the plainest description, useful and in harmony with the man of God who had been talking to me. It is a great principle with George

The Secret of George Mueller’s Long Life

Mr. Mueller himself attributed his long life to three causes. He stated these three causes often.

- “First, he exercised himself to have always a conscience void of offence both toward God and toward men. (Acts 24:16)
- “Secondly, to the love he felt for the Scriptures, and the constant recuperative power they had upon his whole being. (Proverbs 3:2,8; 4:22)
- “Thirdly, to that happiness he felt in God and in His work, which relieved him of all anxiety and needless wear and tear in his labors.” (Psalm 55:22)

“When thinking of any new undertaking, ask, ‘Is this agreeable to the mind of God? Is it for His glory?’ If it is not for His glory, it is not for your good, and you must have nothing to do with it.”

Mueller that it does not become the children of God to be ostentatious in style, appointment, dress, or manner of living. He believes that expensiveness and luxury are not seemly in those who are the professed disciples of the meek and lowly One who had nowhere to lay His head. On a desk lay an open Bible of clear type, without notes or references.

This I thought, is the abode of the mightiest man, spiritually considered, of modern times—a man specially raised up to show to a cold, calculating, selfish age the realities of the things of God, and to teach the church how much she might gain if only she were wise enough to take hold of the Omnipotent Arm.

I had been with this prince of prayer one whole hour, and only once had there come a knock at his door. It was opened by Mr. Mueller, and there stood one of his orphans—one of the largest families on earth—a fair-haired girl. “My dear,” said he, “I cannot attend to you just now. Wait awhile and I will see you.” Thus was I privileged to remain uninterrupted with this man of faith, this prevailer with God, this trav-

eler of ninety-one years along life’s rough pilgrimage—a man who, like Moses, talks to God as a man talketh to his friend. To me, it was one of the hours of heaven come down to earth.

His prayer was short and simple. Going to his knees he said, “O Lord, bless this dear servant now before Thee more and more, more

and more, more and more! And do Thou graciously guide his pen in what he may write in regard to this Thy work and our conversation today. I ask it through the merits of Thy dear Son, our Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!”

From the editor...

What an example this dear man is to all of us Americans. We hardly know what faith is. Let us rise up and pray believing prayers to a living God who waits to show Himself strong on behalf of those who walk uprightly. Consider a few other amazing facts about this patriarch.

George Mueller lived to a ripe old age of ninety-two. He left the orphanage work and became a world traveler when he was seventy. He continued this rigorous work until he was eighty-seven. He traveled two hundred thousand miles in forty-two countries. During this time, he preached the gospel to three million hearers. —*Bro. Denny*

□

The Secret of George Mueller’s Spiritual Life

“There was a day when George Mueller died:

- Died to George Mueller: to his tastes, to his opinions, to his preferences and to his will:
- Died to the world—its approval or censure:
- Died to the approval or blame, even of my brethren and friends:

Since then, I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.”



The Church Fire

Dear reader: Please consider this parable. Jesus spoke in His day with parables to bring forth a truth, and I have attempted to do the same. Remember, though, to take these earthly symbols and compare them to heavenly or spiritual things. May God enlighten your heart with this story.

Somewhere, in a sleepy vale that lies betwixt Israel and Shinar, was a church. Things were going along quite smoothly and the day was progressing rather normally when the cry arose.

“FIRE!”

“The church is on fire!”

Now, this arose no small stir among the people of the land, as they were all devoted to their church. And, of course, the natural thing to do was try to put the fire out. The

fire chief, when summoned, wasted no time to go about his duty. With the roar of engines and wail of sirens, his flashy red fire trucks sped to the scene. By the time he arrived, the flames were dancing high into the sky. However, he was a master at such fires, and had put out quite a number of this kind in his day. Without hesitation, water was squirted at the base of the flames, and foam suppressant was liberally applied.

But something was wrong. The flames climbed higher and the heat was increasing. It was getting to the point that the firefighters were becoming too uncomfortable to work.

“Something’s amiss, Chief. The fire is increasing. If it continues to do, so our water will evaporate before it even hits the flames!”

With a scowl, the chief scratched his chin. “We must find out why! We must, or my beloved church will be consumed!” He spoke of it as “His church” as he had a controlling influence upon many of its members.

Then he saw it. There, behind the church, some men were busily at work throwing things into the flames! What? Throwing chunks of coal and cans of gas? It is no wonder the water and foam would not work!

The chief commanded, “Stop them!” And since he had a big influence over the people, they hastily listened to him and arrested the agitators. Within a short time, the effects of the water and foam could be readily seen, and soon the fire was completely eradicated.

The people rejoiced and patted one another’s backs.

“Whew, that was close!”

“Yes, the chief did a swell job. At least the main structure was saved.”

“It surely is an ugly mess though. See how those rotten beams are exposed now? Perhaps the fire was a blessing to expose how rotten the church was on the inside.”

