Holiness is an essential attribute of God. Therefore holiness is eternal as God is eternal. With God holiness is self-willed purity, unoriginated and undervived. It is absolute holiness.

God, being holy, has required His created beings, possessed of the Godlike power of self-determination, to be holy as He is. God must, therefore, have made provision for them to reach that standard.

The holiness available to man flows from the fountain of God's holiness. Man has no ability to make himself holy. He was created in the image of God. He forfeited that likeness in the act of disobedience which resulted in the curse of sin upon the race. It is restored in Christ, who became the Head of a race redeemed and made partakers of the divine nature through the exceeding great and precious promises.

For those renewed in the image of God, there is one standard of holiness. God has fixed it. "I am holy." There can be no holiness apart from this standard. It is humbling, awful, terrifying to think of being judged in the light of the God who is "a consuming fire."

From this fundamental standard ideals of Christian conduct are derived. To approach holiness from the viewpoint of observing multiplied rules is confusing and legalistic. It results in unbalanced emphasis and a concept of salvation by self-effort.

To approach holiness from the viewpoint of mystical experience exclusively makes it vague, spurious, and fanatical. The right approach is with the standard of God's holiness in clear vision. In such light man sees his iniquity and cries, "Oh, make me clean." God's answer is purity through the blood of Jesus Christ and the active agency of the Holy Spirit. With the fountain of life thus cleansed, man becomes Godlike in character and Christlike in practice.

This scriptural concept of holiness causes the thousand and one points around which the quibblings of men center to appear as withered leaves whipped up by a whirlwind. In comparison, true holiness is like a living tree, strong, deep-rooted, adorned with beautiful foliage, fragrant bloom, and delicious fruit.
Pastor Eugene Culberson sends word from Meridian, Idaho: "Genuine revival has come to our church; 185 seekers lined the altar during month-long campaign. Evangelist Norvie Clift preached rugged salvation and holiness messages night after night to increasing crowds which several times exceeded Sunday morning attendance. At baptismal service on closing Sunday afternoon 28 candidates gave victorious testimonies, some of them for the first time in their lives; 12 joined church by profession of faith that night. Revival reflected in the month's total giving of $3,000. Sunday school average for March was 246. Praise God for every victory!"

Rev. Floyd T. Smith has resigned as pastor of the church in Glendale, completing fourteen years on the Arizona District, to accept the call to pastor First Church in Austin, Texas, beginning May 31.

Rev. and Mrs. L. H. Ritter, retired Nazarene minister and wife, are celebrating their sixtieth wedding anniversary on May 10, with open house, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at their home, 410 N. Virginia Avenue, Azusa, California. Brother Ritter has spent fifty years preaching in the Church of the Nazarene. He has been blind for two years; just recently underwent surgery and can now see to get around. They give thanks to the Lord and all who prayed for the success of the operation. They would appreciate hearing from their friends.

Dr. Orian G. Burlson, pastor of the church in Sierra Madre, California, has been elected president of the Foothill Ministerial Association.

Rev. Floyd J. Neufeld has resigned as pastor of First Church in Monmouth, Illinois, to accept a call to pastor First Church in Selma, Alabama.

It is true sacrifice has its place, but obedience to the will of God is the end of all religion, of all its rites and ceremonies. Sacrifices are acts of our flesh, but obedience is the offering of our own wills. Many times it is easier to give that others may go than to go ourselves.

—Edwina Watson

The Symbol of Assurance

Two men met each other on a dark night at a street intersection. They were strangers, but their journey took them in the same direction for several blocks. One was a Christian and tried to engage the other in conversation. However, he was reluctant to talk much and limited his conversation to curt replies to the rather loquacious Christian.

In due season the servant of the Lord observed his church just across the street and said to the stranger, "By the way, is there the church where I attend? If you have never visited it, I know you would enjoy our services."

The stranger immediately relaxed and answered, "Sir, did you know that up to this moment I thought you were a hold-up man just waiting for the proper moment to rob me? I am manager of a store and always carry a gun. While we have been walking together, I have had my hand on it in readiness for you. But when you mentioned the church, I knew you were a good man."

No one can adequately estimate the power of the church. Just its presence in a community is a strong deterrent to evil. Likewise it is a symbol of assurance for all those who avail themselves of its message. And, singularly enough, those who are associated with it find themselves classed with people of honesty, integrity, and uprightness.

David said, "How amiable [desirable] are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: . . . Blessed are they that dwell in thy house" (Psalms 84:2-4a).

—Raymond C. Kratzer
Pastor, First Church, Nampa, Idaho
By EARL C. WOLF*

Making Use of National Family Week

For about fifteen years churches of all faiths have observed National Family Week—the first full week in May. The purpose of this observance is to promote a sense of family togetherness and solidarity in our homes, to encourage family worship in home and church, to take a look at ways of strengthening and protecting our families, and to realize anew the adequacy of God's wisdom and power for the aspirations and needs of the family.

Rather than attempting to popularize a slogan for National Family Week, May 3-10, 1959, special attention is to be given to an emphasis, "The Biblical Basis of the Family." Families will be seeking to understand what God says through His Word about the family. It is significant for us to think of our families and the relationships in them as an essential part of God's purpose for our lives.

Although emphasis upon Christian family life is important throughout the year, there are benefits in the special observance of National Family Week. May we suggest a few possibilities for this special week which might be helpful to the Christian family and to the local church. These suggestions do not in any way exhaust the possibilities of the week's observance. They are made simply for the purpose of stimulating planning.

CONSIDER THIS AT YOUR HOME

1. In the light of the emphasis, "The Biblical Basis of the Family," the family may take a look at what God says through His Word about the family. This week may be one of searching the Word of God together. National Family Week is an opportune time to make decisions to strengthen the family altar. For the spiritual togetherness of family worship there is no substitute.

2. The ministries of the church to the family should be fully explored during National Family Week. The fellowship of the church is indispensable in maintaining a Christian home. Christian families can make more use of the resources of their church. Discover what special services or activities are being planned by your church or Sunday school and plan for your family to participate. Think of ways that as a family your support of the church might be strengthened.

3. Consider as a family the ways by which you can help other families to know God and His redeeming power. The family is always strengthened when it thinks of others. There are kind deeds that need to be done, visits to be made to the handicapped, lonely, ill, or aged. There is the urgent need of witnessing to others. The Christian family will be blessed richly when it lays hold of its evangelistic opportunity.

4. Plan for some family fun. The weather in many parts of the country will permit family picnics, barbecues, or outings. Put joy into this week. Why not a "Night In" for all to enjoy music, games, hobbies, reading? It can be a night for all to remember.

5. Invite another family to be guests in your home for a meal or evening of fun and fellowship. You may wish to ask a family in the neighborhood to attend a special service, Sunday school class, or revival meeting at your church during National Family Week.

6. Remember Mother's Day on May 10. Particularly remember the aged mother or grandmother. Don't forget those who might be overlooked at homes for the aged or at other institutions.

CONSIDER THIS AT YOUR CHURCH

1. Make plans well in advance for the observance of National Family Week. Many churches are using this week, the first full week in May, as a time to highlight their program for undergirding and strengthening the Christian families of their fellowship. Some churches observe a whole month for family life emphasis. During these times it is highly profitable for parents to participate in group meetings where they can share their problems and concerns as related to their own family in the confident, warm, spiritual atmosphere of the church. The pastor may have a special opportunity in these meetings to give counsel in areas of real need.

2. Re-emphasize the "Family Outreach" project or launch this outreach program during National Family Week, if it has not been previously started. Every family in the church should be challenged and dedicated to the task of Christian family out-
reach—"Every Family Find a Family." Be sure to use the "Family Outreach Packet" in this endeavor.

3. A "family night" could be planned for the church. Part of the evening could be given to study by age-groups. The nursery could make it possible for both parents to participate in the evening’s program.

4. A church-wide "stay-at-home night" could be planned when no activity would be scheduled at the church and the families urged to give the entire evening to activities for the family. These plans may include games, stories, hobbies, music, and worship—no member of the family overlooked.

5. The Sunday school could use this special week to re-emphasize the Cradle Roll and Home Department ministries to the home and family.

6. As a project for this week the Sunday school could start or enlarge the Christian family life shelf in the church library by placing there the “Christian Home Series.” These books are available from your Nazarene Publishing House for only $1.00 each, or the set of four for only $2.95. An exhibit of books for Christian parents could be planned.

7. Parent-teacher meetings would be an exceptionally good feature of this week. Why not a church P.T.A. meeting? Some of our churches have found it helpful.

8. The church might choose to honor a "family of the year." Babies may be dedicated or families received into the church membership on the first Sunday and the traditional Mother’s Day observed on the second Sunday.

