

# *herald*

OF HOLINESS

*Church of the Nazarene*

Outer Space and Inner Peace

(See page 9)



It takes faith to step into tomorrow

# The Timeless Word In a Changing World

**Given its rightful place, the Bible will refine and elevate living in all areas—domestic, social, national, and international . . . and besides all these, offers an inward peace**

RELIGION HAS taken the brunt of countless jokes in every age. The Bible has been slurred by scoffers through the centuries. And today we hear, "God is dead." But "the word of the Lord endureth for ever." In spite of all contradiction and negation the Bible remains the world's best seller, read by more people, quoted by more writers and speakers, and printed in more languages than any other book ever circulated.

This is not simply because it is the sacred Book of the Hebrew and Christian religions. It lives because of its own intrinsic value. It stands on its own merit. It is indestructible because in it is found the deathless quality of truth. It is not an accumulation of theories, codes, philosophies, and traditions of men. It is the dependable revelation of God, active in history and redemptive in His eternal purpose.

Men of today cherish the Bible as the Book of Books because in obeying its precepts and believing its promises they find fulfillment. Faith builds on the firm foundations in the Word which liveth and abideth forever. And that Word is quickened by the Eternal Spirit until it becomes a Lamp to man's feet and a Light unto his pathway.

TO THE REBELLIOUS and disobedient, the Bible is a sealed Book. Those who transgress its commandments think the religion of the Bible is a formal, meaningless system. The willing and obedient discover assurance of their faith, and their love for God's Word becomes strong and growing. From the Bible they learn to know the will of God for them; and in proving His good, acceptable, and

perfect will they find that fulfillment for which all normal persons so eagerly seek.

Given its rightful place in respectful usage and prayerful consideration, the Bible will refine and elevate living in all areas, domestic, social, national, and international. Serious reading of and meditation on God's Word begets obedience to the sixth commandment, "Honour thy father and mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." The word given

by St. Paul breeds family love and trust. He said, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Colossians 3:18-21). Acceptance of this guidance will put divorce courts and reformatories out of business.

THE TIMELESS message of God's Word points the way to social righteousness. Micah called for honest weights and measures and rebuked lying. He set a standard for all when he said, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8) Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength, but He added the second is like unto it: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." These two belong together: they complement each other. Furthermore, Jesus said, "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them." To leave no place for self-centered living the Master said, "Freely ye have received, freely give." And that there should be no room for doubt. He gave the parable of the Good Samaritan. These principles built into the fibre of mind and spirit in faith that worketh by love will rule out lying, stealing, covetousness, greed, all social uncleanness, and hypocrisy.

In national affairs, also, the Bible

## About This Issue . . .

**It has been more than a year since Major Edward White became the first American to "take a walk" in space (see cover). He did it confidently, something like we would walk around the block, because he lives under the dependable laws of God. One of Major White's space predecessors, Astronaut John Glenn, puts a deeper meaning on scientific venturing. He said after his historic space mission, "I saw God up there," and through this was referring to a higher law, and a greater power than the force which thrust him into space.**

**Learning about spiritual things gets its start through human beings. Sunday school, with its emphasis on Bible study, is a good example of this. We appreciate the help of Dr. Kenneth S. Rice, executive secretary of the Department of Church Schools, along with his staff, in developing this "special" edition. In the main, the news features are not about organizations, but of people who have discovered something dependable enough to use in stepping into their "tomorrows."—Managing Editor.**

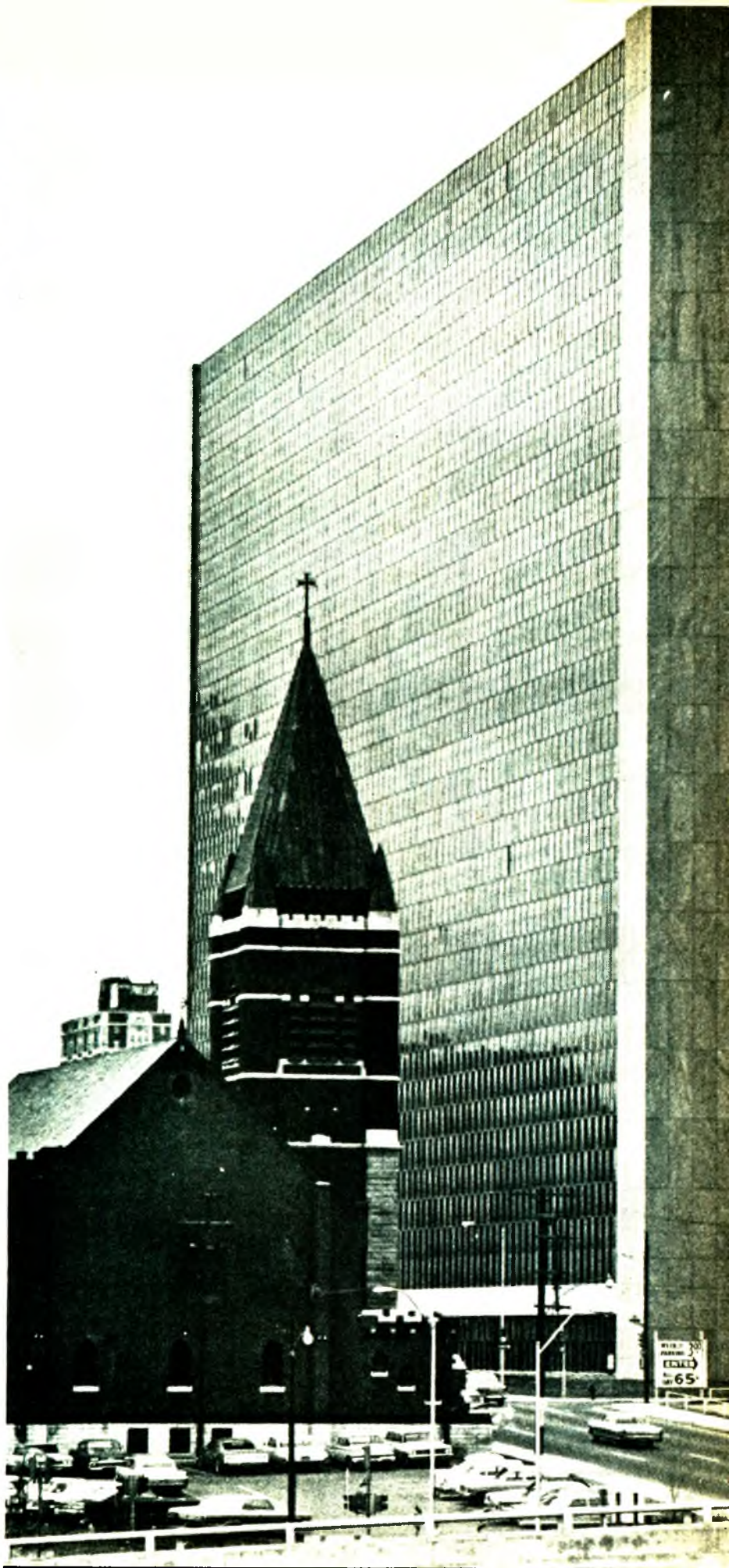
by  
General Superintendent  
G. B. Williams



