



# GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

Official Publication of God's Missionary Church, Inc.  
Penns Creek, Pa.

*"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.*

Volume 19

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No. 12

## Good Christians, Good Citizens and Good Government

Selected

There are two reasons why our rich and glorious United States has suddenly found herself listed among the most criminal of civilized nations. The first is because our people do not respect the authority of good government. The second is because they do not consistently encourage the Christian religion.

The average American calls himself a Christian gentleman. It is to be hoped he is right. However, when our average citizen breaks certain laws which for peculiar reasons he doesn't like, when he further allows the purifying influence of true Christianity to wane and die, then our average citizen is first of all to be blamed for the very conditions that he so bitterly laments.

It is not better laws we need — it is better people. We need citizens who are Christians and Christians who are good citizens.

In the case of the Jewish people Jesus even dares to recommend support and respect for the Roman Government holding rule over the land. No matter who rules, if people are to have a good country, they must do their part to make and keep it good. The interest of many people consists of nothing more than the sad lament: "Well, why doesn't somebody do something!"

In the life of Benjamin Franklin there is a good hint for all to follow who love their country and seek its highest good. When Franklin visit-

### A Dull Sermon

"The dulllest sermon I ever listened to!" exclaimed Sam, petulantly, as he came from church Sunday noon.

"Yes," replied Grandfather, a twinkle in his eye, "I thought so."

"Did you, Grandfather?" asked Sam, glad to have someone agree with him.

"I meant to say that I thought you thought so," said Grandfather. "I enjoyed it because my appetite was whetted for it before I went to church. While the minister was preaching, I noticed that it was just the other way with you."

"How?" asked Sam.

"Why, before you went," answered Grandfather, "instead of sharpening your appetite for the sermon you dulled it by reading a trashy newspaper. Then, instead of sitting straight up and looking at the minister while he preached, as though you wanted to catch every word he said, you lounged down in your seat and turned halfway around. Besides, you let your eyes rove about the church and out of the window. You dulled your ears by listening to a dog that was barking, the cars passing by, and other things. You dulled your mind and your soul by thinking of what you might be doing at home instead of having to stay through the sermon. So you made yourself a dull listener. And I never knew it to fail that a dull listener made a dull sermon."

— Selected

ed Philadelphia and saw the poorly-lighted muddy streets, he didn't just say: "Well things are bad in town these days," but he gathered friends and acquaintances together, created sentiment, petitioned those

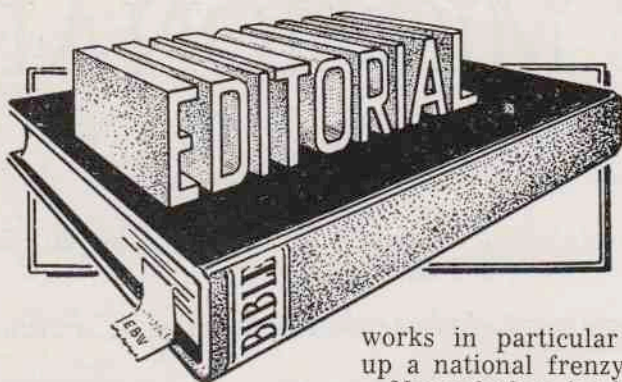
in authority and corrected the things he did not like.

We see many things in our land today: open disregard for laws, immoral literature, things that ponder to the lusts of the flesh and most of all, lack of religious training for our youth. These conditions are to be deplored. They are doing inestimable harm but what are we doing about them? If we do nothing, either because of laziness or indifference, then we are in a large degree responsible for what exists and deserving of the trouble we have.

How can we do our part? First of all we will have to admit that we have fallen into bad ways, not just because we are bad, but because we are often too busy. We have not allowed ourselves to realize the danger of sin and immorality and lawlessness.

We must do more than talk. Let us pray and let us act. Prayer is not a substitute for service but it does prepare us for action. Prayer will make clear to us both the will of God and the needs of the hour. When we act we must do more than talk. Let us do better than utter laments and vent ourselves in fault-finding. What we can do may be small, let us do it just the same. Our example may inspire others. Pious idleness never corrects anything. Let us act now.

One of our former presidents said: "A nation's strength is in her religious convictions." Bombs, armies and missiles will never save us from these moral foes that threaten. One thing will save — religious conviction. Faith in God and Jesus Christ. God give us faith, such faith as is the victory that overcometh the world.



The true Christian cannot help but become concerned about the problems of the day. We are living in a controversial day, one of many issues that will eventually effect the Christian as well as free men in our nation. Riots have marred the leading cities of America, that have already been scarred by sin. Moral corruption has flooded our land, degrading the lives of the people. Insincere polititions, seeking only prestige, have corrupted our governments, and juvenile and adult crime has become a problem of perplexity and no visible way out.

Commissions and committees have been appointed by various branches of our government to try to find the causes of these existing conditions that have marred our land and ruined our image in the eyes of our allies. Poverty was the supposed cause of racial unrest and riot, moral corruption is the result of the propaganda of a few sexually insane men publishing their pornographic literature, a few of the men in politics have been tried, thus having purged this branch of corruption, and firearms have been named as the chief cause of crime. Register the firearms and license the owners — this is supposed to be the answer to this problem.

A leading editor who is not the editor of a religious periodical has written concerning this rise in crime and violence. Permit me to quote from some of that article. The American Rifleman, page 18, July 1968; the title of his article is "Non-Violence begins at Home — On the TV." And I quote these lines by permission of the editor of that magazine. He states that crime has risen but the cause has been with us for some time and I quote: "To be blunt, we believe the commission in its search need look no further than the nearest television screen. TV is not wholly to blame, of course, but its two largest net-

works in particular have worked up a national frenzy.

Never before in the long history of mankind has the human mind been subjected to the explosive effect of so much violence, viciousness and depravity before its eyes. Never before have the goriest crimes been projected into the American home in gruesome detail as news, and then warmed over to regale as 'entertainment' in fiction form. 'In cold blood' could be the slogan of much of the television industry. Its effect as a blatant stimulant to law-breaking is suggested in two sentences from authoritative sources:

1. Youngsters in the 12 - 17 age group spend 18 to 20 hours a week watching TV, according to the Nielson TV index.

2. Approximately the same age group, 11 to 17, in 1965 committed 61% of all U. S. car thefts, nearly 1/2 of the nation's burglaries and larcenies, 28% of robberies, almost 20% of rapes, and despite their youth, 8.4% of wilful homicides, according to F.B.I. statistics.