9. Christian Service Training courses for parents could be planned. See your C.S.T. Blue Book for a list of suggestions (p. 27).

10. A series of cottage prayer meetings could be sponsored by the church. Homes could be selected where there might be temporal and spiritual needs. Such activities minister to the needs of families.

Under the inspiration of such an emphasis, "The Biblical Basis of the Family," there could be some planning by the family and by the church that would make National Family Week a significant observance. May God, who giveth generously to those who ask, help us with the great responsibility which rests upon the home and the church.

Music is having its day. In almost every phase of the lives of people in the civilized world music is exerting a strong influence. Into the homes of our own country, by radio, television, hi-fi, and stereo, there comes a ceaseless rhapsody of the world’s greatest music—and its worst.

For the musical expression of our children there is provided free instruction in the public schools, and in many places they are given the free use of high-grade musical instruments. With these they are privileged to play in bands, orchestras, and ensemble groups of high-caliber performance. All of this directly and indirectly enriches the musical endowment of our homes.

The problem, as well as the opportunity of parents, is that of utilizing the musical assets at our finger tips to the best advantage to assist in building Christian character and Christian homes. This necessitates much wisdom and skill in appropriating and directing these resources to strengthen, rather than dissipate, a Christian home situation.

Interest in school music activities by the parents not only will prove to be informative but will also strengthen the bond through music on the home scene. Money spent for musical instruments for the Christian home is a good investment even though the youngster may give no indication of becoming a concert artist.

Interest in and attendance at recitals is a family activity that is very rewarding. The long evening of recital is never lost, however wearisome may seem the little "ditties" performed by the other novice musicians of our community, if somewhere on the program is our own family name championed by that little "virtuoso" of our household. But most important is the fact that the family bond is drawn a little tighter by our interest.
Of all the home ties the Christian bond is the strongest, and musical expression is invaluable in strengthening this bond. It seems that gone are the days when families would gather at the ornately designed parlor organ—to spend evenings singing hymns and ballads of “home, sweet home.” All too common today is a home scene with Mother and Dad transfixed before the TV set while Brother and Sister are isolated in their rooms doing school homework with an accompaniment of “rock an’ roll.”

The evil influence of so much of the world’s music upon Christian homes cannot be denied or ignored. We are told that music, intrinsically, is neither good nor bad—neither moral nor lacking in morality. It is agreed, however, that music can intensify the mood of an individual, whether good or bad. Therefore we must recognize the fact that music does have a strong appeal and is an influence in every home. This being true, it is important to find ways and means of employing proper music in the building of Christian homes. Every home must have rules and regulations to insure strength and wholesomeness. But in the realm of music, for entertainment and enrichment, the prohibitions may be kept at a minimum by thoughtfully planning a Christian musical diet.

Today we have not only superb record-playing equipment but we have access also to a great store of fine music including the sacred classics, hymns, and gospel songs, arranged and performed in a manner that is of the highest quality. This music helps to identify the Christian home and wields an influence for good—but this is not all; it provides an important phase of Christian education for members of the household. Furthermore, in an atmosphere created by such sacred music, the harsh and vulgar music of the world is made conspicuous for its loathsomeness. Music is retained in the mind largely by association and the music associated with home life can never be forgotten. Singing and playing together is an experience that will help to keep the family intact.

Neglected too often are the hymns and songs of the Christian faith by those in the formative years. It is significant and cause for concern when our young people become quite proficient in playing standard music and the classics but seem helpless in the presence of the common hymn tune. A word spoken, in the beginning, by parents to the music teacher, of their interest in including hymn playing, will find most teachers very co-operative.

An important identification of a Christian home, together with the Bible, is the hymnbook. This volume with its rich store of hymns and songs is not only the music sung currently by the local congregation, but it is the repertory of singing Christians through the ages and contains a wealth of lyrical material for the strength and maintenance of the home. The hymnbook should never be covered by secular music but should occupy a prominent place on the piano or within reach for constant use. Its poetry is valuable for devotion and, whether sung or read in family worship, will always provide an appropriate edifying selection. It is for this purpose that the “Home Edition” of Praise and Worship hymnal has been prepared, and it is hoped that soon there will be a hymnal in every Nazarene home. With the hymnal occupying a central place in the Christian home, music of the world seems entirely out of place.

Music is having its day. Let us not fail to seek out the best and solicit its help as we build Christian homes.

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A FATHER’S PRAYER

By BERT MOREHOUSE

Infinite Father, I come to You about this boy who bears my name and who dwells in our little kingdom of home.

Help me to give him daily the Bread of Life through family worship and living example.

Keep me from trespassing against his boyhood needs.

Teach me how to keep him from being led into temptation, that he may not do evil.

Give wisdom and understanding to this earthly father, for my boy’s sake. Amen!
Faith in the Saviour is the greatest contribution any parent can make to his children.

Greater than fame and better than money, even more important than education, is giving to each child the gift of faith. That gift will be enlarged and strengthened as he goes onward; and all of life will be sweeter, stronger, and better for it.

How can I do my very best for my children?

The best method is to teach them by precept and practice. By seeing the Lord Jesus in you they will come to love Him, trust Him, and to obey Him. Your conduct will be the most obvious factor to them. Actions always speak louder than words. In his love and admiration for his parents, the little child learns early whether he is loved or not. As he grows older his big eyes observe what is done, and he correlates his observations with the instruction given to him.

Intuitively the child understands practical Christianity in action. His response will first be imitation of what he sees and hears, but imitation can soon become a living reality. He will believe what we believe. He will walk and talk as we do. It will be easy for him to believe in the Saviour for having seen Him in Father and Mother.

Christian character will be as apparent to our children, younger and older, as to others—perhaps more so. Before they learn to read the ABC's they read character. Intuitively they understand adults much better than we give them credit. Integrity, honesty, honor, unselfishness, courage in the face of great difficulties—such character traits are deeply impressed upon young, plastic minds. The children will see Christ in our character, and will share the confidence that others have in us. They will be proud of Mother and Dad, and of the Saviour.

Our conversation can show forth the Lord Jesus. Little folk have big ears as well as big eyes. They comprehend the intent as well as the content of our talk. They will make mental note of our appreciation and helpfulness for others; and contrariwise, of unkind and unfair criticism. Our kindness and consideration for others in what we say and what we do can teach them of Him who went about doing good to all.

Consistency is a jewel, and nowhere does it sparkle more brightly than in the Christian home. At family altar we can teach children about Christ as we read the Bible, but even more impressive to them will be their seeing Christ in us. They will note what we say and do in Sunday school and church, and will compare that with our attitude and actions in the home. Consistency in our words and our works will be evidenced by the standards that we maintain in the Lord's house and on His day, and in the carefulness with which we do His work as laity or clergy. Your faith in the Saviour will be conveyed to the children by your faithfulness to them and to the Lord, by your fatherly care and concern. To me it has always been challenging and encouraging to remember that, in days dark and foreboding, Noah's sons followed their godly father even into the ark. That action must have seemed somewhat foolish to them, as it certainly was to the worldlings round about, but they had learned to trust God because they trusted their father.

The future of your children depends so largely upon their faith in Christ! Christian conduct, character, conversation, and consistency will pay big dividends in the life of every child.

A family altar with its open Bible and bended knees for the whole family, the happy home, the attendance of all the family at Sunday school and church—all these make for a wholesome outlook on life by the children, and the establishment of standards that will go with them throughout life. Correction that is constructive, cooperation that is cheerful, harmony that is helpful, such are the memories the children will carry with them when they leave our homes and go into their place of service and usefulness.

From her heart out of more than fifty years of experience of leading little orphan boys and girls to the Saviour, the late Amy Carmichael of South India wrote this earnest prayer:

FATHER, hear us, we are praying,
Hear the words our hearts are saying,
We are praying for our children.

Keep them from the powers of evil,
From the secret, hidden peril,
From the whirlpool that would suck them,
From the treacherous quicksand, pluck them.

From the worldling's hollow gladness,
From the sting of faithless sadness,
Holy Father, save our children.

Through life's troubled waters steer them.
Through life's bitter battle cheer them.
Father, Father, be Thou near them.
Read the language of our longing.
Read the wordless pleadings thronging.
Holy Father, for our children.
And wherever they may hide,
Lead them Home at eventide.
The Family Fortune

By VICTOR TRIMMER

Every father wants to be able to take care of the physical needs of his family. He has ambitions to be able to give the family the extra things that make life a little more pleasant and enjoyable: the new toy, the new dress, money for school, and the many other things that are desired in our modern way of living.