“Aw, don’t worry. Those beams can be covered over in

“You see, Jesus wants His church to burn. He desires the fire of the Spirit to rage throughout His people, so as to burn away their flimsy adornments and expose their rotten innards.”

no time, so no one will ever know. The chief has a good crew of carpenters who often remodel for him after a fire like this.”

“Say, how did this fire get started anyhow?”

“Lightning, so I’m told.”

“And what about those men agitating the fire? What for men are they?”

“Ah, they’re some of those crazies who believe in holy living, and, can you imagine, they even claim a man has no right to self-defense? We will fix ’em though, and banish them forever from this land!”

And so, life continued on in Sleepyvale. The church was patched over and soon the strains of music could be heard compelling the inhabitants of the land to come bow and worship. They rejoiced in their victory over the fire, although a few were worried about the rotten beams that had been covered over.

And Jesus? Well, Jesus wept.

Yes, Jesus wept for His church. His church had been ruined, not by the flames, but by the foam and water.

You see, Jesus wants His church to burn. He desires the fire of the Spirit to rage throughout His people, so as to burn away their flimsy adornments and expose their rotten innards. The lightning

of His Word had started the fire, and his true ministers had heaped on the coal of total consecration and the gasoline of honest humility. Had not the fire chief (Satan) intervened, the place would have surely burned away, leaving only those things that could withstand fire. Eventually, the heat would have become so intense as to burn away even the perpetual fog that had enshrouded the land. And the shining of the sun would have revealed to the inhabitants that they were, indeed, wandering from Israel and towards the beastly Babylon.

Even Satan, with his fire trucks of foul spirits, would have had to back off. The heat would have become too hot for his workers, and they would have had to back away. But alas, the people chose to side with him and not with the “crazies.” Had they chosen to side with the coal-throwers, they could have saved their church in the end, yet so, as by fire. But now, they face an impending judgment, and an eternity in the lake of fire, unless they repent.

Let us look a bit into the chief’s fire-extinguishing methods.

First, the water. For a fire to burn, three things are necessary: fuel, heat, and oxygen. Water does two things to a

fire: smothers it and cools it. So when a fire truck of a foul spirit tries to quench the burning of the Holy Ghost within your bosom, you must resist by throwing on some chunks of high-grade consecration, and pour on some honest, humble soul-searching. Then the devil’s lukewarmness will not have a chance. His water will evaporate before it can get in to cool you down.

Now the foam. Foam is a specialty extinguisher and a good one for extremely hot fires. Foam works by preventing oxygen from meeting the fuel, thereby smothering a fire.

And if you want the fire to go out within you, just let Satan spray on a bit of old-fashioned “love for the world” (The chief loves the *El Materialismo* brand; it is **very** effective.) When love to God (holiness) is smothered, and not allowed to prosper and grow, mark this down: **The fire will go out.**

So, dear reader, have you seen yourself? Has Satan been applying water of lukewarmness onto your spirit? Or what about some secret little desire for this world? The wages of either are eventual separation from God, known in the Bible as eternal death.

“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” Rev. 2:5

“...BECAUSE THOU HAST LEFT THY FIRST LOVE.”

Rev. 2:4

-Mike Atnip

**"...a Christian's life can produce much wonderful fruit
if the individual diligently seeks God and willingly obeys His Word...
The same is true of the Christian Church."**

The Vibrant, Organic Church

by Craig Schaaf



An organic garden can produce many colorful, nutritious, delicious vegetables if the gardener cares for it well. If he does not, weeds and pests will invade, inhibiting the growth of the plants. In the same manner, a Christian's life can produce much wonderful fruit if the individual diligently seeks God and willingly obeys His Word. He must set his affection totally on God and live a life of true worship. If he does not, he will surely fall prey to the enemy and not bear good fruit. The same is true of the Christian Church. This article is an analogy of the Christian life, describing many similarities between a garden and the church. The church in America is in great need of revival. Sin abounds among those who call themselves Christians, and God is grieved.

Digging Deep

In the true organic church, digging deep is a very important step in making real, living, vital,

Holy Spirit-filled disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible refers to this step as true repentance. Today many people have been led to believe that they are eternally saved upon a prayer they said as a child or upon a baptism they received as an infant. True salvation will result in a man or a woman becoming a *disciple* of the Lord Jesus Christ. God chose the word *disciple* to describe His children because it reveals the character that will develop in an individual as the Holy Spirit leads him. The word *disciple* literally means a "disciplined follower." The promises and commandments of Christ can only be a reality in the life of an individual if he has the grace of God, which is the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to live a victorious life over sin. Christ did not die to save us *in* our sins but to save us *from* our sins. The word *Christian* has become so commonplace that 80% of Americans claim to be one. The word *Christian* literally means "little Christs." Many people in America believe that the "church" is in sad shape. Why is this the case when Christ promised abundant life to His dis-

ciples? Everything Christ said and did was from His Heavenly Father. We are told in the Scriptures that this same mind is to be in us as well (Philippians 2:5). So how does someone truly repent?

