

the Baptist CHALLENGE

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WHOLE NO. 413

Bible Miracles of Healing Vs. Modern "Miracles" of Healing – Part 4

By Louis Entzminger

Since Adam and Eve yielded to the seductive influences of Satan in the Garden of Eden he has been active in the world.

The two powers and influences at work in the world are: first, the divine, God; second, the evil, Satan. As I have said to you, he is an imitator. He is a master at imitation. He is the most skillful and shrewd and clever imitator this world has ever seen.

We hear people talk about "healing" and "speaking in tongues" — why, my friends, it has been proven conclusively the heathen who have never heard of Jesus Christ nor the Bible perform miracles of healing and speak in tongues. Dr. J.L. Nevius who spent forty years as a missionary in China wrote a book on the subject. I read it years ago, and he proved beyond question both "divine healing" and "speaking in tongues," demonic possession, is practiced among heathen nations.

Go back to the case of Paul in the sixteenth chapter of Acts. he was in Philippi. God was at work, and yet the Devil was right there. Day after day, this girl possessed of a demon followed the preachers, talk-

ing about their being the ones who preached the great salvation of God; yet with no thought in the world of any sincerity about it.

Finally, when Paul cast this evil spirit out, it stirred up the town and turned the powers of hell loose on them, put them in prison, fastened them in stocks with their backs beaten with many stripes.

Notice the same dual influences in connection with Peter in the sixteenth chapter of Matthew, vs. 21-23. Peter was a saved man. he had made the most wonderful confession mortal lips ever made when he said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God;" and in almost the next breath he is doing the work of the Devil, according to the words of Jesus Christ Himself. "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples how that he must go unto Jerusalem and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord; this shall not be unto thee. But he turned and said unto Peter, *Get thee behind me, Satan*; thou art an

offence unto me; for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

You and I need to watch our step. The scriptures warn us of just this very thing. Let me read again for you 2 Corinthians 11:13-14, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

Here we have first, Christ; second, of Satan. First, the apostles of Christ; second, the apostles of Satan. First, the ministers of righteousness; second, the ministers of Satan. Which is the counterfeit and which the true? There they are, side by side; Satan who transforms himself into an *angel* of light, and it is no marvel that his ministers should be transformed into ministers of righteousness. And that is true today.

Christian Scientists talk about the Bible all the time. There isn't any crowd that talks about the Bible more than they. They have their Bible lessons and services, and talk about and quote the Bible — no crowd in the world can

quote the Bible more, just like the Devil. They know about the scriptures.

The Unity School, if you have ever read their works, you know they can't be beaten quoting scripture. Their magazines are filled with the Word of God, and yet they deny every single fundamental. There is not a single vital fundamental truth in the Word of God they do not deny, and yet they seemingly glorify the scriptures and say beautiful things about them. What does that mean?

Pentecostalism does the same thing exactly. They preach the most wonderful sermons on some of the great doctrines of the Bible, and their particular hobby is the second coming of Christ. The fact of the business is that it is one of their four points in the "Four-square Gospel," that is, the second coming of Christ. They read the Bible and teach the Bible and preach the Bible.

Spiritism — why even the spiritual mediums emphasize the Word of God and prayer and talk about reading and studying the scriptures.

We ought to understand (See **MIRACLES** on page 20)

The Work of the Prophets -- Message #4**Prophecy In Perpetuity -- II**

By R. Nelson Colyar

"God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21).

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (Heb. 1:1-2).

In the issue first preceding this one, it was pointed out that the antecedents of the Prophetic Promise, continued in Genesis 3:15, are rooted in eternity past, and that its ultimate fulfillment will come when the Son will have delivered up the Kingdom to the Father. Concerning this promise of victory over Satan and his kingdom of darkness, God has spoken to the sons of men by the mouths of His holy prophets from olden times.

There has never been an age since Adam became a son of God by grace through faith in the Redeemer, that the Lord has not spoken to saints and sinners through men justified by faith. Therefore the work of the prophets has never ceased, even until this good hour.

That statement reckons with these facts: namely, (1) that there have been times when "there was no open vision"; and (2) that predictive prophecy ceased with the writing of the Revelation. The preacher who today yields to the temptation of predicting future events, beyond that which is written in the Holy Scriptures, lays himself open to the charge of being a false prophet. It is easy, but not good, for preachers to yield to the

(See COLYAR on page 19)

Assassinated By One Of Our OwnBy Jerry D. Locke, Pastor
Lake Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas

The assassination of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on November 3, 1995, has shaken the world. And what was just as shocking was to discover the gunman was a fanatic, 25-year-old Israeli university student, Yigal Amir. It was not an Arab, but a Jew who killed the Prime Minister of Israel.

This tragic event has followed a common pattern.

Julius Caesar was assassinated by Marcus Brutus on March 15, 44 B.C. It surprised Julius Caesar that one of his own countryman was the assassin. Shakespeare wrote that when Caesar was stabbed in the heart by his own friend, Brutus, he cried, "You, too, Brutus? This was the unkindest cut of all."

India's nationalist leader and social reformer, Mahatma Gandhi, was assassinated on January 30, 1948, by a Hindu fanatic from India. Strangely, the assassin considered Gandhi's political view favored both the Muslim and the Pakistani. It was an Indian who killed Gandhi.

Anwar Sadat, President of Egypt, was assassinated during a military parade on October 6, 1981, by several gunmen associated with a militant Muslim group. Egyptians killed Sadat.

It is not my intent to trivialize these tragedies of history, but allow me to draw a parallel from more than thirty two years of ministry among Baptist people. It has been my observation that most of the tragedies that have come into the lives of God's preachers and God's people in Baptist

churches have not come from the people outside of the church. We perceive our primary enemies to be the alcohol crowd or the abortion crowd or the homosexual crowd. In fact, the assassinations I have witnessed in God's work have come from those of our own!

We somewhat expect to be ambushed in the world by the ungodly. What has caught all of us by surprise is that assassinations have been conducted in churches by those who profess to be people of God.

King David was betrayed by one of his own. It was his friend and counselor, Ahithophel, who seemed to hurt David most. *"Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me"* (Psm. 41:9). *"For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company. The words of his mouth there smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords"* (Psm. 55:12-14, 21).

Jesus was betrayed by one of His own (Jn. 6:64). How terrible it must have been when our Lord looked at Judas and saw him doing the work of the devil (Jn. 13:2). For thirty pieces

(See LOCKE on page 16)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Sharing My Hope

A pastor's wife faces Alzheimer's disease with confidence in the Lord

By Ann J. Thompson

My husband, Doug, and I were in Iowa visiting Doug's sister, Virginia, when I first experienced the fear of not knowing for sure where I was. We had just finished eating a large, delicious dinner, and I felt restless and decided to go for a walk. After I had walked a few blocks, a strange feeling invaded me, and I sensed that I did not know exactly where I was. My fear grew as I realized I wasn't even sure what Virginia's apartment building looked like; at least in my mind's eye I could not remember it. I continued to walk, and at last I saw Virginia going out to her car for something. So I just slipped in with her and did not say anything to anyone.

After a while, Doug finally convinced me to go to a doctor to see if something could be done to help me.

Now I know that the forgetting and the fear that comes with it are part of the insidious disease I have. I write this article two years after that first episode.

The Doctor's Diagnosis

After four more months and two more doctors, I had to accept the diagnosis that I have Alzheimer's disease. It is still hard for me to say the words, but I know in my heart and soul that it is so. One doctor remarked, "Indeed you do have a mild case of Alzheimer's." I remember how he stressed the word "mild" (it is funny how I can remember some things and cannot remember others), as if to reas-

Editor's Wife Also Has Alzheimers

We are reprinting this article on Alzheimer's Disease as many of our readers know that my wife also has the disease. She is in the early stages, and we request your prayers for both my wife and me as together we face this challenge. — The Editor

sure me that the prognosis isn't as bad as I had thought.

On the way home from this doctor I cried because the last glimmer of hope was gone. I didn't want Doug to know, but he did. I finally got control of myself, and I started to think about all the things that were and had been happening to me. I thought about other people who have this disease, and I wondered how they were dealing with it. *At least*, I thought to myself, *I have the Lord and I know that He will see me through all this.*

My Prayer

Right then I made a decision. "Doug," I said, "from now on I want you to help me share my faith with everyone we meet who has this problem. I want you to help me show them that we have hope and that the Lord will see us through this valley. We will have hard times ahead of us, and we will have many regrets; but we will not have any doubts about the final outcome because our firm hope is in the Lord."

Doug's answer was not

surprising. "Honey, you know I'll help you any way I can. The funny thing is that I was thinking how we might do that very thing." Realizing that we could still think alike comforted and reassured me.

As I continued to think about our predicament, I remembered a passage in the Old Testament that has always been dear to me. In the book of Esther, chapter 4, Mordecai called on Queen Esther to help save the Jewish people. His words are recorded in verse 14: "And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

"Lord," I prayed, "has Your hand brought me to this point in my life that I might share my hope and my faith in this way?" I didn't say anything to Doug, but I asked the Lord to open doors for me to share my faith to those who have Alzheimer's and to help me be as strong as Queen Esther.

The Testing of My Faith

Since that day, the Lord has tested my faith again and again. I began to think about my faith in the Lord. Doug has always emphasized the fact that our faith is not blind faith but that it is very strong and sure. I know faith comes by hearing the Word of God. I first heard the Word from my Grandmother Phillips. She taught me Bible verses when I was a young girl. We found a 100-year-old letter to Granny Phillips from her Grandmother McRae (my great, great-grandmother who was a Cherokee Indian and a believer). In the letter she praised God that Granny Phillips had trusted the Lord as her Savior. So the Word of God had been passed down at least five generations

Another One Bites The Dust!

By L. K. Landis, Pastor
Fellowship Baptist Church
Liberal, Kansas

I have no doubt that some will misunderstand the motive behind this article, and yet I feel very compelled to write it.

The recent expulsion of Oregon's Junior Senator, Robert Packwood, is truly a slap at the intelligence of the American populace and a farce of the grandest magnitude. I certainly am not condemning the actions of the United States Senate for kicking "the bum" out. He deserved exactly what he got. By his own admission, Senator Packwood was guilty many times over of behavior both unacceptable and unbecoming of an elected official in this nation.

He freely admits to at least 18 separate instances when he made unwanted and objectionable sexual advances toward his female employees. My problem is not with the Senate's actions toward this man, but rather the hypocrisy of the entire body of Congress when it comes to the lives of its members. They have expelled Senator Packwood for "sexual harassment," but have refused to move against many of its members who are guilty of far more

(See LANDIS on page 16)

in my family. I know I must stand someday before the Lord on my own, but the faith of past generations encourages me. God's Word says, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

(See ALZH on page 18)

LifeLine Helps The Baptist Challenge

This past month we received a call from a subscriber in Florida asking about the LifeLine long-distance service that was mentioned in **The Baptist Challenge**. For those who may not know, we will give you some information on the company and how it helps **TBC**.

"Our company is driven by a desire to add to God's kingdom," said Tracy Freeny, President of LifeLine, a long distance telephone company that will give over \$5 million this year to Christian ministries through its affinity marketing programs. "Our goal is to sign up 3.5 million customers and put \$84 million a year back into kingdom work by 1998."

The Baptist Challenge (and Challenge Press) entered into an agreement with LifeLine about a year ago because of its commitment to Christian values, including their pro-family stand on social issues such as abortion as contrasted with the anti-family activities of AT&T, U.S. Sprint and MCI. When a **TBC** supporter switches long distance service to LifeLine (at no charge to the customer), **TBC** receives 10% of that supporter's domestic long distance billing. In addition, LifeLine is **TBC**'s own long distance company, saving 10% on our long distance bill as well.

AT&T was a corporate sponsor of the Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival in New York in 1994; directly soliciting homosexual customers through a mail campaign; supporting homosexual marriages; and indoctrinating employees to accept homosexuality. AT&T has also been cited for being a major sponsor of sex, violence and profanity on TV.