It gives the father a great deal of satisfaction and pride to be able to leave financial assistance that will continue to show his love and concern for his family. This feeling of concern and care to provide for the physical needs of the family is to be admired and appreciated.

Not all are able to see these desires realized. Many times the family fortune is very meager. Sometimes lack of ability and opportunity have so limited a father's and family's financial ability that he has not been able to provide and get and give to his family the things that he wanted. Sickness, many times, has taken the family fortune, and many pleasures of life had to be foregone. How the heart is torn and aches and great efforts are made to make up to the family for this lack!

In my travels I have seen families whose fortune you would say was very meager, but in my associations with them I found they had a fortune that was of more value than the things that finances can provide.

A family that has love one for another—a love that is filled with compassion, care, and concern—a family that is filled with happiness and joy, where there is singing and merriment, a family where there is a very real sense of peace and confidence, where faith in God is real, and trust is not only taught and talked about, but is part of everyday living—these families seem to have a security. This is a security even stronger than that which comes from a sense of financial strength. It is a security that comes from a knowledge of God and His Word, a security that is more than just for time and for the problems and needs of this life, and a security that reaches beyond the veil and promises hope of reuniting with loved ones gone on before.

Here is a treasure moth and rust cannot corrupt, a fortune that thieves cannot steal. It is a spiritual heritage that provides a family this wealth of worthwhile things. This is a fortune that every family can enjoy: for all parents, regardless of station in life, can provide this family fortune of fine things.

Where is this fortune found? First of all, of course, each mother and dad must find this fortune for themselves. It has been provided from the unsearchable riches of God himself when He gave as a ransom His Son, to die on a cross in our place. Jesus paid the full price for sin and in accepting Him there comes the rich experience of eternal salvation, and the accompanying treasures of real peace, joy, security, and faith.

You cannot leave or give that which you do not have, however great your desire may be. You must have it yourself first. In this age of satellites and Sputniks some families have lost the art and the joy of family worship, but here is where this fortune is found, as worship and Bible reading become as much a part of the family life as eating and playing. Just as a parent cannot give to the society in which he lives, whether it be government or schools or any other agency, the financial responsibility of taking care of his family, neither can he give the spiritual responsibility of providing this real family fortune to the church or the Sunday school or the preacher. He himself is first of all responsible to God and to his family to point out by example and by precept and pattern and practice where the true riches are found.

MOTHER'S DAY

M - mother—what a tender word—
O - on foreign soil—in native clime!
T - to me you are a great ideal,
H - hemmed in my soul, for endless time.
E - engraven on my mem'ry's mind,
R - remembered as a saint of God,
S - serving your Christ and family—
D - devoted—this day, we applaud . . .
A - arise, sons and daughters, now convey
Y - your praise, thanks, love—on this HER DAY!

—OVELLA SATRE SHAFER
LINES AT MY MOTHER'S GRAVE

By KATHRYN BLACKBURN PECK

How often do I come here, weary—feeling
Need of surcease from pressures of the day!
Sunshine, and solitude, and prayer, bring healing—
Comforted then, and blessed, I go my way.
You lie not where the famed of earth are sleeping
Entombed in marble crypts; but skies are blue
Above your resting place, one great elm keeping
Its vigil o'er your bed the long years through.
Birds build their nests above; their joyous singing
Fills all the air with sweetness as of yore,
When swift feet raced the lane—tin lunch pail swinging—
To greet you, smiling at the kitchen door.
My lesson paper eagerly I proffered,
For honest effort earned your praise sincere;
Sweeter than fresh-baked cookies that you offered
Your quiet understanding—constant—dear.
I need but close my eyes again to hear you:
"I'm glad, dear, that you passed the spelling test.

Today in prayer I asked God to be near you—
I knew that He would help you do your best!"

For you Time's book is closed; its rippled pages
Lie ever folded in tranquility.
To you belongs the wisdom of the ages—
You know the meaning of eternity,
While still I cope with life's hard lessons, Mother.
What are the answers? Shall I someday learn
Why evil triumphs—brother hating brother—
Why dreams depart, and tears our eyelids burn?
Would God a portion of your dauntless spirit
Of Christian courage might descend on me,
That I might live life full, nor ever fear it,
And meet death, too, with your serenity!
Till day is done, may faith's white candle, glowing,
Shine on my path toward that home so blest,
And still your prayers avail for me—your knowing
That God will ever help me do my best.

A Prayer

for Sympathy and Understanding

By A. S. LONDON

Our Heavenly Father, we have recently stood by
the bedside of two of our preacher friends who
face serious operations tomorrow. A deadly disease
has fastened itself upon them. They have gone
through the furnace of misunderstanding and suf-
ferings. Our prayer, as we saw their tears and
heard their cries, was, "Lord, always give us sympa-
thetic and understanding hearts. Our friends who
are soon to be taken into the operating room are
good men. They have suffered alike though five
hundred miles apart."

We have read, "Sympathy is your pain in my heart." We actually hurt as we heard our brethren
tell of their physical condition. We pray, save us,
O God, from getting wrapped up in ourselves to
where we cannot feel the pain of those who suffer.
To those who have gone before us we owe grati-
tude, for their patience and long-suffering with us.

An advertisement for electrical fixtures gave this
advice, "Have your living room flooded with in-
terior light." May our lives be flooded with
"interior light," so that all who have been misun-
derstood, misjudged, and mistreated will be guided
and lifted.

A great truth was spoken when one said, "Never
let day or night unhallowed pass but still remem-
ber what the Lord hath done for us." When we
blundered, He was patient. When we wobbled, He
planted the kiss of pardon. When we "missed the
mark," He gently guided us back to the living way.

Wilt Thou waken, O Lord, our hearts, hour by hour, that we may not forget Thy benefits. Save us from getting on the judgment seat. Make us "kind to all we meet, for everyone is having a hard time."

We pray, help us to do good to people. Help us to find the time to do good while men and women are in good health and fighting the battles of life. Flowers strewn across the pathway of those who suffer in hospitals today might have lifted heavy burdens from their hearts as they toiled in the heat of the day.

"Help us, O God, to help those who are despondent, depressed, and brokenhearted. Their number is legion. Grant that our gospel will not be in word only, but also in good deeds. Alert our minds, O Lord, that we may be near in our sympathy and response to those in need. Help us to throw wide the doors of our minds and hearts to those who are in need.

May we cast our bread upon the waters with generous sharing. Help us to measure our lives, not by the amount of money we make, but by the service we render to people who are in need. Keep us dissatisfied with saying words about the Christian life that have no meaning in everyday, practical Christian help.

Help us, O Lord, to remember that "one rose given while there is breath is worth more than a thousand given after death." May we dedicate our lives, by Thy grace, to make the world a better place, for those who suffer, we ask in Christ’s name. Amen.

FOR MY MOTHER:

My mother’s love is larkspur, blue and sweet,
The gentle wind along a quiet street.
My mother’s love is little silver singing
Of twilight bells, the soft and soundless winging
Of birds in flight across an evening sky,
The first star, gold and high;
And on all pathways, whether joy or grief,
The clear, unwavering candle of belief.

—Grace V. Watkins
"That Outward Adorning"

By A. F. HARPER

PART II

THIS IS OUR PRACTICE

Holiness people have taken thoughtful and serious heed to God's admonition against the wearing of gold and jewels for personal adornment. This has led to general disapproval of jewelry as wearing apparel. Finger rings, bracelets, necklaces, anklet chains, and earrings are out of place among devout people of God. The single exception generally recognized (although not universally) throughout the Church of the Nazarene is the wearing of the plain wedding band by married women. When worn, it is accepted as a sign of marriage and is not regarded as ornamentation.

The clear and vigorous scriptural warnings against outward adorning have led holiness people to an almost universal disapproval of rouge, lipstick, nail painting, and eyebrow penciling. Because of the conscience and practice of the church, the individual who wears jewelry and make-up of this kind will usually feel a bit conspicuous in the Church of the Nazarene. If such personal adornment is common practice in any local congregation, it is still not representative of our church.

IS THE ISSUE DEBATABLE?

Is there not room for honest question, difference of opinion, and debate over our emphasis upon plain dress and Christian simplicity? The answer is yes. But it must also be said that professed Christians can be found who would want to debate with us over every rule of the church. There are whole Protestant communions who question our prohibition of alcoholic liquor. There are evangelical Christians who think our church is wrong in its stand on the theater and the use of tobacco. If we remain silent on all debatable issues we shall not have much to say. If we hesitate because some may disagree, we shall never speak.

IS A LITTLE BIT ALL RIGHT?