The older brothers and sisters of this group, aged 18 - 24, were found by the F.B.I. to have committed more than a quarter of the nation's homicides and nearly half of its rapes although they form only a tenth of the population. They presumably had spent more years in front of their television." Unquote.

While the TV has smeared the honest law-abiding citizen for owning a firearm, it has been the leading proponent of crime, murder, and illicit love scenes. James said, "a double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

A recent release stated that 90% of all the homes had at least one television set. Controlled or uncontrolled, how can a professor of the Christian religion use such a poisonous instrument, or even lend his influence towards it? I may listen to nothing but news and a few religious programs, mostly eternal security and tongues, yet if worldly

men see a "set" in my house, I lend my influence towards it and declare by its being there I favor all that it produces. In this "easy" age, when an easy policy is taken against things that are wrong and violent, let us professors of holiness be numbered with those who will not bow. One need not be personally convicted concerning television any more than he does about murder, or alcohol, etc. It is an evil, and even non-church men decry its influence towards crime and corruption; we who are spiritual must not nor cannot bow to it and expect to remain spiritual.

The time has come when profes-

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(All reservations and camp business to be sent to the Camp Secretary).

## Holiness Teachings

compiled by

Rev. Allen C. Russell

### The Three Ways Into Canaan: (Continued from previous issue) Part Three

Let us earnestly inquire as to that which was essential to Israel's coming by any route into Canaan, whether by Gaza or Kadesh Barnea, or by the passage of Jordan.

#### (1) An Earnest Acceptance of God's Purposes.

All the routes began there. They must listen to the voice of the Lord. "... out of Egypt have I called my son;" — that call heeded and obeyed is the first step. Moses at first was rejected by the people as their deliverer, and they had 40 years of further bondage. Put this first. God seeks to bring us up into Canaan, the goodly land. Are we willing to go? Do we hear His voice, and do we yield ourselves to Him for the fulfillment of His high purposes? That is the first step toward Canaan.

#### (2) A Very Distinct Recognition of The Way of Salvation, and A Whole-Hearted Confidence In It.

Whichever way they went, every man who marched toward Canaan marched out from under the blood. There are many ways, but there is only one door. There is no setting out for Canaan but from under the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. There must be an absolute reliance upon the blood of Christ as the only ground of our salvation. That and that only comes between us and the curse of our sins. And every man had to eat the flesh of the

lamb. Christ must be received and trusted in; we must feed upon Him in our hearts. In Him we must find deliverance from the bondage of our sins, and in Him we are to find strength for service.

#### (3) Each Way Required an Absolute Dependence Upon God to Bring Them In.

There were many difficulties by each route from which He only could deliver them. They had to get away from the cruel task-masters, and from the might of Pharaoh, and of themselves they could do nothing. In all the way of their journey they had to trust God to guide them and to feed them, and to drive out from before them the mighty inhabitants of Canaan. Thus there was to be a complete committing of themselves, and their wives, and their children, and their all, into His keeping and guidance. That is almost Canaan itself, when we have learned the blessedness of this restful reliance upon the might of Jehovah to bring us up into the goodly land, to deliver us from all our enemies and to supply all our need.

#### (4) Whichever Way They Went, They Had To Get Up and Go On.

There must be journeying. All arrangements were made for that. They stood having the staff in hand and the garment rolled about the waist, and sandals on the feet, ready to follow as the Lord should lead. They must part with everything that hindered that — they never would have got to Canaan without that. No matter whether they went by Gaza, or by Kadesh Barnea, or by Jordan, they must get up and go on. That pilgrimage was their one great business. They waited on the pillar of cloud and

the pillar of fire; day and night they were ready to strike the tents and be off to a further camping ground. Ah - - - there we often fail. We put the blood on the door and think we are all right. There we abide, and not only do not get to Canaan, but very often we do not even get out of Egypt. There must be this actual surrender of ourselves to the Lord to be led by Him. We must **seek** first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. We must **dwell in tents**, suffering nothing to get such a hold of us that we become rooted and grounded either in Egypt or the wilderness.

We must get up and come out of Egypt. Whichever way they went there was to be a very real **separation** between them and Egypt. Either the Red Sea must cut them off, or the great and terrible wilderness, or the way of Gaza, "which is desert."

#### (5) There Must Be An Appropriation of Canaan.

By whichever way they might get there, they had to enter in and claim it in the name of the Lord. "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon have I given you." In the name of our glorious Captain and Saviour, we have to put our foot down. The tread of assurance, the march of triumph, is to be ours. These conditions are essential. Do not let us hinder ourselves with perplexities as to the way. Give yourself only right up to Him Who saith, **I am the way.**

And yet further, do not imagine all kinds of difficulties and then fear as to what you will do in them. We are told that there must be an entire and complete consecration of ourselves. Truly, but do not stand forever fearing that the sur-

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We are strictly "WESLEYAN" in doctrine and it is our aim to uphold the teaching of the infallible Word of God.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Milesburg, Penna.

Wedding bells rang in the Milesburg God's Missionary Church in the Valley on June 1st when Miss Esther Russell, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Allen Russell, and Barry Lee Corman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Corman of Milesburg, were united in marriage. Rev. Allen Russell, from Woodward and pastor of the Zerby God's Missionary Church officiated at this wedding. We pray God's best for the Cormans.

Wedding bells rang on July 18 for Miss Judy Elaine Horner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marcellus E. Horner of Boalsburg, and Airman William Hicks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Myron Hicks of State College. The pastor officiated at this ceremony. The congregation prays for God's best for this couple.

Wedding bells rang July 20, in the Millmont Church for Miss Susan Hicks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hicks of Milesburg and Rev. Paul Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Thomas of Watertown. Rev. William Rachau officiated and was assisted by Rev. Donald Hicks, an uncle of Miss Hicks, Rev. Arthur Thomas, an uncle of the groom, and Rev. Herman Noll. Miss Hicks attended the Milesburg Church and Rev. Thomas attends the Spring Garden Church. The interesting fact of the three above weddings is that they are all three cousins; Barry, William and Susan are the three cousins and all attended the Milesburg Church and thus it is a great year for this relation. Let us pray that God's very best will be their portion always.

An interesting feature of the Horner-Hicks wedding was that there were four generations represented at the wedding. The great grandfather, Mr. George Showers, is 86 and from Madisonburg. He and his wife will be celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary in December if Jesus tarries and all is well. The grandmother is Mrs. Merle Rishell, 62, from Millheim. The father is Mr. Marcellus Horner, 38, of Boalsburg and of course the bride, Judy. It was my pleasure to chat with Mr. Showers and listen as he recalled the old and early days of the Brush Valley Church as

we used to know it years ago. Now it is called the Wolfe's Store Church. A few old-timers are still left.