According to the AFA Journal, MCI and U.S. Sprint have also tarnished their record with pro-family advocates. Recently, MCI joined the National Gay and Lesbian Business Alliance in a marketing campaign aimed at homosexuals. MCI has also purchased advertising in *10 Percent*, a popular magazine aimed at homosexuals. U.S. Sprint is the carrier for two long distance affinity companies soliciting business specifically from the homosexual community — Working Assets and The Pride Network. Working Assets is a long distance company that returns a percentage of its customers' long distance charges to leftist groups such as Planned Parenthood, Amnesty International and the Children's Defense Fund.

LifeLine uses digital fiber optics network so signal quality is excellent. Customers use their phones as they always have with no special codes, no sign-up fees and no monthly service charges. And with a 90-day free switch back agreement, customers are guaranteed satisfaction or they can be returned at no charge to their previous carrier.

Residential customers can usually expect a four to eight percent savings over standard AT&T rates. Businesses or high volume residential customers can save even more through other discount programs. LifeLine also provides an 800 service, sometimes at even greater service, and if you switch your 800 number, you can keep the same number.

We ask each of our readers to consider changing your long distance service to LifeLine as it will provide **TBC** with 10% of your long distance service, and will help **TBC** in covering the increasing costs that we undergo seemingly every month.

To change your service, simply call 1 (800) 800-7550. Be sure and tell them you want **The Baptist Challenge** to receive the 10%. ■

Did Ramses II Know Moses?

By Ted Gullixson

The May 29th cover story of *U.S. News & World Report* reported about the recent discovery by archaeologist Kent Weeks of a large tomb in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. This enormous tomb cut out of the rock may have housed the remains of fifty of Pharaoh Ramses II's fifty-two sons.

Ramses II ruled Egypt from 1270-1213 B.C., a total of 66 years, one of the longest of any Pharaoh. He was the third king of the nineteenth dynasty during the New Kingdom era which saw the expansion of Egyptian rule into Syria to the north. His large temples with tall statues of himself demonstrated the prosperity and influence of his reign.

In the above mentioned article Jefferey L. Sheler writes: "Assuming the historicity of the Exodus, the circumstantial evidence pointing to Ramses II as the biblical pharaoh seems weighty." The author concludes that if the mummy of Amen-hir-khopshef, Ramses II's oldest son, is found and if tests could determine that he died relatively young, then it would substantiate the Exodus account with the tenth plague.

Most archaeologists today believe that any Israelite invasion of Canaan occurred during the 1,200's B.C. Because of the absence of destruction layers in Lachish, Debir, and Bethel, they concluded that these towns were not captured by Joshua in the 15th century. The earliest mention of Israel

outside the Bible is on the Merneptah Stele of 1220 B.C., where the son of Ramses II boasts that "Israel is laid waste and his seed is not."

However, the Biblical evidence also needs to be considered. For in 1 Kings 6:1 it states that Solomon began building the Temple in Jerusalem 480 years "after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt." Also Jephthah, a judge who lived around 1,100 B.C., told the Ammonites that Israel had lived in Canaan already for 300 years. On the basis of these passages, as well as the number of years required for all the judges to rule Israel, Bible scholars concluded that the Exodus occurred in the year 1446 B.C. Surely those who lived that close to the Exodus could accurately count the number of years after the Exodus.

The story of Moses requires a Pharaoh to have reigned at least 40 years, because Moses stayed in the wilderness of Sinai until the Pharaoh died who sought to arrest him for murder. There are only two possible rulers — either Thutmose III (1504-1450) or Ramses II.

The issue again is whether to accept the archaeologist's interpretations of the evidence as the truth, or to trust the reliability of God's Word to determine the date of the Exodus. While archaeology has discovered many interesting facets of the world in which the Patriarchs, Moses, and King David lived, they have not yet found evidence of the 430-year stay of Israel in the land of Goshen. Therefore the many gaps in archaeological evidence should cause believers to view the archaeologist's conclusions with healthy skepticism.

(See **RAMSES** on page 5)

Pastor Says "Yes" -- We Need The Baptist Challenge

By Larry K. Landis, D.D.
Fellowship Baptist Church, Liberal, Kansas

Dear Bro. Moser,

In the mail today was my personal copy of the December, 1995 issue of **The Baptist Challenge**. On the first page of your splendid publication is an article that asks the question, "Is The Baptist Challenge Needed?" As I read the article I purposed that when I had finished I would sit at my computer and fire a letter off to you as quickly as possible.

I doubt that the question asked by this article was directed precisely toward me, but in that I feel so strongly about it, I shall answer as though it was. "Is The Baptist Challenge Needed?" To the question I shall answer a resounding YES! Without hesitation, without reservation I must answer in the affirmative and be emphatic in doing so. But I must hastily add that such a brief answer cannot fully disclose my very forceful feelings regarding the subject.

Bro. Moser, first let me say that "Yes" **The Baptist Challenge** is needed because of men who are today in the position I was some years back. In my heart I knew I longed to be a true, independent, unaffiliated Baptist but having been saved in a church that belonged to one of the organized fellowships, I did not know which direction to take. I could no longer ignore the apostasy that had crept into that organization's Bible colleges. I could no longer ignore the trampling of revered Baptist distinctives and so I began to search for men and churches of like faith with whom I could fellowship without the framework of an eccle-

siastical hierarchy. Bro. Moser, God used **The Baptist Challenge** to help me do what was right and "come out from among them and be separate." From personal experience, I say YES, **The Baptist Challenge** is needed.

The second reason I believe that **The Baptist Challenge** is needed is because of the current departure from the faith as once delivered unto the saints. The departure from the historic Baptist position on matters such as church doctrine, the security of the believer and even Baptist preachers, churches, and colleges teaching that there is no hell or that purgatory does exist are reasons why **The Baptist Challenge** must continue. God has used it to call men back to the faith. The sharp pungent position of the articles in **The Baptist Challenge** are needed to warn of the great falling away and encourage faltering preachers to stand firm until He comes.

The third reason why I believe we need **The Baptist Challenge** is perhaps a pet of mine more than a Biblical reason or mandate. I am of the personal persuasion that the more we have in print that expounds our position on historic Baptist doctrines, the more credibility our belief receives. As you well know, we, too, print a monthly publication and as far as I know, we take the same stand on the fundamentals of our faith as **The Baptist Challenge**. I believe that if anything there is a need for more, even though there are at present 5 or 6

sound Baptist papers. Oh, that God would give us more men such as yourself to courageously fight apostasy and stand unwavering upon Baptist doctrine that in ages gone by many paid with their lives to perpetuate.

Even though our church supports **The Baptist Challenge** monthly, please find enclosed a little extra to say from our hearts, "Keep on keeping on 'till Jesus comes again." Yes, Bro. Moser, to answer your question, **The Baptist Challenge** is needed; perhaps more today than it was 34 years ago when you printed your first issue. We love you and your lovely wife, brother, and pray for you often. ■

How A French Skeptic Was Saved

A Frenchman of infidel principles was walking one evening beneath the shade of some noble trees, in the neighborhood of B. "How grand and beautiful are these noble trees!" said the wanderer, as he looked up into their branches; "but how singular that so large a tree should bear a fruit so small as the acorn!"

Still wondering, he cast his eye upon a watermelon vine in the field, with its stem so tender that the slightest pressure would have severed it, and yet yielding a fruit weighing one hundred pounds.

"How singular," said the wanderer, "that so small a plant should grow so large a fruit! If I had been God," said he, "I would have managed creation

(See **INFIDEL** on page 8)

Pleasx Excusx Our Xrrors

Wx do wish you would xxcusx xrrors. Wx had just about finishxd all thx work on this issux whxn onx of thx lxttxrs on thx old computxr just complxtly took out. Many xfforts wxrx madx to gxt this littlx mxmbxr of thx working forcx to carry on his part, but hx just could not bx movxd to act, so wx had to ask anohtxr to do his work. Wx arx making no apology for thx work of this "Pinchittxr."

You szz, hz is doing his own work and thz work of anohtzr. Wx arx ovxrworking him, but hx doxsn't sxxm to mind. Wx xxprxss to him our dxxp aprxciation.

It has just occurxd to this writxr that thx work of thx congrxgation looks about likx this to thx Lord whxn onx of thx mxmbxrs takxs out. Pxrhaps thosx who takx out nxvxr think of how much thxy arx missxd, and how incompltx thx work will bx without thxm. But no onx would havx guxssxd that thx inactivity of just onx littlx mxmbxr of this kxyboard would causx us to almost fail in our work this wxxx on thx magazinx. But doxsn't it look txrribl? If this writxr is corrxct in fxxling wx may look likx this to thx Lord, what can wx say for oursxlvxss in thx day of rxckoning? — The Xditor. ■

RAMSES...

(Continued from page 4)

Ramses II did not know Moses. However, studying the tombs of Ramses II's sons will shed much light on Egyptian life and thought in the 13th century. We need not fear that the discovery will produce evidence that contradicts what the Holy Ghost has so clearly revealed. — Christian News ■

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1 Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching & Preachers	Wiersbe & Perry	18.95	11.00
1 Walvoord: A Tribute	Campbell, Donald K.	12.95	7.50
2 Konshaubi: A True Story of Persecuted Christians in the Soviet Union	Vins, Georgi	4.95	2.50
1 Moody, The Biography	Pollock, John	10.99	4.00

Challenge Press

P. O. Box 25848, Little Rock, AR 72221-5848

FELLOWSHIPS AND CONFERENCES

HUMBLE, TX

January 11-12, 1996, Northway Baptist Church, 5939 Bender Rd., Humble, TX 77396, David Stone, Pastor.

WESTCLIFFE, CO

January 23-26, 1996, "The Retreat In the Rockies." Wetmore Baptist Church, P. O. Box 84, Wetmore, CO 81253, Brian Withrow, Pastor.

RIO RANCHO, NM (Albuquerque Area)

February 26-28, 1996, Mesa Baptist Temple, 1411 Golf Course Rd., Rio Rancho, NM 87124, Jeff Carr, Pastor.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

March 7-8, 1996, Missions Colloquium, Bodine Baptist Church, 3501 SE 59th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73135, Dr. Joe C. Hocking, Pastor

LUBBOCK, TX

March 11-13, 1996, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1911 34th St., Lubbock, TX 79411, E. L. Bynum, Pastor.

LUDLOW, KY

March 25-28, 1996, Bethlehem Baptist Temple, 316 Adela Ave., Ludlow, KY 41016, Bill Miller, Pastor

CALVERT CITY, KY

April 24-26, 1996, New Hope Baptist Church, 1661 Griggstown Rd., Calvert City, KY 42029, Edgar Lee Paschall, Pastor

SIoux FALLS, SD

September 30-October 2, 1966, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Ron Tottingham, Pastor.

LITTLE ROCK, AR

October 28-30, 1996, Central Baptist Church, 15601 Taylor Loop Rd., Little Rock, AR 72221, B. Lawrence Jones, Pastor

INFIDEL...

(Continued from page 5)

better than this. I would have put the small fruit on the small plant, and I would have placed the large watermelon on the noble oak."

And then, wearied with the heat of the day, he laid himself beneath the shade of its spreading branches and fell asleep. An acorn, already ripe, fell on the face of the sleeper. Awakened by the little fruit, the thought flashed upon his mind, "Had that been the watermelon of one hundred pounds, I should probably, by this time, have been a corpse."

He immediately went on his knees to ask forgiveness of God. He saw that the Author of all good had rightly disposed of every tree and the fruit there of. Conviction went on, under divine direction, until conversion took its place, and the thoughtful blasphemer became a servant of the Most High God. ■

The Curse of Spiritualism

By Roy Mason

Spiritism in so far as it manifests itself in the form of a religion, is a religion of "spooks." In virtually every city there are "Spiritualist churches," and more often than not, such have for pastor, "The Reverend Mrs. So and So..." Sometimes other groups who have no religious connections meet for seances. Lights are turned low, or turned out, and the "spirits" are invited to manifest themselves. Claims are made that table rappings are heard — that objects are moved — that spirits materialize until they become visible — that mediums go into trances and utter words given them by spirit beings.

