

THE EVANGELISTS' *Perspective*

FALL 2012



**LEON & LINDA
ARMSTRONG
THANKS FOR THE
MEMORIES**

CHECK OUT NEW PRODUCTS FROM
YOUR FAVORITE EVANGELIST

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FROM THE EDITOR

It was my privilege to attend this year's Michigan District assembly held on the Indian Lake Holiness Camp Grounds in Vicksburg, Michigan. Since the summer of 1969 I have usually been involved in camp meetings and unable to attend these annual meetings. A few years ago I received an honor from my district in being appointed to the District Credentials Board. We meet every year and interview candidates for district licensing and ordination. This is a rich opportunity to witness the continuing call of God upon His people for ministry. Many times the Lord moves in on our interviews bringing tears to board members and flooding the room with memories of our own spiritual journeys.

Although we are required to keep all information in confidence, the personal testimonies of these men and women are for all to hear. As a life-time evangelist it is encouraging to me to note how many of those still entering the ministry point to revivals and camp meetings as being crucial to their development. More times than not the report

is that they were saved, sanctified, and called into ministry in these special meetings. I am certain that they were loved and nurtured in the local churches and witnessed God's power in worship services, but there was something special about revival time and camp meeting.

The ordination service for this year's district assembly was the opening Sunday night. Dr. J. K. Warrick was the presiding General Superintendent conducting this special service. I enjoyed sitting in the ministers' choir singing the great hymns of the church: "It Is Well", "Holiness Unto the Lord"...everybody knew the words! Three of my brothers in the Lord sang a special song entitled, "Preach the Word." Preaching the Word is what the call is all about. In a day in which preaching the Word of God is largely marginalized in many circles, I could not help but be blessed.

Dr. Warrick is always an open conduit for God's Spirit to flow through. His message was clear and anointed. At one point, he shared a personal moment with us that I will always remember.

"I moved to College Church in Olathe, Kansas in 1994. Soon after our arrival my good friend,

evangelist Chuck Millhuff, gave this statement to me. Its truth stirred my mind and heart! I hung it by the door of a small study I used for sermon preparation as a daily reminder of my primary calling. It now hangs in my office at the Global Ministry Center . . . preaching is still my primary calling. I have never been able to forget the words, 'What we long for is a message from the Main Office. And you shall bring it to us.' I have sought to be faithful to that charge throughout my ministry but had never articulated it in this way. I am still deeply moved by those words. Few people have impacted my life as much as Chuck Millhuff. This is one of my most treasured documents." Dr. Warrick gives this document to each minister that he ordains. It is a reminder of our primary calling as ministers in the Church of the Nazarene... Preach the Word. ★