The summer slack is supposed to be with us but we are glad to report that the Lord has been with us wonderfully here at Milesburg this month. There has been much activity and through it all the Lord has come again and again to meet with us and there to bless. Our prayer meetings both the Spirit and attendance has been something to behold and we would say to the Standard family, we honor the Holy Spirit and cherish His presence here in our services. Praise the Name of the Lord.

Sunday, July 21, the Shuey family was with us for a Missionary service and what a service this was. The Lord came, a seeker sought God and the service lasted up to nearly 1:00. Bro. John Yount preached, all of the Shueys spoke, and several numbers in song were presented. All present enjoyed the service. Again we thank the Lord for being with us.

We have enjoyed the presence of visitors from Ohio, Colorado, New York and Florida. The folks from Colorado have been with us several weeks and have been faithful in attendance. Some Florida folks other than the Shueys were with us also. We thank the Lord for allowing us to dwell together in Heavenly Places. On we go and hope to report more at a later date.

### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor;

I was on my way to work on the bus reading the God's Missionary Standard, one lady looked over my shoulder and exclaimed, "that is a wonderful paper you are reading. I would like to have one." She asked me to send her name in so she could start getting them. I am sending her name and address that you may mail them to her.

Yours in Christ  
Evangelist, S.J.M.  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sister Hoch;

Greetings in Jesus Name.  
Enclosed is \$2.00 for one year subscription for my renewal to the

paper which has expired. I would like to send it to my pastor.

Thanks a lot for the paper. It is one of the best religious papers ever printed. I enjoy every line of it and wish that I could put it into every home in America. I wouldn't be without it.

Yours in Christ

Mrs. B. I.  
Bloxom, Va.

### Editor's Note

The purpose of these short letters was to invite you who are our readers to help us. By sending names and addresses with \$1.00 you may help get the message America needs into homes, pointing them to Jesus Christ or a deeper life with Christ. It will also help us by enlarging our mailing list and lessening the financial load. We who are God's Missionary should put our shoulder to the wheel and help push the printed page. A leading "Miracle" magazine boasts two million subscribers. Communism boasts victory because of the printed page. Can we who are Holiness do less? Think about it, pray about it, do something about it.

### EVANGELISTS' SLATE

Rev. and Mrs. William Tillis, evangelist and singers with trailer  
Beavertown, Penna.

Box 2 — 17813

August 2-11, 1968, Ono Camp, Ono, Penna.

August 23 - Sept. 1, 1968, Pilgrim Camp, Bloxom, Va.

Sept. 12 - 22, 1968, Mt. Rock Evangelical Methodist, Lewistown, Pa.

Rev. and Mrs. Marlin Moore, Evangelist and singers.  
Woodbury, Penna.

R. D. — 16695.

Sept. 28 - Oct. 13, Hanover Gospel Tabernacle, Hanover, Penna.

Oct. 16 - 27, 1968, Little Marsh, Pa. Brethren in Christ.

### REVIVALS

6th Annual Tent Meeting, Johnsbury, Route 336 South of Rossitor, Penna. August 14 - 24th. Evangelist Rev. John Ewing, Clarksburg, Penna. Special Music and singing. Evenings 7:45, Sundays 2:30 p.m. and 7:45. Pastor, Paul Miller extends a special welcome to you.

## Don't Throw Christ Overboard

Selected

My brother-in-law recently chose for their devotions the story of how Jesus calmed the winds and the waves.

He read until he came to the point where the disciples were overwhelmed with terror at the storm that battered their vessel. Finally they decided to awaken Jesus, and shook Him vigorously, demanding, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?"

Leroy paused in his reading and asked, "Ronnie, what happened next?"

And my nephew promptly answered, "They threw Him out of the boat."

The family was astounded at this unorthodox ending. Where could the child have heard a story like that?

Skillful probing disclosed that young Ronnie was thinking of a storm some six hundred years before Christ when a man named Jonah was thrown overboard to still an angry sea.

As ludicrous as Ronnie's ending of the story was, I could not help but realize that we mortals often throw Christ out of life's "boat."

How often when the time of storm and testing comes upon us do we snivel and cry out, "How can I believe in God when He lets me go through this? If the Lord loved me, He'd never let me endure this."

Oh, foolish man! Storms and tempests come to all. Christianity does not promise nor produce immunity to failure, loss, or death; but Christianity does center around One Who is master of the very elements.

To oust the Almighty from our lives because our souls experience gales and storms is akin to throwing overboard all the lifeboats and life jackets, for He alone can produce an inner calm to hold us steady when the tempests of life threaten our souls with spiritual destruction.

The time of tempest and turmoil ought not to cause us to cast aside

our faith in Christ. It is then that we need to present our petition and wait quietly, knowing that He can either navigate our boat through the heaving waters, or restore peace and calm. Even if He does not instantly calm the storm, and we have to pass for a time through a tempest, we can rest secure in the knowledge that our Navigator has never lost a vessel, and that He will ultimately effect our passage into quiet waters.

## Carry Sunshine

Walter E. Isenhour

Many people carry shadows  
By the gloomy lives they live,  
By their grouchy way of speaking,  
And by what they do and give;  
But there is a way of living  
That is better far than this,  
Blessing men with sunny brightness,  
Helping them to joy and bliss.

You may carry sunshine, neighbor,  
Carry sunshine day by day,  
Which is done by righteous living—  
Yes, by what you do and say;  
And it makes you feel much better,  
And your fellows that you meet,  
When your face is wearing sunshine  
And your voice is kind and sweet.

Carry sunshine by your smiling,  
By your gentleness and grace,  
By the prayers you breathe for others  
And the kindness of your face;  
By the love your heart possesses,  
By the sympathy you show,  
By your patient way of dealing  
With your friend or with your foe.

Carry sunshine to the needy,  
To the sick and to the sad;  
To the men and to the women  
Who are good or who are bad;  
Though sometimes 'twill cost you money,  
Cost you effort, work and time;  
Yet to be a sunshine toter  
Is both noble and sublime.

You will ne'er regret it, neighbor,  
As the years of life go by,  
For it's this that makes you happy  
While you live and when you die;  
Then when you shall meet the Master

After you have run your race,  
You will not be disappointed  
When you see His smiling face.