Is There Anything To Spiritism?

This question is often asked. In answer it may be said that most of the things connected with it is in the nature of fake and fraud and deception. Many mediums have been exposed as tricksters. But the Bible would lead us to believe that there is such a thing as genuine manifestation. In such case demons enter into human beings, or use them for the purpose of impersonating the dead.

The Curse Of God Is On Spiritism

God forbade Israel in Old Testament times to have anything to do with spiritism in any form, under penalty of death. For examples read Lev. 20:7, 27; Isa. 8:19-20; Dt. 18:10, 12, 14. Saul's death was due to his consulting the Witch of

Endor. Jehovah "who changes not" is not in favor of that today, which he anciently punished with death. Think of the blasphemy of a group calling itself a "church," when that group meets to practice those things that the Lord used to have people put to death for practicing!

Early Christianity And Spiritism

One of the first foes encountered by apostolic Christianity was Spiritism. Demons recognized who Jesus was and cried out. He rebuked and cast out such. On one occasion He sent them into some hogs and the hogs committed suicide.

Paul called old Elymas the sorcerer (a medium) "thou child of the devil" (Acts 13:10). He ruined a medium for further use at Phillipi (Acts 16:18-19). When people at Ephesus were saved they burned their books dealing with spiritism.

The New Testament foretells a revival of spiritism during the closing days of this age, in these words, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the last days some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils (demons)."

Following the first world war there was a tremendous revival of spiritism in England, and many prominent people, like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle went off after it. It is claimed that there are at least 200 journals devoted to the publication of spiritist propaganda.

What Spiritism Really Is

(See MASON on page 17)

Science Proves Adam and Eve No Myth

Evolutionists have always said that man evolved from a lower order of animal, and if so, there would have been many humans evolving at the same time rather than just one pair as stated in the Book of Genesis. For decades, scientists have considered the Book of Genesis and its account of creation as mere myth, disproven by evolution.

Today science is proven to be the "myth." The two articles appearing below show that the more science learns about the "new" science of DNA, the more they come around to the same conclusions that what the Bible stated all along was right — all humans have come from a common ancestor of one man, Adam, and one woman, Eve. However, don't wait for these scientists to admit that the Bible is true. Their mind is made up, and though they wouldn't say so in words, it amounts to "Don't bother me with the facts, my mind is already made up." Read the two articles below. The one on the left appeared in **The Baptist Challenge**, March, 1990. The one on the right appeared in **Time Magazine**, December 4, 1995.

Evidence Found For Eve

New genetic evidence has lent strength to the theory that all people alive today are descended from a single woman. Creationists believe that all people are descendants of Adam and Eve, as indicated in Genesis. This new evidence comes not from a creationist organization, but from molecular biologist Allan C. Wilson, of the University of California, Berkeley.

Wilson's studies have led him to believe that humankind descended from a single African woman, dubbed "Eve," who lived 140,000 years ago. He believes descendants of Eve migrated north out of Africa 75,000 years ago and settled southern Europe 35,000 years ago.

Wilson formed his theory after studying DNA in mitochondria. Mitochondria has only 37 genes, making it easier to study than the cell's nucleus, which has an estimated 100,000 genes. Genes in mitochondria are also passed only from mothers, making possible a study of maternal lineage.

By comparing every pos-

Eve Greet Adam

By analyzing tiny fragments of the Y chromosome, scientists think they've found evidence that 188,000 years ago there was an ancestral "Adam," whose genetic material on the chromosome is common to every man now on earth. Eight years ago, scientists using a different method of genetic sleuthing discovered evidence of an ancestral "Eve," who probably lived some 200,000 years ago. — **Time Magazine**, 12/4/95

sible pairing among 147 people tested for the study, Wilson determined that all modern people are descended from a woman who lived in Southern Africa 140,000 years ago. They speculate that other women may have been alive at the time and suggest that the lineages descended from other women may have eventually died out.

[Editors Comments: Now if Dr. Wilson can get the right continent, he will come close to agreeing with the Bible.] -- (Reprinted from **The Baptist Challenge**, March 1990)

About Watching Three Old Friends Die

By Bruce Oyen

I have been watching three old friends of the church die slow deaths. In years past, they had a profound influence for good on the lives of many Christians. And so it has been especially difficult to see what has happened to them recently.

Previously, they encouraged discouraged Christians. They educated ignorant Christians. They comforted sorrowing Christians. And, when it was necessary, they even rebuked wayward Christians.

These three friends also influenced non-Christians in good ways, too. They had the privilege of planting the gospel seed in the soil of many hearts. And they saw to it that it was watered after it had been planted, believing that God would bless their efforts, and give the increase.

But all that has changed since these three friends got old and became terminally ill. Their ability to do good no longer matches their desire to do so. They long to relive the "good old days."

Those who did not know these three in their prime don't realize how significant an impact they once had on both Christians and non-Christians.

What three friends of the church am I referring to? I will take the risk of embarrassing them, and will name them: Sunday School, the Sunday evening service, and the midweek service.

After thinking it over carefully, I have concluded that old age has not hurt them as much as their illnesses, which are many.

They are suffering from the deadly disease, lukewarm Christianity. They are afflicted with severe cases of wrong priorities. They are dying from spiritual laziness. They are plagued by excuse-making. They are infected with the germs of moral shallowness. And they have been crippled by something called lack-of-commitment.

Unfortunately, the problem is not restricted to one church. Reliable sources have informed me that the entire United States is struggling with it. It has spread from coast-to-coast, like AIDS.

Fortunately, though, a cure has been found. This is a terminal illness only for those who refuse the cure. The cure has proved 100% effective. Proverbs 28:13 is the cure: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

But, like most cures for serious illnesses, this one is costly. If we want to restore these three friends to health, we must pay the price to do so.

Proverbs 28:13 requires that many Christians admit that the reasons they don't attend Sunday School, the Sunday evening service, and the midweek service regularly are these: spiritual lukewarmness, wrong priorities, spiritual laziness, excuse-making, moral shallowness, and lack of commitment. And these are the reason why man by don't attend the Sunday morning service regularly, either.

(See **ILLNESS** on page 10)

Defects of Campbellite Repentance and Faith

By W. C. Taylor

Campbellite hold "the Word alone" theory, which means that the gospel without the direct aid of the Spirit leads to repentance and faith. They believe that the Spirit expended His power in the inspiration of the Word and now has nothing to do in bringing sinners to repentance and faith. The defects common to both Campbellite repentance and faith are:

1. Without the aid of the Holy Spirit.

But the Holy Spirit grants men grace to perform these duties. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6). Paul did not ascribe the result to the truth alone, nor to his logic, nor to Apollos' eloquence, but to God. How could this be except through the presence and power of the Spirit?

Paul's preaching was "in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power" (1 Cor. 2:4). This was not in simply the words spoken by Paul. He ascribes it to the Spirit.

"The Spirit and the bride say, Come" (Rev. 22:17). The church, by the word of salvation, addresses the mind of man. The Spirit, by His personal influence upon the heart, whispers, "Come." The gospel conveys truth to the mind. The Spirit makes man feel it in his heart. The Word is the instrument — "the sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17). The instrument can do nothing without the Agent. Without the Agent, the Word is a dead letter.

No man can savingly receive the Word until his heart

is divinely opened, like Lydia's of old (Acts 16:14). "No man can come unto me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (Jn. 6:44). "No man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (1 Cor. 12:3). The power of the Spirit is necessary for men to trust Christ.

Faith is the gift of God, and it is "the fruit of the Spirit" (Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 5:22; 1 Cor. 3:5). So also the ability to repent is a divine grant (Acts 11:18). "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit" (1 Pet. 1:22). "The truth" in the case was the gospel — the Word. These people instrumentally purified their souls by obeying it. But it was not the Word without the personal influence of the Spirit which did the work. For Peter said these people obeyed the truth "through the Spirit." Hence, Campbellite repentance and faith, being without the power of the Spirit, cannot be genuine.

2. No redemptive blessing secured for their possessors.

Campbellites hold that there is no salvation short of baptism. It is their dividing line between condemnation and salvation. Hence, their penitent and their believer is no more secure after his repentance and faith than before. He is still condemned and liable to eternal punishment until he reaches baptism. The sinner with Campbellite repentance and faith can as easily go to Hell with them as without them.

The Word of God does not so teach. Genuine repen-

tance is "unto life" (Acts 11:18). That taught by Campbellites leaves a man with no spiritual life. And Jesus says that the believer "hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death into life" (Jn. 5:24).

But Campbellite faith leaves a man still in spiritual death. Listen to Peter: "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name, whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (1 Pet. 1:9). "And put no difference between them and us, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:9). And Simon Peter plainly says that baptism is a "figure" (1 Pet. 3:21). Being a symbol only, it is not conditional to salvation, but belongs only to the saved. Simon Peter uttered these three testimonies to the fact that men are saved at the point of faith. Anything which makes Peter contradict himself in some other passage shows that it is false. Campbellism does this.

The Lord Jesus, speaking from heaven when He commissioned Paul on the Damascus road, spoke of saved people as "them which are sanctified by faith that is in me," which, of course, carries the other two blessings mentioned, "forgiveness of sins" and "inheritance," which are also by faith. And the great apostle wrote: "Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Rom. 3:28), which means that "God imputeth righteousness without works" (Rom. 4:6-8). This same inspired witness wrote: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest

any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

So, the true believer in Christ has, "without works" as further conditions, "eternal life," "remission of sins," "justification," "forgiveness of sins," "the salvation of your souls," "inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith," etc. All of these are the present blessings of believes in Christ. That Campbellite repentance and faith secure no such blessings to the sinner they contend, and I freely admit. That the repentance and faith of the gospel save immortal souls, God's Word and Christian experience abundantly testify. That there is a vast difference between Campbellite repentance and faith and those taught in the Bible and realized in every converted soul, is apparent to all who have prayerfully and thoroughly investigated the subject.

Let nobody be fooled by the voicing of "sound words" which do not carry their proper Bible meaning. Such words are sound only!

"Faith in Christ will save me,
Let me trust Thy weeping Son,
To His arms, Lord, help me run,
Faith in Christ will save me." ■

ILLNESS...

(Continued from page 9)

Admittedly Proverbs 28:13 is a hard pill to swallow. But its curative power is amazing. It has never been known to fail. Do you have the courage to take it at once?

"He that covereth his sins (spiritual lukewarmness, wrong priorities, spiritual laziness, excuse-making, moral shallowness, and lack of commitment) shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." ■

Little Damage From Hurricane Roxanne In Tabasco

[The following is the first letter that we have received from Tabasco since Hurricane Roxanne hit the coast. Bro. Zeke and the seminary are in the interior of Tabasco and were only affected by the flooding.

We received information from Bro. Zeke the week of January 4 saying that so far as he knew everyone survived the hurricane without much damage in the other sections of Tabasco. However, I have asked him to check further with the churches of Vicente Guerrero and Frontera since both of these are on the coast and there are several missions on the coast as well.

I appreciate the offerings that were sent, but apparently they will not be needed so we have returned the checks to the churches and individuals who sent them.

The following is the letter received from Bro. Ezekial. — The Editor]

Dear Brother Moser:

I am sending the reports of the seminarians and also the report for the seminary, although I am a little late this time, but it was so that you

could have the reports. I spoke with Bro. Hernández to ask him to send you a report and also to Bro. Juan Bautista Madrigal, the other seminary teacher.

I hope to be in the works in the field starting next month, and I hope you will pray for me that the Lord will give me the strength to carry out this plan, for now, to visit Fridays and Sundays because of the transportation. But, if you can help me with a car, even though a used one, I could visit the works more frequently. I hope the Lord will do His work in you and that we can better attend to the work of the Lord.