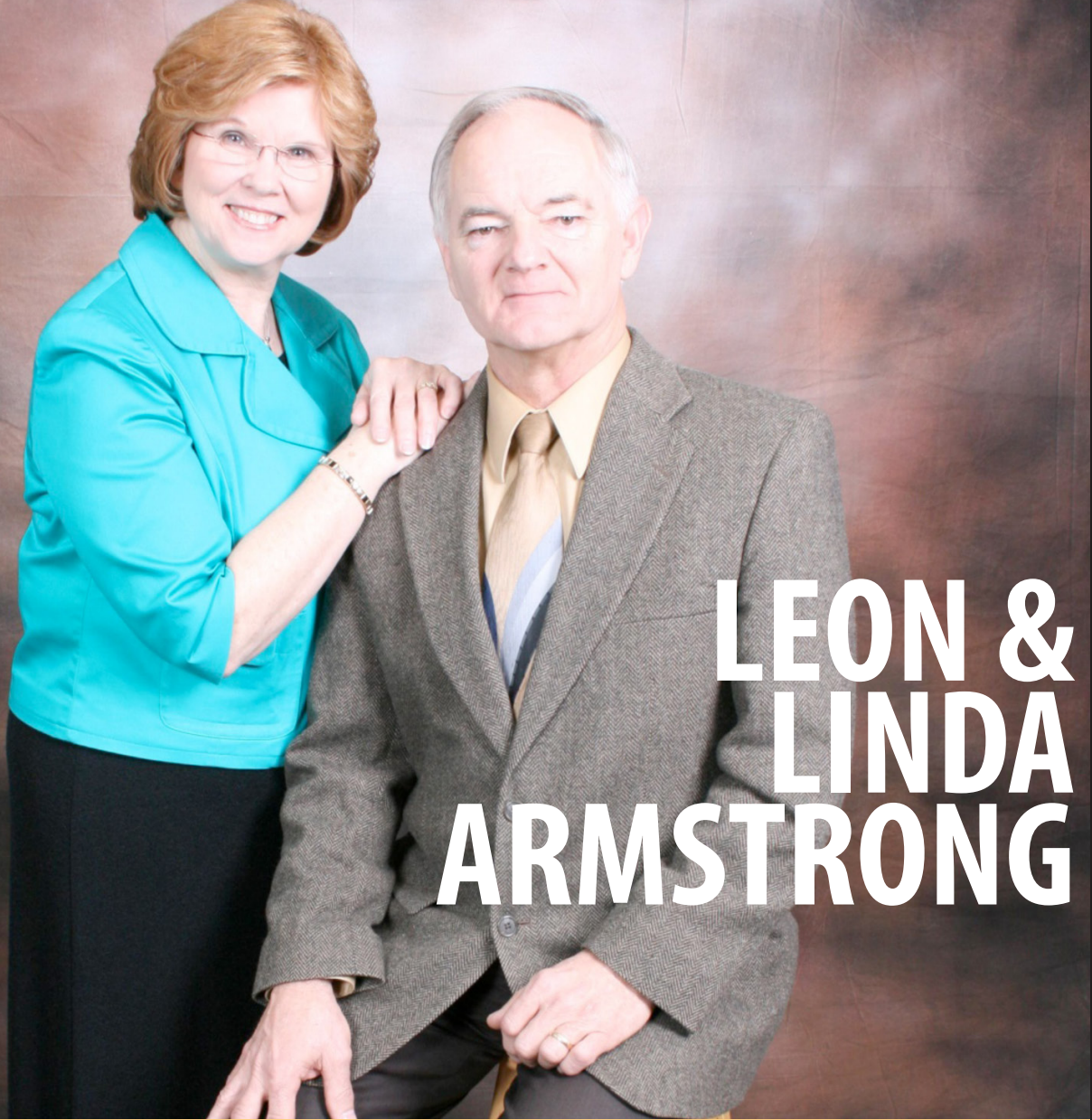
G. Bond

The Message

Within this little room it will often commence. It will develop and conclude in other places, even at the sacred desk. Yet here it is, that most often, flint will strike iron and the spark will begin the blaze. It is "the message" we long for. We long for a burning coal from the altar, carried to our cooling hearts. Five minutes of terrifying unction in the congregation of the righteous is of more value than an hour of perfect preparation yet delivered in sterile deadness. There is nothing worse than stillborn truth. What we long for is a message from the main office. And you shall bring it to us.

Chuck Millhuff

This message was given to me by Chuck Millhuff when I became pastor of Olathe College Church on January 2, 1994. It hung in my small study office and served to remind me of my primary calling.



LEON & LINDA ARMSTRONG

T h a n k s f o r t h e M e m o r i e s

Linda and I are constantly amazed at how God puts things together in such a perfect manner. We had been praying about a venue through which we could express our deep gratitude to all of the pastors, church families and individuals who have been so kind to us during our 30+ years as itinerant evangelists. In answer to those prayers, we were asked to provide a short overview of those years for

The Evangelists' Perspective Magazine. Allow your imagination drift back 40 years or so, to illustrate how this delightful, yet sometimes strenuous, journey came about. This is more than just an article describing our ministry as itinerant evangelists. This is our personal letter of appreciation to each one who has made this ministry possible.

Linda and I met while in high school. God planned our meeting by allowing my brother-in-law to become the pastor of Con-

cord Friends Meeting in Greensboro, N.C. This is Linda's home church and we were introduced the first time I visited my sister. Dur-



ing the next few years, I felt "compelled" to check up on my sister much more often! It was during those years that Linda and I began dating and developed a deep love for one another.

After graduating from junior college, I enlisted in the United States Air Force as a Minuteman Missile Electron-

ics Technician. It was during my first leave (April 1967) that Linda and I were married. Throughout our 6.5 years of military service, it was a blessing to have Linda with me at each duty station. Lynnette, our first child, was born while we were stationed at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls, Montana and Lance, our second, arrived during our three-year stay at Chanute AFB in Rantoul, Illinois. While serving our country at those duty stations we also served our Lord by fulfilling places of leadership in His Church as youth leaders, musicians, and janitors, developing friendships during those delightful years that continue to this day. God has truly blessed us with dear brothers and sisters all across the eastern three-fourths of the United States.

Upon my discharge from the Air Force in 1973, we returned to Greensboro, N.C. to settle down. I worked third shift at AT&T while Linda worked in the routing and rating department at Blue Bell, Inc. During those years, we built what we considered our dream home beside my parents' home. Again, we faithfully served our Lord through service to His church in any position He opened. Although I had sensed an inclination to the ministry earlier in my life, my specific call came while studying for a Bible course at

John Wesley College (now Laurel University). There were no loud booming voices nor were there any mysterious inscriptions written on the wall that day. Yet, the Lord convinced my spirit that for true fulfillment in life, full-time Christian service was the answer. Time and space will not allow me to share all the details of the miraculous manner in which God prepared a number of individuals to accept this as something real. Just think, God wanted to use me, a relatively shy and introverted individual, to preach His Good News. At that point, I began to realize that He must have a sense of humor and a vivid imagination, but I also realized God's power as I had never sensed it in the past.

While planning to enter full-time Christian service, God helped us understand the need for preparation in order to be our best for the Lord. Following the lead of the Holy Spirit, we sold our house and moved to Manteno, Ill. To explain the miracles bringing that move to fruition would take another couple of pages of script. We were students at Olivet Nazarene University for three years; during that time, we served as youth directors for our church in Manteno, IL but also took a few weekend revival meetings as a family. After graduating from Olivet, I served as Associate Pastor in the Chicago Heights Church of the Nazarene and then at the First Church of the Nazarene in Roanoke, Va. Through each of these assignments, God allowed us to form even more lifelong friendships that we cherish to this day.



My ultimate call into evangelism came while serving in Roanoke, VA. I had felt the call earlier in life, but discounted it simply

(continued on next page)

because I love to drive, and God could not be calling me to fulfill a ministry involving something I enjoyed so much, right? Linda and I were concerned about what might happen to our children if exposed to the instability of life on the road with no permanent home, not to mention the amount of time these children would be in church services. The call into evangelism was not theirs, yet their young lives would be greatly changed by such a lifestyle.

One morning, in spiritual desperation, I went to my favorite place to pray on the backside of Roanoke Mountain. I have always appreciated planned Bible study for answers, but when we are desperate, we sometimes go against the norm. That day God gave His gift of a scripture promise in an unconventional manner. He answered my heart's questions by revealing Isaiah 59:21 in a personal way. These words read: " 'As for Me,' says the Lord, 'this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants,' says the Lord, 'from this time and forevermore.'" That was my answer. Linda and I have depended upon that verse and have passed it along to our children and grandchildren.

