“Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (Psalms 51:7).
Promise for 1962

A promise for 1962!
Many crowd into the mind to be considered.
My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest (Exodus 33:14).
Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass (Psalms 37:5).
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Proverbs 3:6).
When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee (Isaiah 43:2).
Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).
I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger: and he that believeth on me shall never thirst (John 6:35).

Each of these seems especially suited to certain situations, to some of the conditions of life on this earth which we shall face during 1962. Each would no doubt be chosen by many as a favorite scripture promise.

The Cover . . .
There is rare beauty in a new fall of snow. Isaiah gives God's promise: “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (1:18). But the Psalmist prays for cleansing: “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (51:7). Elsewhere the Bible speaks of snow as symbolic of the Word of God: “For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and prosper in the thing wherefo I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10).

But there is one verse which in a real way summarizes all the personal promises of the Word of God. It is Paul's great declaration of faith in the face of all the possible happenings of human existence: “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” (Romans 8:28).

The story is told of a new convert in a city rescue mission the walls of which were covered with mottoes bearing verses of scripture. Unable to find words to express his new-found faith and joy, and untrained in the abbreviations used to locate Bible passages, he pointed to the verse marked, “Rom. 8:28,” and said, “I'm glad to tell you, I'm living now in Room 828.”

This is a good room in which to live! What a load of fret and care it lifts from our shoulders when we really see that God works in all things for good to His own! Nothing less than faith such as this will help in 1962.

Here is assurance almost inexhaustible in its scope. “We know,” said Paul, and like the Psalmist we add with awe, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me” (139:6). It is knowledge that comes, not through reason or even experience, but through the trust which brings us to personal acquaintance with the living Lord.

Some of the early Greek manuscripts of the New Testament have a reading which throws a flood of light on the promise here. They say, “And we know that God works in all things for good.” This spells out what is implied in the more familiar phrasing. It is not that things in themselves are good, or working for good; but there is a wise and gracious Heavenly Father who works in all life's events and circumstances for the good of those who love Him and are His called ones.

Good things, bad things, all things are made to work together for good. The storm cloud alone does not make the rainbow. There must be the sun and proper conditions in the atmosphere. The underside of an old-fashioned piece of embroidery may look like a crazy, meaningless tangle of threads which make no sense at all. But the topside reveals that each thread and each color is part of an intricate and beautiful pattern. An unknown poet has written:

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly

(Please turn to page 12)
A Self-study

FINAL JUDGMENT of the Church of the Nazarene belongs to God, all-wise. Humility requires that we listen to what others have to say of us. Therefore an honest self-study is appropriate.

Here are some questions that should concern us:

(1) Are we steadfast in those doctrines which gave cause for our beginning? We have always been identified with the historic evangelical faith of the Church of Jesus Christ. In this we are unchanged. Our doctrinal distinction has been a strong emphasis upon entire sanctification as a second crisis experience. This complete cleansing from sin includes as a present obtainment right intention, singleness of mind, and perfect love. This gracious work of God's Spirit, in answer to total consecration and appropriating faith, conditions us for growth in Christian character, toward Christlikeness. Heart purity is received instantaneously, and Christlikeness is attained progressively.

(2) Are we, as a spiritual fellowship, in the present enjoyment of vital communion with God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? In this day of preaching "existentialism," we should know for a certainty that we have more than creedal and traditional Christianity. We must have the clear witness of the Holy Spirit that we are justified freely and sanctified wholly. Do we?

(3) Do we live so much in the Spirit that the practice of Christian ethics is the norm of our conduct? Are our lives consistent with our profession in such matters as honesty in business dealings; modesty and simplicity in dress and behavior; discipline of our natural desires; chastity in thought, word, and deed; resistance of evil tempers, worldly love, and covetousness? Do we search our hearts that love to God and all men shall be unfeigned and without dissimulation?

(4) Do we accept the responsibilities of faithful stewardship? According to the report of the Stewardship Committee of the National Council of Churches (to which we report without membership in the parent organization, as we have done for thirty years or more), we are first by a good margin among the twenty-five reporting denominations of more than one hundred thousand membership. If this is an index of our performance in all areas of responsibility, we can still be humbled that the record is not better.

(5) Do we have the spiritual vigor to reproduce ourselves in new churches, conversions, and in called preachers, missionaries, and evangelists? Here is a true measure of our effectiveness. Our curve of progress is in danger of leveling off. Let us seek for causes rather than excuses.

(6) Do we have a compelling sense of mission in evangelism at home and abroad? Is our impulse to share abating? Is our witness convincing? Is prayer prevailing? Do revivals need reviving? In the light of our self-study, is it well with the church?
Ft. Stockton, Texas, Church of the Nazarene organized on December 3 by the district superintendent, with a fine group of charter members. Rev. Fred Stockton appointed pastor. The property was purchased and church building erected prior to the organization of the church through the assistance of the Department of Home Missions. The city of Fort Stockton has received the church with open arms, and we believe that the future is bright for a strong congregation in this western city of eight thousand people.—James C. Hester, Superintendent of San Antonio District.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Hill, 804 McGregor Avenue, N.W., Canton 5, Ohio, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on January 10. They have been members of the Church of the Nazarene for more than thirty years, twenty-three of which have been given in glad service as members of Canton First Church. They have a son, Rev. Howard W. Hill, now pastor at First Church, Warren, Ohio; and a daughter, Mrs. Homer Flaugher, of Middletown, Ohio. For several years Mr. and Mrs. Hill labored with their son in evangelistic campaigns. Because of ill health, only a family observance of the anniversary is planned. The Hills would appreciate hearing from their friends.

Rev. Michael Hutchens resigned as pastor of the church in Ripley to accept the call to pastor the church in West Carrollton, Ohio.

After pastoring First Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, for the past four years, Rev. Albert R. Pemble has accepted a call to pastor the church in Sidney, Montana, beginning his work there on January 1.

After nearly five and one-half years of ministry in First Church, Clinton, Rev. Kenneth Owens has resigned to accept a unanimous call to pastor First Church in Rantoul, Illinois. If you have friends stationed at Chanute Air Force Base, write Brother Owens at 204 N. Sheldon, Rantoul.

Prayer for One of God's Suffering Saints:

ALMIGHTY and all-loving God, Giver of grace and glory, we pray Thee for this afflicted, elect lady. Thou knowest the long sorrow of her disabled body and Thy dost give this glorious promise through Isaiah, "In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them" (63:9).

In the furnace of her pain may she know the nearness of the mighty One who was with the three Hebrews amid the fires of Babylon. Like them, may she know the sweet, triumphant fulfilling of the promise, "When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" (Isaiah 43:2).

And may there be for her a triumphing consolation in Paul's words, "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed" (Romans 8:18).

Fortify her spirit with the hope of being numbered with the white-robed myriads who have come "out of great tribulation" to stand before God's throne, and to serve Christ and His Father forever in His temple.

If it be Thy gracious, all-wise will, may there be such deliverance from bodily infirmity that she shall be able to attend church again. What blessing she has been to us in other years by her testimonies there!

Increase her faith so that she can appropriate for herself Christ's great words, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter" (John 13:7).