*But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith,
“God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace
unto the humble.” James 4:6*

*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation
not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world
worketh death. 2 Corinthians 7:10*

You can only be saved if you are willing to humble yourself before God. If you have no godly sorrow, which comes as the Holy Spirit reveals the depth of sin in your life, then true repentance will not come. When godly sorrow flows over the man who sees the depth of his sins before a Holy God, and he seeks to repent, the Holy Spirit **will** show him what specific sins he needs to repent of and deal with.

*And when he [the Holy Spirit] is come,
he will reprove the world of sin,
and of righteousness, and of judgment....
John 16:8*

The word *repentance* means a full turning from sin. True repentance means that our lives become transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. If He reproves us of the sin of stealing, we need to ask God's forgiveness in brokenness and ask Him to give us His grace to enable us to go and steal no more (see John 8:11). We then need to restore what we have stolen and seek forgiveness from the one we have stolen from. As this true repentance takes place on our knees before God, we stay there until the Holy Spirit stops showing us specific things we need to repent of. Once complete repentance takes place in an individual, he will not need to be told how to worship; it will simply flow out of him. True repentance will relieve such a burden from the soul of a man that there will be no doubt in his mind what has taken place. Even after our initial conversion, the Holy Spirit is always present to lovingly reprove us at times when we need to seek the Lord's forgiveness. God's love

toward us is so evident in the precious gift of forgiveness He has given us.

*Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure,
having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are
his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of
Christ depart from iniquity.
2 Timothy 2:19*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to for-
give us our sins, and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned,
we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1
John 1:9-10*

Testing the Church's PH: Its Balance

The stories of people that have been hurt by others in the church are varied and numerous. Some fellowships are very harsh with the man-made rules they teach as Bible doctrine. In other fellowships, where false concepts of God's true love, mercy, and grace are taught, sin abounds. New Christians quickly realize that God has set in the body, His body, many different gifts. God intends for these gifts to be used to edify and build up the body. Few fellowships have found the balance necessary to deal with sin in a Spirit-led, biblical, loving way. Immature believers with the gift of prophecy tend to be harsh and demand that sin is dealt with. Others with the gift of mercy tend to overlook sin that continues to grieve the Lord. In order to achieve the right balance, all members of the body need to check their PH reading with the full spectrum of God's Word.

*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a work-
man that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly divid-
ing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15*

*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
1 Thessalonians 5:21*

“Just as living organisms in the soil break down organic matter to make it available to the plants, so will the Holy Spirit take God’s Word and make it understandable meat for His children.”

Testing NPK and Trace Minerals in the Church

Instead of NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), the organic church has FHC (faith, hope, and love).

*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

Just as NPK in the soil plays a major part in plants receiving all the necessary elements to grow, faith, hope, and charity in the organic church are critical to allow all members of the body to reach their full potential in the Lord. We need to use 2 Timothy 2:15 and 1 Thessalonians 5:21 to test the trace minerals in our Christian lives as well as our FHC. We will only fully mine all the important trace minerals of the Word of God as we diligently study with the help of the Holy Spirit. Just as living organisms in the soil break down organic matter to make it available to the plants, so will the Holy Spirit take God’s Word and make it understandable meat for His children. If we have all the right doctrines (trace minerals) but lack love, our Christian lives will not prosper. Just as compacted soil in our gardens will not allow the plants to grow properly, sin that hardens our hearts will not allow proper growth in our walks with God. We must remain broken and repentant.

We also need to be very cautious in reading books other than the Bible. Just as the gardener who applies heavy doses of manure to his compost piles over time finds deficiencies in trace minerals, the man of God who spends too much time in other books will also be deficient. There are nuggets to be gained in reading other books, but where did the author find his nugget? Hopefully, he found it by spending time with

the Lord in His Word. Some other books are fine to read, but make sure it is on a limited basis. Today “Christian” bookstores and radio stations are filled with every wind of doctrine available. False doctrine can only be detected in the same way a bank teller detects a counterfeit bill. Bank managers do not show the tellers examples of bad bills. Instead, they teach them to know the real thing. When a bad bill comes to them, they are able to recognize it immediately, because they are so familiar with real ones. We need to be so familiar with the Word of God that we can recognize false doctrine immediately. This will only be possible by knowing Jesus Christ, the Author himself, and by studying His Word diligently. Only He can reveal the truth of His Word to the hearts of His children.

Another tendency found in the church is the tendency to shy away from certain doctrines that are being abused in other settings. We need to flee this tendency with all that lies within us. If we see it occurring, we should be driven to the Word. We must rightly divide the Scriptures to know and discern why this right doctrine is working death in these people. So many sincere Christians explain away a doctrine that is very dear to the heart of God simply because other believers have approached it in a legalistic fashion or have used it in a sinful way. The abuse of a truth is never sufficient reason to explain it away. In the end, the enemy will have stolen a precious gift that God intended for our health and vitality.