While preparing to leave our position as Associate Pastor we realized the need for something in which to travel and live in as a family. As a "long-shot," I contacted the manager of the quartet I had sung with while working at AT&T in Greensboro. They were ready to sell their bus—a 1958 GMC PD4104. It was constructed as an entertainer coach and was not conducive to full-time living at first. As I reflect on those early days of travel, I am more aware of how patient and resilient Linda, Lynnette, and Lance have been over

the years of sharing this ministry of evangelism—especially living in that coach for five years.

To illustrate, while ministering at a church in early November, we were living in the coach before the interior was completed. It was rather cold in Virginia that week, yet we needed to be ready for revival services each evening. Some of the water system had been installed in the coach but was not adequate for general use. I remember one cold afternoon Lynnette and I went into the church to wash our hair. It was a nice church with more than adequate facilities, but in order to conserve funds, they had not installed a water heater for the restrooms. As we began to wash our hair in the cold, cold water, our scalps turned red (and numb), so we decided to use her blow dryer to heat the water -- it is fascinating how long it takes to warm a sink full of water that way. Nevertheless, we made it to church on time—Lynnette was lovely and every hair was in place. Me, well, my hair was clean and dry.

In 1986, we decided to purchase a newer coach. Our plan to change from one coach to another seemed simple. After completing a family camp in Wisconsin, we went through Ohio to pick up Rev. Bud Esselburn so he could ride with us to our bank in Virginia. There inside the bank and its parking lot, we transferred the title of our older coach to him and moved our household from our old coach to the newer, empty one. We watched as Rev. Esselburn drove away in what had been our home for five years. My parents picked up Linda and the children and took them to our Virginia District Family Camp, and I drove our





newer, almost empty home, to Greensboro, NC.

I had one week to make the bus livable before we began a VBS in Pottstown, PA. I did not have the ability, tools, or crew necessary to accomplish an Eagle Coach Extreme Make-over in just one week. It was NOT completely ready to live in when I picked Linda and the kids up on Sunday afternoon to begin our trek to Pennsylvania. However, we made it to Pottstown on time (by way of downtown New York City – Lynnette’s request) and began our VBS.

Through a variety of struggles, a generous amount of patience from Linda and the children, and some very stressful moments, we survived the first three months in the Eagle Coach. We stayed off the road during December and January in order to correct the problems I had created while hurriedly endeavoring to make our new home inhabitable. My father, Blair Armstrong, and I (with volunteer help from several understanding friends) worked on the coach from about 7:00 a.m. until midnight six days per week during those two months. It was truly amazing how God enabled a few inexperienced workers to make the changes accomplished during that time. The old coach was finally transformed into suitable living/traveling quarters for the family. We lived in that coach for more than 25 years.

For seven years, our weekly “routine” (if any part of living on the road can be con-

sidered routine) was to pack up sound equipment and instruments on Sunday evening and travel through the night. On Mondays, we would find a nice mall, a historical area to visit or a park to enjoy for the day. We normally parked in a campground that would accommodate the coach for Monday nights. On Tuesday, we drove to the church, set up the coach for living and the instruments and P/A, and performed sound checks in order to be ready for services, which normally extended from Tuesday thru Sunday evening. Then we began the process all over again for the following week. Sunday nights were filled with mixed emotions—sad because we were leaving our newfound friends, but excited about what God had done in the services and eager to see what He would do during the upcoming week in a new location.

When referring to our weekly routine as itinerant evangelists, I am not forgetting Linda’s valuable role in that unique work and how God had prepared her for such a task. She has never received a call into full-time ministry. Her call is to be my wife and the best layperson she can be. I respect and honor her for the devotion she has given to that two-fold call; Linda’s obedience to her specific call has enhanced our united ministries more than any human can comprehend.

To be honest, this portrait of our ministry would be incomplete if Linda’s valuable contributions were omitted. Many of you have experienced her great love for people, especially children. She has devoted many hours to simply listening to those who are hurting or facing difficult situations. She has a unique, God-given gift of saying just the right words to bring comfort, encouragement and sometimes a gentle rebuke to those who come to her. She has also devoted countless hours to developing Vacation Bible School programs for “her VBS children.” She has taken leader-

(continued on next page)

ship of those VBS activities and, with the help of many local church leaders, has successfully conducted more than 175 Vacation Bible Schools and children's camps in our 30 years of evangelism. Time and testimonies have indicated that some of our most valuable work for the Kingdom has come through her allowing the Holy Spirit's direction in this specific and effective ministry.

In addition to those qualities, God also gifted Linda with a love of Christian music and a talent to match. She has played the keyboard and sung special music for the revivals, crusades, retreats, and camp meetings, which we participated in during our years in evangelism. She has been the lead singer on our eight, professionally produced tape/CD projects, of which the final recording (her solo CD) is considered to be our best by most of the folk who hear it—including me.

Our children were also an extremely important part of our evangelistic ministry. To be honest, as Lynnette and Lance began to talk about leaving, I became somewhat uneasy. We were a family ministry. The kids



were "leaving the nest." Our keyboard player, drummer, and two vocalists would no longer be with us. I was almost convinced that no one would want just a duet for special music and a teaching style for evangelistic

preaching. I suppose the devil was working through my insecurities in an effort to curtail our remaining 22 years of service. Yet, kind pastors continued to call and people continued to respond to our simple, "low intensity" sermons.