## THE PRAISE SIDE!

Mrs. R. G. Le Tourneau

When young people are choosing a school, they are often advised by friends, pastors and parents to select a school that provides a wholesome Christian atmosphere, a place where they will be surrounded by people who have a good influence on them.

I wonder if, sometimes, we expect more of schools than we offer in our own homes. Is that too strong a statement? Let's look at it.

We read the Bible in our homes, we pray, we attend church and we may even tithe, but all of these may be weakened if there is constant criticism of the church, the members, the pastor, or the program. It's pretty easy to get caught in this, because we are all human. Some of us don't have children at home anymore, but I want to take every opportunity to encourage young couples who are establishing homes, to make them the best centers of influence. I've talked before about the family worshipping together, about girls learning to be good managers, about sorrow bringing us nearer to God and now, about the damaging effect of criticism when it is common in a home — especially of the pastor and the church.

To you, young people who are establishing homes, take a tip: Make your home a place where criticism is seldom heard, but where praise is a common theme. Someone may ask: "Do you mean that you shouldn't have a mind of your own? Always go along with everybody?" No, I don't mean that, and I think you know it, but when it is necessary to disagree or make a criticism, it should be done in a spirit of love. Life has taught me that it is more common for us to blame than to praise. If we are going to make a mistake in going too far in one direction, let's keep it on the "praise" side.

We need to pray daily: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:4).

## A PAGE FOR YOUTH

### NOT NEEDED

by Jewell Gilmore

Les hooked one finger over the side of the box of nut shells and quickly passed it on to Howard without taking one.

At the end of the row Ernest took the box and rattled the one nut shell left around. "Who did we miss?" he asked as he scanned the group. But Les set his jaw and looked straight ahead. He hated these "Service in a Nut Shell" services — and this wasn't the first time he had passed the box of shells on without taking one. In fact, the first service of this kind that they'd had was the only time he had taken part. That night when he opened his shell the little slip of paper inside said: "lead song service." And if it had said, "lead testimony service," or "give three-minute sermonette," it would have been all the same. For it was the sad truth that Les lacked talents and there seemed to be absolutely nothing that he could do — nothing, that is, but take up the offering.

Les didn't have a musical bone in him, to quote Les himself; and a bright red wave swept up into the roots of his hair as he remembered the night he had consented to speak to the group. They were having three speakers that night, and Howard had assured him that it wouldn't be half bad. But standing before the group that way, everything he had studied left his mind an embarrassing blank. Even his notes didn't throw any light on what he had planned to say, and after blurting a few unconnected sentences to the sea of suddenly strange faces before him, he had sat down and wished a thousand times during the rest of the service that the floor would somehow open up and swallow him. It was the same way when he testified or led in prayer too. Words just didn't hover around Les Townsend's mind ready to be used when the time came; that was all there was to it. And as he sat through the service tonight, he found himself growing bitter toward the ones

who took part, and did their parts so well.

That was the reason he turned Howard down after church when he asked if Les was going to be able to make it to jail service the next night.

"I'm not needed," Les shook his head. "I would be doing more good at home studying than trailing along with the group."

"What makes you think you're not needed?" Howard wanted to know.

"What would I do?" Les drew himself up to his full height. "I could lead the song service in a monotone — or even better than that, perhaps I could sing a solo."

"Now listen," Howard backed away a step and looked at him. "Just because you don't happen to have that particular talent is no reason you're not needed. The Lord has a place for you at the jail service, and you know it."

But Les still shook his head. They'd probably feel sorry for him and call on him to do something just as sure as he went, and he'd rather not take the chance. Nothing Howard could say would change his mind, either.

But as he walked slowly on down the street after leaving Howard at the corner, Les wasn't so relieved as he thought he would be. "Lord," his heart cried as he walked along. "Why is it that so many people have a lot of different talents, and I have none? What is there that I can do for You? Oh, let me do something."

A light shining from the dining room window as he came nearer the house, though, switched his thoughts. "Ummm, wonder what's up?" he thought as he bounded up the steps. "Surely the boys aren't still studying."

"Oh, a jigsaw puzzle," he laughed as he closed the door behind him and came into the dining room. "You boys would stay up all night to get one together, wouldn't you?"

His two younger brothers looked up. "It's a picture of an airplane," Tommy explained.

"And the pieces are cut so much alike, they're hard to fit," Ronald added.

Les pulled his tie over his head, and dropping it in the pile with the table cloth at the end of the table, proceeded to help put the puzzle together.

Finally it was all in but one piece, and that piece was nowhere to be found. The piece was a part of one of the propellers, too, and the picture was just ruined without it. "Oh it's just a little one," Ronald decided as he rubbed his eyes. "Let's just forget about it."

But Tommy couldn't. "It just ruins the picture," he argued. "An airplane couldn't run with the middle of a propeller gone," and he dove under the table to look.

"Oh, here it is," Les said a few minutes later as he poked his finger under a table leg that wasn't quite on the floor. He straightened up and looked at the picture with the piece gone. Then he slipped the piece in, and a feeling surged through him that he had never experienced before.

"Now I can sleep," Tommy said as he took a last look at the airplane and ran after Ronald. "I don't think I could if we hadn't found that piece."

Les stood there a long time after his brothers had gone to bed. And it seemed that every time his eye scanned the big picture that he had helped to make, his eye fell on that tiny piece in the propeller — the piece that "the plane couldn't run without," as Tommy had said so emphatically. It was a little piece, that was true, and it wasn't a corner or an outside piece; but it was needed.

"Sorta makes me think of myself," Les mumbled. "We all can't be the corners and outside pieces that keep the thing together, but we do all have a part in the Lord's work." He ambled over to the telephone. "If my part is taking up the offering, Lord, then that's what I'll do." He looked at his watch. Ten-thirty — Howard wouldn't be in bed yet. He planned to do some studying. "Yes," he said into the phone later; "I've changed my mind. And maybe I could pass out some tracts," he decided in Howard's ear.

## NUGGETS

### STAGES

There are three stages of Bible study: first, the cod-liver oil stage, when you take it like medicine, because it is good for you; second the shredded-wheat stage, dry but nourishing; third, the peaches-and-cream stage, when you really enjoy it. Have you reached the third stage?

### YOU AND THE BOOK

Study it through. Never begin a day without mastering a verse from its pages.

Pray it in. Never lay aside your Bible until the verse or passage you have studied has become a part of your being.

Put it down. The thoughts that God gives you put down in the margin of your Bible or in your notebook.

Work it out. Live the truth you get in the morning through each hour of the day.

