

THE EVANGELISTS' *Perspective*

WINTER 2010



Evangelist
**BOB
HOOTS**
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



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Rev. Duane Smith



Dr. Gary Haines



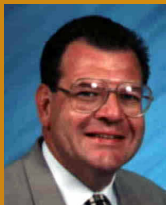
Gary Bond



THE COMMITTEE ON THE INTERESTS OF THE "GOD CALLED EVANGELIST"



Rev. Larry Leckrone



Dr. Marc Royer



Rev. Tim Hancock

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor **Gary Bond**
Managing Editor **Don Gessner**

ART

Graphic Designer **Eric Gessner**
Consulting Art Firm **Matrix 49 LLC**

PRODUCTION

Director **Don Gessner**
Production Coordinator **Eric Gessner**

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

W. E. McCumber, Dr. Nelson Perdue, J.
Dean Pickett, Dr. Richard S. Taylor

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FROM THE EDITOR

One of the highlights of my week is when my wife and I can go out to a nice restaurant for an evening meal. Last week we went to one of our favorite local establishments. Our waitress was very young and was trying to do her best to serve us. She did an excellent job and eventually brought us the check. She explained that we would notice a ten percent reduction in the total. I guess I must have had a brain freeze so I asked her, "Why?" Her response was refreshing to me, "Well because...because... well." I helped her out when I said, "Because I'm old?" With a look of shock she finally said, "Yeah." We had a good laugh and she explained that I was eligible for the "golden apple" discount. I tipped her a little extra for her honesty.

Last fall I was holding a revival meeting in the Indianapolis area. In one particular service we had some testimonies interspersed with special music. One mature saintly gentleman asked sincerely and in good humor, "Why are all the evangelists we have here so old? Don't we have any young evangelists coming on?" We all had a good laugh again and I tried to address his question. I have been a Nazarene evangelist for over forty years and I am getting older. I'm still having the time of my life traveling, singing, and preaching. I think I'm still in fair condition. I don't have to preach sitting in a

high chair and be constantly hydrating myself via a water bottle like some preachers much younger than I am. I can still stay awake for every service in the three a day non-air conditioned camp meetings in the South. Oh well, back to my response to the question, "Don't we have any young evangelists coming on?"



Thankfully, the answer is yes, we do! Dr. Stephen Manley has mentored young evangelists for many years. Jeremiah Bolich is one great example of that mentoring program. I had the privilege of ministering with him at the Northeast Indiana camp meeting a few years ago. Unless we evangelists can minister together

in some larger venues it is very difficult for us to get to experience new ministries and ministers. I continue to hear great reports of Rev. Bolich's ministries in revivals, camp meetings, and teaching seminars.

Rev. Scott Ferguson is a very talented and enthusiastic song evangelist and preaching evangelist. Nelson Perdue and I were blessed to work with Scott recently at Hendersonville camp meeting



in North Carolina. He and his family are making an impact for the Kingdom as they travel together as Ferguson Family Ministries. Scott comes highly recommended by his district superintendent, Dr.

J. Mark Barnes, "Rev. Scott Ferguson is a called evangelist who has a burning passion for souls. He is an inspiring preacher of the Word. He is also a talented vocal and keyboard artist. Scott and his wife Holly are a team devoted to the Lord, to each other, and to Scotty, their young son."

Evangelist Mark Murphy informed me recently of another young evangelist and singer by the name of Corey Clark. Corey grew up in a Nazarene parsonage and as a younger man was one of the nation's top quizzers. He is presently attending Indiana Wesleyan University and holds a local preacher's license on the Northeast Indiana District. Rev. Murphy says, "Corey is a gifted musician

and singer." That is a solid recommendation coming from another gifted musician. Corey's district superintendent, Dr. David Roland has shared with me that Corey will be pursuing a district license and the registered evangelist credential. You can reach Corey online at www.coryclarkministries.org.



In future issues of the Evangelist's Perspective we will be introducing these young evangelists and singers to you. We have been receiving several letters and notes of appreciation for honoring some of our veteran evangelists and singers. These are the people I like to call, "Lifers." We will continue to honor those who have given a life time of service in the field of evangelism and revivalism. I believe I can speak for the "Lifers" and say that we are blessed to see young evangelists and singers coming on. I have one closing comment to those who are coming on: Before you know it they will be offering you the "golden apple discount." ★

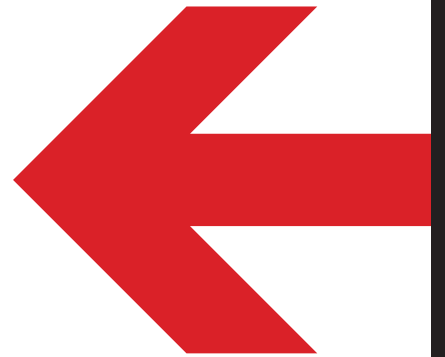
Gary Bond, Executive Editor





Well done thou good and faithful servant.

- Matthew 25:21



The Reverend Dr. Bob Hoots

It was time for the annual revival at the Beech Bottom Methodist Church in the hills of Kentucky. As a barefoot boy, with mud between my toes, without a shirt on, I made my way to the altar and the glorious transformation took place. Seventy years later, the anchor still holds.

I made my first trip to town just after this. It was a thrill for me to see my first electric light, first running water, and first gravel road. My dad and I rode a mule and it was an all-day trip. Shortly after this experience, my school teacher took me home with her to visit a Nazarene church. This

was the service where I was sanctified wholly. Glory to God! Later, I would be the first Hoots to attend high school.

While in college, my district superintendent, Dr. L. T. Wells called me asking if I would consider going to the Highway Nazarene Church in Kentucky. He said, "Bob, let me know if the church should be closed or if we should try to keep the doors open." The church was one of the first Pentecostal Nazarene churches in America. I was 19 years old and had six years of wonderful ministry at this church. It was here that I met my wife, Peggy Gibson. Today she is more beautiful than ever. I could not have had the

wonderful ministry that God gave me if she had not stayed home and prayed and taken care of the children. It has been a beautiful journey. I love my Lord, my family, and my church more every day!

In my lifetime I have spoken for over two thousand revivals, camp meetings, preachers meetings, lay retreats, holiness conventions, city-wide meetings, and college revivals. I am often referred to as, "Mr. Camp meeting" and the "modern-day Uncle Bud Robinson."

In 1985, I had a near-death experience and went 18 minutes without a heart beat. The story of this beautiful

experience has touched thousands and has been shared around the world. Several times, my experience was told on the radio program "Focus on the Family" as well as on other radio stations, television stations, and newspapers.

I began preaching at the age of 13, but my first revival was at the age of 15 at Jones Chapel Methodist Church in Cumberland County, Kentucky. The following is an article from the local newspaper.