Through the years, my parents, Linda's parents, and some of our friends have shown tolerance, kindness and generosity as filthy pieces of the bus were scattered in their driveways and front yards while greasy guys hurriedly tried to assemble what had been removed. They understood our rush to be ready for another four or five months on the road. All worn parts needed to be replaced before we left. We did not wish to incur major bus repairs while away from home.

Occasionally, even well maintained machines do fail. One time, during the early morning hours (about 1:30) on the side of Interstate 81 just south of Fort Chiswell, VA, I needed to change the left rear tag axle tire in the dark. As I dropped EACH ONE of the ten, just-removed lugs, they would bounce into a lane of traffic. Have you ever tried to find a greasy, wheel lug on an asphalt-paved highway in the dark while dodging traffic? It made changing a tire a bit more challenging. All the while, Linda was inside the bus, watching through the window, faithfully praying for me and my safety—while laughing at my frantic actions. I did appreciate the prayers! The laughter? Oh well, someone was enjoying the incident.

Even with the "home" repairs, there were occasional breakdowns while on the road. Oh, how I wish there were time and space to list all the churches that were kind and understanding, allowing us to clutter their parking areas in order to accomplish repairs on a broken down old coach. In churchyards, we had the "privilege" of replacing an engine, rebuilding the diesel-generator system, redesigning one side of the main engine exhaust system, relining the brakes and many smaller tasks. Be assured that as I was listing those repair tasks, my mind was saying "Thank you" to those so willing to help us and to the churches that allowed us that privilege. Your names and faces (some of them very, very

greasy) are easy to remember and fill my heart with inexpressible gratitude as I write. You have blessed us so much with your kindness. I do not have space to include all the names of people and churches that have shown kindness, understanding, and tolerance to us during our thirty years of full-time service as itinerant evangelists. However, I will attempt to express our continuing love and deep gratitude to the Virginia District Church of the Nazarene and our local church family, the East Gate Church of the Nazarene in Roanoke, VA. Their love, encouragement, and support have kept us going when it would have been easy to give up. We could not begin to repay them for all that they have done in our behalf, but God is keeping a record and He can repay in ways we could not even imagine. We can only say a heart-felt "Thank you very much," for all that you have done to make this ministry possible and enjoyable.

I do not know to whom credit should be given for this song lyric, but I recall one of the early TV programs, The Bob Hope Show, going off the air with someone singing these words: "Thanks for the memories. . ." Now, Linda and I are definitely NOT planning to go "off the air" anytime soon, but we would like to say to each person we have met along the way, "Thanks for the memories." To our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, we would simply say, "Thank You for our Christian heritage, for forgiving our sins and helping us with our faults, for placing us together as a family, and for the great opportunity to serve the Your

Church as itinerant evangelists." It has not always been easy, but it has been a delightful and fulfilling journey.

I know it sounds melancholic, but while recalling those precious memories of dear,

dear people we have met during the past 30+ years of meetings and miles, I had to move my hands from the computer keyboard in order to wipe the tears from my eyes. At times, I even found myself laughing and crying at the same time during this mini-journey through our experiences. I am glad God gave us more than 30 years to sense the love, helpfulness, generosity and, at times, disappointments we have faced as your evangelists. Thank you for making this ministry a thrill. God called us to be itinerant evangelists, but His power and His people enabled us to accomplish the task. We have lived and will die evangelists at heart. We still hold weekend meetings within a reasonable driving distance of Greensboro, NC.

I was asked by our coordinator to offer advice to men and women entering the field of evangelism. My advice to them would be:

1. Confirm that your call is from God and NOT just a strong desire to travel and be "on stage." Then pursue that call with your whole heart under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
2. Maintain a fervent devotional life. Do not allow "the ministry" to become your god.
3. Give plenty of time to expressing your love to your spouse and children, not only saying "I love you" to them, but also showing love by spending quality time with them.
4. Surround yourself with friends by being a true friend to your brothers and sisters in Christ.
5. Allow those friends to help you in times of need, but never abuse their friendship.

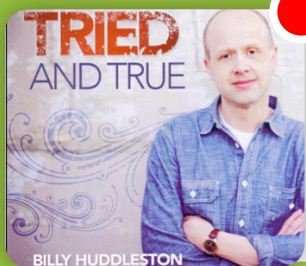
"Thanks for the memories. . ." and for those that are still being made. ★

We love you,
Leon and Linda Armstrong



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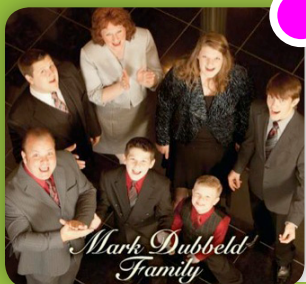
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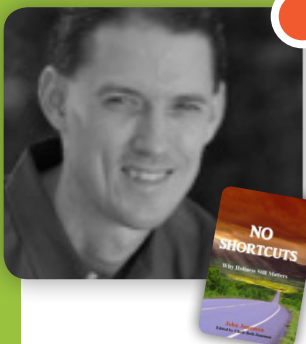
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|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. When Revival Comes To Town | 7. He'll Deliver Me |
| 2. He Is To Me | 8. Everyday With Jesus |
| 3. Leavin' On My Mind | 9. Moving Over |
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NO SHORTCUTS By Dr. John Juneman

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Hard copies available through:
www.lifemessageinternational.org

"Holiness is simply the nature of Jesus Christ being produced in our lives so that He may be demonstrated in everything we say, do, and are. In the closing passage of 1 Corinthians 10, Paul presents a simple principle that is indispensable for evangelism and discipleship for all times: revival leads to holiness, which then leads to evangelism. God's plan for people being won to Him and disciples being made is for Jesus to demonstrate His holiness through us in everyday life. There are no shortcuts, and holiness matters as much now as it ever has."