Pass it on. Seek to tell somebody else what you have learned.

### POINTED PREACHING

As Peter Cartwright preached in a little Southern church, he denounced sin. Someone near him whispered, "General Jackson is here!"

Said the fearless preacher, "And who is General Jackson? If he doesn't repent of his sins, he will be forever lost!"

Many feared that General Jackson would become angry. He didn't, however. The sincerity and courage of the minister deeply impressed him. He said to the preacher at the close of the service, "If I had an army of such fearless men, I could be victorious in every attack!"

### THE RIGHT ANSWER

Chrysostom before the Roman Emperor is a beautiful example of true Christian courage. The Emperor threatened him with banishment, if he would still remain a Christian.

Chrysostom replied, "Thou canst not, for the world is my Father's house; thou canst not banish me."

"But I will slay thee," said the Emperor.

"Nay, but thou canst not," said the noble champion of the faith a-

gain; "for my life is hid with Christ in God."

"I will take away thy treasures."

"Nay, that thou canst not," was the retort, "for, in the first place, I have none that thou knowest of. My treasure is in Heaven, and my heart is there."

"But I will drive thee away from man, and thou shalt have no friend left."

"Nay, and that thou canst not," once more said the faithful witness, "for I have a Friend in Heaven, from Whom thou canst not separate me. I defy thee; there is nothing thou canst do to hurt me."

### HELPS TO HOLINESS

Samuel L. Brengle's little classic, *Helps to Holiness*, was originally written as a series of articles and penned during a period of convalescence after a tough throw a whole paving brick at the author's head. The Brengles used to say:

If there had been no little brick, There would have been no little book.

Mrs. Brengle kept the brick and painted a text on it. The text? "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive" (Gen. 50:20).

### POEM

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." — Heb. 4:16.

O! What would I do, Lord Jesus  
If never I could draw near  
And sit at Thy feet, in fellowship  
sweet,  
Describing my every fear —

And knowing Thine ear is open?  
That ever Thou hearest me?  
If but for a day, Thou wentest away  
How desolate I should be!

O! What would I do, Lord Jesus,  
If ne'er I could tell to Thee  
The thoughts that perplex, and the  
things that so vex,  
And the sorrows which burden  
me?

O! How I should praise Thee, Saviour  
For what Thou hast given to me,  
This privilege mine — this blessing  
Divine —  
Thus boldly to come to Thee!  
— Alice Purves Allan

## Some Questions to Think About

1. Does my life please God?
2. Do I enjoy being a Christian?
3. Do I cherish in my heart a feeling of dislike or hatred for anyone?
4. Am I studying my Bible daily?
5. How much time do I spend in secret prayer?
6. How long has it been since I led a soul to Christ?
7. How long since I had a direct answer to prayer?
8. Do I estimate the things of time and eternity at their true value?
9. Am I praying and working for anyone's salvation?
10. Is there anything I cannot give up for Christ?
11. How does my life look to those who are not Christians?
12. Where am I making my greatest mistake?
13. Do I place anything before my Christian duties?
14. Am I honest with the Lord's money?
15. Have I neglected any known duty?
16. Is the world better or worse for my living in it?
17. Am I doing anything that I would condemn in others?
18. Do I have a clear conception of my place in the Lord's work?
19. What am I doing to hasten the coming of Christ?
20. Am I doing as Christ would do in my place?

### SEALED FOUNTAINS

Stewardship is more than a matter of fractions, whether of one-tenth or of one-half, but a philosophy underlying all of life. It conceives of life, not as a goblet to be drained, but as a chalice to be shared. The chief business of the Christian steward is to give, his getting being incidental to his giving. Stewardship imparts the set of service to all of life. Service in its full rich stewardship significance is not casual good turns done incidentally, but the abiding intent of life, its basic import. The Christian is here, not to get, but to give as a partner and fellow worker with God.



# Missionary Message

## A Nail for the Cross

By Rose Marie Fink

A true experience from the jungles of Sumatra

In stifling heat a young American missionary and his party chopped their way through the underbrush of Sumatra in Indonesia. The year was 1937. Birds and screeching monkeys scattered in their path. The day had been long, the trek not easy. But Hubert Mitchell, 29, was sure God would see him through his mission to the dark-skinned Kubu people.

Suddenly the party broke thru into the open. Tree-bark houses, either on wooden stilts or in the trees, dotted the edge of a clearing. Here on flat tracts of land to the east of the mountains in Djambi the Kubus had settled in their nomadic wanderings. Uncertain of what the reception might hold, the young missionary found himself repeating softly under his breath Proverbs 3:5, 6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." A great surge of inner confidence and peace came over him.

Mitchell and his native companions made their way to the center of the clearing. Immediately they were surrounded by the chief of the jungle village and his tense-faced warriors, who held long knives and spears in readiness.

The chief stood for a long moment in silence, his black eyes fearless but questioning. The Kubus were not by nature a warlike people, but this invasion of their jungle stronghold represented both a puzzle and a threat.

Beyond the tense circle a group of playful dogs and frolicking children came into view. As the missionary turned and smiled in their direction, the chief's hostility gave way to inquisitive interest and surprise. A smile! Surely this man meant no harm! The chief uttered

a command and the warriors lowered their spears. Excited voices mingled in welcome and relief.

Then the man from "beyond" began to tell his purpose in coming. The Kubus listened intently as he unfolded to them the story of Jesus Christ. But when the missionary came to the crucifixion, a deep frown appeared on the chief's face.

He said simply, "What is cross?"

Mitchell turned to his native helper and the men watched curiously as he went to the edge of the jungle and began cutting down two small trees. Quickly he stripped them of their branches and bound them together with some dried grass rope lying nearby. Heads shook up and down; now they understood what a cross was.

As the missionary continued, the Kubus strained forward to catch every word.

Then suddenly another voice interrupted. "How Christ fastened on cross?"

At this point, to better illustrate what he was trying to convey, the missionary flung himself down and spread out his arms along the cross-beam. "This is how He was nailed to the cross!" he shouted. Women and children, attracted by the commotion, warily scampered down makeshift ladders to join the men now staring intently at the prone figure before them.

"This — this is the cross!" The missionary rose to a sitting position, addressed the chief and demonstrated again how Jesus Christ suffered for the sins of men by dying in their place.

But instead of the understanding he expected, a deeper look of bewilderment spread from one face to another. The chief, almost in exasperation, cried, "Apa pakoe, apa pakoe! — What is nail? What is nail?" A simple enough question until Mitchell tried to explain. A quick search of his pack for a pin or a screw — anything to help him — was fruitless.