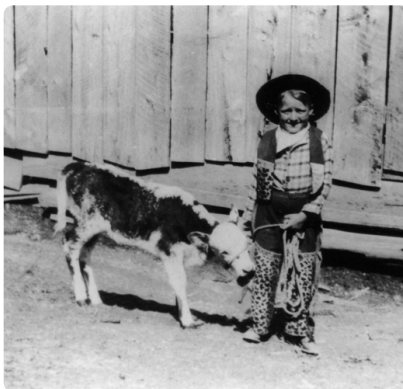
A Little Child Shall Lead Them

Truly the above prophecy is being fulfilled today in the life of 15 year old Bobby Hoots, who has been preaching for the past two years, having started when he was only 13 years old.

He just closed his first revival meeting Sunday night with Reverend Witt Baker in Cumberland Count. Bobby preached every night and some of the day services. The house was full every night from the start and on several nights, people had to be turned away. People came from as far away as Columbia, Albany, Glasgow, Marrowbone, and one night from Nashville, Tennessee. People were there most every night from Burkesville, a distance of 12 miles and almost every service there were seekers at the altar. It was remarkable to see the way the people listened to this boy preacher and they way they cooperated. Most agreed it was the greatest revival they had seen in years.

The power of the Lord is surely with him as no boy of 15 could do the things himself that Bobby does. He can truly be called, "The Kentucky Wonder Boy Preacher."

On May 9, 1988, Trevecca University honored me with a doctorate. Here are some of the letters from members of my family. The one I treasure most is from my mom.



Bob,
It made me happy to see you walk up on the stage and accept your doctorate degree, for I knew no one on earth was more deserving than you. I know how you had driven through rain and snow, being so tired you could hardly drive another mile. You could smile and be jolly and lift someone else's spirit. I love you for all you have done for me - little things - but they are the ones that count. There were big things, too, like taking me into your home when I was sick and had nowhere else to go. Most of all, Bob, I love you for the work you have done for the Lord, helping people find him precious to their never dying souls.....young people, old people, all ages. That Doctorate Degree is going to look mighty small when you get to Heaven and God himself hands you His reward! We will celebrate together! Keep up the good work. I love you more than you will ever know.

-Mom

Dearest Bob,
How proud I was of you today. You were so handsome when Dr. Adams called your name and you walked across to get your diploma. You are very deserving of this honor. I would know more than anyone about all the long hours that has gone into this. The prayers.....tears.....reading.....miles of travel.....sleepless nights.....and days of separation from your family! Bob, you didn't get here over night. It took years to get where you are today. God has been so good to you and has been with you every mile.

- Peggy

Dad,
You will never know how I felt when you received your Doctorate. The pride I felt to know that was my Dad everyone was honoring. They couldn't have picked anyone more deserving than you. You have definitely dedicated yourself and your life to God and His people. I used to be jealous of that fact, but now I have (continued on next page)

grown up and I am very proud of what you stand for! Dr. Bob Hoots! Doesn't that sound good? I don't know.....Dad still sounds great to me! Congratulations and I love you!

- Miriam

*Dad,
As a daughter, I have always been and always will be super proud of my father! I have watched across the years as you drove away to your meeting, many times with tears in your eyes. I will always appreciate those who were kind to you, and loved you when we couldn't*

be there. I will always be thankful for everything my Mother did at home to make your ministry possible. It didn't take long to figure out the secret to your ministry. You loved people! Being an evangelist is a difficult call to have, and even more difficult to answer. Through all the trials, the joys, sorrows and victory, quitting was never an option. Your call never wavered and He loved you in return. Yours has always been and continues to be a life of service that will live on forever! I Love you!

- Lydia

Let me say a few closing words to the young evangelists. You are blessed!!! There is no higher calling! Be sure you are God called. In tough times you can be positive. My income in my first full year was \$1700.00 but I never looked back. Stay close to your family. Spend all the time with them that you can. Keep a good relationship with your local church and district. Read a lot, especially books on the deeper life. Cultivate your prayer life daily. Keep a good spirit! Learn from others!

Dr. Bob Hoots, Evangelist ★

....He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. Colossians 4:7 NIV

I've worked with Bob Hoots in local church revivals and various district camp meetings down through the years. His unique style of conversational preaching made me laugh and cry in the same story. Then suddenly, Truth touched my heart with surgical precision as the Holy Spirit molded the message around my need along with many others in the same service. He has been the "people's evangelist"; and as he shared the miracle of life given back, immeasurable faith has been renewed.

Larry Leckrone
Tenured Evangelist

My first contact with evangelist Bob Hoots was not as a preacher at all--but as a father/grandfather. I was a nervous, young pastor on the Northeastern Indiana District coming to my first district assembly. I hadn't met Bob and didn't even know what he looked like. While checking into our hotel Bob and his wife were in the lobby. When my wife carried in my 8-month-old son, Bob lit up! He asked to hold young Mark and the light in his eyes was that of a father/grandfather/Spirit-filled man. The Post-Script to this

little story is the series of messages he preached at the district camp meeting in Kokomo, Indiana that year on Judas Iscariot was life-changing.

Marc Royer
Pastor/Author

Dr. Hoots has to be one of the most effective communicators of the Gospel that God has ever called. Only heaven will reveal the thousands of lives that he has impacted for Christ and the Kingdom. It is truly a privilege and honor to be his friend, brother, and colleague in the evangelistic field in the Church of the Nazarene for 35 years. Love you "Hoots"!

Gary Haines
Tenured Evangelist

I first met Bob Hoots in the 1970's when he came to Trevecca Nazarene University to preach in chapel. Over the years, Bob has been a friend and faithful God-called evangelist. Bob's compassion and understanding of people and sense of humor shows through as he relates biblical truth to contemporary issues.

Duane Smith
Tenured Evangelist

I have fond memories of Evangelist Bob Hoots. For most of my life he has been considered one of the premier

evangelists in the Church of the Nazarene. It has been my privilege to sit under his ministry and be blessed by his message.

Tim Hancock
Tenured Evangelist

Bob Hoots is a modern-day Will Rogers/Bud Robinson. Few evangelists have so endeared themselves to the Church through their anointed preaching, real-life stories, and generous spirit. Bob is one of a kind and God has most certainly used him to bring renewal in local churches over the years.

J.K. Warrick
General Superintendent

It has been my privilege over the past 25 years to be with evangelist Bob Hoots on numerous occasions in camp meetings and local church revivals. Rev. Hoots' message has always been clear and concise when it came to heart holiness. He has served our church with a heart of love, and with his quick wit and great sense of humor he has made most of us a lot happier!

Stan Toler
General Superintendent

I have known and loved Bob Hoots since the early 1970's. His passion



for Christ, his love of the holiness message, and his unique ability to connect with people have made him a great evangelist. Since those days in East Kentucky, I have invited him to come to every church where I have served as pastor. He has always been God's instrument for revival. I love him deeply!

Jesse C. Middendorf
General Superintendent

We praise the Lord for Rev. Bob Hoots' singular life-long passion for Christ and for the Kingdom! We celebrate the precious eternal fruit the Lord has granted him over the years!