Brethren, I also want to let you know that we were hit by the cyclone (hurricane). The mission had 50 cm. of water and the whole neighborhood was under water. Another 10 cm. and our house would have flooded also. No water got into the Seminary building. There were no classes in the schools because of the flooding.

Our whole family was sick, but we are all better now.

Brethren, I would like to ask you, if possible, to

please send 10 books of "Evangelismo Personal" (Personal Evangelism), 10 of "Por Que Se Debe Ser Bautista" (Why Be A Baptist), and 10 of "Los Bautistas A Traves De Los Siglos" (Baptists Throughout the Ages).

Brethren, we are grateful for the support you are giving us for the seminary, for my family and for the work in Mexico.

All the brethren in Tabasco send you greetings.

Your brother in Christ,
Ezequiel Sánchez M.

[The following reports from the seminary students were sent in this form. I have since asked Bro. Zeke to have them send them in "letter form" so that they will be more interested reading. These young men are in the seminary during the week, so their reports reflect the work done on the weekends for the most part. — MLM]

Pastor Pedro Sánchez

Iglesia Bautista Indp Nueva Jerusalem, Población C-40, Huimanguillo.

1. Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 10:45 Sunday School. Afterward, the groups meet together for a half hour for a

summary. Then we have the worship service.

2. Mondays from 5-6 p.m., the ladies' meeting.

3. Tuesdays at 5 p.m., visiting the lost and the sick; then a time of prayer at church.

4. Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m., prayer service at the church.

5. Thursdays, we leave at 4 p.m. for Monte de Oro where we have a Bible study service from 5-6 p.m.

6. Fridays from 6-8 p.m., doctrinal study.

7. Saturdays, 5-7 p.m., young people's service

Jesús Gómez A.

Friday, the 8th directed the program for the doctrinal study at church.

Saturday, the 9th, prepared the lesson for Sunday night and visited a young person.

Sunday the 10th, directed Sunday School program. In the evening, preached on evangelism.

Friday, the 15th, directed program for the doctrinal study.

Saturday, the 16th, visited a home with some brethren

(See **MEXICO** on page 17)

Court Rules Against "Jesus" On Term Paper.

A student given a failing grade after ignoring her teacher's instruction not to write a term paper about Jesus lost her appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Brittney Kaye Settle, now 19, had asked for damages and to have a failing grade on the paper removed from her records at Dickson County Junior High, 35 miles east of Nashville, Tenn. Appeals to the principal, superintendent and school board failed. Her 1991 lawsuit was thrown out by a federal judge, and his ruling was upheld by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in May. Settle and her attorneys argued that the teacher's decision violated her free speech rights. The Supreme Court disagreed without commenting. The high court's decision was "consistent with the attitude that Christians are a minority you can treat any way you want to. It's open season on Christians," said Jerry Settle, who pushed the case for his daughter, his daughter, who went on to graduate from high school and now works in an office, preferred not to comment on the court's ruling he said. Other students in the class wrote on magic, the occult and other religious themes, said the elder Settle, a mental health counselor.

China Detains Protestant Churchman. Chinese police briefly detained a prominent leader of an unsanctioned

Protestant church and confiscated 2,500 Bibles, a Christian news agency in Hong Kong reported Friday. The Rev. Samuel Lamb, 71, was questioned two hours about his congregation Monday night before being released, said Andrew Wark of News Network International. The police also searched Lamb's church in the southern city of Canton and took away the Bibles in 40 bags, Wark said, citing information gathered by a colleague who had visited Lamb. The police did not threaten to shut his church as they have in the past, he said. Lamb, a Chinese Protestant, spent two decades in jail for refusing to join China's state-sanctioned church. He was released in 1978 and now runs an unofficial church in Canton.

Alcohol Use Costs Over \$100 Billion. The cost of alcohol use in America is staggering. Consider: The aftermath of alcohol use cost the United States more than \$100 billion in 1994, or \$404 for every man, woman, and child (Source: National Clearinghouse for Drug & Alcohol Information, Rockville, Md.); Alcohol is the greatest factor in contributing to crime, with police, judges, and prosecutors saying it is involved in at least 80% of crimes (Source: Louisville *Courier-Journal*); Violent crimes committed by people under the influence of alcohol have dramatic annual costs, including \$2 billion in medical care, \$8 billion in lost earnings and other costs, and \$48 billion in pain, suffering, and lost

quality of life (Source: National Commission Against Drunk Driving); Every dollar spent treating alcoholics saves \$11 in costs associated with drinking (Source: *Courier-Journal*); During 1993 in Kentucky, alcohol was involved in 30% of traffic fatalities (Source: Kentucky Accidents Facts 1993). Information provided by Temperance League of Kentucky. — Baptist Record.

Persecution Intensifies In Northern India. Open persecution of Christians is on the rise in Northern India, according to Lance Thollander, director of Christian Aid Mission's India Division. India is a secular state that grants freedom of religion, but Hindu militants have increased pressure against proselytization. Thollander has received several reports from Christians of hostile action being taken against them. "They [the reports] are especially noteworthy since India proclaims itself to be the world's largest democracy." Reports of churches being burned to the ground and Christians being arrested are frequent. Thomas Mathews, a church leader in India, reported that three of the group's churches in Orissa state were burned. One of the churches was rebuilt, only to be burned down again. Christians have been attacked in the "generally more friendly South," the Mission reported. A church of the Shiloh Evangelistic Mission burned to the ground near Madras last

January. The leader of the ministry attributes the fire to "Hindu Zealots." The church cannot rebuild on the site because of zoning laws.

Navy Reinstates Objector of Women in Combat. A Navy officer who was facing discharge because of his opposition to women in combat will be retained. Navy Secretary John H. Dalton decided not to discharge Lt. Cmdr. Ken Carkhuff, citing his "superb record of achievement." The controversy began on August 24, 1994, when Carkhuff, a helicopter pilot, told his executive officer privately that as a Christian he believes women should not serve in combat and, therefore, that he had reservations about transporting a detachment that included two female pilots. The Clinton Administration has erased more than 250,000 combat exemptions for women. Today women can be assigned to 95% of all Navy billets. — The Baptist Bulletin

"Cleaned-up" New Testament. Word has reached us via writer Luther W. Martin of Broadus, TX of a "New Testament Without Anti-Semitism" published by the Judean Publishing House of Jerusalem, Israel. Presumably to make the New Testament more palatable to Jews, this publication has attempted to remove or re-label anything in the New Testament that seems to place blame on the Jews for the crucifixion of Christ. For

example. Martin noted, Acts 2:23 has been changed from "... ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" to "...ye have taken and Roman hands have crucified and slain him." Similarly, Acts 2:36 and Acts 3:13 are changed in this version to take the onus for Christ's death off the Jews. "There is no Greek manuscript evidence that supports such changes as the Judeans have made," Martin stated. Other instances of "cleansing" the New Testament Martin listed include substituting "minister" or "chief minister" for "priest," "high priest," or "chief priest"; calling the Pharisees "Separates"; and substituting the word "Bible" for Mosaic Law," "Jewish Law," or simply "law." — Pulpit Helps

Christian Psychologist Disciplined. A Christian psychologist has been sharply disciplined by the State of Washington for informing a client who was planning to have an abortion that he opposes termination of pregnancies. The State Examining Board of Psychology ruled that M. Douglas Anderson committed an act of "incompetence, negligence or malpractice" when he divulged his personal views to his client, who broke into tears at the comment. Anderson said he was being candid with his client, rather than pressuring her. — Pulpit Helps

No Asylum For Women

Fleeing Forced Abortions. While women's rights advocates met in Beijing at the United Nations Fourth Conference on Women, 13 Chinese women were being imprisoned by the United States and awaiting deportation back to China. The group had fled China's forced abortion policies. The women face extreme punishment in slave labor camps or even death if they are returned. President Clinton has refused to grant them asylum. In a reversal of the Reagan-Bush immigration policy, Clinton declared that forced abortion was no longer grounds for political asylum. He has, however, extended asylum to homosexuals fleeing "persecution." — AFA Journal

GI Who Refused To Serve U.N. Faces Trial. Spc. Michael G. New, 22, a U.S. Army medic from Texas became the first American soldier to face a court martial for refusing to wear U.N. blue with his American uniform or to accept U.N. command. New's unit in the Army's 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, based at Schweinfurt, was ordered Oct. 10 to wear blue U.N. shoulder patches and headgear for assignment to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. New refused, saying he had sworn allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, not the U.N. charter, and considered it disloyal to serve a power other than the United States. New of Conroe, Texas, was arraigned November 17 in U.S. military court on one charge of disobeying a lawful order. He

did not enter a plea. — AP

Billy Graham's Son Named Successor. Franklin Graham, a self-described former rebel who for years struggled with living up to the family name, formally has been named to succeed his father as head of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. A statement issued by the Minneapolis-based Graham organization said Franklin Graham, 43, was appointed by its 32-member board of directors to the newly created post of first vice-president to his father's \$88 million-a-year crusade organization, "with direct succession to become chairman and CEO, should his father ever become incapacitated." Until that time, Billy Graham, who is 77 and who suffers from Parkinson's disease, will remain chairman and chief executive officer of the ministry he founded in 1950, the statement said. Franklin Graham's autobiography, published last year, is titled "Rebel With A Cause: Finally Comfortable Being Graham." In it he recounts his early years "marred by smoking, drinking, fighting, confrontations with the police, and eventually expulsion from [LeTourneau] college." The cover photo shows Franklin wearing a black leather Harley-Davidson motorcycle jacket and cowboy boots. Franklin wears jeans, boots, denim shirt and leather jacket. While the elder Graham is an ordained Southern Baptist minister, Franklin Graham received his ordination from the board of elders of Grace Com-

munity Church, a non-denominational evangelical Christian congregation in Tempe, Arizona. Also, unlike his father, Franklin Graham is closely identified with what is termed "the social gospel of providing direct help to those in immediate need." — Christian News

Evolution Disclaimer In Alabama Textbooks. The Alabama state school board voted 6-1 to put a note in biology textbooks telling public school students that nobody witnessed evolution, and therefore it must be taught as a theory and not as a fact. The note presents a series of unanswered questions about origins and the fossil record. It allows for "microevolution" (white moth evolve into gray moth) to be described as fact, but says "macroevolution" (reptile into bird) has never been observed and must be considered a theory. — CC

"Gay Gene" or Sodomy Sin? Cal Thomas says the "discovery" of "new evidence" of a "gay gene" was trumpeted on the front page of *The Washington Post* as a scientific break-through equivalent to a cure for cancer. The story quotes another "study" by Dean Hamer, a molecular biologist, and fails to mention that his widely trumpeted 1993

(See **WNR** on page 14)

WNR...

(Continued from page 13)

"gay gene" study is under investigation for alleged fraud. And neither the *Post* story nor a long article in the 11/13 USN&WR mention Hamer's homosexuality, which might indicate to some that Hamer has a bias in favor of discovering a biological cause/excuse for homosexual sinful behavior. —CC

Evolution Is A Hoax.