Picking a large thorn from a bush he tried to tell them a nail was like a thorn, only larger and made of metal. But already the group was restless and disinterested and soon only a few remained. It was time for the evening meal; the women and children hurried away to prepare it, and the men departed in little clusters to wait. The wooden cross lay empty and deserted, and as the frustrated missionary walked slowly away, the words of the nursery rhyme — "For want of a nail, the shoe was lost!" drifted across his unconsciousness. Would a whole village be lost from the love of God for lack of a nail?

Later, bowing his head in prayer before the evening meal of rice and fish, God again reminded Mitchell of another promise — "Have I not commanded these? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee whosoever thou goest" (Josh. 1:9). Spiritually refreshed, he ate heartily. It had been a taxing day.

Now some fruit to finish off the meal.

He reached among his gear and opened a small can of oranges he had purchased at a Chinese store in another jungle village while gathering supplies for this trip. Pouring them into his metal dish, he heard a loud "clink." There before his eyes glistened a long metal object — a nail!

Ordinarily Mitchell never carried canned food on the trail because of the extra weight, relying on fresh jungle fruit, sugar cane and the simple meals provided by the tribespeople. Also, fruit was especially hard to come by. But God, in His providential design, had directed him to a small jungle store, then directed his attention to two small cans of mandarin oranges. Then, at the start of the trip, He had directed him to choose exactly the right one!

Mitchell burst out with words of

(Continued on Page 10)

## Nobody Can Sing That LOUD

Selected

Not only is man prone to sin — he is also prone to hide his sin! Ever since the dawn of the human race he has sought to cover his sin under a verbiage of fig leaves of one sort or another. He weaves a covering of prayers and paeans, of hosannas and hallelujahs! Hypocrisy sports a variety of camouflages — the long robe and the broad phylactery, the pious platitude and the sanctimonious smile! Man fears to face himself — therefore the mask! He is ashamed of what he really is — this is why he hides! Jesus castigated with burning scourge and biting scorn those "who rob widows houses and for a pretense make long prayers!"

We are more transparent than we like to believe. A religious disguise is the filmiest fabric ever woven on the looms of deceit — it will hide nothing! Abraham Lincoln once shrewdly observed that "we can fool all the people some of the time, some of the people all the time, but we can't fool all the people all the time!" The chances are excellent that we are fooling nobody — not even ourselves.

A clever counterfeiter found a way to drill into the center of gold coins and, like a miner, extract the valuable mineral — he would then fill the hollow shell with some cheap metal. Too many cover a leaden life with a vapor-thin veneer of gold! All their goodness is external and for public parade! Deep inside lurks moral and spiritual deformities. The most abominable masquerade is the religious. If anything draws the fire of an incensed God, it is this! Read the twenty-third chapter of Matthew — watch Jesus rip off the mask and strip the soul of every subterfuge! He hates hypocrisy! Dress the rotten thing in any kind of clothes — it still stinks to highest heaven! And the Lord God Most High hates it!

Somebody once said: "What you are speaks so loud I can't hear what you say!" It follows that what we are at the office or in the classroom, at work or play, at home or on the street — that is what we are when we pray and sing in the sanc-

tum sanctorum — and we are not a whit better! We might well remember that the man we bamboozle on Monday is not apt to forget it when he hears us lustily sing on the Sabbath day — "for nobody, nobody can sing that loud!"

## THE LITTLE YOU HAVE

Mary D. Kimbrough

A former Missionary to India and Jamaica.

A cup of cold water, a crust of dry bread?

The loaves and the fishes a multitude fed.

The little you have He requir-eth of you;

By Christ blest and broken, 'twill multiply, too.

A dime, or a dollar — a thousand, or more?

Two mites in the coffer, and Jesus took store.

He blessed the poor widow for what she could do;

The little you have, friend, will bring blessing, too.

A cup, or a vessel; a large one, or small —

With oil never failing, He filleth them all.

And though your poor vessel be little and frail,

When filled with the Spirit you never shall fail.

A lamp and a pitcher; a trumpet and sword,

So Gideon battled against that great horde.

With breaking of pitchers, and lamps burning bright,

We'll soon shout the victory as they did that night.

A thread and a needle, the garments she's made,

Were shown by the windows, as tribute they paid.

Though humble the labor, whatever you do,

When done unto others, then He'll bless you, too.

A plow or a hammer, a needle or pen —

Whatever your talent, just give all to Him;

He'll bless it to make a multitude glad,

He'll use to His glory the little you had.

## Good, Christlike or Superior

Selected

The tendency of fixing our eyes upon others as a measure of comparison, mixed with that most subtle of sins — spiritual pride — produces the type of religious person who cannot be happy unless he feels himself superior to others. These sincere, but misguided people are not content to be good or Christlike; they are only content when they feel themselves better than others. The key to such attitudes lies in the distinction between the comparative and the superlative. To seek to be better than others is to open our hearts to the worst in the spiritual life, religious pride. To seek the best as revealed in Jesus Christ is to expose ourselves to the highest, to Christlikeness. For no one can stand up beside the towering figure of Jesus Christ and think about his own superiority. In His presence we all must confess our unworthiness; yet withall rejoice in the lifting power of His infinite grace. "Looking unto Jesus" there arises in the soul a desire to be like Him, and in that desire all lesser standards become obscure.

## Pray it Through

So many times the way seems tough,  
The going slow, the road too rough,  
But things are not so hard to do,  
If we take time to pray it through.

Burdens that seem too great to bear,  
Misunderstandings here and there,  
The pain and tears, and heartaches too,  
Soon vanish when we pray it thru.

It matters not how dark the way,  
How thick the clouds from day to day,  
God will direct in all we do,  
If we take time to pray it through.

—Mildred E. Mead

## Holiness Teachings

(Continued from Page 3)

render is not complete — simply and earnestly give yourself as you are to Christ, and ask Him to make it complete. We are told that Christ will not come into the heart unless He is to be supreme. Truly, but do not wait fearing that He will **not** be. **I will come in** is the word of His Grace. Let Him come in and He will secure His supremacy. Many fear to receive Christ fully, doubting their own power to entertain Him. Can they always be thinking of Him, with so much to think of as they always have? Can they always be waiting upon Him? Ah, how it must grieve our dear and blessed Master that His children should think of His service as such a hard one! Listen to the music of the twenty-third psalm — what is the song? **He leadeth me until I am very tired, and then He lets me lie down**, — that is our version of it. But that is not the Good Shepherd. Listen: **He maketh me to lie down. THEN He leadeth me.** Hear again His own words: I will give you rest. **THEN learn of Me.** The first thing He seeks is that we shall be so at home with Him as to forget all about the entertaining — to be at ease with Him, at perfect rest. He seeks love — true, homeliest love — and not a stately etiquette. "Fear not," is ever His gracious watchword. Victory is pledged to us; it is ours now to claim it. The goodly land of Canaan, of conquest, of rest, of abundant fruitfulness, of God's abiding presence, and of a perfect service, is ours if we will have it. Now, in the Lord's name, let us go up at once and possess it, for in His strength we are well able to overcome.