The following quote is taken from an e-mail to one of our Nazarene families requesting prayer for the "Bulldog Brigade" as they return from war. We are becoming more aware daily of the traumatic adjustments that many of our soldiers face when coming home to their families. Let's honor this request.

"In war, there are no unwounded soldiers- May the Blessings of God's Grace and Mercy Cover us as we return home. I want to solicit your prayers as we (the Bulldog Brigade-over 2800 Soldiers returning from Afghanistan -never forgetting the 22KIA ,and 365WIA) travel upon a new path of our lives as United States Army Soldiers- RETURNING HOME FROM WAR- Pray for our Minds, our Hearts, our Families, our Strength, Our Courage - our Reintegration "HOME"- Keep us in your daily prayers- Thank You-"



A Colorado Update

As most of you must have heard by now those of us who live in Colorado have experienced some horrific events during the months of June and July. There was a massive fire in the northern part of the state in Ft. Collins, Colorado, that went on for weeks. Then, on June 26th, with winds up to 65 miles per hour, the Waldo Canyon fire came over the ridge in the northwest area of Colorado Springs. From our sundeck, my wife, Marti, and I could see that it was coming our way. To say that we were frightened would be an understatement. Over 32,000 people were evacuated and 3000 firefighters from 34 states came to fight this inferno, along with helicopters and airplanes dropping thousands of gallons of retardant each day. By the time it was contained three weeks later, 346 homes were destroyed, lifelong possessions were lost, and the devastation will never be forgotten. The local paper said recently that this has put hundreds of families in an "economic/financial purgatory." Mortgages must still be paid, people must find shelter, kids have to change schools, cars were lost, and insurance claims must be filed and worked out. And on and on it goes. So do people out here still need your prayers and support? You bet they do! This entire situation has been horrific.

On top of all this, we've been hit with another tragedy and that is the shooting rampage that took place in Aurora, Colorado, in a movie theater about midnight on July 21st. As of this writing, twelve people were killed, 71 injured, and there are still some who are in the hospital that may not make it. It's been like living the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999 all over again. We're not the only ones who have experienced these senseless acts of violence. I would like to offer this thought. As a nation we've taken the 10 Commandments out of government, we've taken prayer out of our schools, we've aborted 50 million babies and counting, and recently our president has endorsed same sex marriage... the list goes on. Where there is an absence of God; there's a presence of evil. And if ever there was a time as a nation to embrace II Chronicles 7:14 it's today. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." God help us.



Dr. Gary Haines

Tenured Evangelist, National Alumni Public Relations & Recruiting Representative
Admissions Advisor Nazarene Bible College

Corrections for the EP Summer Issue:

1. We apologize for listing the name of the District Superintendent of the Southwest Ohio District in the article on newly tenured evangelists incorrectly. His name is Dr. Douglas J. Van Nest.
2. We also apologize to District Superintendent Rev. D. Geoffrey Kunselman for inaccurately listing workers for the Northwest Ohio district camp meeting. This year the workers were three full-time evangelists: Rev. Susie Shellenberger and Vance and Jeannie Sharpe. A special thanks goes out for calling these anointed workers to minister in your camp meeting.



"Sanctification: The Will of God"

I Thessalonians 4:1-8

When reading the Scriptures, we are gripped with the fact that holiness is God's designated standard for His people. In the text above we read that "God hath not called us to uncleanness, but unto holiness." In II Thessalonians 2:13 the writer, speaking to the brethren in Christ, tells them that "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." These passages, along with the third verse of the text, teach us that the call, choice, and the will of God is that His children be holy.

In the New Testament alone there are sixteen commands to be holy, eighteen inspired prayers that we be made holy, fourteen passages teaching how to receive the blessing of holiness, and one hundred passages telling of the wonderful results of being made holy.

Allow me further to define my terms so that it will be easier to understand.

Sanctify is the verb that speaks of the cleansing work of God in the heart of His children. Sanctification is the noun that names the process of that cleansing. Holiness and righteousness is the state that is produced by sanctification.

The basic meaning of holiness carries with it the idea of "separation." It is not only a separation from all that is sinful, but a separation unto God. Therefore, sanctification is begun the moment one is born again. It is the initiation of this separation and the realization of the cleansing (through forgiveness) of one's acquired depravity. This is why Paul refers to the believers in I Corinthians 1:2 as "sanctified in Christ Jesus," even though the third chapter reveals that they were yet "carnal...babes in Christ," because they had not yet been entirely sanctified.

Paul is writing to those who had truly been converted and gave evidence of their conversion in the first chapter of I Thessalonians. Their Christian credentials were impeccable. Their life was a "work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.... They received the Gospel in the power of the Holy Ghost and in much assurance... They received the word in much affliction, with *(continued on next page)*

joy of the Holy Ghost..."Their faith was known and spread far and wide for they had "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." They were even looking for the return of Christ.

In the third chapter he speaks concerning their spiritual well-being and sends Timothy to establish and comfort them concerning their faith. He did not want them to be tempted to move from the faith, for all his labor would be in vain. His burden for them was so great that "night and day he prayed exceedingly that he might see their face and perfect that which was lacking in their faith." The purpose of his visit is given in I Thessalonians 3: 13. "To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints."

The verses of my text are given to the new Christian to emphasize that sanctification is begun immediately upon conversion and is necessary to live holy and righteous until and after he or she has been entirely sanctified, as is defined in I Thessalonians 5:23. Sanctification (initial and entire and progressive) is the will of God and it is, in itself, an equation. The will of God is our sanctification, and our sanctification is the will of God. It is equal in importance as well as in imperative command. Jesus warns us in Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Every enemy of His will is without the heart of those entirely sanctified. When one has been cleansed from all sin, namely inherited depravity, that which rivaled His rule and reign is destroyed. For the purpose of the furtherance of this message, I want to use the word sanctification in its entirety, unless otherwise noted.