It is unchristian and absurd to condemn persons who disagree with us on such an incidental issue as how much personal adornment is permissible, and never should we make this a test of one's salvation. That is why the subject is best handled in a pastoral ministry. Christian simplicity is more often a matter for growth in grace than a test of discipleship. That is where the New Testament puts it. When God spoke of these matters through the apostles, their words were always addressed to the women of the church—never to the unsaved or outsiders.

Though in no mood to quarrel with anyone over the issue, we had best remember that it is difficult to draw a line between a little that is acceptable and more that is questionable. If mothers put on a little, because of the pressure to be like the crowd, daughters will put on more. If make-up is acceptable, jewelry will soon follow. When long-time members wear some, new converts will be comfortable in their more extravagant habits of personal adornment established before they found Christ and came to the church. This drifting a little toward extremes that we wish to avoid is poor policy. It is always easier to let down than to pull up. Human nature can think up enough encouragements to compromise without our help. When the church speaks, let our voice be raised against the drift. If we must err in leaning too far in one direction or the other, let us err in over-urging self-sacrifice for the sake of spiritual growth.

DO CONDITIONS CHANGE?

The conscience of the church itself is shaped by clear Biblical teaching applied to contemporary conditions. Slavery, tobacco, theaters, and cosmetics were once not elements of the collective Christian conscience but they are now a part of it. What has come into that conscience can go out the same way. If changing conditions make former rules and practices unnecessary or actual hindrances to the gospel, the same process of Spirit-led consideration that guided our founding fathers and mothers to their decisions can guide the church today. The New Testament formula is still our safe guide: "It seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things" (Acts 15:28). But always we must be sure that conscience is being shaped by sincerely enlightened consideration for spiritual life rather than being pressured into conformity to the world in which we live.

If we are to change our practice and modify our collective conscience let us do so through open discussion, prayerful consideration, and responsible decision. Let us never drift into a changed church at any point once considered vital to a holy life and an effective Christian witness. Let us never allow silence in our pulpits and private counsels.
to be mistaken for approval of careless or unchristian practice. Let us rather pray with the early Christians, "And now, Lord, . . . grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word" (Acts 4:29).

**IS THE EMPHASIS TIMELY?**

Perhaps a clear word on Christian simplicity is more needed today than at any time in our fifty years of church history. We live in a day of easy money and the cost of personal adornment seems so little that the argument is not as strong as it once was. We live in a city civilization where more attention is given to personal appearance than was true in a farming community. There are voices heard today which magnify the issue all out of proportion. If they are the only voices raised we are in danger of losing our standard by having it identified only with extremists. May God help us to avoid this pitfall.

Let every minister who loves the way of holiness lift his voice in the preaching of heart purity. Let all of us be diligent to live Spirit-filled lives and to give ourselves to witnessing to friends and neighbors. If we do this faithfully and regularly, a clear note sounded now and then will take care of incidentals and externals. But let us sound that note!

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**Please, More Prayer . . .**

*By PAUL A. MERKI*

Pastor, Ketchikan, Alaska

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Brethren, pray for us (I Thessalonians 5:25).

My appreciation and admiration of the Apostle Paul have always increased when I have seen in his letters time after time the heart of a pastor. True, he was the missionary of missionaries. No portion of the known world eluded his vision or his intended outreach. He was the master theologian; I have often thought how weak our doctrine of Christ would be were it not for the Pauline Epistles. More than any other New Testament writing, the letters of Paul establish the personality of Jesus Christ as very God and very man. Missionary of missionaries—yes; master theologian—yes; but he was also a model shepherd. The Christians of Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, and Thessalonica were all members of his flock. Paul possessed the pastor's heart.

Some claim that the apostle was very homely in appearance. I do not know. But when I hear him say to the Colossians, "We . . . do not cease to pray for you" (Colossians 1:9), I know that his soul was magnanimous and beautiful. When I hear him say to the Thessalonians, "We pray always for you" (II Thessalonians 1:11), I know I could own him as my pastor.

But, recently, I was impressed by the number of times that Paul requested the churches to pray for him. Twice he urged of the Thessalonians, "Brethren, pray for us." He begged the Romans to pray for him: "Now I beseech you, brethren . . . that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me" (Romans 15:30). He had confidence in the prayer life of Philemon, for he bade this man of means to "prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you" (Philemon 22). "Brethren, pray for us." And while my spiritual capacity is small when compared with the gigantic soul stature of the great apostle, I think I can sense how Paul must have felt. And I would add my request to his, "Brethren, pray for us." Pray for your pastor. Pray for the ministry.

There was a church in the city of Hartford, Connecticut, that had a pastor brilliant in mind but errant in doctrine. Three godly men of the church, instead of criticizing, began to pray for their pastor. They prayed until he and his ideas were transformed. "Oh," one has written, "if we would talk less to one another about our ministers, and more to God in their behalf, we would have far better ministers than we now have." "Brethren, pray for us." Please, more prayer . . . please!
A Child Was Born!

The writer picked up at random five recent issues of the *Herald of Holiness* and checked the birth announcements. Twenty-five such announcements were found—an average of five for each number. It was a thrilling experience to think for a few moments of what the events back of these announcements must have meant to the homes involved. Twenty-five children born into that many families, and homes, and perhaps that many churches and social groups. They were also born into a nation and the world.

What an interesting experience it would be if one were young enough and had the time and money to follow the development of these lives! What will become of them across the years? No finite being could forecast the future.

A child is born unspoiled, tender, weak, undeveloped, and innocent; born with its particular assets and possibilities, and perhaps with different liabilities or handicaps. Each of these twenty-five children had a different heredity and was not responsible in any way for the same. The color of their hair and eyes, how tall they may be, the kind and amount of their mental ability, their facial features, and many other characteristics were largely, if not wholly, given to them—decided for them before they were born. They did not choose them, and many more people than their parents had to do with their heredity. Behind each child was a long line of ancestors. Every link which connected them with these predecessors was passed on to them by the immediate father and mother.

When one thinks of a baby's inheritance, and of how final it is, the inclination might be to look upon life as already fixed before it begins; but such is not the case. All of these twenty-five babies will become free moral agents if they live long enough. Through this power they will be able to have considerable influence over their environment. Nevertheless, their different and varied environments will also mold them. Of all the environmental forces which will influence them, none will be more important than the family unit into which each was born—the type of father and mother he has, the number of his brothers and sisters, the kind of house he is reared in, the money he has given to him, and many other factors.

Most important among the influences which will determine the direction of these twenty-five lives will be that of their parents. No environment they will come in contact with will be so significant as the home environment; and that is headed by the father and the mother. This does not mean that their homes can give the final word as to what they shall be—the children are free moral agents and, in the last analysis, they will react through that power to the world into which they have been born. Nevertheless, what these children become, from the standpoint of their environmental influences, will be determined more by their parents than by anyone else or anything else. This places a tremendous responsibility upon the home, and especially upon the father and mother. They, more than anyone else or anything else, will have to guide these children as they grow through their teen years into the ways in which their feet will go.

When one thinks of the responsibilities of parenthood, one shudders. It is a tremendous responsibility. As parents, we must strive to do our best, and there is no ally we can choose that will help us more than the church, with its Sunday school, the young people's society, and other activities for which it is responsible. The home cannot succeed without the church.

Of course the school also will have its work to do. The public school is an important factor in the lives of our boys and girls, and later on, the college which we choose for them. Many of the
choices which these children make as to the other environmental influences will depend upon the advice and the direction which their parents give them. National Family Week is an important week and, as a church and as parents, we should appreciate greatly all of the good influences which are thrown about our young people.

The time will come one day when these children—twenty-five of them that were born so recently—will break with their homes. By this it is not meant that they will have nothing more to do with their homes. But it does mean that just as surely as they grow up, there will come a time when they will have to make their own decisions. And the fulfillment of our hope for them then will depend largely upon how well we have dealt with them through the years before that time. Truly the day will arrive when these children will leave their homes, in the sense that they will take on life for themselves.

How well do I remember when I went away to college! I had not been away from home very much; had stayed away from home at night on only a few occasions up until that time. I was a great home boy; I loved my home, and was especially close to my mother. I do not mean when I say this that there were not ties that bound me to my father very decidedly, and to every member of the family. They all said when I went away to college that I would never stay, I would become so homesick that I would return home before the school year had closed. They were mistaken; I never lived at home much any more after that. My leave-taking would have been still worse for me had I realized that such would be the case. That was really my break with home. From then on, I began more and more to work for myself and was not at home much, even during vacation. After I finished college I went across the country to do graduate work; and from then on I was on my own completely, so far as making my decisions and carrying on my life. Father and mother and loved ones were still dear and close to me, but they had little after that to do with fashioning my life or my future.