Keep the Plants in the Church Close

Just as the gardener spaces his plants closely to gain the most advantage in water retention and weed control, it is critical that members of the organic church are very close as well. Water

in our lives is the refreshing flow of encouragement that comes from the Holy Spirit. If we as believers are close, each of us will benefit from this flow in a more beneficial way. We also benefit in weed control by being in each other's lives daily.

But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. Proverbs 27:17

Companion Planting and Watching for Disease in the Church

We discussed earlier that an organic gardener often plants many types of plants together in one bed with many beneficial results. The Lord also puts the needed mix of gifts in the members of His body for the health of the entire body. Many fellowships find themselves pest-filled and diseased because they have held to some false doctrine that has gathered many itchy ears. A group of itchy-ears people that are like-minded in a dangerous way tends to create a mono-crop atmosphere where many obvious sins are overlooked. What a blessing it is, though, to be in the presence of a proper mix of God's people where the Holy Spirit has free reign through all the members to edify all.

Now, just as the gardener was very careful with what seedlings he allowed in the garden, so must we be very careful who is allowed to have close, intimate contact with the body of Christ.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14

Another danger we must be aware of is that of fellowships that have a formal list of mem-

bers. Sadly mistaken, many of these fellowships allow sin to go unrebuked because a person has not made a formal commitment to the local body. Many fellowships have been leavened with such an approach. With this form of membership, people who are not formal members are not treated as members of the body of Christ and are not held accountable. The attitude of having non-members has caused many people to be hurt and has allowed much sin to go unchecked. If a person is one with God, they should be considered one with the people of God.

For our own sakes, as well as for the sake of the body of Christ, we need to keep a keen ear open for those who make accusations of sin in others' lives but do not take necessary steps to restore those accused. We often see this form of evil-speaking in settings where a denominational attitude prevails. Brothers from one denomination discuss sin in the life of a brother from another denomination. This only works to divide the body of Christ. If someone speaks evil of another in our presence, we need to lovingly encourage him or her to go to the person and lovingly rebuke him and restore him. If he is not willing to go to the brother he is accusing, then we need to rebuke him in love to repent of speaking lies. If what he is saying is true, and he has the love of Christ in him, he will go to that individual and seek his restoration before the Lord. There is only one body of Christ. We are to receive everyone whom Christ receives and reject everyone who Christ rejects. There is no middle ground!

Size of the Garden: the Church Will Grow

If we are faithful, the Lord will delight to increase the size of our garden. The older must disciple the younger in each family as well as in the entire body of Christ. Fathers have a very important responsibility, for the qualifications of an elder hinge upon his ability to make disciples in his own home. If a man cannot disciple his own children, God's Word makes it clear that he is not worthy to disciple His children.

A man should not seek to be a bishop (minister) or a deacon, but should rather seek to be qualified in every way. Then if the Lord chooses to give him the high calling of being the servant of all, he will be fully prepared. Today the church in America is filled with men who do not meet the qualifications of the epistles of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Our nation is lacking qualified men because proper discipleship is not occurring. The church is in great need of fulfilling the command of Christ put forth in Matthew 28:19.

The great need of this hour is for godly men and women to be making true, faithful, Holy Spirit-filled disciples of Christ. The nurturing of disciples will not happen on its own any more than a garden will flourish if left to itself. Discipling needs to go beyond just listening to messages on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Discipling is a daily commitment that the whole body with all the gifts needs to embrace with the same mind as Christ.

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

The Living Soil Called Grace

All that we have discussed will only be possible if we possess the grace of God. Christ's whole reason for coming and dying was to redeem a body of people that would display His glory throughout the whole earth. We must receive the grace of the Holy Spirit that enables men to live holy lives, set apart unto God. The only way to receive the grace we need is to be truly humble. The temporal things Christ asks us to give up for His purpose and glory are very small in the light of all He gave up for us. Christ humbled himself and gave up all the riches of heaven to redeem us. In fact, the world calls this foolishness because they have their affection on the treasure they have stored up and invested in upon the earth.

When Jesus was preaching the Sermon on the Mount (in Luke chapter six), He used a very interesting phrase. Three times the Lord asks

the question, "What thank have ye?" He was challenging their weak lives in these verses. He is really saying, "what grace have ye?" Below is a definition from the *Strong's Concordance* defining the Greek word *charis*, translated "thank" in the above verses. Look at the true meaning of this word. A correct understanding of the word *grace* is a powerful tool in rightly dividing the Word of God and understanding what He desires to do through His people.