ICR President Dr. Henry Morris has announced his retirement and will be succeeded by his son John, January 1. He says: "Evolution is about as false scientifically as any theory could ever be. It is not occurring at present, has never occurred in the past, and could not possibly occur in the future, unless the basic laws of science are all wrong." —CC

Robertson Met With

Pope. Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson had a seat of honor at the Mass during Pope John Paul II's Oct. visit to New York. He marched at the head of an ecumenical procession to the papal altar and was seated with Protestant, Orthodox, and evangelical leaders. He said his meeting with the Pontiff was "very warm" and, through a personal letter hand-delivered to the pope, pledged to work for Christian unity between evangelicals and Catholics. Robertson called the pope "a humble and caring servant of the Lord." He said: "I believe the time has come where we must lay aside minor differences and focus on the common ground of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." In an AP phone interview,

Robertson said of the pope: "He's got great humility and spirituality..." He said: "We all admire the Holy Father tremendously. We all want to build bridges with the Catholic Church." —CC

Baptists, Stetson Part

Ways. In a bittersweet divorce, a state Baptist organization officially broke its union with Stetson University on Friday for allowing drinking on campus. Stetson and the Baptists had grown apart in recent years, sparring over issues such as abortion counseling, condom distribution and textbook content. As expected, the Florida Baptist Convention's governing arm voted to cut its 112-year-old tie to the college, which has a campus in DeLand and a law school in St. Petersburg ... Both parties described the split as amicable and bound to happen. ... Stetson's trustees voted in May to allow students of legal age to drink at some social functions and in dormitory rooms at each campus. ... The Baptists' conservative bent was too restrictive for a university seeking academic and social freedom. "It's quite clear that we've been moving in opposite directions," Stetson spokeswoman Betty Brady said later Friday. ... Stetson has far more Catholics than Baptists, and the money the university loses is a tiny fraction of scholarship.

College Drinking. College freshmen entering so-called "party schools" quickly adopt the binge drinking habits of their peers, according to a study by the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) in Boston. The study, conducted at 13

colleges across the U.S. identified as having high rates of binge drinking, revealed 41% of freshmen who said they did not binge drink in high school admitted to beginning the practice after arriving at the colleges. Only 6% of the students said they anticipated getting drunk during their freshman year, but a few weeks later more than 50% of the study subjects said they had indeed gotten drunk at least once. That number rose to 68% by the end of the first semester. Of that total, 60% said they did something they regret while drunk, 55% missed classes, and 38% engaged in unplanned sexual activity under the influence of alcohol. A stunning 86% said they experienced negative consequences from another student's drinking. Henry Wechsler, HSPH director of college alcohol studies, said, "We must pay more attention to the students who no longer think that repeatedly getting drunk should be a college rite of passage."

Louisiana Baptists Defeat Inerrancy Amendment.

Louisiana Baptists elected a president committed to conservative reforms but narrowly defeated a constitutional amendment that would install biblical inerrancy as the official stance of the state convention. The constitutional amendment endorsing inerrancy — although submitted by the convention's Executive Board — fell seven votes short of the required two-thirds majority (1,435 to 724). Although conservatives won the hotly contested presidency (1,256 to 1,136), Louisiana liberals won both vice presidencies.

Church With Woman

Pastor Seated. For the second year in a row, an effort to refuse seating messengers from a church with a woman pastor was rejected on the opening day of the California Convention's annual meeting.

Son of Charles Stanley To Start New Church.

Andy Stanley, former preacher at First Church, Atlanta's satellite congregation in Dunwoody, will start a new church in the city's northern suburbs, according to news reports. Stanley, the son of First Church pastor Charles Stanley, resigned from the staff of First Church in August over concern about his father's leadership of the 13,000-member congregation during a pending divorce. The new church will be geared to people who feel disenfranchised by traditional churches, he said. The new church has been incorporated as Northpoint Community Church, but that could change, Stanley said. It will probably not start until late 1996 and will be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

No Laundry Duty For

Hillary. As everybody knew they would be, federal employees furloughed during the recent government shutdown were paid for the time missed as if they had worked. The cost to taxpayers of paying employees who did not work was \$400 million. That's half of the \$800 million the Clinton administration estimated that the shutdown cost. The other \$400 million was attributed to taxes that the government will fail to collect be-

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WNR...

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cause the enforcement arm of the Internal Revenue Service didn't operate for five days. Why couldn't the IRS enforcement agents have been declared to be essential and kept on the job? Certainly they are more essential than the 16 of 60 some odd White House servants who stayed on duty to make sure that Hillary didn't have to wash socks during the shutdown.

Arkansas Baptists Elect

Rex Horne President. Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, was elected president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. President Bill Clinton is a member of Immanuel church. Horne and his congregation gained national attention during the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting when Bo Hammock, pastor of Providence Village Baptist Church in Lake Butler, Fla., charged the members of Immanuel were "by their silence, supporting Bill Clinton's endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle."

Virginia Conservatives Vote "No" To New Convention.

After lengthy discussion, Virginia Baptist conservatives backed away from forming their own state convention, but will continue studying that option after hiring a full-time executive director. At their recent meeting in Norfolk, the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia voted 150-60 not to "declare ourselves to be a separate state convention effective today." The motion

would have forced the Southern Baptist Convention for the first time to decide how to relate to competing conventions in one state.

Promise Keepers Hoping for Rally in Little Rock in 1997.

Some Arkansas Promise Keepers have made another vow — to hold one of their huge, male-only rallies in Little Rock. The rally would be held at War Memorial Stadium which seats over 54,000 for football games. Some 60,000 men attended a Promise Keepers rally in November at Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas. More than 70,000 clergy are predicted to participate in an unprecedented gathering in Atlanta, February 13-15, 1996. This is to be the first conference devoted entirely for clergy, according to the organization.

Whatever Happened To Church Discipline?

The *Arkansas Democrat/Gazette* (12/2) shows a large picture of President Bill Clinton on the front page holding a glass of "stout" with the caption under the picture, "President Clinton visits Cassidy's Pub on Friday in Dublin, Ireland, where he drank a half-pint of stout. He was joined in the bar by members of the Cassidy family, his maternal ancestors. Clinton said he wished his mother could have been with him. 'She would have loved the fact that in Ireland you have nearly 300 racing days a year,' he said." President Clinton is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church of Little Rock, and the pastor of the church, Rex Horne, is president of the Arkansas

Baptist State Convention.

How To Get Rid of Drunk

Drivers. Przemyslaw Walesa, 21, son of lame-duck Polish President Lech Walesa, got his two-year prison sentence reduced to 21 months for driving drunk in November 1993 in Gdansk while his brother Slawomir, 23, was charged in Warsaw over an alcohol-related collision in August. How to get rid of drunk drivers? Put 'em in the slammer for two years.

TV Is Rudest, Crudest

Ever. Moderate Democrat Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D.-CT) has given a devastating analysis of what television is doing to America's children. He termed this fall's network offerings "the rudest, crudest, most offensive new lineup of shows in television history." TV critic Tom Shales said it's like "inviting a foul-mouthed drunk into your home." Once-taboo words, expressions and subjects have flooded family-time viewing hours. — CC

Soviet Communists Killed Over 20,000 Clerics.

A Russian government commission reported in November that about 200,000 clerics were slain during the Soviet era — many shot, strangled, crucified, or drenched with water and frozen to death. Over 500,000 clerics were officially repressed by either being killed or jailed. Communists destroyed 40,000 churches, and half or more of all Jewish and Muslim worship places. Communists confiscated millions of dollars worth of church valuables and land. Some of this

will now be restored. Georgi Vins last summer was able to view the secret files the KGB kept on his father before his execution in 1936. In his 12/95 paper, he said in the 1930s alone, 25,000 Baptist preachers were arrested in the USSR and that 22,000 of them were shot or died in prison camps. he said spiritual awakening is continuing in Russia and Ukraine. — CC

Promise Keepers Accommodates Catholics, Mormons, etc.

The Promise Keepers "Purpose Statement and Statement of Faith" is carefully worded so that it can be accepted and promoted by Roman Catholics. The 11/95 *Berean Call* says the Promise Keepers' field representative for the upper Midwest, Steve Jenkins, is a Catholic charismatic and must be able to use the PK faith statement to satisfy both priests and evangelical pastors alike. Mormon leaders who were contacted felt their differences were minor. — CC

Southern Baptists & Interfaith Worship.

More and more we see Southern Baptist churches becoming involved ecumenically in interfaith worship services. At Thanksgiving and Easter each year local SBC churches join with Roman Catholic, non-Christian Jewish, and liberal Protestant churches in combined services in total disobedience to Scriptural separation commands. The 10/30 *Christian News* reported that New York's notorious Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine [pagan, New Age] was scheduled to

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LOCKE...

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of silver he sold himself out to the enemies of the Lord. The kiss that Judas placed on the cheek of the Son of God must have hurt Jesus as much as anything else He endured on this earth.

The apostle Paul was betrayed by those of his own. In 2 Corinthians 11:26 Paul wrote of "perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen ... in perils among false brethren." Much of Paul's suffering came from those who declared themselves to be brethren, but were in reality "false brethren."

There are lessons to be learned by both pastors and churches in light of these observations.

First, there are many dangers that beset those who serve as leaders in God's churches. Pastors are often the "first line" of defense against the enemy. There are enormous difficulties only leaders encounter. We must be prepared for heartaches and sorrows and betrayals. They are part of being a leader for God.

Second, when a person becomes a "hate-monger" his own sense of right and wrong is distorted. The 25-year-old Israeli university student who assassinated Prime Minister Rabin expressed no sense of remorse. Amir said, "I did this to stop the peace process. We need to be coldhearted." He went on to say, "I acted alone, but maybe with God." Jesus prophesied of His disciples, "Whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service" (Jn. 16:2). There are churches that have fired their pastors, deacons who have stood against their pastors, pastors who have declared an all out war on other pastors — all confident they were doing

what God wanted them to do.

Indeed there is a militant side of Christianity that requires us to stand for the truth and contend for the faith. But we should contend without being contentious. We are to "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). What still remains a mystery to me is some preachers are so doctrinally right and rigid, yet their personal walk with Christ in areas of love and longsuffering and mercy seems very lacking.

Allow me to be specific. The KJV is the Bible I study and preach. It is the official translation of the church I pastor. But a few questions have crossed my mind. "Do our brethren who love and believe the KJV is the Word of God, read the KJV every day in a private devotional time?" "Do they read that KJV Bible through every year?" "Are we allowing the truths of our KJV Bible to transform our lives into the likeness of the Son of God?" "Is the KJV just an issue or is it the Word of God, deserving our love and obedience?"

It has also caused me some concern when fellow independent Baptist pastors take radical and rigid positions against sister churches, churches who preach the pure gospel of Jesus Christ and practice the two ordinances of the church. For example, too often, some pastors and churches insist that any missionary they support be just like they are in every matter down to the smallest detail. Our church, for example, supports only church-sent missionaries. That is a Bible conviction with us. But not all of the missionaries we support line up with us in every way and on every issue. All of their sending churches preach the gospel and practice Scriptural ordinances, but sometimes differ from us in other ways.

It is time for independent Baptist pastors to lay down their swords which they have taken up against each other and be known for their love for the Word of God, their prayer lives and their love for the unsaved. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (Jn. 13:35).

Third, Galatians 5:15 provides a timely warning for all of us. "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Sadly, this has been the epitaph for many Baptist brethren and churches. They have consumed themselves!

Let's call an end to the hostility that breeds mistrust and hatred. If we don't, in time we will read of another assassination. And sadly, it will likely be carried out by one of our own. ■

LANDIS...

(Continued from page 3)

heinous crimes than he.

Consider Rep. Gerry Studds, a Massachusetts Democrat, who seduced a juvenile page after trying to seduce two other young men. That's statutory rape! And how about Rep. Mel Reynolds, a Michigan Democrat who also seduced an underage campaign worker. He, too, is guilty of statutory rape. Neither of these men was forced to resign from Congress by the body itself, although Reynolds finally did resign after he was indicted on these charges. Mr. Studds, an avowed Sodomite, still remains in Congress, receiving full-pay, eligible for a Congressional retirement pension of several millions of dollars.

And what about the case of Rep. Barney Frank, yet another Massachusetts Democrat, who took up housekeeping with a male prostitute, Steven Gobie? For two years,

Gobie ran a male prostitution ring out of Frank's Washington apartment and the Congressman, who slept with his boyfriend every night, claimed he knew nothing about the brothel arrangement. Oh, give me a break!

Not only this, but Rep. Frank also used his influence to "fix" parking tickets for Gobie and even wrote a misleading memorandum seeking to shorten Gobie's sentence for "Sex and drug crimes."