That day will come for these twenty-five children, and we must work before that time to lay every possible foundation for the break, to do everything that we can to so mold the lives of our children that when they leave us they will carry on in accordance with our ideals. I am assuming that the homes of these twenty-five babies are Christian homes and their ideals are Christian ideals. I believe they are.

One other word I would offer before I close this editorial: We must never forget that those twenty-five children whose births were announced, from twenty-five different homes, are destined never to cease to exist. They have had a beginning, but they will never have an end. Man's soul is deathless. If you are living now, you'll live forever somewhere; and those twenty-five children, born into the world so recently, will live forever somewhere. Thus they are building not only for time but also for eternity. They are building not only for the years which are to come after they leave their homes on this earth but they are also building for the eternity which is to come after they leave this world. When I think of this and all that is involved in the birth of a child, I have decided that there are no announcements and no news ever set forth in the Herald of Holiness more important than the announcement which has to do with the beginning of a new life. Then a life begins which will continue somewhere forever, that will live either with God or without Him, forever and forever! God give us homes that are Christian homes, homes that will surround the children that come into them with the very best which can be bestowed upon them in this life!

"Thou Art the Christ"

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). In these words we have what has come to be called "The Great Confession." Christ asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" The answer was that some looked upon Him as Elias (Elijah), while others thought of Him as Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. But this was not the important question—that is, what men in general thought about Him. The big question was what they, His disciples, thought of Him.

It is no surprise, then, that Christ said to that group, "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter, who was usually the spokesman for the crowd, quickly answered: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." This was a revelation from God. We are sure of this fact from the words of Jesus which followed: "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." However, we must not fool ourselves by thinking that this truth was only a revelation from God. The revelation was only the climactic step. Preceding and leading up to it were many days and even weeks of walking with Jesus. Peter had be-
come Christ’s follower. Every other earthly thing had been set aside and, insofar as Peter could with the light which he had then, Jesus had been made supreme in his life. He had been convinced intellectually as well as spiritually that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Without the intellectual understanding there could never have been the divine revelation to which Peter witnessed when the Master confronted His disciples with the question, “But whom say ye that I am?”

By LESLIE PARROTT

Protestants fight back against the move of Pope John XXIII to draw everyone into a universal church, Catholic of course! A major Protestant leader has suggested that the Roman Catholic church, if it is sincere about uniting the voice of Christianity, join the World Council of Churches, which now boasts 170 denominations including Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican groups.

Presbyterians have launched a million-dollar-a-year program to revitalize faltering downtown churches in twelve American cities. If successful, the plan will be enlarged to include all American cities with dwindling downtown congregations.

A Methodist minister has spoken out in his denomination against “selling things” to support the kingdom of God.

American church leaders took a mid-March look at how their elders are running the country. Thirty-four denominational youth group presidents and officers of the United Christian Youth Movement exchanged beliefs and concerns with President Eisenhower, cabinet members, and congressmen. The youth urged these leaders to accept fully their Christian responsibility in the national and international issues of the day.

At the start of this century America was considered a missionary field of the Roman Catholic church. Today, according to the United Press, the United States has more practicing Catholics than any other country in the world except Italy. The Census Bureau estimates that 48,000,000 Americans “regard themselves as Catholics.”

Prime Minister Walter Nash was among those who braved the biting wind to hear Billy Graham speak in a recent outdoor rally in New Zealand.

Movie film censorship is currently under fire in Chicago. A judge ruled that “a picture is either obscene or it is not,” and that age restrictions on attendance at “questionable” films are unconstitutional. The present code has given the police censor board power to bar persons under twenty-one years of age. One spokesman fears an influx of obscene movies into Chicago unless the issue is soon cleared.

Jazz has entered the church. A progressive combo disturbed the Sunday quiet of Norwalk, Connecticut, as “the 20th Century Folk Mass,” was performed at a Protestant Episcopal communion service. Rhythms ranging from waltz to ragtime got a mixed reception from the twelve-man vestry and the congregation. The merits of the music and the propriety of mixing the Bible with the “blues” became a hot issue which has overflowed the bounds of the community and the denomination.

by BERTHA MUNRO

That Nothing Be Lost
(John 6:5-13; Romans 8:28)

Monday:
“We would not waste our sorrow or our pain”—I caught the phrase as our pastor prayed for a father who had lost a three-year-old son. “Not waste our sorrow.” He went on: “Help us to enter disfavor upon what we have called the sectarian ‘store-front church.’ I wonder what emotions the Lord has as He views a ‘church-front store.’” He contends that Methodists should gain respect in the community by fulfilling their God-given responsibility and not resort to “catch-penny methods” of church financing.

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They will come, come in force. Come to be turned into victories. Even that present overwhelming on, when the enemy roars to scare us, throws dust in the air to confuse. Suppose Job had wasted his!

Or our blinding storms—Paul garnered his with “I believe God” (Acts 27:25).

Wednesday:
We would not waste our minutes during the altar call. Lives are in the balance; we will grip each moment with a prayer that will wing the Spirit’s urge to some hesitating heart. (This is practical; try it and see what happens.)

Thursday:
We would not waste our faith faculty during a season of united prayer. It is easy to kneel passive—mind empty or wandering; but every individual prayer—lift counts. A gap in the faith chain can let the enemy in; I have the power to believe actively.

Friday:
We would not waste our inadequacy. A beautifully sanctified young woman was troubled because it seemed she lacked the ability she saw in some others to understand and love the people she wished to help. But as we talked, we seemed to see that everyone must have some point where he is acutely conscious of his own inability—if he is to realize his dependence on God for supply. Let our inadequacy be turned into God-depencence—it need not be wasted. Give thanks for the weakness that throws us on God. Self-sufficiency could ruin everything.

Saturday:
We would not waste our frustrations. That Saturday morning when everything was tangling itself up, nothing went smoothly, and I saw the whole day ruined, something whispered inside, You have nothing to do this exasperating morning but please God in every situation—Irritations and all. The frustrations create the opportunity to make melody in your heart, singing in the shadows—or in the horns’ nest.

Sunday:
We would not waste our energies—our efforts, our activities. Dead works are dead. A train was wrecked because the signalman waved an unlighted lantern. We will open our hearts to the Holy Spirit’s radioactive fullness.

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Possess our sorrow; save it for eternity by putting it in God’s hands.

Tuesday:
We would not waste our temptations—
The Swazi Compound Work

By LILIAN COURTNEY SMITH

Visiting the mine compounds with my husband and the native minister during the Christmas season, I was given the opportunity of preaching to the Swazi men. Naturally I spoke on the Christmas story. I had not gone very far when I asked them if they knew why we celebrated Christmas. There was no response. Again I put the question: “Can anybody tell me what we mean by Christmas? If so, put up your hand.” There was no answer. Oh, yes. They knew it was a holiday for some people; they knew it was a time of feasting and exchanging gifts among the white people. For themselves, they may have a little larger ration of food and beer. They knew the street vendors sold pretty paper hats, the stores were decorated beautifully and were full of good things; but what it was all about, not one of them knew.

There was a crowd of men in that compound room ranging from eighteen to fifty years of age, perhaps more, yet no one could tell me why we celebrated Christmas.

Think of it, friends. Do we realize when we are enjoying the pleasures that Christmas brings to us that our brethren just across the sea do not even know the meaning of this precious season?

It made me feel how very privileged we were to belong to a Christian country. It made me value my dear parents more than ever before. It made me appreciate my church and pastor, my Sunday school teachers and friends who had constantly brought before me the wonderful story of Jesus.

From the birth of Jesus in the manger until His death on the cross of Calvary it is a story of love, and everybody should know it.

Please pray for us that we may be able to help these dear folk to see the Light. The darkness is so great!

As I looked into the faces of those men that morning my heart went out to them. I can still see the dullness in their eyes when I asked them, “Why do we celebrate Christmas?” I can still see the listless shake of the head as much as to say, “How are we expected to know?” I thought to myself that day—Some of these men are getting old and have been in the mines for years. They have been in close contact with civilization, yet they know not why we celebrate Christmas. How much less will the people away in the bush or hidden away in the mountains know why we have such a season as Christmas!

The thought is horrifying. Oh, we need missionaries and national workers in this vast continent of Africa! Let your prayers follow those we have there, till many of these darkened hearts who are all about us shall receive the Light as they hear the wonderful story of the
first Christmas and why our Lord came to earth. Stand behind your missionaries in PRAYER. We are helpless without that POWER LINE.

Nicaraguan Day Schools

Our day schools closed their school year the last of February. To 184 children in 9 schools we presented certificates. It was a busy ten days trying to visit our rural schools, which are now accessible during the dry season, and at the same time supervise in Rivas. However, I made all the trips without mishap—not even one flat tire—for which I praise the Lord. In all of these outlying areas interest in the schools is maintained by the pastors' wives (who are often the teachers), the pastors, and the teachers, almost all of whom are Bible Institute graduates.