5485. χάρις *charis*, *khâr'-eece*; from 5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstr. or concr.; lit., fig. or spiritual; espec. the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude):—acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

What should stand out to us as we consider what is said in this definition is that *charis* (grace) is "espec. the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life." When we come to this realization in our walks with the Lord, the Scriptures come alive. Then we can understand why Paul said:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10

We are saved by repenting from our dead works (Hebrews 6: 1), yes, even our dead good works, and are willingly crucified with Christ and raised with Him in newness of life. This newness of life is the Holy Spirit filling us and flowing through us to the edification of the body of Christ and as a display of God's glory to all the earth.

Conclusion

In closing, a vibrant Christian life in the believers will make a vibrant church—one that is healthy and strong. If there was ever a day

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My Life, My All

**“Also I
heard the
voice of the
Lord, saying,
whom shall I
send, and
who will go
for us?”**

**“Then said
I, hear am I;
send me.”**

Isaiah 6:8

Comfy and cozy in my home so sweet,
Couches and tables, tidy and neat.

Brand new floor—the best one can buy;
Plush, rich carpet to step on and sigh.
A bedroom for each of the members so dear,
Nice warm quilts—the cold I shan't fear.
Beautiful music fills each lovely room;
Central vacuum—no need for a broom.

Windows that tilt, so easy to clean;
Garage for my car—what more do I need!
Oh, I cannot forget the beautiful lawn,
White picket fence, flowers and all.

Swings for the children, a glider for me,
But, Lord, what is this, oh, what do I see?

Is that a home there on that hill?
It is only of plywood, no window or sill.

He takes me inside, What's this on the floor?
No beautiful carpet, but dirt door to door.

One room is this home for all members inside,
Who sleep all together when evening draws nigh.

No beautiful music, blankets, or beds,
No quilts or soft pillows to lay weary heads.

No need for a vacuum, a palm branch will do;
To tidy the floor, it serves as a broom.

No dirty windows that tilt in for ease,
This home has no need for any of these.

Oh, Lord, their backyard has no lush grass
For the children to play on, for time to pass.

The swing is a vine from a nearby tree,
No pretty flowers, oh, how can it be!

While I sit in comfort, life filled with ease,
They daily struggle for food to appease.

While I fill my head with your precious word,
Their hearts remain darkened for they haven't yet heard

Of the hope filled life only Jesus can give,
Of the blessed news a Savior for them lives.

Oh Lord tell me what, what shall I do?
For surely they must be told all about You.

I give You my life and luxuries all,
I give You my family, whatever the call,
I give You whatever You will ask of me,
All, so these captive souls can truly be set free.

To the glory and praise of God Almighty
And His blessed Son, Jesus Christ,
My Redeemer and Saviour

Book Review

by Andrew Weaver

The Revival We Need

by Oswald J. Smith

Oswald J. Smith was born in Odessa, Ontario, in 1889, the oldest of 10 children. At the age of 16, he heard of a revival in Toronto and felt compelled to go. Riding up on a subway and squeezing through a crowd of approximately 3,000 people in Toronto's Massey Hall, Smith claimed the very best seat he could find in order to hear the preaching of R. A. Torrey. Night after night he felt conviction. Finally, on a night specially dedicated to boys, Torrey gave the altar call by age, starting from ages twenty-five and over, and then on down. Smith responded, and that night Jesus Christ came into his life.

Speaking of that night Smith said:

Then suddenly it happened. I cannot explain it even today. I just bowed my head, put my

face between my hands and in a moment the tears gushed through my fingers and fell on the chair, and there stole into my boyish heart a realization of the fact that the great change had taken place. Christ had entered, and I was a new creature. I had been born again. There was no excitement, no unusual feeling, but I knew that something had happened and that ever after, all life would be different.

And different it was.

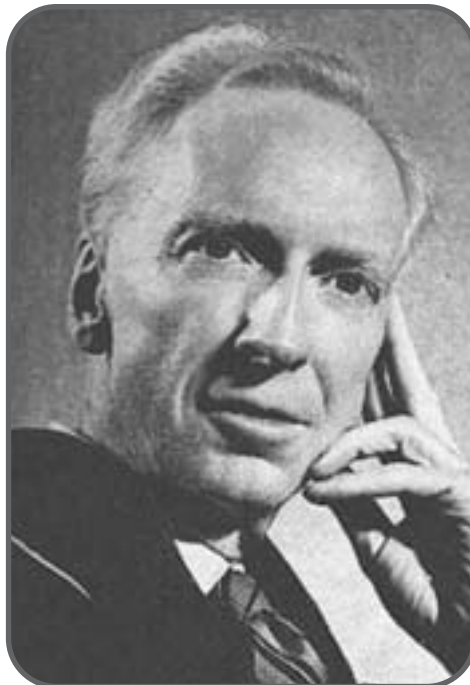
As soon as Oswald returned home, his one prayer was, "Lord, what will You have me do?" He longed for missions work, but he had poor health, and was consequently rejected by his church mission board. However, in 1908, while in Bible school, he started carrying the gospel to the Indians and backwoods people of Canada, and it was there that he actually preached his first sermon.