## A NAIL FOR THE CROSS

(Continued from Page 8)

wonder, relief and awe. Excitedly the native workers were shown the miracle and together they ran to the hut of the village chief. In childlike wonderment the chief took the nail, held it in his hand, then pressed it into his flesh. He flinched at the hurt it made.

Recalling the missionary's story, the chief grasped something of the pain and suffering that this Jesus Christ had endured for his sake. Solemnly nodding his head in understanding, he and the missionary knelt together on the grass floor of the hut. Moments later he arose,

his face beaming in his new-found faith.

By now the hut was crowded with many of the tribespeople. When the chief eagerly told them what had happened, they listened intently. And many of them also believed. — Reprinted from Moody Monthly.

## EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 2)

sors and preachers must decide where they stand. We cannot stand in middle grounds taking a double view of this issue. Let us who name the name of Christ stand against this evil menace, and we who preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ lift up our voice, cry aloud, and spare not.

## Personal Piety in a Wobbly World

Selected

"Prayers . . . for all that are in authority" (I Timothy 2:2).

The Bearded Prophet called down fire from Heaven on a soaked sacrifice and started a great revival. But a wicked queen disliked a change in the national religious status and proffered a reward for the prophet's head. Within 48 hours the discouraged and hounded seer offered up another petition. This time he wanted to die. The Man of God analyzed national conditions in contrast to his own devotion to God. The picture was so disheartening that he desired to pass out of it altogether.

Twenty-five years ago a cartoon appeared in a daily newspaper. It depicted the planets out in space, and on the earth hung a sign which read: "Psychopathic Ward." Today, the same cartoon would be very appropriate, but with these cautionary words added to the sign: "Extreme Quiet — Intensive Care."

In the midst of such disquieting circumstances, the Christian is likely to feel lonely and inadequate as the Prophet Elijah did. True, looking at it from a realistic standpoint, conditions are deplorable enough. Judging from the average conversation of both teen-agers and adults these days, one must honestly draw the conclusion that profanity and salaciousness are the rule of the day.

Deeper deterioration is further

reflected in the rapid increase of crime — especially among youth.

And, the national effects of moral degeneracy are showing up politically and internationally. It is no mere coincidence that the United States is suffering a "cramped" position in the Viet Nam affair, concurrently with her lowest moral ebb in history. The Bible says that "righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

Can a Christian do anything about these situations? Does personal devotion to God and one's spiritual estate have any connection with world conditions? Both questions have an affirmative answer.

Elijah's cast was very similar to our own. Let us subject the ancient prophet to a brief psycho-analysis and make the diagnosis profitable to ourselves.

In the intriguing account in the 18th and 19th chapters of I Kings, you will observe that the great prophet entertained two major misconceptions. First, he underestimated the number and power of God's people — (19:10, 14). This is a common fault among Christians today. We feel so small individually and collectively that we disparage the power of holy people to combat the power and trend of declining morals. We should remember that God would have spared ancient Sodom and Gomorrah had there been ten righteous people in those cities. One thousand fervent prayers, coming from the hearts of that many saints, will do more to instigate social reform than all the secular efforts combined. Personal pieties, incorporated and co-operating, have a tremendous effect upon the morals and culture of any people. Need we be reminded that His people are the salt of the earth?

Secondly, the prophet had the mistaken idea that God Himself couldn't do anything about the situation, or didn't care to. We get like that at times, too. Too often we divorce national and world affairs from religion and God. Christians the world over should make a re-assessment of what their faith includes.

We as Christians need to become more involved in world affairs — and in politics, too, if you please. Not after a soap box fashion, but in a **closet** manner. Yes, personal piety can help stabilize a wobbly world.

## PENN VIEWS

### CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Compiled by P. Miller

Education is a fundamental concept of the Christian faith. Jesus Himself was the greatest of all teachers. The Apostle Paul has indicated that teaching is among the important gifts which Christ has imparted to His Church through the Holy Spirit. Paul says: "And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4: 11,12).

When the Methodist Church was organized in America at the Christmas Conference in 1784, a rule was enacted that all of the circuit riders must preach annually on education. Francis Asbury was a pioneer in education as well as in evangelism and the promotion of camp meetings.

The first schools established in America were Christian schools. Princeton College was a product of the Great Awakening under the leadership of Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield. A major motive for the founding of Harvard College was stated as "dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches, when our present ministers shall lie in the dust." Harvard's rules and precepts included this injunction: "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, John 17:3, and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning . . . ."

One authority estimates that we will have over three million young people graduating from our high schools at the forthcoming June commencement. Millions of parents and young people are now confronted with the choice of a college for the fall of 1968. Far-reaching destinies are involved in these choices. It may mean the difference between a wrecked faith and a strong faith rooted in the Bible and in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. It may mean the difference between being an agnostic or atheist,

or in having an assuring confidence in God. It may mean the difference between becoming a member of the "No God Movement" or a member of the Holiness Movement.

Every year the lives of multiplied thousands of young people are channeled into new paths of dedication to God and His Kingdom in our Christian colleges. Likewise, multiplied thousands of young people have their faith destroyed every year in institutions where the Christian faith is spurned with academic disdain.

Christian education is worthy of our wholehearted support. There are many ways in which we can help our Christ-exalting institutions. We can support them with our prayers. We can remember them with gifts of money at present, and we can remember them with deferred gifts in the form of a will, annuity, or the deeding of property in which we retain a life interest. Under the present tax structure, many can actually save money for themselves and their heirs by making a sizeable gift through a Christian school.

There is no greater work than that of true Christian education. It abundantly merits our support.

### A FRIEND

In life's long chain of friendship,  
I've added a link of gold;  
Beside the others it glitters,  
Cast in a perfect mold.

It stands for a friend I love  
dearly;  
One who has proved to be  
square,  
One who is willing to help you,  
Help you to play the game fair.