Last Thursday night once again we had a record attendance at the commencement program of our Central Day School in Rivas. In our graduating class we had five promising young men. Four of them have been in our day school and Sunday schools for several years. Pray for these young graduates as they make their decisions concerning the future. In all, eighty-seven received certificates that night. Our Superior School continues to have a good report in the community and for this we thank God.

—Mary Wallace.

Literature Progress in Japan

Last week we sent the first section of Dr. Wiley's Christian Theology to the publisher. It will be published in six volumes. Brother Oye and I are completing copy for a test in the doctrine of holiness which we hope to publish this year. Several books are being published by others right now. This helps make our teaching work easier. We are greatly encouraged!—Harrison Davis, Japan.

HOME MISSIONS

NEW CHURCHES OVERSEAS FIELDS CHURCH EXTENSION MINORITY GROUPS IN U.S.

Request for Prayer

We have been aware of the threatening situation surrounding Berlin in recent months. Let us not forget to pray for Rev. and Mrs. Jerald D. Johnson and their family as they labor in West Germany, close to the iron curtain. In a recent letter Brother Johnson says, "It looks as though the Communists are trying to scare us all off the continent, but we're trusting God to keep the doors open for the gospel. The prayers of our people are needed that God will keep His hand on the Berlin situation."

New Churches

District Superintendent Mark R. Moore organized the church at New Lenox, Illinois, on March 29 with twenty-three charter members. The first service was held in January and the Sunday school averaged forty-eight in March. Rev. Carl Doyle Baker has been appointed pastor. The congregation is worshiping in a rented building, but lots have been purchased and construction will begin soon on a new church building. This new church has been sponsored by the Tinley Park church. It is the eighth new church on the Chicago Central District since the 1956 General Assembly.

ROY F. SMEE, Secretary

District Superintendent Cecil Knippers organized a new church at Aiea on Oahu, Hawaii, on March 15, with Dr. Hugh C. Benner as the special speaker on the organization Sunday. This work was started as a mission Sunday school about eighteen months ago. It is located in a Samoan community and made up principally of Samoan people, some of whom speak only Samoan. Rev. Nelson T. Tuitele has been appointed pastor. This was the third new church on the Hawaiian District this quadrennium.

The Second Church in Pasadena, Tex., was organized March 30 by District Superintendent W. Raymond McClung. More than half the charter members joined by profession of faith. The congregation is worshiping temporarily in a school building. This is the fifth new church on the Houston District this quadrennium.

District Superintendent R. B. Acheson organized the Penno Manor Church at Clymer, Pennsylvania, on March 8 with thirty-one charter members. Rev. J. J. Fetterman, pastor of the church, has been serving as supply pastor of an independent church for several months. Most of the congregation voted to become a part of the Church of the Nazarene, although in doing so they sacrificed their property. The church is in a rural area and a new building will be erected soon. It is the eighth new church on the Pittsburgh District this quadrennium.

Rural Life Sunday

One of the lesser noticed days on the church calendar is Rural Life Sunday, this year occurring on May 3. It provides an occasion to look closely at our churches in rural areas. Church life in rural America has been given intensive study in recent years. Our rural population has shown a steady decline in percentage of the total population, even though the total number of people living in rural areas has remained about the same over many years. The mechanization of farms, the extensive improvement of roads and increasing use of automobiles, the consolidation of schools, and similar changes have provided a revolution in farm life. Twenty-five years ago not more than one-third of the acreage of the average farm needed to be put into cash crops. Today all of it must be converted to cash, and in many farm families at least one member of the family has a daily job in a nearby town or city.

This farm revolution has been accompanied by a widespread population movement. Rural people have moved to towns and cities, and city people have moved into the country, while maintaining their jobs in the city. It is difficult to determine whether the city is taking over the country or the country is taking over the city.

These economic and sociological changes have had their effect upon the Church. Many communities have had a steadily declining population for many years and in others the people have transferred their interests and daily connections to a nearby town. It is estimated that in the past twenty years 20,000 rural churches have been closed. Many others have struggled along with a run-down building, a dwindling congregation, inadequate leadership, and almost no program. It is difficult to maintain a dynamic, evangelistic program in a dying community.

In spite of many changes, our rural communities will continue to exist for many years at least. The success of some churches, even in declining communities, reveals that the church need not succumb to the surrounding decline. Under the leadership of a pastor with a dedication to the task and a vision of the possibilities, churches have developed a vital evangelistic outreach through visitation, well-planned and prayed-for revivals, missionary conventions, vacation Bible schools, and a ministry that is aimed to reach out to the total community.

In many areas there is a large percentage of rural people who do not regularly attend church. These people need the church, and the Church of the Nazarene has something to offer to rural people.

Rural Life Sunday, 1959, at the beginning of our second fifty years, provides a time for the rural church to
survey its task, its opportunities, and its present program. Our God is able to meet the needs of the rural church; and the rural congregation, devoted and dedicated to God's will for His Church, is able with His help to make a mighty impact on the community.

We would also remind pastors of rural and small town churches of the Self-study Schedules made available by the Department of Home Missions as guides for these churches in developing a more aggressive program.

**Sunday School Lesson**

**MENDELL TAYLOR**

**Topic for May 10:** Speaking Fearlessly for God

**Scripture:** II Samuel 7:11-12 (Printed: II Samuel 12:1-7, 9-10, 13-14)

**Golden Text:** He that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully (Jeremiah 23:28).

**A Wrong Look:** Most wrong action recorded in the Bible started with a wrong look. Eve looked on the forbidden fruit of the Garden and saw that it was pleasing to the eye. In the case of David's moral downfall, his eyes first beheld that which turned into an overwhelming temptation. He was walking on the roof of his palace when he saw a beautiful woman "washing herself." David's eye contact soon turned into a physical attraction. He sent word to the woman that he wanted her to come to see him. An unholy infatuation rapidly formed between David and the wife of Uriah.

Under the pressure that developed out of this illicit relationship, David planned a way to take "the heat" off him. All of his schemes to have Uriah and his wife joined in a love union failed. In desperation David resorted to extreme action. He ordered the commander of the army to place Uriah "in the forefront of the hottest battle," so that he would certainly be killed. When David learned that Uriah was slain in battle, he took Bath-sheba (Uriah's widow) to be his wife.

**A Weighy Lesson:** The prophet of the Lord by the name of Nathan became concerned about the spiritual welfare of David following this immoral episode. The prophet designed an object lesson that would trigger a response from David that would lay David open to an indictment. The record of this weighty and telling lesson is given in verses 1 to 4 of today's scripture lesson. The moral of the story was about a rich man who took undue advantage of a poor man. The former had everything, but was so unfair that he took the only possession of a poor man, to gratify his own hunger. The reaction of David to such an act of injustice was violent.

**A Withered Life:** David's anger was
greatly kindled against the man which Nathan described. The king's sense of justice came into operation and he declared that such a rascal as the villain in Nathan's story would have to pay fourfold for his crime and in addition forfeit his life. It was easy for David to see the wrongness of the other person's action but to excuse his own. However, Nathan capitalized on the situation and pointed a finger of accusation straight at David. Then a withering indictment was leveled by the prophet as he said, "Thou art the man.

It took unlimited courage for a citizen to speak to his king in such a manner. The prophet of the Lord did not hesitate to express his opinion when he knew he was right. David realized that he was cornered. The useful and fruitful life of David suddenly became a withered and blighted life because he allowed his impulses to get the best of him. He shrank from a giant into a dwarf in a matter of seconds.

A Wailing Lament: David assumed full responsibility for his sin. He did not try to rationalize out of it nor place the blame on someone else. His plaintive wail of woe was, "I have sinned against the Lord." The throb of his brokenhearted sob was that the Lord had been so extra good to him and he had let the Lord down in such a devastating manner.

The penalty of death was removed from over the head of David, but the punishment for his sin was visited upon his family in an endless round of tragedies. Though David was forgiven, his children could always say to him when he tried to discipline them: "You have no right to talk. What we do is nothing compared to your sin."

Three of the four sons of David brought nothing but sorrow to his life. Two of the sons revolted against him, and they died tragically in the inscription. Another son violated the sanctity of David's home, and then died in complete repudiation of his father.

Sin can bring tears that no handkerchief can dry.

CORRECTION: The Golden Texts as printed in the second quarter "Advanced Quarterly" and lesson leaflets are incorrect. The verse printed here is correct.

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The Best Mother!