May she rejoice in the prospect of the glorious city, where there are stupendous compensations for those who have patiently, trustingly, hopefully endured distresses "under these cold, gray clouds of time."

May she not doubt that her present experiences are a preparation for sitting down with her Redeemer upon His Father's throne.

We ask all of this in the name of Him who went through the anguish of the dark garden, and who endured "the bitter cross," and who, now crowned with everlasting victory, promises His followers that they shall share His conquest forever.—E. Wayne Stahl, Lowell, Massachusetts.
THIS EXHORTATION of Dr. Bresee to his Los Angeles saints contains more practical philosophical wisdom than one might think upon first observation.

Man through the ages has ever sought a personal vision of the Almighty. This is part of his quest for reality. And the simple fact is that life's finest experiences are its best clues to the nature of reality. Truth, goodness, beauty, love, friendship, blessing, vision, glory, anointing—all or any of these may be involved in what we like to call "the touch of God." By the "glory" our founder seemed to mean the manifestation of the divine presence among His people.

When one recalls his sense of awe and wonder at his first sight of the snow-capped mountains, or of the restless, surging ocean, or of the mighty waterfalls, or even the famous Grand Canyon with its riot of color, he feels that he has experienced a higher reality. Or this sense of spiritual beauty may have come as he stood spellbound before the radiant western sunset, or fell sincerely in love, or as he viewed the landscape from an airplane for the first time. It may have attended his holding for the first time his first-born in his arms, or his listening to one of the great symphonies.

It is experiences such as these that make one sure that he is more than an animal on the hunt for food. It is then that one knows that there is something beyond the visible and the tangible which partakes of reality.

William James was convinced that "whatever excites and stimulates our interest is real; whenever an object so appeals to us that we turn to it, accept it, fill our minds with it, or practically take account of it, so far it is real for us, and we believe it." Again he declared, "The best things in life are the more eternal things." So it was for the Apostle Paul. The vision of the risen and exalted Jesus that came to him on the Damascus road; the glory that shone in the face of Stephen as he was being stoned; those revelations of truth which came to him in Arabia—these constituted for him the surest realities. He declared to the Corinthians that the things seen are only temporary, and that the unseen things are the eternal ones (II Corinthians 4:18).

We all need those times when,

Heav'n comes down our souls to greet,
While glory crowns the mercy seat.

Especially is this true of the new converts and the youth of our churches. God and heaven are most like life's greatest and best experiences.

Here is the value of a true spiritual church where the very atmosphere is charged with a sense of the divine. It brings to the soul of the worshiper a sense of vital reality in worship. Then it is that one cannot escape the conviction: "Surely the Lord is in this place." Great truths must be brought to bear upon the mind of each worshiper if the imagination is to be kindled, but yet great thoughts fall below the impact made by great personalities whose souls are aglow with celestial certainty.

There is no substitute for that inner sense of forgiveness as one arises from a time of repentance. There is nothing that takes the place of that sense of cleansing following a Gethsemane of self-crucifixion. One is sure that in the glory of that transforming moment he has touched reality. There is nothing that equals communion with radiant souls as the congregation lifts its praise to God.

May God save us from "dry as dust" intellectualism. May He also deliver us from the cheap claptrap of superficial sentimentality. We must have the "anointing." Souls made radiant because of long beholding the face of Him who is the Son of God will still find victory in the furnace of today's trials (Daniel 3:25).

Nothing can take the place of this mystical confrontation with eternal values. Herein is the magnetic attraction of the true Church. This is the validity of Dr. Bresee's exhortation, "Get the glory down." It is at such times that one finds a clue to what life can be like in its greatest and richest reality.

At length the final answer came,
In characters of living flame—
Not spoke in words, nor blazed in scroll,
But borne and branded on my soul.

—Sir Walter Scott
Did YOU receive the CHRISTMAS CARD that God sent?

by WILFRED L. WINGET
Pastor
Framingham, Massachusetts

HOW MANY CARDS did you receive this season? Oh, so many! Isn’t it cheering to be remembered by so many thoughtful friends? You read and re-read all the greetings just to catch each glimmer of memories reflected from bygone days. But where is the Christmas card that God sent? Is it still within its envelope—untouched, unread? You may say, “I did not receive it!” Too many haven’t, but it was sent. Everyone is on the celestial mailing list.

So many have already thrilled to receive it. Isaiah was among the very first: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). “God with us,” that means.

Then Mary received her message, special delivery, by an angel of the Lord: “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and bear a son, and shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

Then, when the glory of the Lord shone round about those shivering shepherds that first Christmas night, they heard this announcement: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

You see, the Christmas card that God sent is the glorious message of His Son, Jesus, the Christ. So many colorful cards really fail to express the truth about His sublime advent; they are gay but trite, artistic but empty. The Word of God alone shines with the glory of the Lord, and bears the “good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

These matchless tidings come with more than common “best wishes,” for they come from the boundless love of our Heavenly Father’s heart. And He sends each of us just the words we need most to hear—words of judgment and forgiveness, guidance and encouragement, “tidings of comfort and joy.” Just think, a glorious, God-sent message just for me!

Have you read the Christmas card that God has sent to you? If the message of Christ to you still lies sealed and unread, you have not found the vital meaning of Christmas. But if the mighty Book is open and the Living Word has spoken to your heart, you have found revealed a realm of truth and life that far surpasses the tinkle of bells and glitter of tinsel. This message thrills your soul as it did Mary’s when she sang: “My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour . . . For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name” (Luke 1:46-49).

Take and read, and the beloved Christ of Christmas will surely fill your heart with joy and peace this season!

PRAYER
At Year’s End

Now at the holy ending of the year
Receive our song of thankfulness and praise,
O Lord, for all the blessings we have known
Within the bright processional of days.

Receive our lowly, heart-deep penitence
For kindnesses withheld, for precepts broken.
Forgive us, ever-loving God, for times
When words of witnessing have gone unspoken.

Instruct us well that we should not presume
To measure or appraise the ministry
That we have given, but with a humble love
Leave all evaluating, Lord, to Thee.

Teach us to turn from valleys of regret
To hills of service; onward, hearts aglow,
Rejoicing that infinities of peace
And power are ours, whatever roads we go.

By GRACE V. WATKINS
The Church and PARENT EDUCATION

By Professor F. FRANKLYN WISE
Trevecca Nazarene College, Nashville, Tennessee

THE IMPORTANCE of home life in the formation of the personality and the character of children cannot be overstressed. Continually new studies in the psychology of character and personality underscore this fact—children are the reflection of their parents and are the result of the treatment they felt they received from their parents. The most fruitful endeavor the Church can undertake in its efforts to transform society and the world is increasingly to prepare young people to develop homes which genuinely foster Christian character. Evangelism is not apart from this effort, but is a segment of the total effort. In its attempt to win families, the church must help to train youth to become the kind of parents which encourage growth toward emotional and spiritual maturity.

If the character of children is fashioned in the home, then the home must consciously work at molding that character. Almost without exception the child is the kind of person his parents have made him. He will grow up to become essentially the adult his parents have been. His social and emotional pattern will have been fostered by the home. His reception or rejection of spiritual things will be largely determined by his home life. The home fashions both the temporal and the eternal destiny of the child.