I. Call

"God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." This calling is vastly more than an invitation; it is an investment of God which the believer is highly honored to receive. This call to holiness is subsequent to sonship ("Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God," I John 3:1), and it precedes the call to His eternal glory ("but the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus," I Peter 5: 11). The writer brings attention to the faithfulness of the God of peace who not only calls us, but will accomplish to the full, our sanctification. "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."

The calls of God demand our response and our obedience to His calls, which assures our salvation. Many calls are given universally and generally and must not be ignored. There was the call to safety when He said, "Come thou and all thy house into the ark." Genesis 7:1. There was the call to reason: "Come now let us reason together." Isaiah 1:18. The call to rest was, "Come unto me, all ye that labor...I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. The call to repentance: "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matt 9: 13. My text issues a negative and positive note to His call. "God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." This declaration places holiness in contrast to uncleanness.

When one hears the call of God and becomes knowledgeable of the will of God, it is then the act of highest wisdom to heed His call and do His will. The importance of His call is determined by one's concept of God who gives the call. When you study God's word, you will begin to get a picture of the character of God. When we consider His admonitions,

exhortations, prayers and promises, we realize He is holy to the exclusion of all unholiness. Peter tells us, "He which has called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." The call to holiness arises out of the "is-ness" of God, "as "He..is..so be ye!" I Peter 1: 15-16. As light cannot fellowship with darkness, so uncleanness is contrasted with holiness.

There is a warning given to those who would despise the call to holiness. To despise means to reject, refuse, or undervalue this call. "He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us His Holy Spirit." Whatever estimate one places on the call to holiness is also one's estimate of God. The act of such rejection can only occur in this world because no one rejects holiness in heaven, and there is no holiness in hell to be rejected.

God's will is a law that holds redemption or retribution. We will either be pure or we will perish. One cannot evade the alternative that was stated by Dr. W. B. Godbey; it is holiness or hell. The only reason one is lost forever in hell is the lack of holiness, and the only reason a soul is saved to heaven is holiness. There is not a holy person in hell, and there is not a sinner in heaven.

II. Cleansing

Since God has given the clarion call to be holy, the fact that His will is a law commanding us to be holy made the cross a necessity. Sinful man could never rise to the level of a law requiring holiness on his own merit. Man could do nothing to restore himself to the holiness lost in the fall. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Isaiah Chapter 53 says, "All we like sheep have gone astray." David in Psalms Chapter 51 confessed, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." The only sacrifice

adequate to span the breach that sin has created and bridge the gap between man's guilt and God's glory was Christ Jesus. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself... We are reconciled by His grace.

While sanctification means "setting apart," it has a deeper meaning. There is man's part and God's part in sanctification. The Christian is urged to make a full surrender to God subsequent to the new birth. The admonition of Romans 12:1-2 is for the Christian to "present his or her body, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God."

Obviously, that act of total consecration cannot be made by a sinner, but only by one who has been regenerated. He is the one who is able to offer himself a living, holy, and acceptable sacrifice. God's part is to cleanse or sanctify wholly. He will cleanse all we consecrate and purify all we present to Him.

In the Old Testament things such as vessels, temples, places, days, etc. are sanctified or set apart from common usage to holy purposes. However; these have no moral capacity, because things, places and days have no sense of good and evil, while the sanctification of a person, a moral being, does know the difference between good and evil. Therefore; sanctification must mean more than a mere "setting apart," or a dedication. It must involve the cleansing of man's moral nature.

Consecration or "setting apart" is an act that one can do of his own volition, even without a bleeding sacrifice. If sanctification does not mean more than dedication, then a person could be sanctified and at the same time hold God at a distance and not allow Him to exercise His Sovereign will over him. It would be unthinkable that God would dedicate that person to any kind of sacred service without taking into consideration his moral condition. Such a per-

son would be capable of exploiting the very call of God to enrich himself and violate every known law of God. That is why Paul writes, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." It requires the efficacy of the cross to sanctify moral beings. "Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate."

III. Conduct

In the first twelve verses of this chapter Paul speaks of the ethics that follow the experience of sanctification, both initially and entire. He states the importance of our lives in being lived to God's pleasure. "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more." Jesus, when speaking of His Father in John 8:29 said, "I do always those things that please Him." As we follow His example, we also should make pleasing Him our chief objective in life. No one so selfish as to want salvation merely as a means to get to heaven could possibly be fit for heaven. That desire is for a place rather than a person, and whatever heaven is, it is because He is there. Let us abound in a pleasing walk with Him.

It will require holy discipline of our bodies so that we abstain from all evil passions such as fornication. Our body is the temple of His dwelling. He is Lord, and His supreme reign is the rule and will of our life. We have proved that His will is good, and acceptable, and perfect.

The former life is over and all things have become new. "As obedient children, we no longer fashion ourselves according to the former lusts in our ignorance...we are called

to be holy in all manner of living." We do not defraud, cheat or lie, but rather live by the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus said, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Matt. 7:12. God taught us to love one another and love does no ill to its neighbor. As one labors in faith and love, he becomes a pleasure to the God he serves. He discovers that His laws are not grievous, and serving Him is the joy of living.

Paul speaks of another incentive. This is to "live soberly, righteously, Godly in this present world," and that is because we are "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." Titus 2: 12-13. His reign within is not only the hope of the Gospel, but our hope of glory. At the end of each chapter of this letter the writer makes reference to our Lord's return.