By ETHEL HOLLINGSWORTH

"And God created all the earth..."—it was her zealous preaching. Prepared us to withstand, in school, this "evolution" teaching. We knew she would use the rod. We knew that she would find us out and there'd be consequences! The best mother ever known.

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18 (206) • HERALD OF HOLINESS
Davis Memorial Church, Bedford, Indiana

East Side Church of the Nazarene in Bedford was organized as a home mission church on June 6, 1949, with five members, and Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Kearney as pastors. The congregation worshiped in a store building and tent until the basement could be occupied. Under the leadership of our present pastor, Rev. Donal Donohoe, the above superstructure was completed for dedication on August 4, 1957, with Dr. D. I. Vanderpool officiating. At this time the name was changed to the Davis Memorial Church in recognition and appreciation of the spiritual and material contributions of our district superintendent, Dr. Leo C. Davis, and the late Lela B. Davis. A lovely, six-room parsonage has also been erected and the property is now valued at $75,000, with an indebtedness of only $18,000 remaining. Sunday school rooms in the basement are nearing completion and we now have a membership of seventy-three. We give God praise for all He has helped us to accomplish. We invite those coming this way to stop and worship with us.—SHARLENE REED, RE­porter.

Tifton, Georgia—Recently our church had a wonderful revival with Evangelist W. Q. Sheridan. He is a man of God, a prayer warrior, and the Lord blessed the messages with the Spirit’s anointing. Our people realized the value of prayer, and victories were won in the services and also some people prayed through in their homes.—WAYNE MILLS, Pastor.

Swannanoa, North Carolina—After our being here four years God has wonderfully helped us. But just recently in the midst of a revival we suffered a tragedy in the burning of our church building. God opened up a building which we might use free of charge for worship until we could build. Recently we had a wonderful revival with Rev. James T. Hokada, converted Buddhist, as the evangelist. With a wonderful noonday and evening prayer meeting prior to the church service, and under the anointed preaching of the evangelist, God gave many seekers at the altar, with some being sanctified wholly. The meeting continued a week longer than scheduled because of the blessings of God. The church was helped in every way and we give God praise.—PAUL STAMEY, Pastor.

Pontiac, Michigan—Clintonville Church recently enjoyed one of its best revivals with Rev. C. V. Holstein as the evangelist. His messages were inspired and blessed of God. On the first Sunday God moved in and we had an old-fashioned melting-up time, and the altar was lined with seekers praying through to victory. Several times the altar was filled with seeking souls, and the church was strengthened in every way by this wonderful meeting.—O. L. FERRIS, Pastor.

Pastor Gerald V. Davis writes: “Moving to the Abilenie District in 1954, we pastored our church in Stephenville, Texas, for three years. The Lord wonderfully blessed, the church made gains in every department, and we constructed a much-needed, modern, three-bedroom parsonage. Then we pastored our church in Gainesville for almost two years, coming here to Brownfield about six months ago. Here we have a wonderful people, and God has blessed with many altar services, and nine new members added to the church, seven of these by profession of faith. Our organized visitation is bringing out twenty people or more for this work, which has resulted in a 30 per cent increase in Sunday school attendance and unsaved people coming to the services. We are now engaged in constructing a much-needed, 32 x 66-foot educational unit, providing ten Sunday school rooms, fellowship hall, nursery, etc. This construction is soundly financed with over 50 per cent of the construction cost being raised in a building fund campaign. Recently we enjoyed the preaching of Evangelist J. E. Williams in a revival meeting, in which God blessed both preacher and people in a special way. Our people have given us an unanimous recall and a ten-dollar-per-week raise in salary.”

Mena, Arkansas—Upon assuming the duties as pastor of First Church here, we found the people wanting a revival and we were fortunate in being able to secure the services of Rev. James W. Thomas. We had a fine, stirring revival; our people were blessed and encouraged; and they were unwilling to move for God. Brother Thomas is a good preacher of the old-fashioned gospel; he prays and fasts, and encourages the people to believe. We thank God for the ministry of Brother Thomas with us and the new vision and upward look of our people.—JAMES A. HALE, Pastor.

Belle Chasse, Louisiana—Westbank Church recently had the most spiritually rewarding revival we have had. Rev. Everett A. Johnson was mightily used of God in bringing Spirit-anointed, scriptural, holiness messages. Our people moved up closer to the Lord and every night found seekers at the altar praying through to victory. We thank the people of the Vilian church for allowing their pastor to come to us for this week of special services.—EVERETT DIX, Pastor.

Evangelist Oliver Morgan writes: “During the Christmas holidays I was confined in a hospital in Chicago, where I underwent surgery; the operation was pronounced a success. I thank God for sparing my life and thank the many friends who prayed for me and sent letters and cards. These prayers and words of comfort were greatly appreciated. Through the goodness of God I did not miss a scheduled revival meeting. On Sunday, September 22, we closed our fifth revival meeting since January 1. Pastors and people have been most kind, and God has honored in giving a number of wonderful altar services with people praying through to victory. Mrs. Morgan and our daughter, Marcell, travel with me all the time; we carry the whole program of preaching and singing, with Mrs. Morgan doing the song leading. Due to a pastoral change we have an open date, September 2 to 13, which we’d like to give to some church in the Middle West. Our new home address is 485 S. Bresee Avenue, Bourbonnais, Illinois.”

Orangeburg, South Carolina—During February, First Church enjoyed a good revival with Evangelist and Mrs. Gerald D. Laing. The people of the church fell in love with these splendid evangelists, and the meeting continued a week longer than scheduled. Much good was accomplished, with quite a number of new people won to the church. The Sermonette was a great blessing to all and added to the spirit of the services. On the first Sunday night after the close of the meeting, there were nine seekers at the altar, as a result of seed sown during the meeting. The revival spirit continues, and pastor and people are encouraged.—PAUL E. HESS, Pastor.

Evangelist George O. Cole reports: “Recently we closed our twenty-eighth meeting since entering the field in January of 1958. God has been most gracious, and we have witnessed some very wonderful manifestations of His
MEET Mrs. Inez Vance Johnson, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, who for fifteen years has taught elementary public school music and directed youth and adult choirs. She will teach classes and conduct a laboratory choir in Children's Music.

July 7-10, 1959

A Sacred Music Camp on Indian Lake, near Vicksburg, Michigan

Write for complete information: Nazarene Publishing House

presence; we give Him praise for every victory. It is a high privilege to work with our fine pastors and people. Our meetings have taken us to Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Florida, and our own state of Ohio. We have seen over five hundred seeking God for pardon, reclamation, and heart purity. God still gives revivals if His people will humble themselves and pray. We have a few open dates for 1960; write us, 413 E. Ohio Avenue, Sebring, Ohio.

Western Ohio District Preachers' Meeting

The annual preachers' meeting of the Western Ohio District was held March 16 to 18 in the recently completed Dayton Central Church. Dr. W. E. Albea, our much-appreciated district leader, directed us in a full and varied program, presenting Dr. Samuel Young, general superintendent; Dr. A. B. Mackey, president of Trevecca Nazarene College; and Rev. C. T. Moore, veteran Nazarene minister, as the special speakers.

Dr. Young flavored with wit many pungent, practical points of sound advice to pastors. Dr. Mackey jarred us out of some ruts of thought with some unique approaches to familiar scriptures and old problems, and Brother Moore stirred our hearts to a deeper appreciation for the work of the Holy Spirit in our ministry.

Featured also on the program were the all-Dayton choir and the pastors' wives' choir, the presentation of Olivet Nazarene College by Field Representative John Swarengen, and the representation of the Nazarene Publishing House by Mr. Elvin Hicks.

On Monday evening the Albeas were presented a token of the district's appreciation, a corsage and boutonniere, honoring them on their forty-ninth wedding anniversary.

Many pastors and evangelists from other districts enjoyed the fellowship characteristic of this district's gatherings.

Host Pastor G. B. Breese with his people did a splendid job in entertaining the preachers' meeting.

Challenged and inspired, we Western Ohio pastors returned to our churches determined to "work till Jesus comes"—Paul G. Bassett, Reporter.

Antlers, Oklahoma—The Lord wonderfully blessed in the recent revival meeting in our church with Rev. and Mrs. H. F. Crews as the special evangelistic workers. Twenty-three different people sought God at the altar of church. The meeting was sponsored by the young people, who also responded in a wonderful way. Several souls were saved and sanctified. God honored the continued volume of prayer from His people. On the closing Sunday, and since, nine members have been added to the church, two married couples with children and five teen-agers. We give God the praise.—George L. Fitch, Pastor.