The Church itself cannot escape the consequences of the parental influence. The parents create the child's attitude toward God and the Church. The parents' moral and ethical concepts far outweigh the influence of a statement of the Church's ideals. The Church can hope to transform society and to direct history only as it shapes the environment of the homes within its fellowship. If the home and the Church are engaged in a conflict of values, the home will usually win out. If the home and the Church co-operate in developing persons who act morally and ethically because they want to do so, a new day will dawn and the world will see less of self and greed.

To say that the Church has an obligation in this area is to put it mildly. The Church has a responsibility—one which must be included in the Christian education program of the Church. Too little emphasis has been given to training for home life. Too often the Church has made a passing gesture at this phase of its educational opportunity. Two hours of premarital counseling does not cancel a lifetime of neglect. The Church’s Christian education program ought to take three other steps in this area.

First, the Church’s program should stress the spiritual aspect of marriage. With sex and its technicalities stressed so extensively by many groups, the Church can best serve young people by showing them that marriage is primarily a spiritual union. The physical side is an expression of the deeper spiritual unity. The deep emotional experiences of marriage and home life foster love to God and others when the home is Christian. Such an emphasis might lessen the number of newlyweds who drop out of church immediately after marriage. The medical profession can instruct youth in the physical aspects of marriage, but only the Church can adequately spiritualize this holy estate. Church weddings and the marriage ceremony imply this truth, but it needs more explicit articulation.

Second, the Church can do more to help prepare youth for marriage and parenthood. Young people often spend four years in college to prepare for a vocation. They may go to graduate school to specialize for it. The quality of the job they do in rearing children has the most far-reaching consequences, yet little time is given to preparing for this higher vocation. Increased emphasis upon self-understanding and the psychology of behavior are needed.

Third, parents must be helped to evaluate their own reactions to their children. They must be shown how their behavior affects the developing concepts of the child. They need to be helped to insure their children’s moral and spiritual concepts by giving them a clear-cut, dependable image of right and wrong. The child must be made to accept the responsibility of his own acts. Parents need to convey unmistakably to the child that he is loved, wanted, and respected for what he is.

For example, take the word “socialize.” Many experts will be very careful to alert parents to their task of teaching their children the rules of the
group game of life. Some may call them “social skills.” Rarely do they tell parents specifically that as the child observes the actions and senses the attitudes of his parents he will form his ideas of right and wrong. The child’s developing conscience becomes the sum total of these concepts of “good” and “bad.”

From the parents’ whole battery of specific behaviors the child gains his moral values. Church attendance—both the regularity of it and the attitude about it—leaves its mark on the child as to the importance of the Church. The attitudes which parents exhibit toward the pastor either increase or destroy his influence over the children in the home. Vacillating spiritual fervor on the part of parents fails to give the child needed clear-cut moral values. Parents who have failed in these areas may be mystified in later life at the indifference their children have for the Church and salvation.

The Church can help parents to sense the eternal importance of their actions and attitudes upon the child. The home is the primary educative institution in moral and spiritual matters. The church can aid the home; it cannot replace it.

The Church needs further to help parents to see that mere outward conformity to church rules by their children is not enough. Unless people act right because they want to, their moral fabric will crack under pressure. How often it has happened in a Nazarene college! A student from a Nazarene home will cheat on an exam or turn in more work than is done. Why? His moral and ethical code never really got hold of his behavior-controlling mechanism. The “outside of the cup” was clean most of the time, but inwardly it was filled with unethical desires.

Such breaches are the result of extracting conformity without developing internalized controls. Heavy-handed authoritarian homes stifle moral development. Unless parents develop internal moral guidance systems in their children, the moral climate of the tomorrows will be but a rerun of today’s inconsistencies.

Although there are many magazine articles and newspaper columns devoted to this problem of parental training, the church still has a responsibility to supplement these other efforts. Few, if any, of these articles are related to the Church’s programs. Rarely does the average parent or young person see how the well-accepted principles of parent-child relationships determine the child’s eternal destiny. It is the job of the Church to help parents gain this insight.

The vital link in this program of training is to have qualified people to do it. The pastor and the Christian education director need to have ample knowledge and skills in this area. Capable people must be trained. Large and small churches will falter in discharging their full responsibility unless more is done. Class socials, training groups, and Sunday school classes can well devote a great amount of time to educating youth and parents for parenthood. The future of the Church and the world is as bright as our Christian education program is effective in training parents!

A NEW YEAR:  
Fresh from the Hand of God

By KATHERINE BEVIS

HAVE YOU EVER stood outdoors at sunrise, watching the world awaken, and felt the unblemished purity of a new day, “fresh from the hand of God”? Magnify that feeling, and you have the right attitude toward the new year—1962.

God’s earth is organized in terms of cycles: day and night, full moon and new, rain and drought, seedtime and harvest, hunger and satisfaction, vigor and fatigue. Man’s life has daily, weekly, and monthly cycles. But the year is most important of all. This is why the coming of the new year should be a thoughtful time. It is a logical time for a checkup on the past, evaluation of the present, and survey of the future. It is a fresh page—a new start.

There is something wonderfully intriguing about the idea of newness, freshness, cleanliness, whether it pertains to material things such as houses, clothes, cars, or the clean page of a new year now before us.

The old year may have been one that held
People who are seeking an easy berth are not likely to feel at home in the Church of the Nazarene. The Church of the Nazarene is an army, not a hospital; a field of labor, not a rest home. We expect to lose sleep in watching and shed tears in prayer. We expect the requirements of our work to be such as to require us to give of our substance to the very limit. Paying the tithe is the minimum with the true Nazarene; he multiplies his tithe by the abundance of his offerings; and he does not measure his sacrifice by the amount that he gives but by how much he has left—J. B. Chapman.

blessings for us, or it may have been one that we would like to forget. But now we turn over to a fresh, clean page in our copybooks and we alone have the responsibilities of making the page one of lovely, constructive, day-by-day living or blotting it with failures.

Starting out into the new year is like rising in the morning to find that a freshly fallen snow has carpeted the earth. Everywhere are peace, whiteness, and purity.

Presently the vast, untouched expanse will be muddied up with pathways crossing and crisscrossing here and there. It will be blackened with soot and littered with debris. Whether our own footsteps will be aimless and wavering or straight and true depends upon the quality and directness of our purpose.

I like the old custom of making resolutions on New Year's Day. Each time a resolution is made, and adhered to, however shortly, it strengthens our chances of someday realizing our aims. There is no thought but leaves its imprint upon character.

In the making of our New Year's resolutions, let us go about it prayerfully and carefully. It is worthwhile, it is a challenge, and it can be fun. Did you ever hear the old English saying, "The better the day, the better the deed"? Well, let's make it read, "The better the deed, the better the day—and the year too."

Don't make too many resolutions. Just a few, vigorously observed, are more effective. Remember that a rifle has more carrying power than a shotgun.

Don't make the resolutions too hard. Making a resolution you can't keep is like setting an alarm clock, then refusing to get up when it rings. The psychologists aren't "kidding" when they say this sort of thing is destructive to your will power.