offers guidelines that have permanent value. Let a nation build on and obey the Ten Commandments. Such "righteousness exalteth a nation." Let leaders take heed to Isaiah's woes of the fifth chapter of his prophecy. Woe—to the greedy who "join house to house" and "lay field to field"; to those who "follow strong drink"; "to them that call evil good, and good evil"; to them who "are wise in their own eyes"; and woe to them that "justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous." When this word is heeded, then God will keep His promise, "I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children" (Isaiah 60:25).

A NATION in such favor with God could lead all nations to prosperity, peace, and unity in purpose. "The work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever" (Isaiah 32:17).

Every person, family, community, or nation that will delight in God's Word and meditate therein day and night will discover stores of treasures beyond his ability to evaluate. There will be enrichment of vocabulary, elevation of speech in private and in public, diligent searching to purify motives, guiding principles for individual and group living, a right standard of values, transforming power, lofty aspirations. And besides all these things there will be inward peace that passeth understanding, and unspeakable joy in serving our neighbors for Christ's sake.



By **ROBERT L. OWEN**

## *He Taught*

"HONEY, HAVE you got time to read to me?" the rugged, denim-clad man asked across the table.  
"Arnold, I'd like to, but I've got work to do."

Disappointed, Arnold Buckner, a man in his late twenties, moved the supper dishes aside and opened his Book, and with a stubby, coal-begrimed finger traced one letter and then another. They meant nothing to him. They were only letters—not words. Suddenly his face brightened.

"Why don't I read the letters to you, and you tell me what the words are?"

Mrs. Buckner hid her smile, and agreed.

Letter by letter, word by word, Arnold Buckner began that night to learn to read. He was desperately hungry to read—not just anything—but God's Word. His wife was patient, and he was persistent. Within a year, Arnold Buckner could read the Bible as well as most of his neighbors.

**THE STORY BEGAN** when Rev. Ralph Lee became pastor of the Monterey, Tennessee, Church of the Nazarene in 1959. While visiting house to house that fall, Lee found the Buckners. Mrs. Buckner was clearly interested, so the Lees called in their home many times. Soon the Buckners invited the Lees to supper.

One Sunday night shortly thereafter Mrs. Buckner came to church. That night she accepted Christ as her Savior. A glorious scene!

Not until New Year's Eve, though, did Arnold make a move toward God. In fact, that night he

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## "New Life" Spurs Miner To Learn How to Read

# Himself—and 40 Fidgety Boys

pped inside a church for the first time in his life. He was twenty-seven years old. When the old year ended that night, the old Arnold Buckner died too. He ended the old year and the old life at the same time.

With his conversion, Buckner was thoroughly changed. He was new inside and out. So he must begin to build a new life for himself. One of his first acts was to set about learning to read God's Word. This wasn't easy. Born in the midst of the depression years, he had attended school for only two years, and that on a part-time basis. The only "education" he remembered was the ABC's and the ability to add and subtract.

Though Buckner's life became entirely new, he was still a coal miner. At five o'clock each morning he descended into the mines. That part didn't change. However, before his conversion Buckner would swap dirty stories and curse with the others. Now he told them how his life was changed and handed out Christian literature.

When the 3:00 p.m. whistle blew, Buckner took his Bible and headed for the church. There he and his pastor read and prayed for a couple of hours. Back home that evening with his wife, Arnold would then "read" his Bible until bedtime.

BY EARLY JANUARY a year later Arnold's reading ability and spiritual discernment had both improved. Rev. Ralph Lee was inspired to organize a new Sunday school class and appoint Arnold Buckner as teacher.

The pastor had been concerned that the church's few junior high students had been meeting with senior highs, simply because they had no teacher. Now God had proposed a solution. But Lee reminded himself that Buckner had been saved just a short time and could neither read nor write.

Besides," Lee said, "the only available space in the church is the old 'dungeon' room where we

used to store coal. And that room doesn't even have a window."

The impression persisted. Finally Lee said, "Yes, I'll ask him."

When Mr. Lee approached him about the class, Buckner said, "But, Brother Lee, I can't even read well. How can I teach?"

Nevertheless Buckner agreed to "give it a try."

And "try" he did. Within a year Buckner had enrolled thirty-four boys and was averaging twenty in attendance. When someone praised him for his work, Buckner said, "It isn't good enough. I wanted forty boys, and I've got only thirty-four."

Six months later Buckner had his forty squirming boys. They came from all kinds of homes—good and bad. One of those boys, now a senior in Monterey high school, feels called to the mission field. He was won to the Lord by a teacher who could hardly read or write.

The Buckners' three children have all been converted since their parents took the lead. Significantly, the last one is named Samuel—dedicated to the Lord by Pastor Lee.

From the moment of his appointment as a teacher, the challenge of going out to "bring them in" had gripped Buckner's heart. Many evenings—and every Saturday—he "beat the bushes" to find them, often turning down an opportunity for overtime pay in the mines to do it.

Sunday mornings he is up early to gather in his junior high class. He wore out one new car doing this, then bought a used car which he uses solely as his "Sunday school bus."

Rewards are the farthest thing from his mind, but meanwhile the Buckners have already received a "here-and-now" reward: one of their previously unmanageable boys feels God has called him to the ministry. To Arnold Buckner, this is reward enough.