In Galatians 2: 20 Paul testified, "No longer I live, but Christ liveth in me." He was speaking of the "high noon" of holiness. Through His death and resurrection He gave Himself a ransom for all. Paul says in I Corinthians 6:20, "We are bought with a price"; that price was the precious blood of Jesus. As Lord and Savior, He owns all rights on us. When we invite Him into our hearts, He comes to reign and no one can dispute His right to us. If He cannot rule, He will not reside. When one is sanctified wholly, carnality, the one insubordinate enemy to His law and rulership, is cleansed. This is the finished work of God's will in the heart of His children. It is the crowning work of redemption, and Christ is "all and in all." Paul clearly states that, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification...for God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." Let us not reject His call, but receive it gladly! ★



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ADAMS, MICHAEL

- Aug 31-Sep 2 Vicksburg, MI (Evangelists Homecoming Camp Meeting)
- Sep 8-12 Defiance, OH
- Sep 16-19 Delta, OH (New Horizon Community)
- Sep 21-23 Lowell, MI
- Sep 28-30 Waterford, MI (Williams Lake)
- Oct 7-10 Columbus, OH (Lower Lights Community)
- Oct 14-17 Bowling Green, KY (First)
- Oct 21-24 Carthage, TN
- Oct 28-31 Albany, KY (United)
- Nov 2-4 Louisville, KY
- Nov 5-10 Orlando, FL
- Nov 11-14 Jamestown, KY
- Nov 16-18 Trenton, KY (Potter's House)
- Nov 20-23 Pottstown, PA (Family Thanksgiving)
- Nov 25-28 Moncks Corner, SC
- Dec 3-20 Orlando, FL (Ministry in England)

BAKER, JUDITH

- Sep 11 Louisville, KY (National Quartet Convention)
- Nov 29 Gatlinburg, TN (Jubilee Music Artist Awards)
- Nov 30 Gatlinburg, TN (Jubilee Music Artists)
- Dec 1 Gatlinburg, TN (Jubilee Music Artists Showcase)

BOND, GARY (T)

- Sep 9-12 Crown Point, IN (Southlake)
- Sep 15-16 Charleston, WV (Valley Grove)
- Sep 23-26 South Point, OH
- Sep 30-Oct 3 Tullahoma, TN (First)
- Oct 7-10 Sarcoxie, MO (New Beginnings)
- Oct 14-17 Fairmont, WV (First)
- Oct 21-24 Franklin, IN
- Oct 28-31 Mackey, IN
- Nov 2-4 Canton, OH (District Retreat)
- Nov 11-14 Wyoming, MI (Clyde Park)

COVINGTON, NATHAN (T)

- Sep 9-12 Saint Louis, MO

- Sep 16-19 Rogersville, MO (Harvest Community)
- Sep 28-30 Sparta, WI
- Oct 7-10 Nevada, MO
- Oct 14-17 Jonesboro, AR (First)
- Oct 21-24 Mount Pleasant, TX
- Oct 28-31 Marseilles, IL
- Nov 4-7 Garnett, KS

DONNERBERG, JOHN

- Sep 9-12 Dodson, TX
- Sep 16-19 Bethel, OH
- Sep 23-26 Ashland, KY (First)
- Oct 7-11 Sherwood, AR (First)
- Oct 14-17 Greenwood, AR
- Oct 20-23 Clarksville, TN (First)
- Oct 28-31 Celina, OH
- Nov 2-4 Saint Marys, OH (First)
- Nov 11-14 Urbana, OH
- Nov 15-18 Cincinnati, OH (Carthage)

FERGUSON, SCOTT

- Sep 9-13 Kings Mountain, NC
- Sep 16-19 Robbins, NC (Northern Moore County Crusade)
- Sep 23-26 Albany, GA (Grace)
- Sep 30-Oct 3 Griffin, GA (First)
- Oct 7-10 Rocky Mount, NC
- Oct 14-17 Hedgesville, WV (Synder Bible Chapel)
- Oct 21-24 Butler, GA (Bethel Congregational Methodist Church)
- Oct 28-31 Macon, GA (Shurlington)
- Nov 4-7 Somerset, PA
- Nov 11-14 Woodsfield, OH

GALLIMORE, DAVID

- Aug 31-Sep 3 Hinton, WV (Camp Meeting on the Greenbrier)
- Sep 9-12 Taylor, MI (Allen Road Missionary Church)
- Sep 16-19 New Castle, IN (First)
- Sep 23-26 Mannington, WV

- Sep 30-Oct 3 South Charleston, WV (Davis Creek)
- Oct 7-10 Clarksville, TN (Grace)
- Oct 14-17 Newell, WV (Glendale)
- Oct 21-24 Parkersburg, WV (Broadway)
- Oct 28-31 Belle, WV
- Nov 1-3 St. Simons Island, GA (WGM Southeast Celebration)
- Nov 4-7 Oak Hill, WV
- Nov 11-14 Jumping Branch, WV (Gospel Tabernacle)

GESSNER, DON AND SHIRL

- Sep 1-30 Newark, OH (Evangelism Outreach)
- Oct 1-13 Newark, OH (Evangelism Outreach)
- Oct 14-17 Loganton, PA (Wesleyan Church)
- Oct 18-31 Newark, OH (Evangelism Outreach)
- Nov 1-30 Newark, OH (Evangelism Outreach)

JUNEMAN, JOHN

- Oct 7-11 Fallon, NV
- Oct 21-24 Sparta, MI
- Oct 28-31 Cowden, IL (Free Methodist)
- Nov 2-4 Chandler, OK (First)
- Nov 11-14 Milo, ME (United Baptist Church)
- Nov 16-18 Lower Sackville, NS