And don't, please don't, throw the project overboard if you make a slip as the year goes on. It's always nicest to get an A, but remember, there are other passing grades too. Even a C is better than failure.

A happy new year to all!

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S unseasonable heat wave made the hills dry, and suddenly there was a burst of flames. The fire raced across the hills, toward some of the most expensive homes of the "movie set." It exploded at times into dreadful "fire storms"—cyclonic infernos with an intense heat which created their own fierce winds.

Editor Roger Dee was driving to work: "I left home to drive downtown and I had the radio on. Just then the program was interrupted. Flames racing through Bel Air. I quickly raced for a phone. Peggy and the two children were stranded up there. She answered, and she was almost hysterical. The fire was moving in fast. She had run outside and asked two people who were driving by to give her a ride. They said, 'No!' and not to get upset.' She said, 'Take my babies then!' But they drove away. She asked another driver. 'No!' She went across the street and asked a neighbor. 'No!'"
Roger Dee turned around and headed for home, driving through back streets, with ashes and smoke filling the air and burning trees on every side. When he reached the firemen, they refused to let him through, until he threatened to walk. He drove on and found his wife and children huddled together in the dining room. The back yard was already an inferno. It was worse coming out. "We made it, and that's what counts." So reads the Los Angeles Examiner.

Pets and wild animals raced for safety. One wild cottontail rabbit jumped into a swimming pool, was rescued by a boy and carried to safe ground.

As the people fled, some carried jewels, furs, and costly paintings out of the fire. One refugee grabbed her trading stamps and forgot 1,500 volumes of rare first editions in the library. Soon all that remained was scorched fireplaces in the smoking ruins of $150,000 to $400,000 homes.

Actress Kay Christopher hunted in the ashes of her $70,000 Bel Air home for a small gold medal the navy had awarded posthumously to her brother. Before dark she found it in a pile of ashes. "We lost everything but this medal . . . the one thing I wanted more than anything." "This is a terrible tragedy for many. But at a time like this, you re-evaluate your life. Our material things are destroyed but we are safe, and that is the important thing."

All of this made me wonder and think of that day when this old earth will be on fire. Hysteria, screaming, and begging! No time then for neighbors to stop. They too will be seeking a way. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3) "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (II Peter 3:10).

An unpleasant portrait

For there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:22-23).

EVERY genuine Christian wants to live a victorious life. But not all believers do. The reason is due to the effects of sin. Sin in the heart keeps many an otherwise good person from being an overcoming follower of the Lord Jesus.

In order to understand how we may live victoriously in Christ, it is necessary that we understand something about the nature of sin. One of the first things we need to see is the effect the Fall had upon the nature of man. This is given to us very candidly and succinctly by Paul in Romans 3.

From the human angle, this chapter points to a dark and unpleasant portrait. It reveals unregenerate man as sin plays havoc with his entire nature. We may not be at all prepared to accept as ours the portrait before us, but we shall of necessity have to acknowledge its accuracy. It is the scriptural exposé of what sin has done to man’s nature.

Few comprehend the effect the Fall had upon man. In a day when we are prone to see all the good we can, since goodness is so rapidly diminishing and sin is so rapidly expanding, it is a serious jolt to our exalted opinion of man to find that "there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." We are all sinners by nature, and that because our first parents were deprived of the Holy Spirit by and through the Fall.

When we speak of "total depravity" we need to define our terms. Man is not so totally depraved that he has no connection with God whatsoever.
If that were the case, he could never find his way back to God. Nor is he totally depraved in the sense that he never does any good. He does, but not so much as to be righteous before God.

No, man is totally depraved in the sense that "all of his nature" was affected by the Fall. In this portrait (Romans 3:1-12, which, incidentally, is a series of inspired sentences from Psalms and Isaiah) Paul portrays the effect of sin in the whole life of man. It is as if he called before him each part of man's nature, and obtained from each an admission and an evidence of the corruption with which it is tainted. The poet put it this way:

*My conscience hath a thousand several tongues,  
And every tongue brings in a several tale,  
And every tale condemns me for a villain. . . .  
All several sins, all used in each degree,  
Throng to the bar, crying all, "Guilty! guilty!"

Let us now take a look at those areas Paul mentions specifically:

1. **Sin affected the heart.** "There is none righteous, no, not one." The heart has always been looked upon as the seat of the affections. It is that part of our nature by which we obey, love, and serve. In relation to God, every heart has been so tainted by sin that no one can stand before God in his unregenerate state and be comfortable. The natural man is not righteous before God, although he may think he is, and even appear to be before his fellow men.

What constitutes "righteousness" before God? That answer is found in verses 21 and 22. The righteousness that alone makes it possible for man to stand before God is that which results from faith in, and a personal commitment to, the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 10:10 states, "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness." When the unregenerate soul believes in and commits himself to Christ as his personal Saviour, in that personal relationship he becomes righteous. In his unregenerate state he is not righteous. The sooner a sinner realizes that he has absolutely nothing good or righteous in his heart, the more quickly will he confess his condition and seek to be saved from his sins and purified of the sinful disposition.

2. **Sin affected the will.** "There is none that seeketh after God." Man is born with a "bent" away from God. That is why a child quite naturally serves the devil. This bent-ness evidences itself in two ways. First, "They are all gone out of the way." There is a "way" that seemeth right unto man, but that way leads to eternal death. God has a "way" that leads to everlasting life. Because of the bent towards evil, man is out of God's way, and is now by nature in the devil's "way," the broad way that leads to destruction. Second, this bent-ness in the will is seen in man's unprofitableness to God. "They are together become unprofitable." God had a plan and a purpose when He created man. But God cannot use man in his unregenerate state. He is not only "lost" for eternity; he is "lost" to God's purposes in time. Sin has played terrible havoc with the will of man.

In conclusion, we note that because sin affected the heart and the mind and the will, of necessity it affected the life. "There is none that doeth good, no, not one." That is, there is none who possesses natural goodness that counts in God's eyes. Paul made that plain when he said, "For by grace are ye saved . . . not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9). The unregenerate man does love to boast of his goodness, though. He would have God remember how "good" he is. This is in itself a confession of the effect of sin in the life.

"There is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." We may not want to face the reality of this dark portrait, but it is true just the same.

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*When the self-life expires, the fullness of the Spirit comes in as naturally as the air rushes into a vacuum. Faith then becomes as natural as breathing. We create the vacuum by dethroning our idols.—Daniel Steele.*

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DECEMBER 27, 1961 ● (871) 11
Do You Steal?

Believe it or not, I saw four people stealing in church. They did it openly and didn’t seem to care if anybody saw them. A policeman looking on wouldn’t probably not have escorted them off to jail. They did not take anybody’s purse, neither did they steal money from the offering plate. But they did steal.

One young man stole the sermon from the fellow beside him. Most of the time during the message he was talking and distracting his friend. The friend tried to pay attention to the preacher. He looked at him and attempted to keep his attention fixed. But the one at his side talked and shifted about on the bench until the man was able to absorb practically none of the message.