"The act of the Catholic father  
told me how critical  
the boy's condition was"



# They Learned a New Hope

By **DICK EDWARDS** (a true account)

We had just returned from the airport. As Dot and I left the car to go into the house, we heard the telephone ringing inside. I hurriedly unlocked the front door. The persistence of the ringing told me the message was important.

"Mr. Edwards?" an anxious voice inquired. "The little boy next door was critically injured in an accident this afternoon and is in the hospital. They don't expect him to live. He has been attending your Sunday school and I knew you would want to know about it." I managed to keep her on the line long enough to get the name of the family and the address of the hospital to which they had gone.

As I hurried toward the hospital, I recalled the day I had knocked on the door of this home and asked where they attended church. The mother of five children told me that her husband was Catholic, but that the children were not attending Sunday school anywhere. She agreed that the children could come to our Sunday school if the bus would stop by to get them and bring them home. I met the mother a number of times after that when I stopped by on Saturdays to be sure the children would be ready for the bus the next morning, but I had never met the children's father.

At the hospital I paused just long enough to get the room number off the register and then took the stairs two at a time. The hall seemed longer than usual today. I had to restrain the impulse to run. As I entered the second door around the corner, I found a priest was already there giving the boy the last rites. I stood just inside the door until he had finished

his ritual and left. The boy's parents looked hopeless.

The mother introduced me to the father and told me about the accident. The boy had been playing with his brothers and some of the neighborhood children near the garage where a partially filled oil barrel rested precariously on a ledge. The vibration of the boys' activity was just enough to tip the balance of the drum and it fell on the boy's head, crushing him to the earth. One of the neighbors administered artificial respiration to return his breathing and he was rushed to the hospital.

The act of the Catholic father told me how critical the boy's condition was. I assured the mother that a group from the church would be praying for her son that night. And we did.

At the close of the service I returned to the hospital and found the parents alone with their son. I told them about our prayer and talked briefly about what we might do to help. When I suggested we pray, the father seemed disturbed, and understandably. The priest had already administered the last rites. But the mother reassured him and gave her consent.

I returned to the hospital early the next morning. The father saw me coming as I rounded the corner near the room, and rushed to meet me. He extended his hand and said, "Our boy is still alive. Thank you for praying." As we watched the boy recover during the next few weeks, his father and I became good friends.

More weeks passed before, on a Sunday morning, I saw the parents of the injured boy and his four brothers and sisters coming up the church sidewalk. I hurried to greet them. The parents were welcomed warmly by an adult group, and the children went to the classes they had been attending when they came on the bus.

Last Sunday they brought the injured boy, now only partially paralyzed, back to the Sunday school from which he had long been absent. How good he looked to all of us! As the parents expressed their appreciation for the church's prayers, there was such gratitude in their voices that it was difficult for us to hold back the tears.

Each of us wanted to say, "Thank You, God, for hearing prayer, applying a healing hand, and bringing a mother and dad along with the children to study Thy Word and worship Thee together as a family."



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Mark Hatfield, governor of Oregon since 1959, and active in the First Baptist Church in Salem, is best remembered by Americans for his nominating speech for Richard M. Nixon during the 1960 Republican Convention. Now serving his second term, the Governor appeared before the 1964 General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene in Portland, Oregon.



# *“Search the Scriptures”*

**By GOVERNOR MARK O. HATFIELD**

**“The first and almost the only book deserving of universal attention is the Bible. I speak as a man of the world and I say to you, ‘Search the Scriptures.’”—John Quincy Adams.**

THIS STRONG CALL to investigate the Scriptures is just as relevant today as the day it was spoken by this early leader and citizen.

The Bible is the greatest Textbook ever written. From its pages comes the most comprehensive instruction on good citizenship to be found anywhere.

The Apostle Paul said that the Scriptures were given for instruction in righteousness, and Solomon once stated that righteousness exalteth a nation. Right relationships with our fellowman, or good citizenship, are consequently directly related to searching the Scriptures.

IN A DAY OF increasing rebellion against time-honored principles, the disregard for law and order, and the abandonment of loyalty to our great country with its ideals of freedom which we cherish, the Bible stands as the Foundation of right loyalties and beliefs.

Our young men and women need the challenge, stability, and direction which God promises in this Book. Parents and our elderly citizens need the encouragement, consolation, and hope which ring clearly from its pages. All ages through the ages have been blessed by God’s revealing himself through these recorded acts. Most significant of all is the record of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Lord.

WHEN AN individual knows Him by faith, the Scriptures take on new meaning and become a practical necessity for everyday living.



Is man's search leading him to  
a God big enough to still the  
storms of a despairing soul?

# OUTER SPACE and INNER PEACE

By W. R. WATSON

TWENTIETH-CENTURY man could hardly be called earthbound. He soars higher and higher into the heavens—carried aloft by the wings of science and powered by the might of his own inventive imagination.

He points the nose of his sleek Boeing 727 into the sky, releases the earsplitting energy of its jet engines, and races the sun across the country.

He stands his needle-nosed rocket ship on its launching pad, fires its mighty engines, and then, with the aid of humanly created electronic marvels, watches its payload—a spaceship with a human pilot—elbow its way among the stars.

He fixes his sights on the golden orb that makes its nightly pilgrimage across our sky, determined to make actual the old proverb of “the man in the moon.”

HELP AND POWER from the Almighty? Who needs it? Science can take me anywhere—and with power to spare!

Though man's paths probe the recesses of outer space, they are but blind alleys unless they lead him to an infinite God, eternal values, and internal peace.

True, the Bible says, “Set your affection on

The Gemini V spacecraft, carrying Astronauts Gordon Cooper and Charles Conrad, moves off the launch pad in Complex 19 at Cape Kennedy into an eight-day orbit.

things above." But this had in mind something beyond the stars and planets that glisten in celestial beauty along the Milky Way. The question is this: Is man's search leading him to a God big enough to actually reach down to earth from the limitless expanses of heaven and still the storms of the despairing soul?

Peace is "the consciousness of adequate resources to meet all the emergencies of life," the late Dr. J. B. Chapman said. Science can-

not produce that from a test tube or an electronic computer!

WE'RE MORE earthbound than we think. The New York Stock Exchange firm of Francis I. DuPont estimates that Americans spend about \$45 billion annually just for "fun"—more than ten times the amount spent for all churches and charities combined! Our sense of values needs an overhaul.