Jerry Porter
General Superintendent

Our family loves Bob Hoots. Bob is more than an evangelist. He is the embodiment of the Spirit of Christ. His gentle, compassionate spirit and his deep love for people make everyone from young to old feel special. His warm heart, sense of humor, and tears of joy draw people to Jesus. I am so thankful that God has given Bob Hoots to the Church of the Nazarene.

David Graves
General Superintendent

Dr. Bob Hoots is a God-called evangelist who balances effective skills in preaching, relationships, communication, and evangelism across generations and cultures. Bob's ministry blesses the Church, and, it blesses me personally.

Nina G. Gunter
General Superintendent Emerita

Anyone who has ever heard Bob Hoots preach will never forget him. From his brilliant eyes, to his huge smile, to his tears while preaching, to his incredible humor, to his instant rapport with people of all ages~Bob Hoots is a God anointed evangelist. He is another one of God's special gifts to the Church of the Nazarene!

James H. Diehl
General Superintendent Emeritus

Bob Hoots proclaims a powerful gospel message that touches the heart of all audiences, both sophisticated and unsophisticated. Bob is the Bud Robinson of our generation--and as with Uncle Bud, to know him is to love him.

William Greathouse
General Superintendent Emeritus

Bob is a unique and highly favored evangelist, a friend of many years. He was especially close to my brother Denny Owens. Bob's great sense of humor, but passionate preaching, not only endeared himself to the Church of the Nazarene, but God gave this anointed evangelist a harvest of new creatures in Christ Jesus. His presentation of Christian Holiness was both winsome and urgent. Our Lord appears to have given him a glimpse beyond this vale in a wonderful experience, but allowed him to live and work among us to enrich the Kingdom of God. How could anyone not love and appreciate Bob Hoots!

Don Owens
General Superintendent Emeritus

Bob's sanctified humor makes the Bible come alive for everyone who hears him preach. There is only one Bob Hoots -- thank God for giving him to the thousands of us he has pointed to Jesus.

Eugene Stowe
General Superintendent Emeritus

Bob Hoots has distinguished himself as one of our most powerfully effective evangelists. He is wonderfully winsome, uniquely gifted, and an incomparable communicator. Most importantly, he is Spirit-filled and his ministry has been Spirit-anointed.

Jim Bond
General Superintendent Emeritus

Bob Hoots is an experience! Our congregation at Olathe College Church loved Bob's preaching. Lives were changed, and Christ was exalted. He communicated in a powerful,

unforgettable, and loving way. What a great friend!

Paul G. Cunningham
General Superintendent Emeritus

Throughout my ministerial journey I have been privileged to be connected with and impacted by gifted persons called and committed to full time evangelism. In my days as pastor and district superintendent I recall the presence and awesome influence of my brother, Bob Hoots. Whether in Oklahoma, Mississippi or Tennessee in the local church, district tours or camp meetings he demonstrated sensitivity to the Spirit and communicated the holiness message with conviction and compassion. Today, Dr. Bob Hoots continues to stand tall as a man of God gifted to draw people to the Giver of hope and life.

W. Talmadge Johnson
General Superintendent Emeritus

Bob Hoots and Bud Robinson are arguably the most legendary and beloved evangelists in the history of the Church of the Nazarene. It has been my great pleasure to be the co-preacher with Bob in several camp meetings. He is a masterful Christian humorist and exemplar evangelist.

G. Stuart McWhirter
Evangelist

I'm so glad Bob was willing to give up being a cowboy to become one of our Lord's most effective messengers of the gospel.

Gary Bond
Evangelist



KEEP OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN IN YOUR PRAYERS



Christmas Dinner at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

When you sit down with your family for Christmas dinner, be sure to pray for our service men and women who cannot be at home with their families. Most of them will not enjoy the comforts of an air base like this one. Every one of them deserves a great meal and a safe place to relax. Let's pray for the day to come when they all can come home to stay.

The Christ of Christmas makes this scene possible. When the scripture says, "repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38) it does not restrict means or method. These soldiers decided that a bucket from a front end loader in the desert would make a great baptistry. Pray for our chaplains who still preach the Gospel. I have a feeling that our Lord had to smile at this scene.





The Jesus of Mark's Gospel

Mark presents Jesus as more of a doer than a talker. In Mark's gospel, Jesus is always going somewhere, always doing something that keeps the pot stirred, something that leaves his enemies seething and his friends staring in wonder. In a Bible that has the words of Jesus printed in red ink, this is readily apparent. Mark's intention and interest congeal in the little Greek word *kai* that we translate "and." He uses it constantly, as he tells you what Jesus did and rushes on to the Lord's next revealing action.

Mark's selection of material and his style of writing reflect his purpose: to tell action-oriented Romans about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He takes no time and uses no ink to tell us about Jesus as an infant or as a boy growing toward manhood. He introduces Jesus as a man, fresh from a carpenter's shop, and now on dusty roads of an itinerant ministry that will be briefly and painfully interrupted by his death on the cross. The Jesus that Mark presents will prove to be a friend of sinners, a tutor of inquirers, a healer of the sick, and a conqueror of death. He will leave multitudes with bulging eyes and gaping mouths because of the company he keeps, the enemies he makes, and the miracles he performs. Jesus, man of action, contending with and prevailing over the dark forces of sin, suffering and sorrow. Jesus "the son

of God," as the opening verse calls him, is the Jesus of Mark's gospel.

Jesus opens the gates of his kingdom to the least and the last, to the best and the worst. He commands all men; He courts no man, not even one who is young, wealthy and earnest (10:17-22). He forms a small cadre of helpers, and the first of them are simple, hardworking, commercial fishermen (1:14-20). They receive on the job training, as they travel, work, and eat with him. They watch and listen and believe, and their conclusion about him is pressed into a brief confession: "You are the Christ" (8:29). He was the Messiah, the one anointed by God to save Israel, the one destined to occupy the throne of David forever. Titles given to him in this Gospel are few but powerful: "Son of Man," "teacher," and "prophet." They mark him as more than a man, more even than a man of God; He is the God-man.

A common mistake about the long-awaited Messiah prompted a muting of the title. The multitudes expected a messiah whose mission would be defined by the restoration of Israel's political independence and influence. Several times the beneficiaries of Jesus' power are commanded to keep their healing quiet (e.g. 3:11-12; 7:36-37; 9:9-10). Only in a Gentile-dominated region, where messiah was not expected, did Jesus say, "Go...and tell..." These instances of forbidden testimony provide what

scholars call "the secrecy motif" in Mark's gospel. Human nature trumped the divine command; however, and as a consequence, messianic-fever spread and provided the enemies of Jesus with the charge they would issue in his crucifixion – He was labeled a rebel against Rome. Jesus was indeed a revolutionary and a reformer, but he had nothing to do with yanking earthly monarchs from their thrones and replacing them with politicians of His own choosing. He reshaped men from within, bringing God-life to the center of their being.