Eventually, his zeal for missions and revival took him to over 70 countries. He was very instrumental in awakening the church to the needs of world missions and was a pioneer in mission conferences and missions propagation. Two of his lasting slogans were, "Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice before *everyone* has heard it once?" And, "I must go, or send a substitute."

Smith composed over 1,200 hymns, penned thousands of poems, as well as countless printed sermons, and authored thirty-five books, which were translated into over 128 languages. Of such a great legacy, perhaps his most timeless contribution came in the form of a much-needed wake-up call to the church of his day. The book was appropriately titled, *The Revival We Need*, and is still as relevant today as it ever was then.

Renowned missionary Jonathan Goforth said of the book:

Dr. Smith's book...for its size, is the most powerful plea for



revival I have ever read. He has truly been led by the Spirit of God in preparing it.... Had I the wealth of a millionaire, I would put The Revival We Need in every Christian home on this continent, and confidently look for a revival which would sweep round the world.

In his book, Smith recounts the mighty works of God in the great revivals of the past. Studying these revivals proved to be a constant source of inspiration and vision for his life. Speaking of them he said, *"I have watched them, listened to them, lived with them, until I have almost felt the spirit of the atmosphere in which they lived."* The book is literally saturated with testimonies, quotes, victories and failures, first hand journal accounts and news reports from men such as Wesley, Whitefield, Finney, Evan Roberts, David Brainerd, Hudson Taylor and many more.

Smith speaks directly to the church about hindrances to true revival. He chides the church for its prayerlessness, its lack of repentance, its powerlessness and its lack of soul travail. He writes:



Oh, my brethren, the trouble is not with God. It lies right here with ourselves. He is willing, more than willing. But we are not ready. And He is waiting for us. Are we going to keep Him waiting long?

Smith boldly exhorts the church by exclaiming that she has a "responsibility for revival." He considered a mere status-quo attitude of church life heresy. He states:

People who are satisfied to meet together simply to have a good time among themselves, are far away from God. Real spirituality always has an outcome. There will be a yearning and a love for souls. We have gone to places that have a name of being very

deep and spiritual, and have often found that it was all in the head, the heart was unmoved; and there was, not infrequently, hidden sin somewhere. 'Having a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof.' Oh, the pathos of it all! Let us then challenge our spirituality and ask what it produces; for nothing less than a genuine revival in the Body of Christ resulting in a true awakening among the unsaved will ever satisfy the heart of God.

Speaking on "the lack of soul travail" he wrote:

We read in Isa. 66:8, that 'as soon as Zion travailed she brought forth her children;' and this as the most fundamental element in the work of God. Can children be born without pain? Can there be birth without travail? Yet how many expect in the spiritual realm that which is not possible in the natural! Oh, my brethren, nothing, absolutely nothing short of soul-travail will bring forth spiritual children! Finney tells us that he had no words to utter, he could only groan and weep when pleading with God for a lost soul. That was true travail.

If we are truly walking with God, Smith claimed we should naturally be experiencing His promise that "ye will receive power." He wrote:

But have we the Enduement of Power? I don't mean have we 'claimed it' and gone forth reckoning it ours, but, have we the experience? If there is no outcome, we certainly have not. If we are Spirit-filled there will be Holy Spirit fruit. Men will break down in our meetings and sob out their sins to God. Let us see the fruit if we are to believe in the Anointing. 'Ye shall receive Power.' And when Peter got it, 3,000 were saved. And so with John Smith, Samuel Morris, Chas G. Finney and others—there was fruit. This is the evidence, this is the test, and only

this. If I am a man of God endued with power from on High, souls will break down under my preaching; if I am not, nothing out of the ordinary will take place. Let this be the test for every preacher. By this we stand or fall.

Smith had some strong words to the church of that day that Christians would do well to pay heed to today. He greatly lamented that the church was full of unconverted souls. He cried out that preaching that lacked the conviction of sin was one of the main causes for this unfortunate state. He writes:

How disappointing are the methods of present-day Evangelism! How shallow and unreal when compared with the genuine work of the Spirit! All this pressing, coaxing, urging; standing up, raising the hand, coming to the front, etc., all such public display as it is carried on in modern campaigns may be entirely in the flesh. Not that pleading with men is unscriptural. God forbid! But with conviction absent it is fruitless. And modern Evangelism with its chilling irreverence, uncalled for slang, and spir-

it-grieving frivolity, let alone its lamentable professionalism, can by no means lead up to conviction of sin and result in a spiritual outcome.