One of the significant achieve-

ments of the space program has been the launching of the Syncom communications satellite. It is placed in a synchronous orbit with the earth, hovers at an altitude of about 22,300 miles, and travels at a rate of 6,878 miles per hour to keep pace with the earth's rotation. Syncom is within radio range of more than one-third of the earth's surface. When the planned three Syncom satellites are successfully in orbit, placed at strategic spots around the earth, continuous worldwide radio and television communication will be possible, using these speeding spheres as relay stations.

THE SYNCOM program, though significant, is but a parable of the earthiness of our endeavors. It is earth-oriented. Its point of reference is the earth. It was designed, built, and launched to maintain a position directly above a specific geographical location. Its speed and direction must correlate with that of the world, typical also of man's search for reality.

Our age of "moral relativism" has little patience with absolute values, ideals, or truth. The march of the individual must match the cadence of the crowd. Any betterment of life will come from gentle cultivation of man's innate goodness, so goes the modern theory.

But we need more than a timid tug at our moral bootstraps; we need an entirely new frame of reference. This only will lead the soul to inner peace!

The prophet Isaiah lived in a non-technological era. But his words are apropos in this age of space. After discussing the limitations of the natural man, he declared: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40: 31).

THERE YOU have it! Our space spectaculars are but a celestial Tower of Babel if God is left out of the picture. None of man's accomplishments, whether on earth or in outer space, really satisfy him unless there is also the achievement of inner peace and victory. This is the "victory that overcometh the world"!

# Join the Happy Growing Crowd



at  
**A Nearby  
NAZARENE  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**

# What a Psychologist Thinks About Sunday School

By CLYDE M. NARRAMORE, Ed.D.\*

THE NEW ENGLAND air was cool and crisp as we arrived in a tidy little New Hampshire town one Sunday morning. The friendly roadside was highlighted with picturesque clumps of white birch trees. As we approached the white-steeped, colonial church, several teen-agers crossed the street, joining others on their way to Sunday school.

In Houston, prosperous-looking businessmen kept driving up in their long, sleek cars to the magnificent new church. With Bibles and quarterlies in hand, these godly men and their families quietly but quickly went to their respective Sunday school classes.

In San Francisco's Chinatown, a Chinese couple walked swiftly along, on their way to a nearby church, with a backdrop of brilliant-red oriental shops. Trailing them were their two freshly scrubbed little children happily singing, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so . . ."

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Texas, and California. In all three areas I saw these happy people had one thing in common—they were all on their way to Sunday school! But what do they learn? Will it change their lives?

Intelligent, well-meaning parents often ask, "What do you think about indoctrinating children in religious matters? Don't you think it's best to let them grow up and make their own choices? Do you think it's harmful to frighten boys and girls with those Bible stories about hell? Won't teaching young

people that they're sinners give them a guilt complex?"

These and many other questions are being honestly asked by today's modern parents. To seasoned Christians such inquiries may seem almost foolish. But to millions of non-Christians they are important questions that deserve sincere, honest answers.

TO ASK a psychologist his beliefs about Sunday school is like asking any other man what he thinks about something with which he has had firsthand experience and from which he has received untold benefit. His testimony is, "I think it is wonderful—it did so much for me."

This is precisely how I feel. The Sunday school is indeed near to

my heart. My parents were pioneers, having traveled across the country, then settled down on a large western ranch when Arizona was still a territory. The youngest in a large family, I was raised on Indian stories, tales of the town of Tombstone, and exciting accounts of cattle rustling. "Did they really have camels here?" I would ask. "Yes," my mother replied, "they brought them in from Egypt, and used them to cross the deserts."

But as exciting as these stories were, my Sunday school teacher told me things that were far more interesting. She told me about Jesus!

OUR LITTLE church had only a handful of people, but its consecrated, faithful pastor always maintained a strong, active Sunday school. And it was there that I learned about God. Through the years a succession of intelligent, gospel preachers ministered to our spiritual needs. They undoubtedly brought wonderful messages, yet for some reason I cannot remember what they said.

But Sunday school was different. By the time I was five years of age I knew that I was a sinner and that Christ could save. With each lesson and every scripture tucked away in my heart, I moved closer to the day when I would surrender my life to Him. One day it came! It happened at home on the ranch.

The next Sunday I made public profession of my faith in Christ. Our wonderful pastor put his arm

\*Dr. Clyde M. Narramore for thirteen years was a consulting psychologist on the staff of the Los Angeles County superintendent of schools, serving nearly 1,500,000 students. He now heads the Narramore Christian



Foundation, that provides many psychological services. He received his doctorate from Columbia University, and is a nationally recognized Christian leader, author, speaker, and columnist. He also has a daily radio broadcast in the United States and several foreign countries. Dr. Narramore's book *The Psychology of Counseling* is a comprehensive work for pastors and other Christian leaders. His newest book, *The Encyclopedia of Psychological Problems*, is now appearing at Christian bookstores throughout the nation. Narramore's work with the Foundation encompasses vocational guidance, work with the mentally ill, discipline problems, marriage problems, emotional disturbances, sex problems, and counseling techniques.

around me, and in the presence of the congregation asked me if I wanted to be saved. My heart burst in affirmation as my head nodded "yes."

When I left the church that day, my Sunday school teacher told me how happy she was. Her work had resulted in the world's greatest single contribution: the salvation of an immortal soul!

THROUGH THE years God has graciously led and directed me. He has kept me from a life of sin and heartache. In an age of untold turbulence He has led me in pastures green beside His still waters. Now as I look back, I realize why Sunday school is so important:

The Sunday school places special emphasis on salvation. The door is opened to discuss and explain God's great plan of salvation. A born-again experience is man's greatest possession—a new life through Christ. And it is a necessity. Jesus Christ says, ". . . Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

The Sunday school is an educational institution. Challenge and inspiration are not enough; people need to be taught. These are days of learning. Our schools and colleges are overflowing. Nearly everyone is feverishly bent on gaining knowledge. Even the highly educated are avidly learning more.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL teaches the Word of God. Amidst all there is to know, nothing is as important or as satisfying as a knowledge of the Bible. This is the cornerstone, the heart of the Sunday school curriculum. Life is filled with subtle influences, trapdoors, and dead-end streets. But the adult or child who is

taught the Bible in Sunday school not only learns the way; he is prevented from taking detours. He studies that he might show himself approved unto God . . . rightly dividing the Word (II Timothy 2:15).