Directories

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS

HARDY C. POWERS

Office, 4401 The Paseo, Box 6076, Kansas City 10, Missouri

District Assembly Schedule for 1959

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

Florida

May 20 and 21

Alabam

May 27 and 28

Rocky Mountain

June 10 and 11

South Dakota

June 17 and 18

North Dakota

June 24 and 25

Northeastern Indiana

July 8 to 10

Michigan

July 15 and 16

Eastern Kentucky

July 23 and 24

Kentucky

August 5 and 6

Joplin

September 2 and 3

Southeast Oklahoma

September 16 and 17

G. B. WILLIAMSON

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District Assembly Schedule for 1959

San Antonio

May 6 and 7

Abilene

May 13 to 15

Arizona

May 20 and 21

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PSALMS, 66-68

3 Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

4 All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah.

5 Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men.

6 He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

7 He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the rebellious abroad.

Thanksgiving. Prayer for God's mercy

18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:
19 But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.
20 Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

PSALM 67 [545]

A Prayer for the Blessings of God's Kingdom

To the chief Musician on Neginoth, A Psalm or Song

GOD be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah.

2 That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

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**ABILENE—** Assembly, May 13 to 15, at First Church, 4910 Avenue Q, Lubbock, Texas. Send mail, merchandise, and other items relating to the assembly to the entertaining pastor, Rev. Milton Poole, 4510 Avenue Q, Lubbock, Texas. (N.F.M.S. convention, May 11; N.F.M.S. convention, May 12.) Dr. G. B. Williamson presiding.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA—** Assembly, May 13 to 15, at Beulah Park Camp, 100 Beulah Park Drive, Santa Cruz, California. Send mail, merchandise, and other items relating to the assembly to the entertaining pastor, Rev. Frank True, 100 Beulah Park Drive, Santa Cruz, California. (N.F.M.S. convention, May 12.) Means to get to District Center: airplanes—San Francisco and San Jose; trains, too. Dr. Hugh C. Benner presiding.


**FLORIDA—** Assembly, May 20 and 21, at Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, 424 No. Broadway St., Orlando, Florida. Entertaining pastor, Rev. Charles Ide, 300 E. Jackson St., Orlando, Florida. Send mail, merchandise, and other items relating to the assembly to the entertaining pastor, Dr. Hardy C. Powers presiding.

**A  C.S.T. Text**

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A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT FOR THE CHURCH

The final test of the worth of an institution is in the actual work of the graduates in the churches. The following reports from district superintendents prove the value of the Seminary to the church.

FLORIDA DISTRICT

Having graduated from the Nazarene Theological Seminary, Gene accepted a call to pastor one of our smaller churches. He with Betty, his wife, soon won the hearts of his congregation, and many influential people of the town, especially public school officials. During the three years at Sebring, Gene was invited to speak at the union, city-wide Thanksgiving service, high school commencements, and the opening of school conventions.

Not content to enjoy these opportunities and honors, Gene asked his district superintendent for the privilege of resigning his church in order to organize a home mission church. After frank and fair discussion of the many sacrifices connected with a new work, both Betty and Gene said, “We feel the Lord wants us to go.” And go they did! They left a nice congregation, a three-bedroom, two-bath, furnished parsonage, a fair salary, and took a new place not yet organized, no parsonage and no furniture and a reduction in salary.

Six months later we have a wonderful group of new Nazarenes with a Sunday school of seventy-five to eighty and a great future for a thriving church. Gene and Betty are certain that home mission work was God’s plan for their lives at this time.

—John L. Knight
District Superintendent

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Thirty-three—AND ROOM FOR MORE!

Thirty-three Seminary graduates on the Northern California District—and room for more!

They come from all parts of the country. They serve all types of churches. They have made many adjustments. They all arrived eager and excited about beginning their ministry in their own church. They have faced the usual pitfalls and disillusionments.

But, as I look at these thirty-three men, I do not think of them primarily as Seminary graduates. To me they are ministers of Jesus Christ. They are Nazarene brethren! They have not set themselves apart as a select intellectual fraternity. They have adjusted to their fellow ministers and to the program of the district until they are identified by their own personal qualities of devotion and dedication.

Right here is the crowning tribute to the work of the Seminary. Somehow, it has impressed these men with the seriousness of the call of God upon their lives. Advanced training has increased effectiveness, not merely to serve bigger churches but to serve more efficiently wherever God sees fit to place them. Broader contacts with the church in the Seminary reduce attitudes of provincialism which hinder usefulness. The process of maturing in an academic and spiritual atmosphere consistent with the doctrines we preach adds strength to their witness to heart holiness.

Thirty-three Seminary graduates on the Northern California District—and room for more!

—George Coulter
District Superintendent

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT

THE SEMINARY AND HOME MISSIONS

It has been my privilege to serve as the superintendent of the Kansas City District for the entire time Nazarene Theological Seminary has been in operation. During these years, 167 Seminary men have served as pastors on this district; 136 of this number have pastored home mission churches, the majority receiving $25.00 or less per week. Many of the students have driven scores of miles each week end to pastor small churches, when the salary they received would not pay all their expenses. One drove 140 miles each week end for two years, and a number now drive from 90 to 100 miles each way. Twelve of our Seminary men are now pastoring in these smaller churches.

In the few years of the Seminary’s existence, fourteen new areas on this district have been entered by the Church of the Nazarene. In each of these locations we rented a building in which to worship temporarily, secured a Seminary student as pastor, and started from scratch. Today, in each of these places we have a good organization, and we have fourteen nice church buildings. Salaries have climbed in these churches, up and up—in one instance to $115 per week.

The students have faithfully attended home mission churches, taught classes, or held revivals to help their friends who were in charge. Eternity alone will reveal the blessing the Nazarene Theological Seminary has been to home missions on the Kansas City District and the other districts nearby.

The Seminary president and his staff have always been cooperative and never once have I called upon any of them to preach, hold a revival, or supply a pulpit, and had them refuse, regardless of how small the church or the remuneration.

—Jarrette Aycock
District Superintendent
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April 29, 1939

Announcements

RECOMMENDATION

The A. A. Passmore Evangelistic Party is entering the Nazarene field of evangelism. The party, consisting of Rev. and Mrs. Passmore and their eighteen-year-old son, Archie, have recently joined our local church at New Castle, Pennsylvania, and we are happy to recommend them to Nazarenes everywhere. God is pleased to bless their full program of ministry in sermon, music, and song. Brother Passmore is a strong holiness preacher; Mrs. Passmore is accomplished in piano and accordion; Archie leads the congregational singing and plays a variety of instruments including trumpet, guitar, and vibraharp. They sing the glory down in special duets and trios. Write them at Snydertown, Pennsylvania—R. B. Acheson, Superintendent of Pittsburgh District.

WEDDING BELLS

Bonnie M. Adams of Twin Rocks and Robert T. Grant of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, were united in marriage on March 29 in the Ebensburg Church of the Nazarene, with the pastor, Rev. Elizabeth M. Duman, officiating.

Miss Anne Gerell Crawford of Oklahoma City and Evangelist W. Talmadge Johnson of Duncan, Oklahoma, were united in marriage on March 6 in the Shields Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma City, with Rev. J. T. Crawford, father of the bride, officiating, assisted by Rev. W. T. Johnson, father of the groom.

BORN—
- to Rev. and Mrs. J. Kenneth Copenhauer of Uhrichsville, Ohio, a daughter, Karen Jean, on March 27.
- to Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Grobe of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, a son, David, on March 17.
- to Mr. and Mrs. George Kennedy of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, a son, Patrick, on March 26.
- to Rev. Ronald and Elida (Johnson) Featherston of Gary, Indiana, a son, David Lee, on March 25.
- to Bill and Marion Youngman of Benton Harbor, Michigan, a daughter, Joann Marie, on March 22.
- to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Valentine of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, a son, Brad Andrew, on March 16.
- to Asa and Dorothy (Story) Sparks of Nashville, Tennessee, a daughter, Elizabeth Ann, on March 13.
- to Rev. and Mrs. Gordon G. Belzer of Alexander, North Dakota, a daughter, Pamela Jean, on February 27.
- to Rev. Ivan and Evelyn (Lindberg) Brals of Waterloo, Iowa, a daughter, Evangeline Ruth, on February 5.

SPECIAL PRAYER IS REQUESTED by a sister in Wisconsin for her daughter—that she may be saved and stop drinking—she has a family of little children—and urgent request.

by a reader in Ohio that he may be fully consoled and God have victory over a failure in his Christian experience.

by a mother in Texas for her son, now fifty years old, prayed through to God a few months ago and is trying to live a Christian life, but needs special help from God.

"A very special work may be done for God, or even a great sacrifice made in the past, but these do not free us from very weak and suffers much physical pain—doctors say it is nerves and they cannot help him—he needs special help from God."

April 29, 1939

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Continued on page 25]