Mark would meet today's denial of miracles with raised eyebrows. His Jesus calmed a storm on Lake Galilee, commanding winds to hush and waves to relax (4:37-41). Such miracles raised a storm in the hearts and heads of his enemies, and they plotted to rid the earth of Him who was its maker.

This Jesus of Mark's gospel was mightier than demons, diseases, and death, as the miracles lumped together in chapter five demonstrate. He was the enemy of hunger and provided history's strangest and most exciting picnic by multiplying bread and fish from a boy's lunch, until thousands were fed. He even walked on water, as though it were a roadway (6:30-51).

Frightened by the authority figures that Jesus

(continued on page 19)

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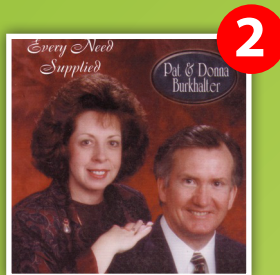
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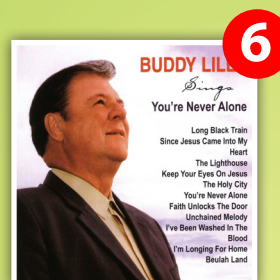
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828-369-8198

www.roachevangelisticministries.org

barbararoach@gmail.com



You're Never Alone

By Buddy Liles

Long Black Train, Since Jesus Came Into My Heart, The Lighthouse, Keep Your Eyes on Jesus, The Holy City, You're Never Alone, Faith Unlocks the Door, Unchained Melody, I've Been Washed in the Blood, I'm Longing for Home, Beulah Land

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Fires of Revival

As a child I grew up in the parsonage and spent a lot of time in revivals. We often kept the evangelist and his wife in our home which was always a great experience. I have been a pastor for over thirty-eight years and I have called evangelists to every one of my churches. It has always been a joy to work with them and see God work in and through their ministries.

In September of this year our church scheduled a revival meeting with evangelist Nelson Perdue. We asked our people to pray and to participate in a forty day fast in preparation for the revival. They would fast whatever God laid on their hearts. God responded to our praying and

BY PASTOR J. DEAN PICKETT



fasting and many found spiritual help during the services and especially at the altar time. I appreciated the evangelist's leadership as he endeavored to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. I believe the Psalmist

put it well when he wrote, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" (Psalms 85:6 NIV).

Some time ago I came across the words of former general superintendent James B. Chapman. The words come from a portion of the powerful message, All out for Souls.

"Brethren, I was born in the fire, and cannot endure the smoke. I am a child of the bright daylight, and mist and fogs and depressing gloom are not to my liking. I want to go all out for souls. The revival I seek is not the product of the labors of some personality-plus evangelist. Such a revival is too detached and impersonal to meet my needs or to answer my prayers. I want that kind of revival that comes in spite of the singing, the preaching, the testimonies, and the human attractions and detractions. I want that kind of revival because it takes that kind to really revive me."

I want a revival that, like a summer shower, will purify the atmosphere of our churches everywhere, and which will awaken the dormant forces of our people young and old. I want something so general and so divine that it will be uncontrollable. I want something that will re-emphasize old-time moral and spiritual conditions. Something that will reform and regenerate drunkards and save respectable worldlings. Something that will bring in the youth and the little children. Something so attractive that it will break over into the circles of the pleasure loving. Something that will set people on

their back tracks to make restitution for wrongs committed. Something that will bring God to bear upon our domestic problems to save our people from the twin evils of divorce and race suicide. Something that will inject old-time honesty, veracity, purity, and other-world-mindedness into our preachers and people. Something that will make this namby-pamby, soft-handed, compromising, cringing sort of holiness as obsolete as Phariseeism was on the Day of Pentecost. Something that reveals a man's credentials by means of souls saved and sanctified and established in Christ Jesus.

(The entire address, "All Out For Souls" can be downloaded from the internet at - http://www.nazarenepreacher.com/documents/doc_details/8)

(Editors note: Dr. Edward S. Lawlor, secretary, Department of Evangelism said, "I see him now as he laid his head on the pulpit at old First Church, Kansas City, Missouri, on that ninth day of January, 1946 and sobbed from a broken heart, 'Souls, souls, all out for souls!' This sob was not only the wail of an impassioned heart; it was the theme of an address which is both timeless and timely.")

Today, some people feel that revivals are just a part of the 'good old days.' I personally feel that I still need that kind of revival and I believe the Church does, too. ★

*Pastor J. Dean Pickett,
First Church of the Nazarene,
St. Joseph, MI*

Revival of the Decade

I'm in my third revival in succession (Olivet Nazarene University, Nashville Grace, and Des Moines Eastside) but the "revival of the decade" was at Olivet. I realize the students are required to attend chapel services but not the evening services in College Church. On Monday night there were 1001 present, Tuesday about the same, and Wednesday with chairs in every aisle and chairs out in the foyer.....there is no way to know the attendance. Unbelievable.

And they flooded the altars both morning & evening in all chapels/ services. Then (in the evenings) they wouldn't go home! Such a scene of praying, singing, soaking up the Spirit, etc.! I haven't seen anything like it in 10 years or more. All I can do is rejoice and thank God!

- Dr. James Diehl, General Superintendent Emeritus



The way I like to describe what has been happening around here is that our students are leaning in to the things of God. We have a history of having revivals every fall and spring, and there is always a unique visitation of God's spirit in all of them. What I think was different this year was a combination of Dr. Diehl being Dr. Diehl, and our students willingness to lean in to hear what God was saying to them through him. God was not just present, he was close, and we thank Him for the work that He continues to do in the lives of our students, and on our campus. His spirit was at work on our campus the first two weeks of our semester as we prayed and prepared ourselves for the special time we set aside for revival, and He is continuing to work on our campus as was evidenced last Thursday, by our students sharing in an open mic time of testimonies. It was rich, meaningful, heartfelt, and an encouragement to everyone that was able to be a part.

- Mark Holcomb, University Chaplain

Revival services at Olivet are always refreshing and fruitful, but this fall God came in an unusual way! With overflow crowds in each of the services the Holy Spirit used the anointed and unique preaching of Dr. James

Diehl to call each of us to a deeper level of living and service through His power and presence! Each service was marked with a growing sense of anticipation. The altars overflowed and even aisle ways and pews and chairs were used as convenient places to seek and find God! In subsequent chapel services many have given public testimony to the work God did in their lives and in our midst as we purposefully set aside time for Him to work.

I might add the impact of these services reached far beyond our campus as hundreds of our alumni, friends, parents and pastors listened to services via live video streaming on our website. One of our Nazarene pastors from Northwest Wisconsin wrote saying.... "All we needed to get the full effect of the live stream was a cable adaptor in order to get the sound from the laptop to the church console. Thanks to our local Walmart, we got an inexpensive one, which brought a priceless series of services to us... live!"