The Sunday school is geared to individual needs. At each stage in life, human beings are characteristically interested in certain things. Knowing this, Sunday school teachers should use methods and materials which are particularly appropriate for the age level and spiritual needs of their own particular class. Available today are Sunday school Bible lessons that are beautifully illustrated and carefully prepared for the educational level of individual ages. Brilliant, dedicated men and women have worked to incorporate the finest psychological and curricular thinking in these materials.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL offers a personal touch. People of all ages respond to informality. It puts them at ease. Because of a cordial, warm atmosphere, people

***We need to learn faithfulness to God ourselves, for there is never a time on this earth that we are not in danger. We need to do all in our power to teach our children His words, for their temptations are so many and we have them with us for such a short time. Choice verses, texts, and portions of God's Word stored up in the memory will be a wealth that will pay blessings many times across the years. . . . We can give ourselves no greater store of blessing and our children no finer heritage than to plant the Word of God so deeply in memory that it will be a part of life itself.—L. Wayne Sears.***

can learn much better and more quickly than elsewhere.

"Is someone having a birthday? All right, let's sing happy birthday to Bill." "A question? Fine; let's have it." "A prayer request? Thank you. I'm glad you've brought this to our attention."

And so it goes, a world of informality which reaches the mind and heart—the best environment in which to learn about the Lord.

The Sunday school meets many social needs. When God created people, He made them social beings. Everyone likes fellowship, and the Sunday school class is a natural setting for it. A great part of the world's social life is not calculated to meet the needs of believers. Much of it consists of worldly amusement in which consecrated Christians want no part. Yet they need social activity. Because of the homogeneity and the size of the Sunday school class, it is a desirable unit for sponsoring wholesome recreational activities, parties, picnics, outings, and other Christ-centered social functions.

THESE, THEN, are some of the strengths of the Sunday school. It places a special emphasis on salvation. It has a strong educational ministry. It teaches the Word of God. It is geared to individual needs, offering a personal touch. It also meets many of man's social needs.

Indeed, I shall never be able to repay the dedicated pastors and Sunday school teachers for what they have done for me.

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# Church of the Nazarene: What Is It?

**By Dr. B. EDGAR JOHNSON**  
General Secretary



A fountain symbolic of "the living waters" is set in the foreground of the General Board building, which houses the offices for most of the church periodicals.

The Church of the Nazarene came into being not so much as a splinter group from another denomination, but more as a merging and drawing together of several independent groups. Since then the church has been in the forefront of an ecumenical movement within the holiness ranks. More than ten smaller denominations have joined with it since the church's beginning in 1908.

In less than sixty years from its beginning, the church has become the largest Protestant body in the United States which has as its major tenet scriptural holiness (see article, page 17, "God's High Call") in the Wesleyan tradition.

The founder and principal guiding figure of the denomination was Rev. Phineas F. Bresee, who in 1895 organized the first Church of the Nazarene in Los Angeles, California.

IN 1907, Nazarene churches on the West Coast and a group of holiness churches in the East merged at an assembly held in Chicago. The following year, in October, 1908, delegates from the West, East, and South met in Pilot Point, Texas, and formally merged after four days of conferences.

At the start, in 1908, there were 228 churches with 10,414 members;

a Sunday school enrollment of 7,780; church property worth a total of \$560,000, and per capita giving the first year of \$13.44.

Now, Nazarene world membership is 425,000; per capita giving is at a record \$168.33; and giving for all purposes reached in 1965 nearly \$60 million. In the "March to a Million" Sunday school enrollment emphasis—launched in 1964—the church as of January 1 had enrolled a total of 899,000. If the growth rate continues, Nazarenes will hit their target of a million Sunday school members by mid-1968, on schedule.

SINCE THE early beginnings, Nazarenes have recognized a responsibility for the education of their youth, not only for Christian ministry within the church, but so that young people, regardless of their profession, might find a place of service in the world.

The church maintains six colleges and a graduate-level seminary in the United States, a college in Canada, and another in England. There are Nazarene colleges at Quincy, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston; Kankakee, Illinois, near Chicago; Nashville, Tennessee; Bethany, Oklahoma, a suburb of Oklahoma City; Nampa, Idaho; and Pasadena, California.

The Canadian college is located in a new plant in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Recently, a Bible college was started in Busingen, Germany, near the Swiss border. A Bible school in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and two junior colleges are planned for the near future in the United States.

The Church of the Nazarene is among the ten larger missionary-sending institutions in the nation today. With 624 missionaries and overseas pastors, and more than 2,000 national pastors, the church carries on a worldwide evangelism effort in 47 world areas from headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri.

One of the exciting missionary projects this year is the new Nazarene hospital opening near Banz, in the New Guinea highlands. It is the fourth operated by the church. Others are in India, Swaziland, and the Republic of South Africa.

In the United States and abroad the mission of the Church of the Nazarene, which is well into its second half-century, continues vital and strong. It seems contemporary Nazarenes still claim the concern of the founding fathers: "We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in the same measure as we have received it."

# Does God live across the river?



(a true account)      **By HOMER W. VAN SCOY**

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, Patsy Ann was not our responsibility. Our job was to contact older people who could not come to church.

I had been making weekly visits to an elderly member of our congregation now confined to her home. This cold January day I was taking a shortcut along the huge earthen dike that protects our city from the river. I noticed a little girl gazing across the whitecaps toward the distant mountains. Her feet were bare, her cotton dress flapped aimlessly in the wind, and she shivered from the cold.

"DOES GOD live across the river?" she shouted into the wind, and pointed to where she had been looking.

I laughed and asked her why she asked me that.

"My mother says that God never comes to people like us! Why doesn't God ever come to us?"

Ignoring the question, I picked her up and raced down the dike toward Sixth Street, where I had parked the station wagon. A few minutes later I turned her over to my wife, who fed and bathed her, and found shoes and some warm clothing.

She told us her name was Patsy Ann and that she lived in the Johnson Lane district. This was a blighted area where disease, hunger, and violence had replaced what once was a prosperous community.