Then, of course, there is the nation's most recognizable drunk, Teddy Kennedy, another Massachusetts Democrat. His exploits, deeds, reputation and even the questionable death of Mary Jo Kopechne all cast a horrendous shadow over this mysterious, dark and bulky figure.

And last, I can't resist in bringing up the nation's president, Bill Clinton. His escapades are legendary. And yet as serious as these accusations are against these men (statutory rape, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, pandering, running a brothel, possible murder and compromising the national security because of infidelity), not one of them received the treatment that Senator Packwood received.

There is such a double standard in the nation's capitol that it stinks! — The Wilderness Voice ■

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MEXICO...

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and prepared the Sunday evening message.

Sunday the 17th, I was in the young people's class; in the evening I led the service and preached.

Friday the 22nd I stayed in the mission and led the service for the doctrinal study.

Saturday the 23rd I did not go any where because of the rain.

Friday the 29th I worked in the mission.

Sunday the 31st we conducted a devotional service in the house of one of the brethren.

Juan Bautista Madrigal

Brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I greet you, hoping that you are enjoying the Lord's blessings.

1. I am in charge of the Baptist mission of Poblado C-32 that belongs to the Independent Baptist Church "Nueva Jerusalém" of Poblado C-40.

2. We have a group we can count on of 6 adults and 10 children, that have been growing by the grace of God in the knowledge of our Lord.

3. We have services Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Afternoons, we visit in the homes.

4. We also conduct services in homes with good results.

5. During the week I am also one of the teachers in the seminary.

Melquisedec Almida Jiménez

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd doc-

trinal messages. Saturday, visits made in the company of other brethren. Sunday, Sunday School at 10 a.m., at 4:00 p.m. evangelistic message. This work was conducted in the congregation of Linda Vista, Veracruz.

On the 8th, 9th & 10th — Friday, message on the consequences of sin; Saturday, travel with the pastor to another congregation; Sunday, Bible Study for the young people in the church of Huimanguillo.

On the 15th, 16th, & 17th — Friday, doctrinal studies; Saturday, visitation; Sunday, Sunday School, in the afternoon evangelism.

On the 22nd, 23rd, & 24th — Friday, study on the blessings of Israel; Saturday service in a home about evangelism.

Juan Manuel Palma P.

Fridays — study in the Book of John.

Saturdays — preaching to the ladies' group.

Sundays — Sunday School and preaching service.

Tuesdays — evangelization.

Baldemar Hernández Díaz

1st — Doctrinal service in the independent Baptist congregation of "El Mesías" in the city of Jalpa de Méndez

2nd — Service in a home.

3rd — Sunday School and worship service, visit in a home in the congregation of "Casa Blanca", Villahermosa.

8th — Doctrinal service in the church of Jalpa de Méndez.

9th — Study on the theme "man in the state of sin"; in the Bible Club "Spiritual Athletes of the church "Príncipe de Paz", Villahermosa.

10th — Sunday School

and worship service in the congregation of "Casa Blanca."

15th — Doctrinal service in the congregation "El Mesías," Jalpa de Méndez.

16th — "Man in the State of Sin" in the Bible Club of the church "Príncipe de Paz," Villahermosa.

17th — Meeting of pastors and workers of the church "Príncipe de Paz," Villahermosa.

22nd — Doctrinal service, Jalpa de Méndez.

23rd — "Man in the State of Sin," Bible Club, in church "Príncipe de Paz," Villahermosa.

24th — Sunday School and worship service in the church "Príncipe de Paz," Villahermosa.

29th — Doctrinal study in Jalpa de Méndez.

30th — "Man in the State of Sin," Bible Club, Villahermosa.

Moisés Sánchez Suarez

During this month in the Independent Baptist Church "El Monte Hermón" I participated as the leader of the following activities:

One was the Sunday School and the preaching on Sundays. Mondays I gave doctrinal studies on baptism to 13 new converts. Tuesdays, studies in the seminary.

Thursday, studies on baptism; Friday, activity with the whole church with a doctrinal service. Saturday, young people's meeting at 4 p.m.; then at 5 p.m. with the whole church to conduct services in the homes. ■

MASON...

(Continued from page 8)

1. It is man's effort to find out more than God chooses to reveal. The Scriptures say, "Sweet things belong unto the

Lord our God. The things that are revealed belong unto us."

2. It is a religion of demons. Fakery or demons — one or the other. Either the medium is a fake, or else the instrument of demon communication.

3. It is not something that puts one in touch with the dead — either saved or unsaved.

Had the wicked rich man of Luke 16 been able to come back to earth he would have warned his five brothers. He could not is why he did not. And certainly the spirit of a saved person would not engage in something that has God's curse of death upon it.

4. It repudiates the foundational truths of the Bible. An examination of spiritualist literature will make that plain.

The Final End of the Spiritist

"But the fearful and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8). ■

An Appreciated Letter

Thank you for your excellent publication **The Baptist Challenge**. I enjoy reading every issue, and find articles I know are helpful to me, and especially to young pastors who are finding their way in the corrupt trenches of today's theological scene.

You asked if the **Challenge** was needed, and I wanted to assure you that it is. I appreciate your studies on various doctrines and practices among Baptists, and I particularly enjoy the news items and warning you give about such things as Promise

(See **LETTER** on page 18)

WNR...

(Continued from page 15)

host a Children's Sabbath interfaith service that had Jews, Christians, and Muslims worshipping together. The article said: "This year, for the first time, the observance is expanding beyond traditional participants from the mainline Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish communities to include Southern Baptist congregations, with special material prepared by the Women's Missionary Union [SBC]..."—CC

Renaissance: A Promise Keepers Style Ministry For Women. There is now a ministry for women similar to Promise Keepers. Deborah Tyler of Morristown, Tennessee, a Moody Bible Institute graduate, has formed Renaissance Ministries. She is planning five conferences in 1996 which she says will focus on "women's godly roles and

LETTER...

(Continued from page 17)

Keepers. All these things are necessary.

I thank you for being willing being willing to publish your paper, and I want to thank you for sending it to this preacher, living out here in Utah. Publications like your's are a lifeline to those who are isolated from the events of the religious world (good or bad). So I appreciate you.

May God bless you as you continue for Him.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Thomas Corkish, Pastor
Anchor Baptist Church
Salt Lake City, Utah

how they can fulfill them". Tyler expects these conferences to "provide a springboard ... for God's Spirit" to change women's lives. Tyler says that "Renaissance is similar in concept to Promise Keepers, but the two are not connected." Renaissance Ministries' "Keys for Abundant Living" conferences will be held in Birmingham, Little Rock, Dallas, Nashville, and a one-day conference in Greenville, SC. Speakers will include Luci Swindoll (sister of Neo-evangelical Dallas Seminary President Chuck Swindoll), Ann Graham Lopez, and Gloria Gaither (wife of contemporary Christian musician, Bill Gaither). According to Deborah Tyler, the small group sessions will focus on topics such as stress management and effective parenting.

Once again we sound an alarm. Renaissance Ministries is another ecumenically-oriented, para-church organization that dishes up a dangerous mix of God's Word with the suppositions of men and women. Satan is ever at work to destroy the purity of God's Word! — The Projector

Grocery Chain Closes On Sundays. Spartanburg's Community Cash Stores announced recently the decision to close its stores on Sundays to allow its employees a day of worship, rest and time with their families. The 27 stores, located in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia, are returning to a policy held for 67 years by the grocery chain. The announcement came nearly eight years after the chain's board announced it would open on Sunday, citing competitive pressure by other grocery chains. "At the time, we felt we had to change to

meet our competitors," said Rick Littlejohn, company president. "But in the process, I believe we lost an important part of our distinctiveness in that we are locally owned and uphold many of the same values as our customers." Littlejohn said the change would not mean any layoffs or staff cutbacks among its 1,100 employees. "This is a win-win situation for us. Our employees wanted the day off for worship and to spend time with their families and children, and we believe our customers will be better served during the remaining six days." Littlejohn said the decision is based on principle rather than profit and loss analysis. ■

ALZH...

(Continued from page 3)

My Hope

The hope of my faith is the reality that when Christ comes, I will be changed. This body and this mind will become new, and they will never deteriorate again. I will be free from pain, suffering and the curse of sin. I want to share my faith so others can have the hope I have.

Someone might reply, Well, that is good for you, but how can you get through each day with your affliction? I can answer only that my faith keeps me — not only in the long run, but also day by day. God promises that He is there for His children day by day, trouble by trouble. Psalm 46:1 declares, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Another way of saying it is that there is no end to His grace for us. Although I am not much of a singer, I have always loved the old hymns of the faith. I think of gospel songs such as "Yesterday, Today, Forever,"

"A Child of the King!" and "Shall We Gather at the River?" But most of all I love the refrain from "I Know Whom I Have Believed," which is a quote from 2 Timothy 1:12:

But I know whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto Him against that day.

Yes, singing the hymns has been helpful. Sometimes just saying the words to the choruses is a great encouragement. Singing has a way of cheering even in the times of deepest despair, for I have found it is a way to focus upon the Lord and thank Him for all things.

But I have also asked, "Why, why, why me, Lord?" However, God does not test us to find out what we are made of, for He already knows. No, He tests us so that *we* can find out what we are made of. I know this truth because His Word is replete with examples of men and women being tested to strengthen their faith. Now it is my turn to be tested, and I remember (*remember* — that is a beautiful word) the apostle Paul's comforting words to the Corinthians:

"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Cor. 4:15-18).

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COLYAR...

(Continued from page 2)

temptation to parrot the wild speculations of others about the fulfillment of prophecy. Too much harm has been done by it for reverent students of the prophetic word to indulge this easy way of catching the public ear. But let us keep our balance. This warning against the evil of loose speculation in prophetic preaching is no disclaimer to the real blessings attendant upon a reverent, prayerful study of the prophets in the light of transpiring events. Christ the prophet said: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Lk. 21:28). And again it is written: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" (Rev. 1:3). So there is grave danger in the extreme on either hand; they who wildly speculate may wrest the Scriptures to the destruction of others, if not themselves. And they who turn their ears from the word of prophecy may subject themselves to the divine wrath, for it is written: "And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, (i.e., the Christ), shall be destroyed from among the people" (Acts 3:23).

The Prophets of "Olden Times"

God has spoken by the mouth of His prophets from olden times, i.e. "since the world began." And that is the work of the prophets: namely delivering faithfully the words of the Lord which He gives them.

Adam was the first of God's prophets among the sons of men. We have no recorded discourses from this mighty man,

as we do from others, but he was none the less a prophet of God. The Lord delivered to him a glorious revelation concerning the Seed of the woman. Adam knew Him not only as a mighty warrior against the evil one, but as the Savior of men as well. To him was given the prophetic promise in Genesis 3:15, "It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel," which embraces the whole of the redemptive work of Christ. There is no escaping the conclusion that the Lord Himself preached the gospel of Christ, crucified and risen, to Adam, and that Adam received the Christ by the promise through repentance and faith to the saving of his soul. The gospel of Christ was preached when the Lord slew the beasts and made coats of skins for the man and his helpmate. The same gospel was in turn preached to Adam's sons after him. The proof of it is found in the fact that Abel brought the divinely prescribed sacrifice by which "he obtained witness he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts" (Heb. 11:4). Cain spurned the word of truth, which Paul referred to as "the gospel of your salvation," and brought an offering of his own choice. He was rejected. These two brothers had heard the same prophet, their father Adam. He was therefore the first prophet among men. I believe he preached the gospel of Christ and the righteousness of faith, which, in turn, begets a manner of life becoming of it. No doubt he preached also of the coming of Christ in the flesh to die as a sacrifice for sin and of the second coming of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

From Adam to Noah were ten generations in the faith-line. These were all mighty men of faith, among whom were at least three great prophets of God: namely, Adam, Enoch, and

Noah. Enoch prophesied of the second coming of the Lord. Jude tells us that Enoch prophesied of the "filthy dreamers," that "defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities," of these last days, saying: "Noah also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." Striking isn't it, that one who lived and wrought as a contemporary of Adam should see and speak of the second coming of our Lord? Yet there are many who name the name of Christ now that despise the doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ. Noah was a prophet of righteousness. He lived and prophesied in a time of incurable apostasy. The Lord strove with men through this man of great faith. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is of faith" (Heb. 11:7). He held out Christ as the promised deliverer and condemned the wickedness and unbelief of the world of his day. For a hundred and twenty years he preached repentance and faith, warning men that the Spirit of God would not always strive with men. So the Lord has an unbroken chain of prophets from Adam unto the Flood. To them He revealed the secrets of His counsel, and they in turn passed the revelation of them on to the generations after them.