I am as revived and enthused as anyone, since I was able to get it all from Sunday pm through chapels and Wednesday pm. God certainly used this humble servant and I felt deep inspiration from Dr. Diehl. I thought the closing service was a classic and timeless message of spiritual counsel and importance. I also felt the sense of revival as I had come to know it at Olivet where I found Christ as Savior and the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier. I came to Olivet at that time from a very different religious background and considerable spiritual formation. The altars of College Church are familiar to me as places where I worked through some deep issues... God is so kind."

- Brian Allen, Vice President for Institutional Advancement



After reading what Brian Allen wrote what more could I say! Let me add that I hope that each of our students might experience just such a *(continued on page 19)*

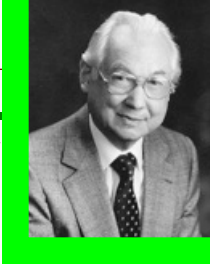


“In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil...” I John 3:10

Sin, as one doctrine of the Christian system, is the common denominator of the other doctrines. This statement was made to a young woman recently, and after a moment's hesitation she asked, "What do you mean by 'common denominator'?" It was explained to her that since the question of sin is so basically related to the nature of God and the plan of redemption, it is the one doctrine by which all others can be reduced to their simplest significance. Furthermore, it forms the surest and most logical measuring stick by which the accuracy of those doctrines can be detected.

The doctrines relating to sin form the center around which we build our entire theological system. This is true not only in Christendom but wherever people think of God or gods. Is it not evident that the fact of evil, with its resultant misery, pain, and death, engages the primary attention of all religion? Although some may seek a solution by denying sin's existence, still it can be safely asserted that every religion in the world is an attempt to harmonize human beings with God and the world about him by solving the problem of evil. And as Christians, if our conception of sin is faulty, our whole superstructure will be one error built on another, each one more absurd than the last, yet each one necessary if it is to fit in consistently with the whole erroneous scheme. If we are to end right we must begin right, and to begin right we must grapple with the question of sin in its doctrinal significance until we have grasped the scriptural facts relating to sin in all of its phases. We need to know exactly what sin is, of what kinds, how it acts, its effects, its relation to humanity, how it must be dealt with, and God's provision for it. When we arrive at a solemn appreciation of all of this, from the standpoint of scripture, we may proceed to build our system of theology with confidence, knowing that our conclusions will be based on correct premises.

Many, perhaps most, of the errors which have protruded themselves into Christian theology can be finally traced to a faulty conception of sin. Because someone's notions of sin were a bit off-base, their entire trend of reasoning was misdirected. The pilot of the night air transport, winging his ways over the rugged mountains, knows that the slightest drift from the course would be dangerous, for the slight drift



By Dr. Richard S. Taylor

Sin and Theology

would very quickly become a wide one. Perhaps it would prove disastrous. And a theologian's ideas of sin may have only slight error, seemingly innocent, but that is sufficient to cause distinct deviation in the line of thinking and as the system develops, carried out on the wings of human fancy, farther and farther from the truth. This can be more readily understood when we remember that for a religious system to gain any degree of acceptance among thinking people it at least must be consistent with itself. Thus one error leads to another, and so on, ad infinitum. To reason from a false premise is to start an endless chain of false conclusions. Therefore we say that one who does not have correct views of sin is not apt to have correct views of any other fundamental question. This will especially be manifest in regard to their theory of the atonement and God's method of redeeming human kind.

Suppose we imagine, for a moment, the building of a false doctrinal system. A theologian conceives an idea, a tenet. He or she clings to it tenaciously and loves it almost better than truth, because it is the child of his or her own brain. Soon he or she discovers that this "brain child" is not in harmony with the accepted, established doctrines of orthodoxy. Now, instead of carefully scrutinizing his or her own theory with a suspicious eye, endeavoring to ascertain the trouble with it, he or she proceeds to reconstruct the other connecting doctrines in order that they may be made consistent with the "brain child." This person knows that all the doctrines of the Christian faith have a direct bearing on each other, and are so closely interlocked that they form a unified system, a complete cycle of truth. Intellectually he or she knows that to tamper with one is to cripple the whole structure. Therefore, in order to justify and maintain this personal view he or she finds it necessary to reorganize and change the whole system. *(continued on page 19)*



Adams, David & Charlene	www.adamsvoice.net	Kittel, Grayling	www.146amministries.org
Adams, Michael	www.michaeladamsevangelism.com	Kumm, Murray	www.reviveus.ca
Armstrong, Leon	www.armstrongfamilyministries.org	Leckrone, Larry	www.leckroneministries.org
Arner, Brian	www.brianarnerministries.com	Leidy, Arnold	www.nazarene.ch/upwardcall
Baker, Judith	www.judithbakerministries.com	Liddell, PL	www.liddellministries.com
Birt, Alvin	www.clownsforhire.com	Liversage, Jerry	www.jerryliversageministries.org
Bolich, Jeremiah	www.jeremiahbolich.com	Manley, Stephen	www.crosstyle.org
Bond, Gary	www.bondministries.com	Meo, Rocky	www.rockmeoministries.com
Burkhalter, Pat & Donna	www.burkhalterministries.org	Millhuff, Chuck	www.millhuffministries.com
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Chapman, Jim	www.bigchap.org	Moore, Benjamin	www.interactiveministries.net
Covington, Nathan	www.lifemender.org	Moore, Norman	www.normanmooreministries.org
Davis, Scott & Sheila	www.sandsmusicministry.com	Murphy, Mark	www.murphyministries.com
Dell, Jimmy	www.jimmydell.org	Pearson, Rick	www.funson.com
Diehl, Robbie & Deb	www.dyno-might.org	Perdue, Nelson	www.perdueministries.com
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Downing, Ann	www.anndowning.com	Pettit, Elaine	www.elainepettitministries.org
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Flint, Bob	www.bobflintministries.com	Phelps, Phillip	philliphelpsministries.shutterfly.com
Fox, Jay David	www.jayfoxmusic.com	Phipps, Paul	www.phippsrevivalministries.com
Fox, Jeremy	www.adamsvoice.net	Pickering, Dean	www.pickeringministries.com
Freed, Dale	www.dalefreed.com	Raeburn, Steve & Janet	www.BigBlastMinistries.com
Fruehling, Robert	www.avivministries.org	Reed, Sherman	www.shermanreed.org
Gallimore, David	www.davidgallimore.com	Rittgers, Del	www.delrittgersministries.com
Gee, C. Eugene	www.familylobby.com/Gee/	Rushing, Tracy and Terri	www.therushings.org
Gessner, Don & Shirl	www.gessnerministries.com	Scrivner, Vickie	www.ihsministries.org
Goss, M. Mikki	www.mnjministries.org	Sharpe, Vance and Jeannie	www.thesharps.com
Gray, Bob & Becky	www.bobandbeckygray.faithweb.com	Shaver, Chic	www.drchicshaver.com
Greene, Carolyn	www.instepliving.com	Shelburne, Jeffrey	www.theshelburnes.com
Greenway, Kenneth	www.greenwayministries.com	Shellenberger, Susie	www.AmbassadorAgency.com
Haines, Gary	www.garyhaines.com	Showalter, Keith	www.showalterevangelism.com
Hancock, Tim	www.ncodistrict.org (click on Hancock link)	Smith, Duane	www.duanesmithministries.com
Hicks, John David	www.faithencounter.org	Tharp, James W.	www.crmin.org
Huddleston, Billy	www.billyhuddleston.com	Thompson, L. Alan	www.thompsonministries.com
Hughes, James R.	www.jimhughesministries.org	Ulmet, Bill	www.ulmetministries.com
Hutchison, Rick	www.barnabas-ministries.org	Vineyard, JoAnn	www.mnjministries.org
Jackson, Trish	www.gojetstream.net	Ward, Dale	www.freedomquest.org
Jones, Nicholas	www.crosstyle.org	Whitworth, Marcus	www.marcuswhitworth.com
Juneman, John	www.lifemessageinternational.org	Wetnight, Rick	www.RickWetnight.com
Kearce, Doug and Darla	www.wnaz4kids.org		