AND WHEN I parked the station wagon in front of what Patsy Ann called home, I understood her question. God had not been there. How could this be home? It was a lean-to of cardboard boxes tacked together by two-by-fours. There was no glass in the window frames, and a weary gas heater made a futile attempt to warm the cold incoming air.

stood barefoot on the dike, the cold wind  
blowing her cotton dress . . .



Patsy Ann's mother in the evening darkness looked old and ugly. I wanted to turn and walk away.

As I explained how I had found Patsy Ann and that I had come to aid them, the mother wept. That same hour I went to the city market for groceries, and my wife managed to find a few extra blankets. Both the mother and child wondered how anyone could care for them.

For the rest of the winter we continued visiting our elderly friend on Fifth Avenue. On the way back we would stop to see about Patsy Ann. Quite often we would read and sing, and as winter lengthened into spring others began assembling in the yard of Patsy Ann's home to listen in.

ONE NIGHT when their faces, once hardened by hurt and suspicion, had softened, Patsy Ann

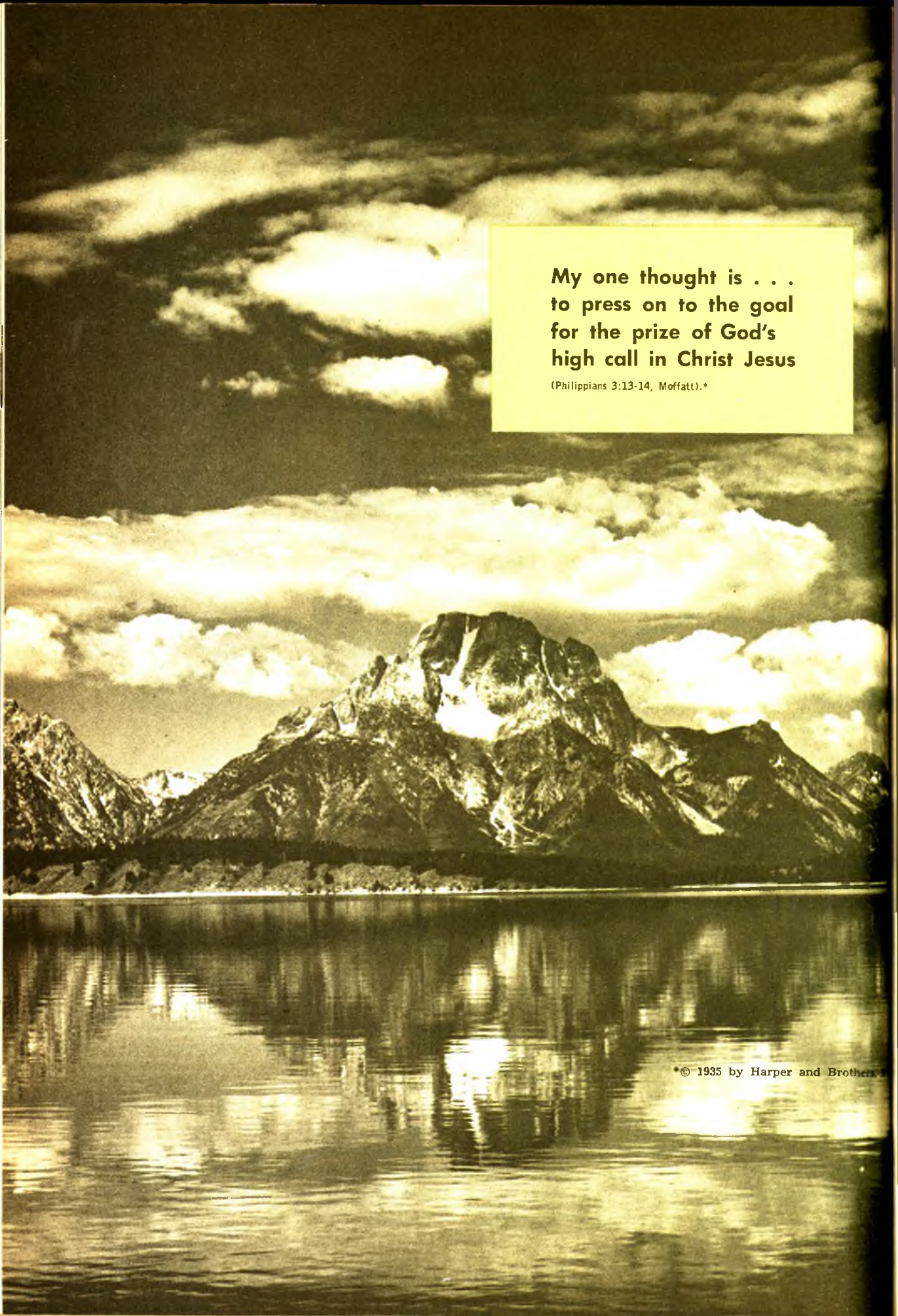
and her mother knelt at a crude wooden altar. There both of them accepted Christ.

In the days that followed, Patsy Ann and her mother became beams of light in a jungle of despair and hatred. The little lean-to received a magic change in appearance. Curtains were hung and flowers were planted. And Patsy Ann's mother looked beautifully different.

One bright day in June we took Patsy Ann and her mother across town to the church. No one asked where we had found them, nor did we tell them.

TODAY PATSY ANN lives in a clean white house. She is happy. She deserves a chance to forget the past, and to grow up to be an honorable citizen and a Christian. I believe that Patsy Ann has found God.

I believe we have, too!

A sepia-toned landscape photograph. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the sky and mountains. The middle ground features a range of rugged, rocky mountains with some snow patches. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below, creating a golden glow. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

**My one thought is . . .  
to press on to the goal  
for the prize of God's  
high call in Christ Jesus**

(Philippians 3:13-14, Moffatt).\*



# GOD'S HIGH CALL

By Dr. A. F. HARPER

Department of Church Schools Executive Editor

*All that you do, do with your  
might;*

*Things done by halves are  
never done right.*

As these lines come back from childhood memories, we approve them almost instinctively. We know that Oliver Wendell Holmes was right:

*Let us do our work as well,  
Both the unseen and the  
seen;*

*Make a house where gods may  
dwell,*

*Beautiful, entire, and clean.*

Deep within the mind of every right-thinking person is the conviction that anything worth doing at all is worth doing well. If this be true of other worthy endeavors, how much more should it be true of my religion!