Shem, the oldest son of

Noah, lived a contemporary with Abraham for 150 years and with Isaac, the son of Abraham, for 50 years. The Lord said to Abraham, "in Isaac shall thy seed be called" (Gen. 21:12). That Seed was none other than the Christ: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as one, and to thy seed, which is Christ" (Gal. 3:16). And Christ is the Seed of the woman. Now note: Isaac lived as a contemporary with Shem for 50 years, Shem with Methuselah for 98 years, and Methuselah with Adam 246 years! Adam — Methuselah — Shem — Isaac — these and their respective contemporaries prophesied of the promised Seed of the woman to men of their respective times.

The Lord said to Abraham: "In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." And the Apostle Paul, by the Holy Spirit, interprets this as meaning that the Lord preached the gospel to Abraham (Gal. 3:8). Again the Lord said to Abraham: "My covenant will I establish with Isaac" (Gen. 17:21). This covenant of promise is of the original prophetic promise of a Savior in the Seed of the woman. It was fulfilled in the birth of Christ to Mary. Of Him, all the prophets — Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David the psalmist, and Solomon the man of wisdom, Elijah and Elisha, and the writing prophets: Isaiah, Hosea, and Amos, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Micah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and Malachi, to mention only a few, prophesied, with one accord, of the coming Messiah. Thus the world was lighted from the very beginning by these stars of hope, swung, as it were, as

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all that. The apostle Paul made it perfectly clear, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against *the rulers of the darkness of this world*, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

These are the powers we are in conflict with. As good angels fill all the universe about us, so do the devil and his angels or emissaries. He is the prince of the power of the air, as well as the prince, the ruler of this world.

His son, the seed of the serpent, is "even him whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders," according to the apostle (2 Thess. 2:9).

All these things ought to convince us Satan can imitate the gifts of healing and tongues, as well as others. These powers have been at work for ages and will continue to work, even more in the years just ahead than in the past. Go back and read the Old Testament Scriptures.

Spiritism, the evil, wicked powers, were at work in Old Testament days. That was the primary sin of the Canaanites and the different nations that inhabited the land of Canaan. First in the Old Testament, and then in the New they were on the scene at work, even when the Son of God came, and on through the apostolic period.

I have read a most interesting thing. Sir Robert Anderson, speaking of the man who wrote it, Mr. Baxter, says, "He is a typical English parliamentary lawyer, reserved, slow of speech, noted for soundness of judgment." You know what kind of man he was if you have read the work; yet this man

was swept away with a similar movement to what we have today in Pentecostalism. He finally saw the fallacy of it and wrote a book about it, "Narrative of Facts."

This is what he says, "Indeed the whole work is a *mimicry of the gifts of the Spirit* — the utterance of tongues, a mimicry of the gift of tongues — and so of the prophesyings, and all the other works of power. It is Satan as an angel of light, imitating, as far as permitted, the Holy Spirit of God. According to the degree of unfaithfulness of the individuals or congregations with which it is present, so, I am persuaded, is the degree of power and consequent deceit which is put forth."

Here was a man who went through it all, was a follower of it for a long time, and connected with it; and you see his statement.

This more recent modern movement of Pentecostalism in this country to any great degree originated with a band of Negroes in Los Angeles, California, in 1906; and literally has swept the country. With a band of Negroes? Yes. It is a fact that lots of white people worship Father Divine in New York.. To them he is God, and people just as white as you and I — supposed to be nice people, and some with plenty of money — think he is God and he gets plenty of their money. Multiplied thousands of people you would least suspect could be deceived by it have been swept into the movement.

It is like some of this Spiritism. You think there is nothing to it, but you get mixed up with it and you will see that it isn't all magic. You see the powers of the Evil One at work, doing unbelievable things.

The Mohammedans in

their religious frenzies, we are told by those who know, speak in "tongues."

The Mormons, with all their polygamous practices, speak with "tongues."

One of the outstanding apostles of "divine healing" in this country was Dr. A.B. Simpson. Dr. Simpson has written many fine things, "Christ in John's Gospel," which I read with delight. He is a great man and a good man, but he is the best illustration of how far people who have a bias on a thing that is wrong are willing to go in twisting the truth to sustain a theory.

Aimee Semple McPherson in this country, and Principal Jeffreys in Great Britain, worked together for a while; and all the rest of them supposed to know anything point to the commission of the twelve in Matthew, "And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses" (Mt. 10:7-8).

Now there were only twelve who received that commission, and they were to go not into the way of the Gentiles; nor into any city of the Samaritans, but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Our Pentecostal friends make this apply to Gentiles primarily, and disobey the very things they say is applicable to this day and dispensation, going right on disregarding the most vital things about the commission, that is, to whom they were to go.

Not to the Gentiles. Nor the Samaritans. Notice the things they were to do: Heal the sick; cleanse the lepers; raise the dead; and cast out devils.

And, they were not to pro-

vide themselves silver, nor gold, nor brass in their purses. But the Pentecostalists and "divine healers" build fine temples and homes and ride in Cadillac cars and have big bank accounts, even though they don't carry much in their pockets. They may carry only pocket change; but all of them of ability become wealthy. It is a pity they don't practice this particular part of that commission.

Lots of poor, sincere, good people would be much better off physically and financially if they had not been deceived. These modern "healers" have cleansed no lepers. I have never heard of a single case, with all their boasting. If any one of them has raised a dead man, I would like to see the man — unless it was a Christian Scientist who only imagined he was dead.

I had an evangelist visit me in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1927. A group of friends there had organized a new church and I was holding an evangelistic meeting in one of the other churches there. They got me to give them several months to help them build up the work. They had 65 or 70 members. We bought a lot, put up a tabernacle into which could be crowded possibly one thousand, and we were having a great time.

One day a fine looking fellow came in. He knew all about me, had been reading about me in the **Sunday School Times** and **Who's Who** and some other publications; and we had quite a visit together. He told me he was an evangelist and would like to hold a meeting in my tabernacle. I was fixing to hold a meeting myself.

Finally he said, "What do you think about 'divine heal-

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ing “?” I said, “I believe in it.”

He said, “I am glad to hear you say that. Why don’t you put it in your program?”

I said, “There is hardly a day I don’t pray for somebody sick.”

He said, “I mean, put it in the program of your meetings and services.”

I said, “I never thought about that.” I decided to encourage him, and he opened up and this is what he told me; that he would personally guarantee that I would preach to ten where I was preaching to one, and get \$10.00 for every \$1.00 I was then getting, if I would make divine healing a part of our program. He went further to say if I doubted it, just let him hold a meeting with me, with me doing the preaching and him conducting the “healing” program.

I said, “I will think about it and let you know.” (Laughter).

I noticed in a book I was reading by somebody the other day on this, that Mr. Baxter, one of the apostles of “divine healing” makes the statement that there is no use preaching to a little handful when he could fill any house in the country by putting in “divine healing.” He didn’t say anything about the collections, but that is a part of it, naturally.

In Luke 10:8-10 we have the sending out of the seventy.

Pentecostals take these two cases, the sending out of the twelve and of the seventy, as basis for their arguments. Here is what Dr. Simpson says about these two, “During His life (Christ’s) He sent out the twelve Apostles and then He sent out seventy as the forerunners of the whole host of the Christian Eldership . . .

with full power to heal. And when He was about to leave the world, He left on record both these commissions in unmistakable terms.” He plainly claims these commissions are applicable today.

You do not find anywhere in the Bible a commission given *after* the resurrection of Christ where anything is said about “healing” except in Mark’s gospel, which is written primarily to Gentiles, as Matthew is primarily to Jews. In the conclusion He promises to the believers who go forth confirmation of their ministry by signs and wonders as their credentials. That was the only thing they were to do miracles for, not for beneficent purposes. They were of course beneficent, but they were primarily to vindicate and credentialize their ministry.

That is what is said in Mark, “And they went forth and preached every where, the Lord working with them and *confirming* the word with signs following” (Mk. 16:20). Nowhere else, in Luke nor John, is anything said about it. In John we have, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, *that ye should go and bring forth fruit*, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you” (Jn. 15:16).

In Matthew we have, “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Mt. 28:19-20).

In Acts we have, “But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses

unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The commission today is to witness.

Do the “divine healers” raise the dead, any of them? That was included in the commission to the twelve and the seventy. If they raise the dead, I would like to see that. I would like to help take the grave clothes off a few of them. Of course, the twelve and the seventy were sent on a special mission, and the working of miracles was their credentials.

Those to whom they went would know they were from God, just as Nicodemus said when He came to Jesus, “No man can do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him.”

It is well known that Pentecostals and Christian Scientists make failure after failure in “healing.” They are failing all the time. It is a common thing in a Pentecostal meeting to have the platform filled with people going up to be “healed” and carried up on beds and cots — and carried down the same way after the “healing” process is over. *But you don’t find a single failure in the Scriptures.*

Of course the seven sons of Sceva (Acts 19:13-16) made a failure. The devil does fail once in a while at his imitating. And they got their eyes almost scratched out. The evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know; and Paul I know. But who are you?” And they went out the door with their Adam-suit on, glad to get away.

Let me call your attention to a very important fact — I can touch only some high places in this thing. Is “divine healing” in the atonement, as preached and taught by Pentecostals? Notice *one* passage of scripture they use.

You can read the works of everyone of them, Aimee Semple McPherson, Baxter, Dr. Simpson himself, and everyone of their adherents, and the basis for that is Isaiah 53:4-5. It is their theme all the time.

“Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrow; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

Let me read you what Dr. Simpson’s construction of this is. “The translation in our English version does very imperfect justice to the original. The translation in Matthew. 8:17, is much better. ‘Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.’ The literal translation would be ‘Surely He hath borne away our sicknesses and carried away our pains.’ Any person who will refer to such a familiar commentary as that of Albert Barnes on Isaiah, or any other Hebrew authority, will see that the two words here used denote *sickness* and *pain*, and that the words for ‘bear’ and ‘carry’ denote not mere sympathy, but actual substitution and the removal utterly of the thing borne.

“Therefore as He has borne our sins, Jesus Christ has also *borne away and carried off* our sicknesses; yes, and even our pains, so that abiding in Him we may be fully delivered from both sickness and pain. Thus ‘with His stripes we are healed.’ Thus the ancient prophet beholds in vision the Redeemer coming first as a great Physician, and then hanging on the cross as a great Sacrifice. And thus the evangelists have also described Him; for three years

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as the Great Healer, and then for six hours of shame and agony, the Dying Lamb.”

Notice that he claims “carry” and “bear” denote actual substitution and removal utterly of the thing borne. That is absolutely untrue. There is not a greater falsehood ever told on the Word of God; and he and all the crowd of “divine Healers” claim the same identical thing. If I don’t show you it isn’t true, I will quit preaching.

Just notice a few other quotations from the prophet Isaiah where the same identical root word is used. “Elam *bare* the quiver with chariots of men and horsemen,” (Isa. 22:6). There is no “substitution” there, is there? It is the same word.

Notice another, “Be ye clean; that *bear* the vessels of the Lord” (Isa. 52:11). No substitution about that. A man who serves in the house of God is not substituting for anything.

Notice, “Even to hoar hairs will I *carry* you,” (Isa. 46:4), meaning I will be with you and support you and sustain you.