Even though this book was originally written in 1925, I was amazed at how pertinent its message is today. As its title claims, it is the “revival we need.” □

This book was just recently republished and can be ordered online from www.homefirespub.com or ordered from your local bookstore. It can also be viewed free online at:

http://www.gospeltruth.net/OJSmith/revival_we_need.htm

continued from page 4, RESOLVES, by Cotton Mather

reason and honor, (which, I find, children will feel sooner than is commonly thought for) yet I would neglect no endeavors, to have higher principles infused into them. I therefore betimes awe them with the eye of God upon them. I show them, how they must love Jesus Christ; and show it, by doing what their parents require of them. I often tell them of the good angels, who love them and help them, and guard them: and who take notice of them: and therefore must not be disobliged. Heaven and hell, I set before them, as consequences of their behavior here.

Point #9

When the children are capable of it, I take them alone, one by one; and after my charges unto them, to fear God, and serve Christ, and shun sin, I pray with them in my study and make them the witnesses of the agonies, with which I address the throne of grace on their behalf.

Point #10

I find much benefit, by a particular method, as of catechizing the children, so of carrying the repetition of public sermons unto them. The answers of the catechism I still explain with abundance of brief questions, which make them to take in the meaning of it, and I see that they do so. And when the sermons are to be repeated, I choose to put every truth into a question, to be answered still, with, Yes, or, No. In this way I awaken their attention as well as enlighten their understanding. And in this way I have an opportunity, to ask, do you desire such or such a grace of God? And the like. Yea, I have an opportunity to demand, and perhaps, to obtain their consent unto the glorious articles of the New Covenant. The Spirit of Grace may fall upon them in this action; and they may be seized by Him, and held as His temples, through eternal ages.” □



Precious Letters from Our Readers

We thank God for the many letters of counsel and encouragement we have been receiving. It is the only way we can evaluate our progress. Keep them coming. Our desire is to foster a free flow of edification, inspiration and burden from us to you, and you to us. This way we can pass some of the blessings on to the others who are reading. We would love to hear from you in any of the following ways:

- ▣ A meaningful lesson in family devotions that you can pass on to other fathers.
- ▣ A testimony for “The Blessing Corner” of God’s blessing in some area of obedience.
- ▣ A question that can be answered to the edification of all.
- ▣ An area of spiritual growth, obtained by one of the exercises suggested in the magazine.
- ▣ A word of encouragement or counsel about *The Remnant*, or any section of it.

Waiting to hear... --The Editors

Dear Remnant Magazine,

Enclosed is a contribution for your godly magazine. I have been especially blessed with the articles about the woman’s role in marriage. May God richly bless you all for speaking the truth in this day of compromise.

Pennsylvania



most of those I work with purchase tickets on a regular basis. Most of these that gamble are of the Baptist faith, they cannot accept that scriptures teach against gambling. I wrote an editorial recently about the guy that won the big dollar lottery an was going to give a tithe on his winning. Not one of the churches mentioned to get money said anything about gambling being a sin. What has happened to what use to be holiness churches? I thank God, for a people that will call sin what it is.

on the Chinese house churches was extremely convicting. It made us all realize how blessed we are in this country and encouraged us to cry out to God in our various needs. The article entitled “The Kingdom of Heaven Suffereth Violence” was also a wonderful blessing. Personally, It made me realize the seriousness of the Christian walk and helped me see the importance of being ‘violent’ in order to receive God’s blessing on my life. I would love to continue receiving this remarkable resource.

Dear Remnant

North Carolina

Florida

Thank you for the article on the Sin of Gambling by Mose Stoltzfus, I work with several people that claim to be Christians, seems like all if not most of them gamble. I live near the North Carolina and South Carolina state line. Recently South Carolina approved a state run Lottery,

Our family received the Jan/Feb ‘03 issue in the mail some months ago and we were so blessed by the Godly content. The article

Dear beloved,

Thank you, for that good work that you and the Charity

Ministry is doing. I have been blessed by both your tapes and the Remnant. It has been now many years since receiving your tapes and magazine.

I have discovered that many people that come to my home library love to pick your tapes and "The Remnant" magazine. Many express to me how greatly they have been blessed. They have also expressed a desire to have such a church or ministry here in Kenya. One that could deliver the same clear word that you are giving out by your tapes, and magazine.

Kenya



Dear Remnant,

First off, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for sending me the Remnant. It is a very good magazine. I read and enjoy it very much. I think my niece in Louisiana

had it sent to me. I wanted to write you a let you know that God is here on Death Row in Texas. This is where I have really found Him, and He guides me and teaches me things I could have never learned in the free world. But what is the free world? It is being with Jesus every day of your life. That's what being free is to me here on Death Row. I have been on Death Row for five years now.

As I look to our creator for guidance, I know that love is only found in truth that comes from the heart. Miracles are a fact of life and so it is with this belief that I pray for the opportunity to regain my freedom and truly be that positive and productive person God has made me to be

Texas



This letter is a letter of confession and request for prayer.

After reading the youth corner I must confess my own lack. The power and anointing in my life is not there. I don't think it was ever there at the depth written about by the young sister. My heart is glad for her for the victory that she received, but my heart is sad for the loss in my own life. I have walked long enough to know the love of God, the power of God, and the resources that are available to the believer, but I am not there now. Prayer is the real battle-field for me. So many of us walk with theory and no reality. So I ask you my brothers and sisters, to remember this little brother in Wisconsin. The desire and commitment is there but the legs are feeble and the enemy has too much territory. There is no anointing here today.