WE WHO have once felt God's presence with us can never be content without Him; and we who have enjoyed something of His love know an ever-recurring hunger for more of that grace. Today God's Spirit can fill our hearts. Here and now, He intends to walk with us. Because of His help, disappointments are easier to bear, and pain is not impossible torture. In His presence our crying is hushed, and our pain is eased. The most blessed hours in this life are those in which God's presence seems most fully to surround our hungering spirits. As John Wesley lay on his deathbed he cried out, "The best thing of all is that God is with us." And Wesley was right.

Peter writes to his fellow Christians: "Like newly born children, thirst for the pure, spiritual milk to make you grow up to salvation.

You have had a taste of the kindness of the Lord: come to him then—come to that living Stone . . . come and like living stones yourselves, be built into a spiritual house" (I Peter 2:2-5, Moffatt).\*

PETER knew the urgency of this spiritual hunger. And we know it. We find the satisfaction to that hunger as we respond to the urge that the Holy Spirit has put within us. It was this response to which Paul testified when he wrote: "My one thought . . . is to press on to the goal for the prize of God's high call in Christ Jesus."

Dr. Harry E. Jessop testified: "It was not long [after I was saved] before I began to feel that, glorious as my new experience in conversion had been, God was now holding before me something of a deeper nature than that which I had already enjoyed. While my love for Christ was such that it pained me to know that I had grieved Him, my spiritual life was far from constant, and my communion was not sustained."

Half a loaf is better than no bread. Some religion is better than none. But low-level religion is not very satisfying. The Bible does not offer a better-than-thou religion, but God promises a better-than-yesterday experience. The Christian's aim is never to be more holy than others. But our goal is always to be more like Christ.

A SUNDAY SCHOOL teacher recently said of the Christian life: "To be filled with the Holy Spirit is as good as it can get." And it is. Apart from all-out abandonment to God there is no real satisfaction

in religion. But in such abandonment there is joy. It is this joy that Jesus was talking about when He said: "The Kingdom of heaven is like treasure buried in the field, which a man finds, but buries again, and, in his joy about it, goes and sells all he has and buys that piece of ground" (Matthew 13:44, Weymouth). Who would not "buy" such an all-out religion? What Christian would turn away when Christ points him to the treasure that he has been seeking?

The Scriptures are clear that if men are to please God they must repent of their sins and be forgiven. When this takes place, God regenerates spiritual life within the soul. God's Word teaches us that after this there is a second crisis (hence the expression second-blessing holiness) in which the Christian must consecrate himself wholly to God, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and thus be entirely sanctified.

PETER TESTIFIED to having received this kind of experience. He also told of others who had received the same blessing in the same way: "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us . . . purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8-9).

*You may now receive the  
Spirit*

*As a sanctifying flame*

*If with all your heart you seek  
Him,*

*Having faith in Jesus' name.*

(L. L. Pickett)

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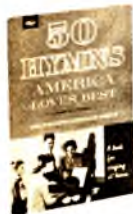


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# Fifteen Nine-Year-Olds And a "Dumb Teacher"

By **ELDEN RAWLINGS**  
Managing Editor

**I vowed I would never teach a Sunday school class again**

THREE OF THEM were rolling on the floor, scuffling over a new knife the smallest had brought that morning. The fight, which had been going on for some time, left fresh scuff marks on the wall, and some overturned chairs.

A dozen more nine-year-olds, in various stages of disarray (some because they left home that way and others because of what they had gone through since getting there) looked on. They carried on, at one time or another, separate altercations. At least all but a pious one, wearing thick glasses, who sat on the front row as glum as he was prim!

When the door opened, and a spindly sixteen-year-old walked in, the noise which on the outside had been dulled by the closed room, rang raucously through the halls of the little church. The teenager had agreed to teach the class of boys for one Sunday. Frankly, no one else wanted it.

AFTER PICKING them up individually, and straightening the chairs, the teen-ager cleared his throat and started the lesson. It didn't come off too badly. But the printed questions at the end of both the teacher's and pupils' guide were something else.

"Who was David's father?"

First he tried to avoid it, and then had to admit he didn't know.

"It was Jesse," a nine-year-old answered sarcastically. He cupped his hand, and added in a whisper everyone could hear, "Boy, what a dumb teacher!"

"THAT DAY I vowed that I would never teach a Sunday school class again," Glenn Sneed, now a

California pastor, recalled. "But the following two weeks the class of boys haunted me," he added. Glenn decided at last to ask for the job of teaching the class.