Another who stole was a young lady who robbed her own self. She appeared to be of a serious nature. Few words passed between her and the one at her side. During the song service she had her book open and sang with as much enthusiasm as the rest. Even during the announcements and the offering there were no signs that she was about to become a victim. Then, after the preacher read his text, the act began to take place. She closed her eyes, made no apparent effort to resist, and drifted into a sleep that made her unconscious of her surroundings. The truths that God wanted her to hear fell on deaf ears, made deaf by sleep. She robbed herself while she slept.

To sleep is normal. Our bodies need it. But to sleep in church is folly. We rob ourselves of a spiritual blessing. “But I can’t help it.” Would you fall asleep if you were sitting in the President’s office?

The third one I saw victimized was a young man. Church was not a new thing to him. The Bible he carried had already lost the luster it had when new. It showed signs of having been studied many times before. But while the preacher is preaching is hardly the time for one to be studying his Bible. This man did, though. He kept his eyes glued to his Bible as he leafed through its pages, and he robbed himself of the blessing God wanted to give through the preacher’s message.

The theft of the last man was the most serious. He was not guilty of any of the thefts that the others had committed. No comments passed between him and those at his side. He paid attention to what the preacher said; it appeared that he even weighed the thoughts he received. He was serious during the altar call, but there it ended. He walked out of the church without minding God. He was unsaved. He should have gone forward to the altar. But he walked out, and robbed himself of the opportunity to accept Christ.

God help us that we be not guilty of any of these thefts.— Claude Gollner, Nazarene Missionary in Peru.

EDITORIALS

Continued from page 2

Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why
The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver’s skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

Of course the promise is not that God works in all things for our pleasure, or prosperity, or pampered desires. It is for good, a word with deep moral meaning. It takes real spiritual discernment to be able to say with the Psalmist, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted: that I might learn thy statutes” (119:71). “He hath done all things well” (Mark 7:37), is the testimony faith gives even before the final good is seen.

There is a qualification here also. Assurance like this comes only to those who love God and who are the called according to His purpose. The nature of God’s calling is clear. We are called to repentance and holiness, and thereby to be “conformed to the image of his Son” (v. 29).

1962! Choose a promise, and go forth to meet the future without fear. Let God’s promise be the anchor for your faith wherever on the seas of life you sail.

Editorial Note . . .

The editor wishes to express appreciation to Rev. J. W. Ellis, who has prepared the Bible lessons for the Herald for the calendar year 1961. Brother Ellis has always presented something fresh and scintillating.

The lessons for 1962 are being written by Dr. Arnold E. Airhart, president of Canadian Nazarene College. Dr. Airhart is a graduate of the institution he now serves as president, and of the Nazarene Theological Seminary. Northwest Nazarene College conferred upon him the degree of doctor of divinity in 1955. Dr. Airhart pastored for nine years, and is now beginning his second term as president of Canadian Nazarene College, having been president there the eight years from 1949 to 1957. His contributions to the Herald as writer of the Bible lessons will be most welcome.
FOREIGN MISSIONS

GEORGE COULTER, Secretary

Christmas in Taiwan

By R. D. FREER
Nazarene Businessman Working in Taiwan

It has been my privilege to have a long-term business assignment in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. Here our family has associated with our Nazarene missionaries, and whenever possible we have assisted them in the work of the church, teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school, helping in branch Sunday schools, singing for some of the extension work.

As lay Nazarenes we would like to give you our impressions of Taiwan at Christmas.

Here in China our holiday season is far different from anything we had previously experienced. Just as in America, the shops in Taipei began to display their Christmas wares soon after our Thanksgiving holiday. This may have been due to the influence of the large American community, for the Chinese are good business people. But regardless of external influences, this is still China, and shopping here is a big adventure for one of Occidental origin who knows little of the Chinese language.

It seemed strange to us to see the stores decked out with the Oriental version of Christmas decorations and to hear record players sending out the beloved Christmas carols in Mandarin.

There are no department stores in Taiwan such as we know in the States. Instead the streets are lined with small places of business known as “stalls,” each may not be able to locate the store again in the maze of stalls. Usually there are no prices marked on the goods, and if a shopper finds an item he likes, it is possible to slip over your finger. For one or two packages this works fine, but when you shop for a dozen or more articles, you run out of fingers. On one of my shopping excursions my fingers became so numb from all the strings loops that I could not reach into my pocket to get a bus ticket, so I hailed a passing taxicab in order to get home.

Too late, I discovered that the driver was Taiwanese, who did not understand a word I said. It took considerable maneuvering to get to my destination.

On Friday night of the Christmas season we visited Brother Osborn’s church to see their Christmas pageant. The costumes, scenery, and dialogue had all been prepared by the Chinese and the result was thrilling. It was given entirely in Mandarin but we could follow it easily, for it was the Christmas story. The church was crowded out, with many standing in the street.

The Sunday evening service at Shih Lin Church of the Nazarene was the presentation of the Christmas story again in pageant form. The pageant itself was all in Mandarin, but the programs were bilingual and we followed the story easily. The white-robed choir under the direction of George Rench did an excellent job.

We finished wrapping our gifts for each other on Christmas Eve about midnight, and went to bed. At two o’clock in the morning we were awakened by the sound of firecrackers in the lane beside our house. It was a group of Chinese carolers making their rounds. They do not start until the clock strikes twelve. We went out to the sun deck to watch and hear them. They first sang “Happy Birthday,” then “O Little Town of Bethlehem” and other carols. They were all robed in white capes and their soft Oriental voices were beautiful.

Christmas dinner was enjoyed with our American friends here in the city. The missionaries were with us, and other business and military folk who live here. We had a typical American Christmas feast with all the traditional fixings.

It was a full day—indeed, a full Christmas season—and everyone was tired but very happy. Our thoughts had been full of home and we wished we could have been with you and you with us; but in a larger sense we felt the presence of the Lord with us and knew that He was with you too. Praise His name!

EVANGELISM

EDWARD LAWLOR, Secretary
Evangelistic Honor Roll

The districts shown report the following churches as having received the Evangelistic Honor Roll Certificate. This is presented on the basis of members received by profession of faith during the assembly year. The groups and qualification standards are shown as follows:

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PASTOR . . . REMEMBER!

As you know, we are climaxing the Fourteen Sunday Nights of Evangelism on December 31 with a great membership service. Be sure to report to your district superintendent, or whoever has appointed to receive the reports, on New Year’s Day, January 1, 1962, all members received and your attendance report—"Shining Lights on Sunday Nights."

District Superintendents Laymen
Evangelists and Ministers
Attend your
CONFERENCE on EVANGELISM
January 3, 4, & 5, 1962
Music Hall
Municipal Auditorium
Kansas City, Missouri
Rush your requests for a hotel reservation today to the hotel of your choice—AIRMAIL.

FOR CHRISTIAN ACTION

America is the “gamblingest” nation of them all. So says Dr. Lycurgus Starkey, associate professor of social ethics, National Methodist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri.
Referring to a Life editorial and a Gallup Poll, Dr. Starkey said that there were 50 million adults and numerous minors who gamble in this country. They spend about 30 billion dollars each year—a sum that is more than the combined profits of the top 100 United States manufacturing companies.