PS Thank God He has brought the Remnant into my home.

Wisconsin



continued from page 29, A Vibrant, Organic Church by Craig Schaaf

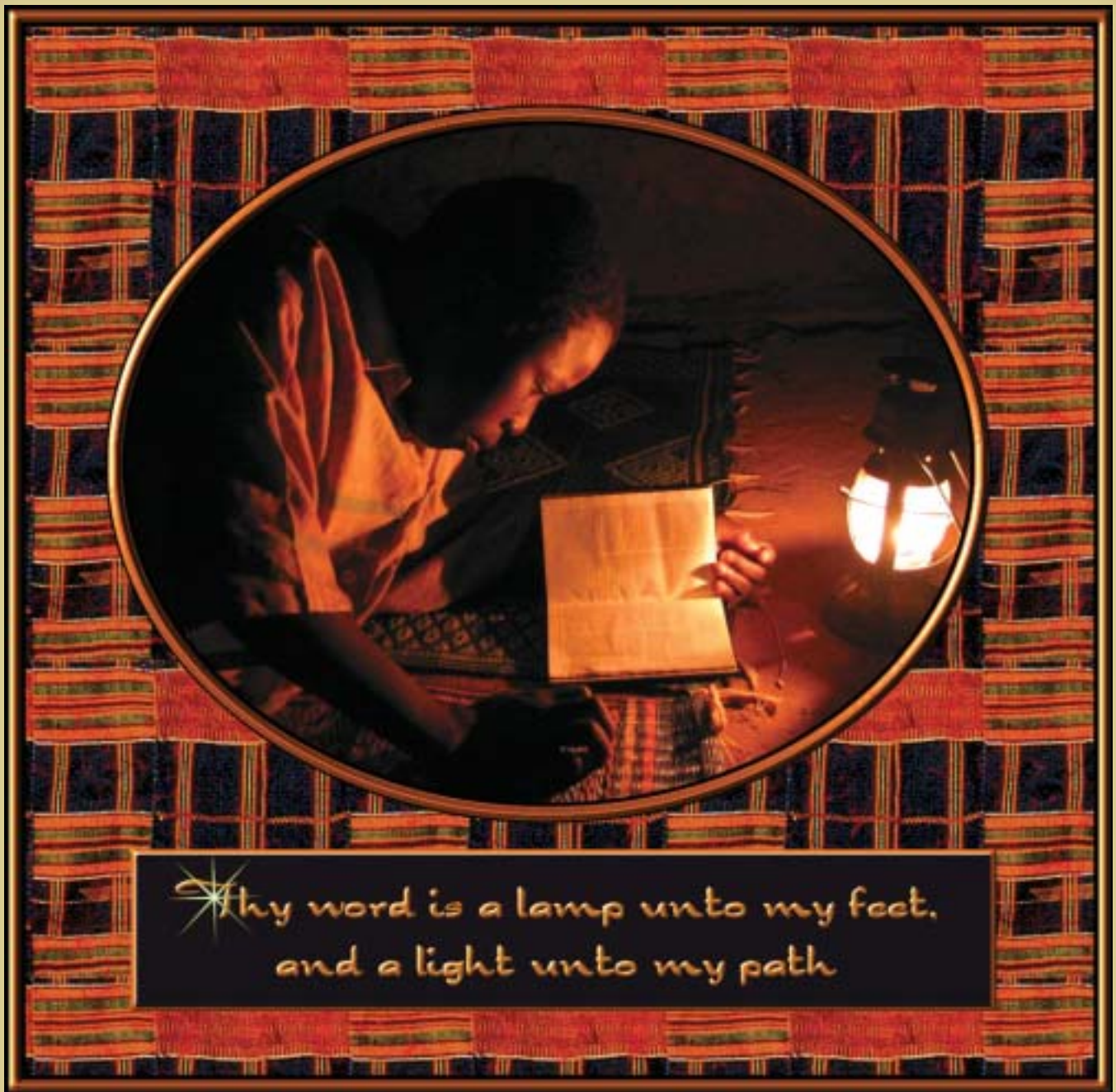
when this is needed, it is our day. May God grant us grace, real grace that will produce fruit, real fruit, to the glory of God. A. W. Tozer's words are fitting here in this conclusion. What a prophet he was in his day! God give us more prophets.

"Bible exposition without moral application raises no opposition. It is only when the hearer is made to understand

that truth is in conflict with his heart, that resistance sets in. As long as people can hear orthodoxy divorced from life, they will attend and support churches and institutions without objection. On the other hand, the man who preaches truth and applies it to the lives of his hearers, will feel the nails and thorns. He will lead a hard life, but a glorious one." □

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