Notice “They *carry* him (viz., the idol), and set him in his place” (Isa. 46:7). There is certainly no substitution about that, is there? It is the same word.

In these passages the word “bare” (Isa. 22:6) and “bear” (Isa. 52:11), and “carry” (Isa. 46:4) and “carry” (Isa. 46:7) do not by any means mean substitution, and they are identically the same word used in Isaiah 53:4, so there is no substitution about it. So a great man, honored by multiplied thousands, having a great university confer upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, publishes and quotes proofs for his theory that are not true. If a

great man like Dr. Simpson would do it, what about the rest of the herd?

I believe a preacher ought to be honest, whether he is Baptist or Pentecostal. They go on to say the same word (bear and carry) is used by Peter in his first epistle, chapter 2, verse 24. Oh no! It is the same English word, but not the same original. I looked it up in Strong’s Concordance this morning (I had my doubts as to the veracity of that statement), and we proved Dr. Simpson told an untruth. The best Greek lexicon, **Thayers**, says identically the same thing.

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed.” “Bare” here does mean substitution. Notice what Peter is talking about, “Bare our sins.” I never quote original Greek because I am not a Greek scholar, but if you have a good concordance like Strong’s you can get every shade of meaning of every word in the Bible. “*Anaphero*” is the word used, meaning “to bear upward.” The best Greek Lexicon, Thayer and others explain “to bear sins on the cross in order to expiate them by suffering death.” That is what 1 Peter 2:24 means; and the same authority has been quoted for Isaiah 53:4, and if there is any further doubt about it, Matthew’s interpretation of it tells us exactly what the prophet was talking about in Isaiah 53:4, “When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils; and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick; *that it might be fulfilled which was spoken* by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took

our infirmities and bare our sicknesses” (Mt. 8:16-17). And that before He offered Himself as the sacrifice for our sins.

Let me tell you, that is teaching, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. You don’t need any Greek lexicon or scholarship or authority. Just read your Bible. Matthew plainly says when Christ healed these people He was fulfilling the prophecy spoken by Isaiah, and there is no trouble in understanding that.

That it might be fulfilled; and yet they quote that reference more than any other except Mark 16:17-18 — they don’t go on and quote the 20th verse. If a crowd will take the Word of God and warp and twist it to teach what it does not mean and write and preach and publish it and get it over on thousands of sincere, honest, good people who don’t know the difference — I want to tell you a man who will do that, deceive people like that, even though he may wear a “D.D.” and be a professor, or what-not, he is a minister of Satan! That isn’t what I say about him, but what the Book says about him.

Now let us see how this fits. You will have to do a little reading with me on this. I had rather be preaching about something else, but I want to make this clear.

If healing is in the atonement, then explain 1 Corinthians 11:29-32, “For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this cause many are weak and *sickly among you*, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord that we should not be condemned with the world.”

If the same atonement for

sin is atonement for sickness, then God went back on this crowd in Corinth. He put their sickness that had been atoned for back on them, for many were sickly and weak and even died because they would not judge themselves. The atonement that kept their souls certainly did not keep their bodies saved.

Now the Pentecostalists say it means actual substitution and removal utterly of the thing borne, yet God goes back on the atonement in dealing with these Corinthians and we know He never put sin on any believer because sin is settled for the believer. He “bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to *sins*, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed.”

“Being justified therefore by faith we have peace with God, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all *sin*.”

“There is, therefore, now no *condemnation* to them which are in Christ Jesus.”

“He that believeth on the Son hath *life*, but he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth *my words* and believeth on him that sent me . . . shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from *death unto life*.”

The Roman epistle sets forth the greatest unfolding of the gospel in divine revelation and there is no intimation in all of it of such a thing as “healing in the atonement.” It teaches the reverse. “And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, *the re-*

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demption of our body." This is the redemption which takes place *at the second coming of Christ*, according to 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Until then we live here and groan and travail in pain together. We are subject to weakness and failure and disease, and all the rest of the things to which the human race is heir. We turn old, and gray, and get baldheaded and have false teeth. We have freckled faces and bodies that may warp and twist. We are subject to all these things, until the redemption of the body, and that is exactly what the Roman epistle teaches.

If "healing" were in the atonement, as the Pentecostals claim, it should then be received at the same moment as salvation, instantly, forever and eternally. "He that believeth on me shall never perish." Saved, and safe — the soul.

The Christian Science "healers," and Spiritualists, Dowy-ites, Pentecostals, Mormons — do they perform "miracles" by the power of the Holy Spirit? I want to give you an authentic report, a true report, of an investigation made and published promiscuously. This testimony is conclusive. Let me read it to you.

"Dr. Price (a disciple of Mrs. McPherson) has become an evangelist of almost as startling pretensions as those assumed by the woman (Mrs. McPherson) who discovered him. Several months ago he conducted a great campaign, the Christian forces of that city met and appointed a commission to investigate the results. That report is before us as we write. The commission was composed of eleven minis-

ters, eight prominent specialists in Vancouver, three university professors, and one eminent member of the legal fraternity. Several months of painstaking investigation, and several investigators working constantly, finally produced the facts and they are most startling.

350 cases of healing were claimed.

39 of the cases died within six months and of the disease they were supposed to be cured of.

5 of the cases went insane.

301 of the 350 cases were found at the end of the six months to have received no benefit, many frankly acknowledging that it was so.

5 were reported to be actually cured, but they suffered from functional ailments that responded to mental treatment.

"Scores of people who went for healing, professed absolute faith, but were not healed, and are not bitterly antagonistic to the Christian religion. Indeed it was discovered that the campaign upset and overturned the faith of literally hundreds of Christian people, whose expectations for their poor mortal bodies were not met."

Is this the work of the Holy Spirit?

Now my friends there isn't a single case of failure in all the scriptures (except the demoniac boy and Jesus cured him), nor a relapse. I have had some people talk to me praising the Lord for "healing" their body, when they could hardly move. But they will look you in the eye and swear they are healed. A good woman, sincerely told me she was "healed" when she was almost dead. It is a well-known fact that Aimee Semple McPherson has spent weeks of her time in the hospital! (Voice, "Praise the

Lord!" — Laughter).

How refreshing it is to turn from all this to the Word of God and read where John says, "Many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book, but they are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name." They were signs, evidences, credentials to the people that He was the Son of God; and the ministry passed on to His apostles.

See and read the record of these signs, these miracles, that He performed that you might be convinced, like Nicodemus, that He is God's man, God the Son and the Son of God is sufficient. The power to work miracles as credentials was passed on to the apostles until the Book was written and the canon closed.

See Him take the water and majestically have the pots filled and say, "Take it out and serve it," and it is the best wine at the marriage feast.

See Him meet the Nobleman who said, "My son is at the point of death. Heal him." Hear Him say, "Go thy way, thy son liveth," and when he returned home the next day the servants met him to say, "Thy son liveth!" Upon his asking when the fever left the boy, they said, "Such and such a time;" and he said, "I knew it, for that is when the Lord said he was well."

See Him as He goes to the Pool of Bethesda, with all that multitude of halt and blind and lame and withered waiting, waiting . . . waiting. And His eye singles out the most fitting object upon which to manifest His grace, saying, "Take up thy bed and walk," and it is done. The man walks off well and sound, healed and saved.

See Him as He faces the great multitude of men, five thousand besides the women and children, tired and weary and hungry. Hear Him inquire about food for them, and the lad is found who has the loaves and fishes. The multitude is seated in groups, and the Father is thanked, and the food is passed, and the people are filled, and the baskets are filled; and it is done. The Creator of the fish and the grain has not even begun to exhaust the plenitude of His power and bounty.

See Him walk majestically on the sea to the distressed disciples about to be overthrown in the water and hear Him say, "Peace, it is I; be not afraid," and they welcome Him into the boat and the shore was right there.

See Him, then as He goes into the temple and finds a man born blind and gives him light and sight, sending home the truth to the heart that He is the Light of the World.

See Him walk up to the tomb and tell the people to roll the stone away, speaking comfort and encouragement and hope to the weeping sisters, weeping in sympathy and sorrow with them who are distressed because they have lost their loved one, as He looks at the work Satan and Sin has wrought in the world. Hear Him speak the words, "Lazarus! come forth," and see the dead man come walking out of the tomb, then stripped of his grave clothes, and the next day enjoying a feast with the Master and his sisters and the man who provided the feast. That is God's power at work.

That is a thing you cannot imitate. I thank God that the Bible does teach divine healing. And I do believe in divine healing. In fact that is the only kind I do believe in. ■

there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist." He preached repentance and announced the near approach of the Messiah, the promised Seed of the woman. He laid the axe to the root of the tree of a Christless ecclesiasticism and a spiritually defunct national Israel. His preaching bore fruit. Many believed and were saved.

The Messiah came in exactly as the prophets had foretold. It was an hour laden with terrible responsibility, even as Moses had prophesied of Him: "And the Lord said unto me ... I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I command him. And it shall come to pass, that *whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him*" (Dt. 18:17-19).

Now hear what He said to the lawyers: "Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres. Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute: That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, *It shall be required of this generation.* Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered." (Lk. 11:47-52).

Why should that one generation bear the blood of all

the prophets from the foundation of the word? Because He, whom they heard and rejected, is the sum of all prophecy. "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Rev. 19:10). Thus He is the author of all divinely uttered prophecy by all the prophets of all ages. Take Him out of the Scriptures and you take away the key to all knowledge. To reject Him, therefore, as that generation was then doing, was to have no entrance into the Kingdom of God at all, either for themselves or for them who followed them. To put Him to death was to become guilty of the blood of all the prophets who had prophesied of Him and in His name.

Verily, the word and work of all the prophets of God are of one piece. And, to look now, how the world is denying Him as did Israel of old. Will this generation in turn become guilty of the blood of all the prophets since God spoke to us by His Son? It will, unless it finds repentance of its unbelief, religious pride, and spiritual wickedness. ■

ALZH...

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So I must be busy about my day-to-day work of sharing my hope with others. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). In studying the Word, I have learned how to share my hope with others.

The Sharing of my Faith and Hope

My goal is to share my faith in at least three ways. First, I love to cross-stitch samplers. I find samplers with a Biblical or inspirational message and do my best work on

them. Through my cross-stitch samplers, I can share my faith with others — both those who share my hope and those who have no hope at all.

Second, I continue to read the Bible every day. I am counting on the Lord to help me keep my reading up as long as possible so that I may continue to share His love for others through His Word as He gives me opportunity.

And, third, I am trying to keep a personal journal, mostly for my children and grandchildren (God's truth endures to all generations) so they will know my faith is and was genuine. But maybe my thoughts can help others also.

I know that cross-stitching, reading and sharing God's Word, and keeping a journal are small steps, things that I can still do well. But you see, I have a great Lord, and He can do things that are impossible for man. He can touch lives and draw men and women and boys and girls to Himself even with small things. His Word and His Holy Spirit can work the great miracle of salvation in hearts.

If you would like to know more about my hope and faith, you may contact me, and I will try to help you. Doug and I will try to show you that you can indeed know God's peace by "casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7).

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COLYAR...

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lamps in the darkened dome of the spiritual heavens. The song of the psalmist and the verse of the poet, pregnant with hope and positive assurance, are heard even yet above the death-rattle of a dying age. Only yesterday I read of the testimony of one of our American boys, who, in speaking of his fight for his country on the battle front, spoke of a hand that was leading him, obviously the unseen hand of our God. By His holy word He led many, by the mouth of His holy prophets, through the same world-darkness which now overshadows all nations.

Suddenly there arose a prophet in Israel, a man sent from God, whose name was John. For four hundred years, from Malachi to John the Baptist, the heavens were as brass. Through four centuries the written word of prophecy was in Israel's possession. The prophets from Moses to Malachi wrote as the word of the Lord came unto them. Of this man, Jesus said: "Among those that are born of women