According to Contact, Dr. Starkey gave the following reasons why gam-
The dynamics of the Nazarene denomination is found also in its concentration on mission work and evangelism. More money goes into these efforts than into the erection of imposing church buildings.

Nazarenes are involved in an intensive program to gain at least 70,000 new members and start 800 more churches by 1961."—N.I.S.

**African Missionary Council Meeting**

The annual Missionary Council convened at Brewersdrop, Swaziland, October 2 to 6, with 103 missionaries and their children present. Excellent reports were presented by the presidents, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Hetrick, and in the succeeding business session they were re-elected for another year.

The convention program included five messages by Mr. Kratzer; special numbers in song by Rev. and Mrs. Arturado Grobe, Mrs. Munro, Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Rennick, and a quartet and choir number by our Abbotford church; morning devotions by Rev. Martin McLaren; a panel discussion by Rev. D. George McDonald (chairman), with Revs. Deadman, Spittal, and Loughton participating, and a noontime banquet. We had a good time at the banquet with special music, and reports by the district officers.

The feeling of all was summed up by our Abbotsford church; morning devotions were taken toward the organization of missionary districts throughout the field. In view of this, a plan was introduced and adopted to reorganize our field setup. The field was divided into five districts with a regional supervisor over each, those in close cooperation with the field superintendent.

The five districts with their superintendents are: Mozambique Region, Rev. A. Doll; Transwaal Region, Rev. H. Spencer; Swaziland Region, Rev. P. Hetrick; Coloured Ithwani Region, Rev. R. Emslie; Central African Region, Rev. J. Graham. Dr. W. C. Esselstyn, our beloved superintendent, was re-elected with a very fine vote for another year.

We were saddened to hear of two of our veteran missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. Carl Mischke, who have given for nearly thirty years rendered yeoman service in the African field.

The feeling of all was summed up by one of the older missionaries, "Council 1961 was the best yet." We are encouraged and united, and are praying for a mighty Holy Ghost awakening throughout the entire field during the coming year.—JAMES G. GRAHAM, Reporter.

## DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

For maximum outreach and impact for the Church of the Nazarene and its message of spiritual holiness, the Nazarene Ministerial Alliance of Greater Oklahoma City (Oklahoma) plans for a directory, or block, advertisement in the daily newspapers there. This is something the church has never had, due in part to the area being divided among four (4) church districts.

New president of the Nazarene Alliance is Rev. Bill Draper, pastor for the last three years of the Lake View Park Church of the Nazarene, Northwest Oklahoma District.—N.I.S.

## Canada Pacific District

**Preachers' Convention**

The annual preachers' convention of the Canada Pacific District was held November 13 to 15 at our church in Abbotsford, B.C. Rev. M. Westmacott was the host pastor, and our district superintendent, Rev. Bert Daniels, was chairman of the convention.

I believe that all who attended the convention will agree that the high light was the most inspirational and challenging messages of our guest speaker. Ministers and their wives send their thanks, in all sincerity, to Rev. Raymond Kratzer, superintendent of the Northwest District.

The convention program included five messages by Mr. Kratzer; special numbers in song by Rev. and Mrs. Arturado Grobe, Mrs. Munro, Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Rennick, and a quartet and choir number by our Abbotford church; morning devotions by Rev. Martin McLaren; a panel discussion by Rev. D. George McDonald (chairman), with Revs. Deadman, Spittal, and Loughton participating, and a noontime banquet. We had a good time at the banquet with special music, and reports by the district officers.

Then came the sad news that the district is losing the N.Y.P.S. president, Rev. Wayne Munro, and wife. They have given to the Lord and the Canada Pacific District six and one-half years of faithful work. We don't like to lose Wayne and Ruth, but our loss is gain for the Canada West District.

The ladies (pastors' wives) revealed their secret prayer partners of the year, and made plans for the coming year at tea with Mrs. Westmacott, the host pastor's wife.—RUSSELL E. HART, Reporter.

## THE LOCAL CHURCHES

Conway, Arkansas—On November 5, First Church closed a revival with Evangelist Fred Thomas and Song Evangelist Archie Tubbs. This was declared by many to be the greatest spiritual awakening in recent years for the Conway church. Scores of people were helped, and God's presence was manifested in meeting services, climaxing with the morning with no preaching and the altar filled with seekers. Certainly Brother
Evangelists Kenneth and Lily Wells write: "In order to attend the Conference on Evangelism, early in January in Kansas City, we had to make an adjustment in our state which has resulted in an open date, January 17 to 28. We would prefer to state this time on the New Mexico or Arizona districts, as we return to southern California for our other engagements. Write us at our home address, Box 1045, Whitefish, Montana."

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Winston, Tennessee—Our local church is still enjoying the good results of a gracious revival God gave us under the ministry of Evangelist Charles E. Haden. The people said it was the best revival in years. Nineteen seekers prayed through to victory, and three new members were added to the church by profession of faith. Both the Sunday school and the weekday night attendance is increasing. We give God praise for His blessings.—Raymond Jones, Pastor.

Russell, Kansas—November 1 to 12 our church enjoyed the greatest revival of its history. Evangelist J. T. Drye preached, prayed, and fasted, and God honored his ministry. Souls were saved, others sanctified, and some were healed of physical ailments. The revival was preceded by a long period of special prayer and fasting. We appreciated the godly life and ministry of Brother Hayes. Our faith is increased, and we thank God for His blessings.—Bill Gooden, Pastor.

The (Thomas) Fowler Evangelistic Party report: "We thank God for His help and blessing in our fall campaigns; at Fallasbee, with Rev. Lloyd Provance, where we saw forty-five seekers at the altar; and at Beckley, West Virginia, with Rev. Carl Gray, Jr., where God gave some wonderful services, with about forty seekers. At Flat Rock, Michigan, with Pastor Eldon Raymond, we had a great time with fifty-one seekers; then in the Bertral Church, Niles, with Rev. Jack Smith, where we broke all records in the Sunday school, and God gave about seventy seekers at the altar. The next meeting was in Laurel, Delaware, with Pastor C. H. Tazelaar, and again God blessed and gave seekers. In about two-thirds of the churches we have received a call to return. We have some open time this winter which we'd like to slate somewhere in the South. Write us c/o Trevecca Nazarene College, Nashville 10, Tennessee."

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Vancouver, B.C., Canada—The Lord has greatly blessed for the Grandview Church—and this was the theme of the special service on October 22 when we gathered to burn the mortgage on the church. It was our privilege to begin this work twenty years ago, and then to return as pastor, 1949 to 1954. During the years of faithful service by various pastors, a church was built and a parsonage bought and renovated. When we were about to retire two years ago the church called us to return for another term in this pastorate. These have been happy years, and God has blessed as the people have prayed, worked, tithed faithfully, and co-operated in every call of the general church. The debt of $500 has also been paid in full this year, and the entire indebtedness on church and parsonage wiped out. This goal was reached with much prayer and sacrifice. District Superintendent Bert Daniels was with us for the mortgage-burning service, also pastors from nearby churches. In a recent revival God used the ministry of Rev. and Mrs. Gene Hoskinson to build up the church, and the Sunday school attendance is now over the one-hundred mark.—J. R. Spital, Pastor.