This link in the chain I'll cherish  
When the others are faded  
and old;  
As the years slip by I'll remember  
A friend with a heart of gold.

May God's blessing rest upon  
you,  
Happiness follow you to the  
end,  
That's my wish for one who has  
taught me  
The meaning of a friend.

— Mrs. Ida Belle Perry

### If I Have Not Vision

Though I speak concerning foreign missions with great eloquence, and have not vision, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I spend long hours in study and reading missionary literature and know much concerning the hardships and difficulties of a missionary's life and have not a vision, it profiteth me nothing.

Vision holdeth one steady before God; vision enableth one to pray earnestly; vision burdeneth that others may have salvation.

Doth not exalt any but Christ, seeketh only the redemption of the lost, is given to those who earnestly seek for it, thinketh no price too great to pay;

Trieth not to discourage those who would be missionaries, but trieth to encourage them to answer the call of God;

Beareth another's burdens, believeth that God is willing to undertake, hopeth for the salvation of many, endureth seeming failure and disappointment.

Vision doth not soon fail; but where there may be excitement aroused by hair-raising stories it shall fail; where there be mere tears stirred at missionary convention, they shall cease; where there be only interest, it shall vanish away.

For all Christians know in part and all Christians see in part; but when they have a vision, their lukewarmness and intermittent interest shall be done away.

Before I caught the vision, I spoke as one without a vision; I prayed as one without a vision; but when I caught the vision, I put away half-hearted things.

For now at least I have caught but a faint glimpse of the need which Jesus alone can satisfy, but some day I shall realize it fully; now I know something of the price salvation cost, but then shall I see it clearly, even as also it hath been purchased for me.

— Author Unknown

## Grant Me G O D —

A. W. Tozer

The living God still wants to speak to the human heart, and He has His own ways and means of doing this. But we live in a day of human talent and computer capabilities, and it seems the Lord is finding fewer and fewer who feel the need of hearing His voice and heeding His Word.

Many of us seem to feel that we can make the decisions and do the necessary religious work and remain active in the church without much guidance or help from above. There probably is a lot of church work that most anyone can do. Even members of the church board generally know what is expected of them, where they are to sit and how they are to vote, for it is a relatively easy matter to meet and make decisions concerning religious work.

Even preaching isn't difficult for some people, particularly those who seem to have been born talking. Talking is one thing, but actually touching and affecting people through God is another thing.

I got "skinned" one time for writing an editorial in which I said that eloquence could be a hindrance in the ministry. I stick by it — it can be. When I was 18 years old I could get up on a soapbox and talk 45 minutes without stopping, to a bigger crowd on the street corner than I can get now. But that wasn't God. That was just a gift, a talent that the Lord put in there. You can exercise that kind of talent and go from place to place with it and still never be doing the work of God at all. God can work through a talent if it is consecrated to Him; but you can have the talent and still not have Him work.

It can be the same with writing. Writing is easy, to me. I think I can almost write in my sleep; but writing to communicate the message of God is something else again, for a typewriter never was built that can talk God's language. But God does want to speak to the human heart, and if He can get through the human spirit, then He begins to talk through the written page.

Now what are some of the things that God wants to talk to us about, if He can get our attention? He begins with this whole matter of the Person of God him-

self. Where does God come from? What is God? What about our humanity and our need of God? What about the Word of God?

Let's start right there — what about the Word of God? Some people are worried. Young people are concerned, they say, about whether or not this is the Word of God. So far as I'm concerned, grant me God himself, and I'm not worried about His writing a book. Grant the Being and Presence of God, and that settles the matter.

I take a lot of magazines, most of which I dutifully and joyously never read. I looked at one recently after I came home in the evening and it had a question and answer department in it. One question was: "What about the whale swallowing Jonah? Do you believe that?" And the good doctor replied: "Yes, I believe it. Science proves that there are whales big enough to swallow men."

I folded the magazine and laid it down, for that man had missed it. He was at bat, but he had struck out beautifully; for I believe that Jonah was swallowed by a whale, not because a scientist has crawled in and measured a whale's belly, and come out and said, "Yes, God can do that." If God said that Jonah was swallowed by a whale, then the whale swallowed Jonah, and we do not need a scientist to measure the gullet of a whale.

Why are we fussing around finding out the collar size of a whale or how big his neck is? Grant me God, and you can take care of all the whales. Whenever I find men running to science to find support for the Bible, I know they are rationalists and not true believers.

Grant me God, and miracles take care of themselves.

"Is healing for us today?" someone asks. My reply to that is, "Is God still alive?" And the answer is: "Yes, God is still alive!" All right, then, healing is for us today. Whatever God did and was able to do and willing to do at any time, God is able and willing to do again, within the framework of His will. So what we need to do is get acquainted with God!

A little boy thinks his father can do anything. No, he can't, but the little boy thinks he can. If the father tells the son, "I personally whipped Adolf Hitler, trimmed his moustache off, and have him in a cage in Caledonia, that's what the

little boy is going to tell his little friend across the street. He'll say, "My dad told me."

Now, in an infinitely higher and perfect and holy sense it is not whether we can understand it or not; it is whether God said it or not. And if God said, "I AM," I respectfully bow and say, "O God, Thou art!" I don't start running around and questioning God's ability to do anything.

And then there's the atonement. I want to be of more use to God, and I need a covering for my soul. I want blood to wash me white. I want to be safe from the wrath of an angry God. How can Jesus' blood atone for me? I cannot tell you, and I would not waste five minutes writing a book on how the atonement saves. I only know that the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins according to the scripture, and rose again the third day, and justifies by His life; and therefore I am safe under that atonement. The explanation is beyond me; but, thank God, I can receive it.

I can receive the mercy extended to sinners and I can accept the invitation to the communion of the saints. The teacher of ethics asks: "How can a holy God have fellowship with an unholy man?" I don't know the technical answer to that myself, but I do know this: If we confess our sins we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. And then God says to me, "Come on into My fellowship, sit down with Me, and I will eat with you and you eat with Me." That takes care of that!

Letting God prove Himself through the channels of our lives is the answer. God is waiting for us to look at the impossibility of our doing spiritual work in our cities and in our situations until we have given Him the leadership and the talents that we have.

Our temptation is to settle down into our religious work and be established, and get our roots in and get the feeling that they can't get along without us. God will let you do that, but He will never work through you when you are doing that. Only when He gets you to that place where you are not sure of your own ability and your own strength, will the Lord smile and step in and you'll find yourself doing His work with blessing.

Grant me God, and the task will not be too big.