**ARNER, BRIAN**

Dec 3 San Antonio, TX
 (South Texas Dist Christmas Banquet)
 Dec 4 Sebring, FL (United Methodist)
 Dec 5 Leesburg, FL
 Dec 12 Griffin, GA
 Dec 19 Albany GA (Grace)
 Jan 9-16 Killeen, TX
 Jan 16 Lake Houston, TX
 Jan 23 Covington GA (LifePointe)
 Jan 30 Smyrna, GA

BOND, GARY (T)

Dec 5 - 8 Reading, MI
 Dec 13-15 Syracuse, IN
 (Evangelists' Gathering)
 Jan 16 - 19 Franklin, IN
 Jan 26 - 30 Richmond, IN
 (Indoor Camp)
 Feb 6 - 9 Apple Valley, CA
 Feb 13 - 16 Orlando, FL (Metro West)
 Feb 17 - 17 Lakeland FL
 (Holiness Camp)

BURKHALTER, G. (T)

Dec 1-5 Haltom City, TX
 Dec 13-15 Syracuse, IN
 (Evangelists' Gathering)
 Jan 26-30 Troup, TX (Martin's Chapel)
 Feb 2-6 Post, TX

COVINGTON, NATHAN (T)

Jan 16-19 Mesa, AZ (First)
 Jan 22-26 Ashland, KY (First)
 Feb 4-6 Orange, TX (First)
 Feb 13-16 Talihina, OK
 (Zone Camp Meeting)

DELL, JIMMY (T)

Dec 5-8 Sarasota, FL (Trinity)
 Feb 14 Phoenix, AZ
 (Valentine's Banquet)

FLINT, ROBERT

Dec 4-8 Paris, TX (First)
 Jan 6-20 Marysville, OH
 (Ministry Training Center)
 Jan 24-27 Findlay, OH
 (Winebrenner Seminary)
 Feb 3-17 Marysville, OH
 (Ministry Development Center)
 Feb 20-23 Mesquite, TX

GALLIMORE, DAVID

Dec 26 Jumping Branch, WV
 (Gospel Tabernacle)
 Dec 26 Oak Hill, WV
 Jan 23-26 Douglasville, GA (First)
 Jan 30-Feb 2 Savannah, GA (Harvest)
 Feb 17-27 Lakeland, FL
 (Florida Holiness Camp)

GESSNER, DON AND SHIRL

Dec 1-12 Newark, OH
 Dec 13-15 Syracuse, IN
 (Evangelists' Gathering)
 Dec 16-31 Newark, OH
 Jan 1-31 Newark, OH
 Feb 1-20 Newark, OH
 Feb 21-23 Louisville, KY
 (M11 Conference)
 Feb 24-27 Newark, OH

GREENWAY, KENNETH (T)

Nov 28-Dec 5 Concord, NC
 (Broadus Baptist)
 Dec 15-18 Granite Falls, NC
 (Rock Chapel Church of God)
 Jan 30-Feb 2 Waycross, GA
 (Faith Temple)
 Feb 6-9 Seagrove, NC
 (Mt. Zion Wesleyan)
 Feb 13-16 Tupelo, MS
 Feb 20-23 Alma, GA (Coffee Wesleyan)
 Feb 27-Mar 2 Charlotte, NC
 (First Wesleyan)

HAINES, GARY (T)

Dec 8-12 Freedom, IN (Community)
 Dec 13-15 Middlebury, IN
 (Evangelist Gathering)
 Jan 30-Feb 2 Apple Valley, CA

LACOMBE, CHARLES

Nov 28-Dec 1 Sebago, ME

NORRIS, WILLIAM

Dec 5-26 Punta Gorda, FL
 (Alligator Park Chapel)
 Jan 2-30 Punta Gorda, FL
 (Alligator Park Chapel)
 Feb 6-27 Punta Gorda, FL
 (Alligator Park Chapel)

PERDUE, NELSON (T)

Nov 28-Dec 1 Wrightsville, GA
 (Mount Olive)

PETTIT, BENJAMIN AND AMANDA

Dec 10-12 Archbold, OH
 (EPM Christmas Gathering)
 Dec 13-15 Syracuse, IN
 (Evangelists' Gathering)
 Feb 21-23 Louisville, KY
 (M11 Conference)

PETTIT, ELAINE (T)

Dec 1-5 Elmsdale, PE
 Dec 10-12 Archbold, OH
 (EPM Christmas Gathering)
 Dec 13-15 Syracuse, IN
 (Evangelists' Gathering)
 Feb 21-23 Louisville, KY
 (M11 Conference)

PETTIT, JEREMY

Dec 1-5 Elmsdale, PE
 Dec 10-12 Archbold, OH
 (EPM Christmas Gathering)
 Dec 13-15 Syracuse, IN
 (Evangelists' Gathering)
 Feb 21-23 Louisville, KY
 (M11 Conference)

SMITH, THOMAS (T)

Feb 13-16 Bradenton, FL (Bayshore)

SHELLENBERGER, SUSIE

Jan 9-12 Oak Harbor, WA (First)
 Jan 21-23 Lakeland, FL
 (Highland Park)
 Feb 4-6 West Columbia, SC
 Feb 11-13 Naples, FL
 Feb 18-20 Cincinnati, OH (Fairfield)
 Feb 25-27 Calera, AL
 (AL Dist Layman's Retreat)

ULMET, WILLIAM (T)

Nov 28-Dec 1 Pageland, SC
 (Rose Memorial)
 Dec 5-9 Buffalo, KY
 Dec 16-19 Mount Carmel, IL
 (Mount Carmel)
 Jan 14-16 Orangeburg, SC (First)
 Feb 19-23 Ottumwa, IA (Trinity)
 Feb 27-Mar 2 Des Moines, IA
 (Eastside)

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



SPEAK BOLDLY

BY DR. NELSON PERDUE

ACTS 4:31 Previous to being filled with the Holy Spirit the disciples were very timid, frightened and many fled when they saw what the political and religious institutions did to Jesus. However, those who followed Jesus' admonition to tarry until they were imbued with power from on high became firebrands for the Lord and spoke boldly.