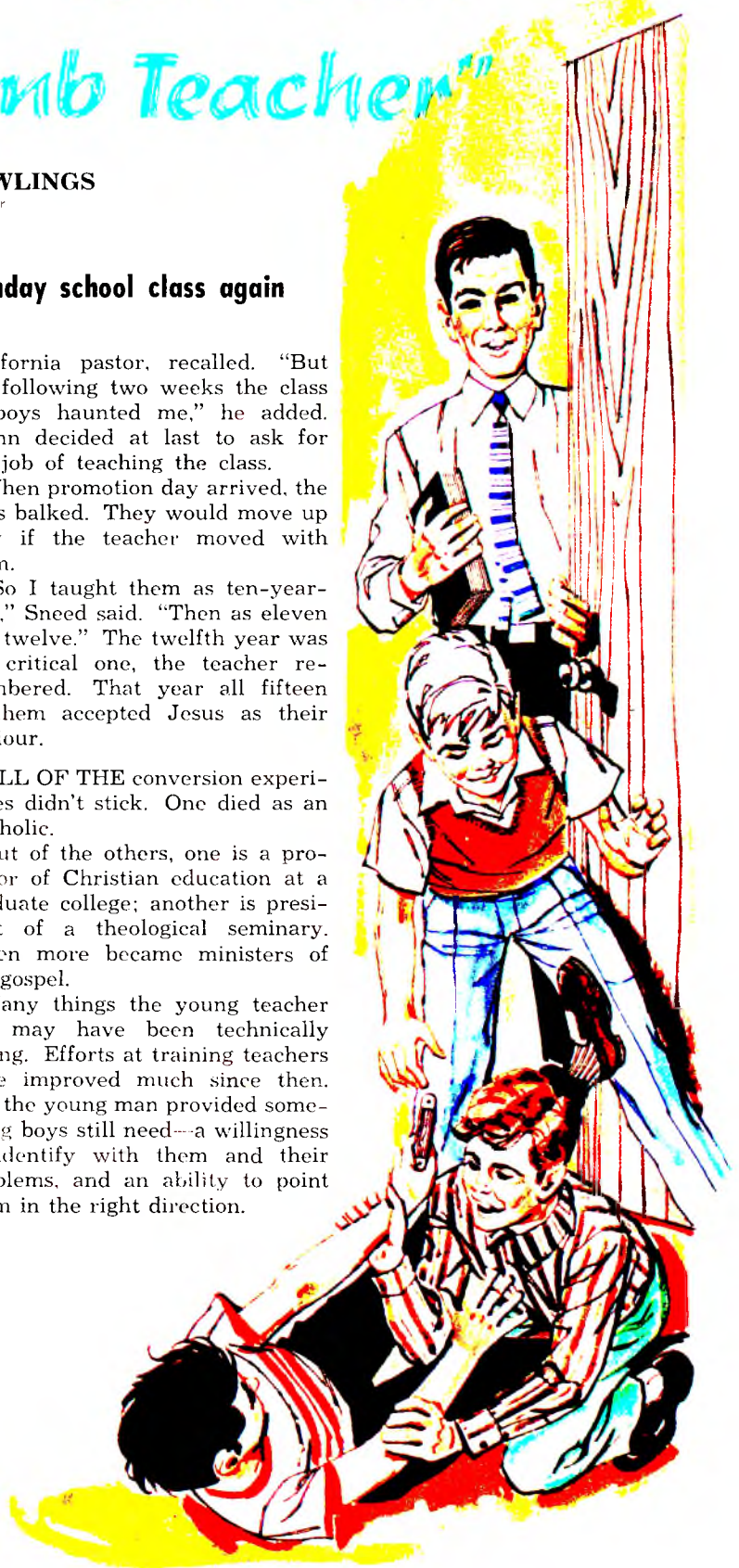
When promotion day arrived, the class balked. They would move up only if the teacher moved with them.

"So I taught them as ten-year-olds," Sneed said. "Then as eleven and twelve." The twelfth year was the critical one, the teacher remembered. That year all fifteen of them accepted Jesus as their Saviour.

ALL OF THE conversion experiences didn't stick. One died as an alcoholic.

But of the others, one is a professor of Christian education at a graduate college; another is president of a theological seminary. Seven more became ministers of the gospel.

Many things the young teacher did may have been technically wrong. Efforts at training teachers have improved much since then. But the young man provided something boys still need—a willingness to identify with them and their problems, and an ability to point them in the right direction.



# As Modern as Tomorrow

By **W. T. PURKISER**

Editor

**T**HE BIBLE is a Book that never grows old. In its application to life, it is as modern as tomorrow.

True, some read it only for its historic interest or its cultural value. They study it as they would study an ancient Greek drama or the literary bones of a quaint people who lived long ago in a simple past.

But to come to the Bible in such a way, while better than not to come at all, is to miss both its meaning and its value. The Book of Books is not a Word which God once spoke. It is what He is saying to you and to me now.

There is history in the Scriptures, but it is not history as we have come to know it. It is a history that makes history. Its record of past fact is a signpost to the future for mankind in mass and for each of us and our families individually.

When we read the Bible for what it is, we are not learning something from the past as much as we are seeing something in the present. It is a mirror in which we view ourselves and our times.

It is one thing to "go through" the Bible. It is quite another thing to have the Bible "go through" you. The value of a road map is not to read it in the living room but to follow it on the journey.

But what is the Bible saying to us today? What is its word to people in troubled times, living in an age of anxiety?

First, it reminds us that behind the vastness and wonder of the universe in which we live is the creative will of an infinite God. Its opening words are, "In the beginning God . . ." Not blind law or unknowing force, but

plan and purpose are the source of all.

Then, the Bible "zeros in" on what is of supreme interest to us individually: God has a plan for every human life in which is to be found everything necessary for fulfillment and wholeness. The Book gives two chapters to creation, but fourteen chapters to Abraham. In the Scriptures the individual person is never lost in the mass or forgotten in the infinity of space.

**BUT THE BIBLE** is the supremely realistic Book. The garden of God's original creation was turned into a desert waste of selfishness and sin. Instead of peace and righteousness, we see vice, crime, war, lust, sickness, grinding poverty, prejudice, and violence on every hand.

Nor is there doubt about the cause of these conditions. It is rebellion against and forgetfulness of God. It is summed up in a little three-letter word, "s-i-n." Every son and daughter of Adam's race is infected with this racial disease.

The Bible not only tells us that God creates. It tells us that God cares. He has made provision to meet every human need. He offers a cure for the disease that threatens the very life of the race. That cure

is the central message of Scripture. That cure is Christ.

It is no accident that the pivot event with which every modern calendar starts is the birth of Jesus Christ. Every atheist, every Communist, every materialist who dates a letter is giving unconscious tribute to the birth that divides the centuries into B.C. and A.D.

Christ's life, death, and resurrection mark the fullness of time. All that is called "the gospel"—the best news that ever came to the needy soul—is symbolized by an "old rugged Cross."

In the Lord Jesus Christ, the God of all offers His help and grace to all. None is shut out. The provision is as big as all our need. Christ, and He alone, can give salvation to all people, from all sin, for all time.

Only one thing can defeat the plan and provision of which the Bible tells. That is the refusal or failure of any woman or man, girl or boy, to respond in repentance and faith to the invitation of God's Holy Spirit.

In order to find the divine cure, we must accept the prescription. We must turn from our own ways to follow God's ways. We must, by an obedient act of decision, put away all we know to be displeasing to a holy God and harmful to ourselves and others.

God calls us all to become followers of Jesus Christ, His Son, in deed as well as in word. This starts with asking His pardon for past sins, and accepting His power for right living in the present and future.

And beyond this great turning point in life is the fullness of God's Spirit in cleansing and empowering. There are the claim and the compensation of a dedicated life in which Christ is "all and in all."

"As modern as tomorrow"—you can find it so. Take the Bible today and read it. In the words of former President Woodrow Wilson, you will find it "the key to your own life, your own happiness, and your own destiny."