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Evangelist T. T. Liddell reports: "During the year of 1961, God helped me in the conducting of 22 meetings, preaching to more than 32,000 people, with a good number of seekers reclaimed and sanctified, and some 'brand new' ones converted. A large number were received into church membership. We have worked in homes where missions churches and with both large and small congregations. We have seen God work in definite physical healings, and deliver from all kinds of sin. We have traveled about 7,000 miles by car, train, and bus, and thank God for His rich grace and blessings."

Pastor David A. Hess writes: "After serving as pastor of our Faith Church in Trinum, Texas, where a beautiful church and parsonage were constructed, I have accepted the call to our church in Bisbee, Arizona. I appreciate the good work of my predecessor, Rev. Bill Robertson. The Bisbee Nazarenes are anxious to win souls, and their united spirit is reflected in the services to make 'Evangelism First.' We are glad to lie on the Arizona District."

Pelion, South Carolina—Our church recently enjoyed a wonderful revival with Rev. Ray Condrey, our pastor, serving as evangelist. The Strickland Trio were a blessing to all in supplying the special musical instruments, and to see different musical instruments, and to see successful revivals of its history, with Evangelists Ralph and Connie Swisher as the special workers. The crowds came to hear Brother Swisher sing, play the different musical instruments, and to see his beautiful chalk drawings. Rev. Connie Swisher's messages from the Word stirred our hearts, and many sought and found the Lord. Several new members were added to the church as a result of the meeting.—E. Ray Savage, Pastor.

Monroe, Louisiana—First Church recently had a profitable revival with Evangelist W. Lawson Brown, and we appreciated his messages both in sermon and in song. God blessed and gave a goodly number of seekers, with six people united in faith by profession of faith, and seven were baptized on the closing Sunday of the meeting. In the early part of the assembly year we had a very profitable revival with our district superintendent and wife, Rev. and Mrs. T. T. McCord. They are fine workers and carry a burden for the work of the Lord. We appreciate our good district superintendent, and our pastors in this work, and our entire program of the church. We have a fine, loyal people here.—E. P. Akin, Pastor.

Martinsville, Indiana—In July of this year the board of our First Church voted unanimously to organize the Trinity Church of the Nazarene, taking 40 members and about 80 regular Sunday school scholars. District Superintendent Luther Cantwell preached to all the church on Sunday morning, and prayer was made by all around the altar when the division was made. Although the city has a population of only 8,000, God has wonderfully blessed our church, and for four months after the organization of Trinity Church our Sunday school averaged 356 in attendance, the same as one year ago. The new church averaged 102 for the month. Also during this time we have added 12 members, and 10 of these by profession of faith. We have enjoyed 6 victorious years under the leadership of Pastor Earl Marvel.—Robert Warner, Secretary.

Timblin, Pennsylvania—In November we had one of the best revivals in this church's history under the ministry of Evangelist Wilma Jean Ingland. God's presence was manifested in a marvelous way in the services, and souls were saved and sanctified and backsliders were reclaimed. Pastor and people are greatly encouraged, and we give God praise for answered prayer and all His blessings.—Mrs. D. Holsinger, Reporter.

Noisle, Illinois—Again God has wonderfully answered prayer, giving us a great revival. The Lord blessed the preaching of our greatly loved evangelist, Rev. Ernest Florence, and thirty-two people united in faith by profession of faith, and forty-five seekers were added to the church membership. Pastor and people greatly appreciated the ministry of Brother Florence, and he was given a call to return in the fall of '62.—John Eck, Pastor.

Pastor A. J. Lown reports from Paisley, Scotland: "Work proceeding upon last stages of new church and Sunday school—DECEMBER 27, 1961 • (875) 15
NAZARENE CHAPLAINS’ RETREAT

January 2, 3, and 4, 1962

Seminary Conference Room, Kansas City, Missouri

The Chaplains’ Retreat is sponsored by the Nazarene Servicemen’s Commission.

The program will include: workshop sessions, inspiring messages, and the privilege of sharing of ideas.

The chaplains will also be participating in the General Conference on Evangelism.

Hilliard, Ohio—This new work, resulting from the fiftieth anniversary home mission drive, enjoyed its best revival recently since the organization three and one-half years ago. It was a real outpouring of the Spirit. The meeting was preceded by much prayer and fasting and reviving of the church members. The anointed preaching of Evangelist E. J. Hundy led the sinners, edified the saints, and was used of God to bless the church and arouse the community. Eight days of wonderful services found sixty-four souls bowing at the altar, many of them young people. We give God praise and thanks to Brother Hundy.—EVEY BATTY, Pastor.

Los Angeles, California—El Sereno Church recently closed a twelve-day revival in which God honored His Word and the old-time, holiness preaching of Evangelist R. B. Williamson. Several seeking God for help at the altar found pardon and heart purity, and some received healing for their bodies. The church was richly blessed and encouraged by this meeting, and two new members were added to the church.—S. E. TATE, Pastor.

Bertrand, Michigan—Recently our church enjoyed a very good revival meeting with the Fowler Family Evangelistic Party as special workers. The church was richly blessed through the gifted music and singing of these workers, and the sound. Biblical messages of Brother Fowler gave fruitful services. The church was helped, some new folks were reached, and there was a good number of seekers, many to be saved and baptized. Whether or not we appreciated the fine spirit of the entire Fowler family, and we have given them a call to return. God is blessing and moving in a wonderful way here at Bertrand.—JACK SMITH, Pastor.

St. Joseph Missouri—Northside Church closed on Sunday night, November 19, the greatest revival in its history. Rev. and Mrs. Alva O. Estep were the evangelist and singer, and God’s blessings were upon them, with a number of people saved and sanctified for the first time. There was a real shout in the camp, more than sixty seekers during the meeting, and seventeen new members added to the church by profession of faith. The Esteps are a fine, dedicated couple, and great workers with the young people’s groups. Many of our young married couples prayed through to God for the first time. We thank God for His blessings.—ROBERT L. FARMER, Pastor.

Evangelist C. W. Broome writes that he plans to attend the Conference on Evangelism in Kansas City early in January, then has an open date, January 7 to 14, which he’d like to slate in the Kansas City area, or the Middle West. Write him, 908 Fifteenth Avenue, South, Nampa, Idaho. —

Davis, California—We greatly appreciate the ministry of Rev. J. W. Estelle in our recent evangelistic campaign. The Gospel was clearly presented and with the anointing of the Spirit. God’s presence was manifest in the services, and victory was won at the altar of prayer. The entire church was strengthened. Plans are being made to build an additional educational unit to meet the challenge of this growing area.—DON THURMAN, Pastor.

THE BIBLE LESSON

By J. W. ELLIS

Topic for December 31:

“Unto a Perfect Man”


GOLDEN TEXT: Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection (Hebrews 6:1).

Today we bid farewell, not only to yesterday, but to this year—1961 will cease to be at midnight. It will not come our way again. It has taken its place in history. Dead forevermore. Except as it shall live in the lives of those who lived within its 365 days of good and evil, of joy and sorrow, of victory and defeat, of hope and despair.