LECKRONE, LARRY (T)

- Aug 24-Sep 3 Tamaqua, PA (Lewistown Valley Tabernacle Camp Meeting)

MCDUFF, RONALD

- Sep 23 Crawford, CO (United Methodist Church)
- Sep 27-30 Wheatland, WY

PETTIT, BENJAMIN AND AMANDA

- Sep 27-30 Shpshewana, IN (Waiting School)
- Oct 3-7 Saint Augustine, FL (First)
- Oct 10-14 Jacksonville, FL (Oak Hill)

PETTIT, ELAINE (T)

- Aug 31-Sep 3 Ariton, AL (Vineyard Christian Retreat Center)
- Sep 15-19 Washington, IL (Sunnyland)

- Sep 27-30 Shpshewana, IN (Waiting School)
- Oct 3-7 Saint Augustine, FL (First)
- Oct 10-14 Jacksonville, FL (Oak Hill)

PETTIT, JEREMY

- Aug 31-Sep 3 Ariton, AL (Vineyard Christian Retreat Center)
- Sep 15-19 Washington, IL (Sunnyland)
- Sep 27-30 Shpshewana, IN (Waiting School)
- Oct 3-7 Saint Augustine, FL (First)
- Oct 10-14 Jacksonville, FL (Oak Hill)

RAEBURN, STEPHEN AND JANET

- Sep 9 Ypsilanti, MI (Evangelical Friends Church)
- Sep 28 Waterford, MI (Williams Lake)
- Nov 4-6 Shelby Township, MI (Orchard Ridge)

SHANK, MARLA

- Sep 2 Kansas City, MO (Water's Edge)

SHAVER, CHIC

- Sep 22-29 South Weymouth, MA
- Oct 13-17 Portland, MI
- Oct 20-24 Lisbon, OH
- Nov 3-7 Bedford, IN (Valley Mission)
- Nov 10-14 Mount Vernon, IN (Point Township)

ULMET, BILL (T)

- Aug 31-Sep 3 Indian Lake, MI (Homecoming Camp Meeting)
- Sep 6-8 Tullahoma, TN
- Sep 9-12 Kankakee, IL (Limestone Community)
- Sep 16-19 Goose Creek, SC (Calvary)
- Sep 23-26 Kankakee, IL (Limestone Community)
- Sep 30-Oct 3 Menomonie, WI
- Oct 5-7 Nicholasville, KY (Grace Community)
- Oct 28-31 Lansing, MI (Waverly)
- Nov 4-7 Buchanan, MI
- Nov 11-18 Houston, MS (Pearson Chapel)

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 (T) Tenured Evangelist is recognized by the church as a lifetime assignment. See Manual 407.3

AMERICAN IDOLS

BY Dr. Tom Hermiz



Over the last ten years, "American Idol" has been one of the most popular programs on television. One year, 38.1 million people watched the season finale. It has taken virtually unknown people and sky rocketed them to celebrity status overnight. It serves as a compelling reminder that we are all going to worship someone or something. Whom do you worship?

The first commandment given to Moses was, "You shall have no other gods before me." (Deut. 5:7) When God created us he put within us the need and the capacity for just one God. Jesus made it clear when he said, "No man can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Mt. 6:24)

The reality is, God will not share the throne of your heart with you, or any other person or thing. He must be the supreme affection of your heart. When Jesus was asked, "What is the greatest commandment in the law," He responded, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment." (Mt. 22:37) If you truly love God you will not allow anything or anyone to divide your love and loyalty for Him.

Tragically, we live in a day when even professing Christians demonstrate divided affections. Our gods today are financial security, sex, power and pleasure. Some worship at the thrones of NFL football, celebrities, wealth and hobbies. At times I have been stunned to find parents more concerned about the popularity and secular achievements of their children than they are about their relationship with the Lord. Anything in our lives that takes priority over God and His will is an idol. Even legitimate things such as our spouse and children must be surrendered to God.

Much of the spiritual mediocrity we see today can be attributed to the fact that many have compartmentalized their lives. They completely separate their relationship with the Lord from all other aspects of their lives. They attempt to put God in a box and only allow Him out for a few hours on Sunday or when they are in distress. God calls us to a place of absolute surrender. We must give Him control over every area of our lives. We surrender to Him our time, talent and treasures. He must be Lord of all, or he won't be Lord at all.

When we break this command, we succumb to idolatry. You cannot serve two gods. Your attempt to do so only leads to spiritual and emotional destruction. Whom do you serve? Where do you bow down and worship? What or who dominates your life and love?

You can only serve one god. Let God be God! Give Him your undivided love and loyalty.

The old chorus is true, "Let go and let God have His wonderful way. Your burdens will vanish, your night turn to day; let go and let God have His way." He made us for Himself. Therefore, the only way to find true fulfillment and peace is to allow Him to be your one and only God. God said, "You shall have no other gods before me." ★

Dr. Tom Hermiz is recognized as one of the leading holiness preachers in the Wesleyan tradition. For 22 years he served as the president of World Gospel Mission and now is the General Superintendent of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union. His home is in Circleville, Ohio. www.tomhermiz.com.



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A University with an Altar

I'll never forget
this place because it was here, kneeling beside an old wooden chair, that I said 'yes' to God's will for my life. A lot has changed around here — but a few things haven't.

What God did
in my life is as real today as it was nearly 40 years ago. And you know what else hasn't changed? This place called Olivet is still all about transforming lives. If I were the president around here, I'd call this place 'Olivet Nazarene University: the University with an altar!'

-Excerpts from comments made by evangelist Chuck Milhuff '60 on a recent visit to Olivet



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