Christians everywhere are called upon to be loyal witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ no matter the cost. As a movement, the holiness church must ever be faithful to Him who is "able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25, KJV). We believe that Jesus died not only to save the sinner but also to sanctify wholly the believer. We are called to proclaim the whole counsel of God, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17, KJV). We might just as well suppose that the sinner will be saved without the preaching of the Gospel as to suppose that the believer will be sanctified wholly without the preaching of Scriptural holiness. We who proclaim the holiness message recognize that we will face external opposition even as Jesus faced it while ministering on the earth. Aside from the fact that "this is the WILL of GOD, even your sanctification..." (1 Thes. 4:3, emphasis added, KJV), which alone should be impetus enough to seek, find, live and proclaim it as long as He lends us breath, there are other conditions that demand our faithfulness in speaking boldly concerning Scrip-

tural holiness as humanity's greatest need. I would like to suggest a few of those conditions.

The Condition of our World demands it.

Before his death Historian, Arnold Toynbee said in an interview with an ABC News correspondent that of the 19 major civilizations since the beginning of time only five remain. He spoke concerning our western civilization being one of the five remaining civilizations and warned that there are signs that the lights of our civilization are going out. He further stated that if we are to survive we must have a religious revival.

We are facing everything from war, with the clouds of threatening terrorism of nuclear proportions hanging very low, a prevailing anti-authoritarian spirit, immorality that has run amok, to our teetering on the edge of a global economic collapse. Men and women are trying to find a political, economical, moral and social solution but the underlying cause of the world's dilemma is a spiritual problem and can only be found in a true spiritual awakening. This modern chaos is simply the reflection of history's unending struggle between Satan and the Savior. It is a sin problem and holiness is the only antidote

Arthur Brisbane once said:

"We may sweep the world clean of militarism, we may scrub the world white of autocracy. We may carpet it with democracy, and drape it with the flags of republi-

canism. We may hang on the walls the thrilling pictures of freedom—here the signing of America’s independence, there the thrilling portrait of Joan of Arc, yonder the Magna Charta, and on this side the inspiring picture of Garibaldi. We may spend effort and energy to make the world a paradise itself, where the lion of capitalism can lie down with the proletariat lamb. But if we turn into that splendid room mankind with the same old heart, “deceitful” and “desperately wicked,” we may expect to clean house again not many days hence. What we need is a peace conference with the Prince of Peace. The Prince of Peace would not prescribe a new political ideology or economic system, but a new heart—not only regenerated but sanctified” (Preaching Holiness Today, Richard S. Taylor).

The Condition of the Church demands it.

In every age the conditions of the world reflect either the high tide or low tide its spirituality. World conditions speak loudly about the state of the Church. The masses have lost confidence in religion. The writer of Hebrews warned of the apostasy of the Church and we, in this modern day, need to heed that warning. The writer knew what was about to befall Jerusalem and was urging these young Christians whom he called ‘babes’ in Christ to move quickly to the ‘strong meat’ that belonged to those who are of full age. “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection” (Hebrews 6:1a, KJV). In proportion that the modern day Church has refused that admonition it has lost its moral authority to speak to needs of our world. As one has stated there are too many trying to do the work of a crucified Savior with an un-crucified heart.

We need a fresh baptism of His purifying presence to empower us for the task to which He has called us. We do not need, as the Athenians of Acts 17, “to hear some new things.” Christ is the answer to the need of every age. He is the Eternal Contemporary and as such He and His message are always relevant, and do not need me or anyone else to improve on it. He who told Nicodemus, “Ye must be born again,” (John 3:7, KJV), and with equal authority He taught, “Except a corn of wheat fall in the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit” (John 12: 24, KJV). When one experiences spiritual life from the new birth followed by an inner death to the ‘old man’ he or she is equipped with a burning and compassionate heart to proclaim the message of Scriptural holiness. It is a message that calls all of us to a life of Christ-likeness

and moral perfection. It is a standard of holiness that is impossible for human beings to reach apart from divine grace.

The Health of the Soul and the Hope of the Saint demands it.

I am reminded from my own personal testimony that unlike so many people who struggle with believing in a second work of grace, I coveted it and sought it and found it to be an experiential reality. I well recall the marvelous transformation that God performed in my heart and life when I experienced the new birth. When I opened the door of my heart to Him, His presence was so intimately real to me that it was as Revelation 3:20 says, we “supped with one another.” I wanted to do only that which was pleasing to the one to whom I owed my forgiveness. In less than four weeks I had an inward manifestation of something that was very much unlike Christ and I knew was displeasing to Him. My heart was broken and for the first time since my initial encounter with Him my soul became restless. I believed from that moment, having previously experienced such a transformation, that there had to be a provision in His efficacious blood to satisfy the crying need of my heart. I did not inquire of anyone but God concerning my heart condition, I didn’t debate with anyone else’s idea or theory. I was fully persuaded that the sacrifice that He made on Calvary was enough to not only reach the height of His demand on my life but it could also satisfy the depth of my hunger. While seeking a pure heart He came and sanctified me wholly and I have been praising Him ever since. It was then that I realized that no heart is healthy but a holy one. Holiness makes us healthy and whole.

Holiness is the only facet of the entire Christian system that began in the pristine paradise of Eden, it is the central part of God’s redemptive scheme, and when every other requirement of salvation (such as repentance, confession, consecration, crucifixion etc.) has served their purpose and shall one day cease to be necessary, holiness will be our one and only passport to heaven. The writer of Hebrews again reminds us to “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14, KJV).

Having suggested these few conditions that demand we proclaim second-blessing holiness as John Wesley taught. I understand why a sinful world would be opposed to such a doctrine as it runs counter to everything their sinful heart craves. *(continued on next page)*

This I understand because “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God” (I Cor. 2:14a, KJV).

What truly grieves me and I find most debilitating and insidious, is the internal reticence by many professing Christians and ministers to boldly proclaim Scriptural Holiness. Because many are uncertain about the position of the Church of the Nazarene concerning the provision and necessity of heart holiness they have become very ambiguous about declaring it. I fear that the oil of the Holy Spirit is running low in the vessel of the Church of the Nazarene as we near the time of His return.

Ralston, in his book entitled *The Elements of Divinity* said that holiness is the substratum of all of God’s attributes. You can trace all of the varied attributes of God back to His holiness and holiness is the very essence of His nature. Human beings were created in His image and were designed so that he would glorify his Creator by manifesting His essential nature of holiness. When sin entered the picture it ruined human kind organically and thereby functionally. Therefore any remedial and redemptive scheme that God provides must heal organically and fully restore him or her to his original function of glorifying a holy God. (*The Elements of Divinity*, by Thomas N. Ralston, copyright 1924, Cokesbury Press, Nashville, TN, page 31.)