December 31—there is a “hitherto” which has brought us to this day. And if the “hitherto” were a chalkboard with the anointing of the Spirit—the art of waiting, the art of speaking and the art of withholding words, the art of witnessing on Main Street and the art of study, the art of activity and the art of praying, the art of faith and hope. Pastor serving as clerk of God to bless the church and arouse seekers during the meeting, and seven­ers. We dare not do less than strive—and think for discipline, both in the division of our days and in the spending of our energies; this calls for the cultivation of the arts—the art of praying and the art of study, the art of activity and the art of speaking and the art of withholding words, the art of witnessing on Main Street and the art of withdrawing to the quiet place.

Lesson material is based on International Sunday School Lessons, the International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching, copyrighted by the International Council for Religious Education, and is used by its permission.

Announcements

WEDDING BELLS

Miss Bonnie Frenkel and Mr. Gene Harris, both of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, were united in marriage on November 24 at Oklahoma City Southside Church of the Nazarene, with Rev. Mrs. D. Rand officiating.

Miss Barbara Louise Crouse and Mr. John P. Pendleton, California, a son, David Keith, on November 24.

Miss Bernice Frolich and Mr. Gene Harris, both of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, were united in marriage on October 20 at North St. Paul, with the bride’s pastor, Rev. David J. Sullivan, of the Church of the Nazarene, officiating.

BORN

— to Rev. Elwyn and Gwen (Stonehouse) Grobe of Toggenburg, Washington, a son, Darcy Monroe, on November 24.

— to Don and Ellen (Mc Cue) Erickson of Camp Pendleton, California, a son, David Keith, on November 19.

16 (876) • HERALD OF HOLINESS
—to Rev. B. Leon and Shirley (Ayers) Policy of De Soto, Missouri, a daughter, Cynthia Annette, on November 16.

—to Rev. and Mrs. Allen B. Hollis, Jr., of Marmet, West Virginia, a daughter, Tonya Suzanne, on November 15.

Roy W. and Patzy (Pagan) Thanscheidt of Bethany, Oklahoma, a son, Bruce William, on November 15.

— to Bennie and Deila Lee (Ung) Daggett of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, a son, Benny Lee, on November 15.

APOSTED

—by Charles and Verlyn (Hoffman) Blake of Detroit, Michigan, a boy, named Bradley Gene; he was born October 30, 1961.

—by a Christian in Indiana for a Christian mother, and a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Bradford, Pennsylvania. She is survived by her three children, one of whom is in the Armed Forces, and four grandchildren.

—by Rev. Richard S. DeLong, pastor of Lakeview Church of the Nazarene in Topeka; and a son, Bernard, of Topeka.

—by a Christian lady in Kentucky for physical suffering and care over a sick father have gotten her down and she needs special help.

—by a Christian lady in Illinois that her financial pressure may be relieved—and also for her elderly mother, who needs special help; also that a close friend may accept Christ as Savior.

—by a reader in Washington that God may touch a child in a Pennsylvania home, and find God in salvation; and heal her body, and give her much-needed help;—by a Christian lady in Kentucky for physical suffering and care over a sick father have gotten her down and she needs special help.

—by a Christian lady in Illinois that her financial pressure may be relieved—and also for her elderly mother, who needs special help; also that a close friend may accept Christ as Savior.

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—by a Christian lady in Illinois that her financial pressure may be relieved—and also for her elderly mother, who needs special help; also that a close friend may accept Christ as Savior.

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Conducted by W. T. PURKISER, Editor

Please explain what day of the week is referred to in Revelation 1:10, “the Lord’s day.” I have always understood it to mean Sunday or the first day of the week. In my Swedish Bible it is translated Sondagen. Was the message specially for the seven churches mentioned in verse 11?

The message was addressed to the seven churches of Asia Minor, just as Paul addressed his letters to the church at Rome, Corinth, Philippi, etc., or to Timothy and Titus. However, while written to special groups, scripture was written for men everywhere and in every age, and is “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works” (II Timothy 3:16-17).

A year and a half ago something happened in our church that hurt me very much. I backslid, terribly far, even to the point of stopping going to church. About a month ago God took me back. I apologized to those involved, and asked forgiveness for the way I had acted. Now I have forgiven, but I cannot forget. I want to do God’s will more than ever, and I know this is not His will; but I’m afraid to go to church again. I just can’t feel at ease. How can I forget?

You probably can’t. But the longer you stay away from the fellowship of the church, and the more you brood over your hurt, the worse the situation will be. You will never find victory in running away. Go back to church. Pick up the fellowship with those you have wronged or who have wronged you. Ask God to cleanse out any sinful resentments and to heal the hurt. Find a place of service, teaching a Sunday school class, sponsoring a youth group, passing out tracts, witnessing to your neighbors.

When thought of your hurt comes to mind, resistently turn your attention to other things. Don’t try not to think about it; just purpose that you will follow Paul’s admonition: “Whatever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). Incidentally, bathe your soul every day in Philippians 4:1-9. You’ll see by verse 2 that it was meant for cases like yours.

Our unsaved son is in the air force, and we have urged him every time we write to attend the Church of the Nazarene. In his last letter he wrote: “Mother, I attended services at a Nazarene church this morning, and no one spoke to me when I went to the service, and no one spoke to me when I left.” Then he said, “I’m not going back any more.” Is this the way home-sick kids away from home should be treated?

It certainly is not. If you will send me your son’s name and address, I will write him a personal apology in behalf of the local church; and if you will find out what church it was, I will write the pastor.

I have heard of other isolated instances where strangers have apparently been “snubbed” or at least ignored. It certainly is not the usual thing, but it ought never to happen. I know of many churches, particularly those located near military installations, which make a practice of seeing that no serviceman gets “par for the course.”
A striking addition that has completely changed the appearance of the Elyria, Ohio, Church of the Nazarene was dedicated recently. The addition adds 150 seats to the auditorium and Sunday school rooms. Replacement value of the property is estimated at $125,000, with an indebtedness of $39,000. The Sunday school is averaging 188, and 100 new members have been received during the 8 years Rev. John E. Hanson has served as pastor.

The Woodlawn Church of the Nazarene in Hammond, Indiana, has undergone an extensive remodeling program under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Owen M. Burke. The sanctuary has been remodeled, additional classrooms have been added, a young people's chapel and nursery have been included in the enlargement of the building.

The wives of three American servicemen in Bermuda, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Moe, and Mrs. Hickcox, took it on their hearts to gather a group of children for the first Nazarene Sunday school in the islands. The school has been averaging around thirty each week in attendance, and definite spiritual results in the conversion of students have been seen. The Department of Church Schools in Kansas City has been assisting with the project.

The first unit of church buildings in a new location was recently completed by the First Church of the Nazarene in the heart of Norfolk, Virginia. The property was purchased at a fraction of its commercial value, and with volunteer labor this $100,000 structure was built at a cost of $43,000. Already crowded by a growing Sunday school, the church looks forward to future expansion. Rev. Merwyn D. Gray is the pastor.
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