This is the touchstone by which to test any and all doctrines purporting to be God’s plan of salvation. If holiness of heart and life is not the central purpose of redemption it will produce a distortion in the belief system and consequently in the practice of its adherents. The most subtle and devastating thing that the enemy does is to take some subordinate or peripheral belief and place it at the center. By so doing it not only perverts the subordinate belief it obscures the true provision that Christ provided in the efficacy of the cross. “Holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14, KJV) the crowning doctrine of redemption is relegated to the peripheral as worthy of only a passing thought.

When holiness, the central and universal element, is neglected or rejected, it swings the door wide open for the devil to enter with his soul damning delusions. The carnal mind becomes the fertile seedbed for all error and deception. It has been truly stated that many false religions are fully as dangerous for the truth they omit as for the errors they teach. In the final analysis, the real reason for the enthronement of outright error or mis-

placed truth is the unwillingness to put holiness where it rightly belongs.

There is an imputed holiness recorded in I Corinthians 1:30 (KJV) which says “But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” a divine provision for the ignorance, infirmities and mistakes of the Christian and non-Christian alike. There is also an imparted holiness, an actual personal experience through faith in Christ, in which the very God of peace sanctifies wholly the believer, cleansing his nature from all sin and filling him with the Holy Spirit.

The Scriptures teach that one is initially sanctified when born-again and required to walk in the light as He is in the light. The Holy Spirit will soon convict such a one of the experience of entire sanctification at which time if he obeys the will of God and walks in the light God will cleanse and sanctify him wholly. If, however, one dies before he has the light on entire sanctification God will take his obedient will for the deed and unconditionally make him every whit whole.

However if we assume that one could come to the judgment in an unsanctified condition and unfit to meet a holy God, we are driven to a blasphemous assertion that God the Father demanded holiness, that God the Son died to procure it, but God the Holy Spirit could not convey the message nor apply the remedy. Many who speak often of the Holy Spirit in His signs, wonders and manifestations dishonor Him most by rejecting His cleansing baptism administered by Jesus to the children of God.

Let us be careful to maintain Christian charity to those outside the holiness ranks; but if we are to survive and flourish as a holiness movement in this world we must hold to the truth of holiness as central to the whole redemptive scheme. It can be tested and tried by scripture, sane intelligence, experience and practice. “Holiness unto the Lord is our watch word and song.” (Holiness Unto the Lord words and music by Lelia N. Morris 1900.) ★

Dr. Nelson Perdue is a tenured evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene and former revivalism coordinator. He and his wife Barbara live in Urbana, Ohio. Dr. Perdue has published several books on holiness that are available through his website www.perdueministries.com

Sin and Theology CONTINUED

The person may begin at the center, with an erroneous idea of sin, and work outward until every doctrine has been warped by deadly falsehood. On the other hand he or she may begin at the circumference and work inward until sooner or later he or she is compelled to adopt new ideas of sin that will fit in with the rest of the heresy. Whether, however, he or she begins with sin and proceeds from there or commences from the outer circle, the doctrines relating to sin are central. They hold the others together. As expressed by H.V. Miller in The

Sin Problem, "The sin question is the pivotal question. Anything taught or preached which obscures the cruciality of sin becomes an enemy of the Cross of Christ." And to insist on correct views of sin is to make it impossible to stray very far from essential truth. ★

Source: A Right Conception of Sin, Richard S. Taylor Beacon Hill Press. Richard S. Taylor, NTS Professor Emeritus of Theology and Missions (1961 – 1977)

Revival of the Decade CONTINUED

revival during their four years here and I am so pleased with the fresh outpouring we experienced. Dr. Jim Diehl was at his best. He preached holiness messages that had our students "leaning in" to hear more. This meeting underscores the need and hunger for revival among the young. I pray that our churches will renew their interest in regular revivals. Many of our students had never experienced anything like this.

- Dr. John Bowling, President Olivet Nazarene University



The Jesus of Mark's Gospel CONTINUED

alienated, His own family said, "He is out of his mind" (3:21). He was constantly misunderstood by his disciples also. His kingdom was unlike any in the world. When His disciples lusted for VIP status in His kingdom, He rebuked them for having the mindset of pagan officials, and declared that in the kingdom of God the greatest must be the servant of all. He identified himself as a servant and a sacrifice who would rule as a ransom for sinners (10:35-45).

This Christ, who did nothing for Himself and everything for others, was betrayed, arrested, tried, tortured, and executed as a common criminal. From a garden where He prayed, He went to a cross where He died. There, the Servant offered his greatest service – He "gave his life as a ransom for many." The hardened legionnaire in charge of the crucifixion realized that the servant who died was "the Son of God" (15:39).

Pilate must have sighed in relief. The religious leaders who orchestrated his arrest and clamored for his execution must have thought, "Good riddance. He is gone and will be soon forgotten." But Jesus had one more miracle to perform, and it would happen in a tomb. He rose again. Women who came early to that tomb to anoint a silent corpse met instead a speaking angel. "He has risen! He is not here," said

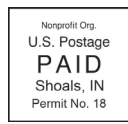
the messenger, and invited them to view the empty place and bear the glad news (16:1-7).

Peter, driven by fear, had vehemently denied Jesus, "I don't know this man." Though Peter disowned him, Jesus did not disown Peter. He sent the heartbroken and penitent failure a special message that implied forgiveness and restoration (16:7). That was why Jesus came, to pardon sinners at the cost of His given life, and to transform sinners by the power of His risen life.

Such is the Jesus of Mark's gospel, infinitely greater in love and power and wisdom than the Jesus manufactured by unbelieving "Christian" scholars. A greater Jesus than Mark proclaims has never been imagined or described. All deviations from this Jesus have lessened and falsified him. ★

W.E. McCumber has served the Church of the Nazarene for over 68 years as preacher, college professor, revivalist, conference speaker, radio speaker, writer and magazine editor. He has served as senior pastor of First Church in Gainesville, Ga. since 2004. Many of his books are available through various outlets, which include Nazarene Publishing House and Barnes and Noble. On Palm Sunday he celebrated the 68th anniversary of his first sermon.

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Church of the Nazarene
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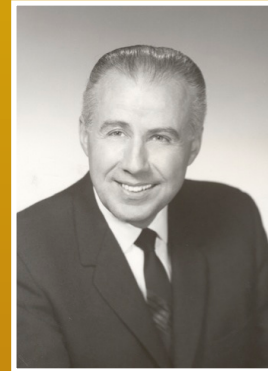


RECENT NEWS

Dr. C. William Fisher passed away on October 11, 2010, in California. Cards can be sent to his wife Marjorie at the address below:

Marjorie Fisher
1 Antigua Ct.
Coronado, CA 92118-3317

Please keep Marjorie and the family of Dr. Fisher in your prayers.



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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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